



Fellow Twirly Birds:

The 2017 Twirly Bird reception will be on March 7, 2017, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, in Dallas, following the opening day of Hel-Expo. The reception will be in the Hilton Anatole Wedgwood Room. We will open the doors at 5:00 pm. The Hilton Anatole is the Heli-Expo Headquarters hotel. We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at the reception.

This year's Les Morris award recipient is Carl Milko, President of Summit Helicopters, Cloverdale, Virginia. Carl had been nominated for this award in past years, but Carl is so modest and unassuming, that it was difficult to learn much about his helicopter career and contributions to the industry.

Like many Twirlybirds, Carl served in the Army, and flew helicopters in Viet Nam, where he collected an Air Medal with numerous clusters and a purple heart.

After his service, Carl returned to the University of Michigan and obtained his Masters degree in Forestry. Carl joined Evergreen Helicopters in 1968, moving quickly into management. Carl worked in McMinnville, Oregon, Roanoke, Virginia, and Houston, Texas. Carl became the Vice President of Operations for Evergreen's Eastern Division.

In 1981 Carl and four other associates founded Summit Helicopters, Inc. to serve the forestry and Utility market. Summit has grown to a seventy employee company, operating fifteen helicopters in addition to an FAA Repair station and Bell Customer Service Facility.

Summit is now an Employee Stock Option (ESOP) company reflecting Carl's reputation as a person of high standards, honesty, integrity and concern for his employees and associates.

(A more comprehensive biography regarding Carl will be released prior to Heli-Expo.)

Attached to this newsletter is a list of the Les Morris recipients. We expect to have several recipients from previous years attend the upcoming Twirly Bird reception in Dallas.

Please bring a friend to the reception. Better yet bring a friend who is qualified to be a Twirly Bird and encourage them to join the Twirly Birds. Or follow Roy Morgan's generous example and pay the \$20.00 initiation fee for a new member. If all else fails bring a qualified new member and the Twirly Bird leader will pay their initiation fee.

We must not forget Twirly Bird Associate Memberships. This membership category is specifically for all those wonderful folks who make things happen in the Vertical world, but have chosen to earn an honest living rather than be a helicopter pilot.

“ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Those who have been selected by a duly appointed committee of General Members as having made significant and noteworthy contributions to helicopter or other vertical take-off flight through exemplary dedication and devotion.”

Please nominate a qualified individual as an Associate member. There are many non pilots who have contributed so much to this industry. The Associate Committee will consider all who are nominated to join as Associate members. Please call me, 408 348 5780 or e-mail srs@jma.com to nominate an Associate Twirly Bird.

New member news: An old friend, whom many of you know, Dana Kerrick, will be joining us at the Dallas Twirly Bird reception. Dana recently retired as the Vice President and co-founder of International Aviation Composites (IAC). Dana and his company are well known for their world wide rotor-blade repair services. Dana is recognized throughout the industry for his expertise in rotor-blade inspection maintenance and repair. Last year at Heli-Expo 2016, Dana was recognized by the Helicopter Association International with the Bell Helicopter Lifetime Achievement Award.

Your gallant leader thought that Dana would be an exemplary Twirly Bird Associate member, and then remembered, duh, that Dana received his helicopter training at my flight school. Welcome to the Twirly Birds, Dana.

Another long overdue Twirly Bird new member is Harold (Hal) L. Summers Director, Flight Operations & Technical Services, Helicopter Association International. Once again we thought that Harold was more than qualified to be a Twirly Bird Associate member. Once again we were wrong, Harold Summers is a rated airplane and helicopter pilot with more than 3,600 flight hours, including a lot of hours as a helicopter maintenance test pilot. Harold's three page biography lists accomplishments and experience dating back to 1958 when he was an aircraft mechanic working for Baxter Air in Yakima, Washington.

We look forward to Dana Kerrick and Harold Summers carrying on that old Twirly Bird tradition of new Twirly Birds buying old Twirly Birds a drink at the reception.

On March 8th at 2:15, Twirly Bird, John Kettles, will be presenting, Aviation Law: What every pilot should know; during the Rotorcraft Safety Challenge series at Heli-Expo. If you identify yourself to John as a Twirly Bird and your dues are current, John will give his business card with his famous words of wisdom for every helicopter pilot when faced with a flying decision: "What would a very cautious, competent and prudent pilot do?"

Twirly Birds, Gary Young and Randy Rowles, will offer their usual filled to capacity Helicopter Flight Instructor Refresher Course on March 5-6 at Heli-Expo. We are proud to have two well known and respected Helicopter Flight Instructors as members of the Twirly Birds.

Long time revered Twirly Bird, and Les Morris award recipient, Phil Fillingham, was featured in the HAI Rotor magazine by talented hard working, Twirly Bird, Marty Pociask. According to the article, Phil soloed in helicopters in 1948 after 4 ½ hours of dual instruction. Phil went on to accumulate 13,674 hours in helicopters. The story is fascinating; thanks Marty. (You can find the story in the fall 2016 Rotor magazine. The entire interview with Phil is at helicopterfoundation.org/Fillingham.)

Winter 2017

If you receive this newsletter via the postal service, please send your e-mail address to Dennis MacBain, macdennis@att.net, so that we can add you to the e-mail list.

Please take a few minutes and send me a story, news item, or just a suggestion for the newsletter. I would really appreciate hearing comments regarding the newsletter. My e-mail is srs@jma.com.

We will see you in Dallas, March 7, in the Hilton Anatole Hotel Wedgwood room. The doors will open at 17:00.

KEEP YOUR ROTOR IN THE GREEN!

Steve Sullivan

Enclosures:

Les Morris Recipients