

Helicopter Instructional Videos

By Gus Garcia

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For me the best way I learn anything new is by seeing what I'm being taught, I can read an instructional manual several times over and still not fully understand the subject. But show me how to do something, and I'll get it in no time flat, and that's true with just about all of us, why do you think so many instruction manuals now-a-days are jammed packed with illustrations rather than text alone? Because for the most part we're visually oriented, and we learn much better if we can see it. Combine that with all the images we are bombarded with daily, and the multimedia world we live in, and you end up with a modern culture that's bursting at the seams with information overload with little to no time to read anything.

With all that said wouldn't it be great if someone came up with videos where you could be shown step by step how to do anything in easy to understand laymen's terms? I bet someone would pay to get something like that?

When I first started flying model airplanes, that was tough, complicated, hard to understand, and I needed help to acquire the skills to become an airplane pilot myself. But it happened eventually, and here I was content as could be, that is until I saw a model helicopter for the first time (it was around the early 90's). WOW, how complicated that looked with all those linkages, servos, moving parts, gyro, and helicopter specific tools like pitch gauge, ball link pliers, and a bunch of other things need to fly one of these things. If airplanes were difficult enough, there's no way I was going to even begin to attempt to get into one of these super complicated flying machines. I wasn't the only one that felt that way, a lot of us airplane guys back then thought the same thing too. It got to the point that when a heli guy showed up at the field he was shunned by all us airplane guys (hey wait a minute, that still happens today).

But eventually I began talking to these helicopter guys, and turns out they were just like me, we enjoyed flying RC – how about that we had something in common? Then it happened, one of those helicopter guys must have given me some contaminated water, soda, or something because I was just fine flying my airplanes until they showed up, and then I started getting curious and asking questions. So much so that I bought a used helicopter, and began on the road to becoming a helicopter pilot myself. Man, talk about hard and frustrating, with so much to learn just to get a helicopter ready to fly, and so many things that could go wrong if not setup correctly, it was a wonder I even stayed with it. But with the challenges that we encounter, in time we actually begin to overcome them, and surpass them even to the point of mastering them.

Flying a model helicopter is without a doubt difficult enough; learning how to set one up can be even harder. So getting back to my original line of thought, wouldn't it be great if someone put together instructional videos in easy to understand laymen's terms? Well they have, two of today's renowned helicopter pilots came up with a really good idea. They started making videos discussing everything helicopters from beginner to super advance topics. I've been downloading these videos, and found them to be very helpful, and the presentation style to be balanced, not too technical or overly simplistic. They got something really good going on, and I'm confident they will be around for a long while to come. You haven't heard about it? Well I've taken the liberty to copy an insert and bio on both pilots from their website and I'm sure once you begin viewing their videos, you'll be waiting with anticipation for the next release, take a look.

About SmackTalk RC

Hi everyone

Thanks for checking out our web site! We would like to take this opportunity to explain what we have been working on. For quite some time, after answering countless PM's and emails about new products, flying tips, setup suggestions and technical questions, we have felt that there is a need for a technical and informative monthly video that everybody can view and learn from. We have learned so much in our time in this hobby, and by no means have mastered it all, but we are very eager to have a chance to spread this knowledge with others in the RC Helicopter community. The basis for our videos is simple – technically educational but entertaining as well. We are both characters and don't want this to be a boring series, so we will strive to make it as entertaining and informative as possible. Along with technical talk, we will discuss flying tips, show some footage of us in our travels to Fun Fly's and Events, and will also have interviews on every episode with friends and fellow flying buddies.

We will be releasing new videos on a monthly basis or as close to monthly as possible. Average length should range between 30 and 45 minutes with no commercial breaks or anything like that. Because we do not have any advertisers or really want any, we have chosen to make each video available at a small fee of \$2.99 per episode. When you purchase one of our videos, two files will be available for download – a High Definition video file, and a lower definition file that is iPhone and iTouch ready so you can watch our videos during your travels. Since we do not have advertisers or any companies sponsoring our video series, it allows us to have complete control over the content and allows us to make what WE feel is important. We feel that this is the most important part of our undertaking because we want to make a video for the pilots without any politics or company issues getting in the way. The possibilities are pretty much endless with what we can do in the series, so we are both extremely excited about this!

We hope you enjoy the series and hope that you find our tips and tricks helpful. If you have any questions, comments, or show ideas, please [contact us](#) and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Thanks again for watching!!

Sincerely,

Bobby Watts & Bert Kammerer

About Bobby Watts & Bert Kammerer:



Bert Kammerer

Bert has been involved in R/C for over 25 years and helicopters for about 5. Bert is a sponsored pilot for various manufacturers, including HeliWholesaler, Align R/C, Horizon, O.S. Engines, Byron Fuels, Aerospire, V-Blades, ThunderPower, Spartan R/C, Canomod and Switchglo. He is also a consultant for some of these companies and the team manager for HeliWholesaler. Bert attends over 20 r/c helicopter events per year, including fun flies as well as competitions around the world. He has performed demonstrations at various helicopter shows and events around the country, including IRCHA 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 and has placed in the top 10 at the XFC (Extreme Flight Championships), 4th place at the 2007 World Micro Heli Cup in Chicago, 2nd place at the 2008 Align Cup and Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada and 1st place at the XFC team competition in 2008 and 2009 with Bobby Watts.



Bobby Watts

Bobby has been involved with RC helicopters since late 2003 and absolutely loves the hobby. He is currently sponsored by companies including HeliWholesaler, Miniature Aircraft USA, Futaba, OS Engines, Morgan Fuels, Canomod, Scorpion, and Sw!tch Glo. He is currently a 21-year-old Mechanical Engineering Senior, completing his degree at the University of South Carolina. When not involved in school or helicopters, he is a huge fan of guitar and music, water sports, and just about anything with a motor. While representing Miniature Aircraft he has attended many events in the US and has been to various countries from New Zealand to Honduras as well as many others in between. Some notable achievements include: 1st Place- XFC 2008/2009 Team with Bert Kammerer, 2nd place- XFC 2007/2008, 3rd Place- XFC 2009/3D Masters 2007.

As you can see we understand, these two guys have embarked on a mission to promote RC helicopters, and to take the mystery out of setting one of these things up. What they're doing is not much different than what countless other helicopter pilots are doing around the country in flying fields all over the place teaching newcomers, and experienced pilots alike to go beyond their limits, and to be able to do what may have been impossible at one time, but is now within the realm of reality.

Once a better understanding of how to properly setup a helicopter is obtained, flying one can become even more rewarding. At the very least you won't be at the mercy of someone else's flying style or preferences. After all believe it or not, a lot of your personality comes out in your flying. For example, there are so many different makes and brands of automobiles, and different driving habits, that not all of us drive the same way – that's why we use the finger so much on the roadways. So why have someone's flying preference imposed on you?

You learn from everybody, but not everything you learn may be right for you. So as you begin to progress in your attempts to master flying a model helicopter, and unravel the mysteries of setting one up, your whole flying experience will be that much more rewarding. Afterwards when you have reached a level competency that you're so in tuned with your helicopter that it's now an extension of your personality flying about in the sky with control and finesse, you too will be called upon to pass on what you have learned, acquired, and been helped with in your helicopter adventures. Yes the helicopter experience with its many difficulties is certainly challenging to say the least, but we now have the following at our disposal to succeed in this segment of our hobby:

- Hobby shops
- Online distributors
- Online forums
- Helicopter magazines
- Books and videos
- Flying fields
- Simulators
- Super stable coaxial trainer helicopters
- Instructors and experienced helicopter pilots
- Likeminded enthusiast

With all the above, how can you not succeed? It's so easy even a caveman can do it – one that has a computer, internet, credit card, and lots of cash. Hey it's a blast, just wait till you start. See you at the field – Gus.