

Innovative Approaches Procedures



Hickok sets up his flight verification equipment in the CSC-donated S-76 at JRA.

By ERHC News Staff

In late 2004, the ERHC established a non-profit LLC as part of ongoing efforts to get better instrument approaches into NYC that would also facilitate instrument departures and feed into existing helicopter IFR route structures.

Steve Hickok, a helicopter pilot and independent businessman in the development of helicopter GPS approaches, serves as HAI's Flight Operations Committee chairman and an ERHC member. Hickok is donating his work to establish four GPS instrument approach procedures into NYC. Hickok has been involved with the development of the vast majority of helicopter GPS special approaches in the U.S., often for EMS or private operators. These NYC approaches will put helicopters in a much safer position to arrive at the Manhattan heliports than the current two, which require lengthy and hazardous SVFR legs to get to destination.

On October 29, CSC Transport provided an S-76C and pilots for Hickok's flight verification checks of the approaches he's designed. Air Pegasus waived parking and landing fees to support the effort.

During the flight, Hickok verified the safety of the approaches using FAA flight inspection policy, and located one uncharted obstacle. He is now ready to submit the procedure packages to the FAA.

About 24 ERHC members have stepped forward to share the costs under the leadership of ERHCIFR, LLC, an arrangement similar to others in use in the Gulf of Mexico and among some groups of EMS operators.