



Latest news - 2011

Good day

It's been some time since our last newsletter, but we are trying to send it on a quarterly basis rather than monthly. We know that too many newsletters can be a nuisance.

We thank you for your support during 2010. It has been a very exciting year with many highs and some lows. One of the lows was the devastation caused by a very large veldfire, which swept through Mattanu Private Game Reserve (Our Main Base), over a period of two days. We used the helicopter to herd most of the animals away from the fire into the burnt out sections. This proved to be very successful, but without the helping hand from God, it would've been disastrous.

We have decided to keep our prices the same for the moment, although fuel prices and insurance have increased. We want to remain highly competitive and offer the best service to our clients.

Game Counts, game capture, charter & filming

One of the highs of last year was to count a large area of land, approximately 80 000 Ha. We used two R44 helicopters to conduct the game count with experienced game spotters / counters. It took a full day to complete the count. It was a good year with the flown hours soaring above all previous years and the business saw constant growth. We have purchased a game truck, to assist with transportation of captured animals. This truck is available for any clients in need of safe and reliable transport for wildlife.



R44 Helicopter ZS-PXL during the 80 000 Ha game census.

During 2009 & 2010 we have been looking at solutions to the seasonal nature of game capture and also focussed on charters, survey, tourism, filming and servicing of the mining industry with security transport and executive charters. We have also looked at other options to develop more branches in South Africa and Southern Africa. This led us to launch a trial project on the Garden Route at Tsitsikamma (Storms River Bridge).

Garden route operations

Although we launched the project late in the season, it was still successful. This project enabled us to make an informed decision on the garden route and we will be offering helicopter flights from Plettenberg Bay soon.



Helicopter ZS-RVN overhead Tsitsikamma coastline

The helicopter that we used in Tsitsikamma was from Cape Town and subsequently, the pilot and machine returned to Cape Town after the seasonal contract. This move enabled us to have a machine in Cape Town, which can service the light helicopter demand at a competitive price.

We have also signed up another helicopter in Kimberley to act as a backup machine and service the charter demand from Kimberley airport. This will also save costs for our clients that are situated closer to Kimberley than our Barkley West (Mattanu) base. This helicopter can be used for game counts, charters and tourism, but it's not insured for culling or game capture.

Culling and jackal control – Northern Cape, Karoo & Kalahari

We use the main machine for game capture and culling. Our application for a standing culling permit has been approved for the Northern Cape. We are authorized to cull jackal with the standing permit and have an alternative permit, if needed, for plains game.



Warning: Contraband operations and inaccurate flying times

It has come under our attention that there are still operators flying with Private Pilot's licenses and no operator's licenses, for reward. We welcome the fact that SACAA (South African Civil Aviation Authority) is busy with new regulations, which will lead to incrimination such individuals. The problem is that many clients are not aware of this and the legal implications of using unlicensed operators. The other evil is that some operators fit a second hobs meter in their helicopters to record extra flying time on start up and shut down. We run on the standard hobs meter which only records actual flying time. The fitment of a second hobs meter enables these operators to undercut prices but they gain extra flying time with these devices. It is the right of each client to inspect the hobs meter of a helicopter prior and after each flight to make sure you are not taken for a ride. It is also a good idea to check for a second hobs meter under the seat (usually pilot's seat) or near the pilot's seat.

Facebook page & subscription to our newsletter

Due to the popularity of social media, we have decided to create a facebook group. We invite you to join our group where you can find updated information, pictures and videos of what we do. You can simply click on the Facebook picture below or click on the hyperlink <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kriek-Helicopters-The-Heli-Alliance/128076973891284?ref=ts> . We look forward to chatting to you on facebook.



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