

Celebrating
250 *Years*
— OF —
INDEPENDENCE

1776 ★ 2026

Built on Freedom. Fueled by Innovation. Flying into the Future.

Rotor Tales

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the
Hummingbird Helicopter



Bringing you the latest company news,
product developments, customer stories,
technical updates, and **events** from
Vertical Aviation Technologies—
nearly 40 years strong and still leading the way.



VERTICAL AVIATION
TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

THE HUMMINGBIRD HELICOPTER



Made in America. Built on History.

The American Heritage Behind the Hummingbird Helicopter



As the United States celebrates 250 years of independence, we take pride in the remarkable innovations that have shaped our nation's aviation history. The Hummingbird 300L is more than a modern helicopter—it is the continuation of an American rotorcraft legacy that began decades ago.

The roots of the Hummingbird can be traced to the legendary Sikorsky S-52, an aircraft developed during a period when helicopter technology was advancing rapidly to meet military and civilian needs. The S-52 showcased groundbreaking engineering concepts that helped pave the way for future generations of rotorcraft.

Today, Vertical Aviation Technologies proudly carries that heritage forward. As the holder of the original Sikorsky Type Certificate, we have refined and modernized the design while preserving the qualities that made the aircraft exceptional. The result is the Hummingbird 300L—a helicopter that combines proven American engineering with modern performance, reliability, and affordability.

Built in the United States and flown around the world, the Hummingbird represents the spirit of innovation that has defined American aviation for generations. As we celebrate 250 years of independence, we also celebrate the engineers, pilots, builders, and visionaries whose contributions continue to inspire the future of flight.

From a historic American helicopter design to a modern kit-built aircraft enjoyed worldwide, the Hummingbird 300L remains a testament to American ingenuity, craftsmanship, and the enduring pursuit of innovation.

CALL NOW

Fun Historical Facts

Did You Know?

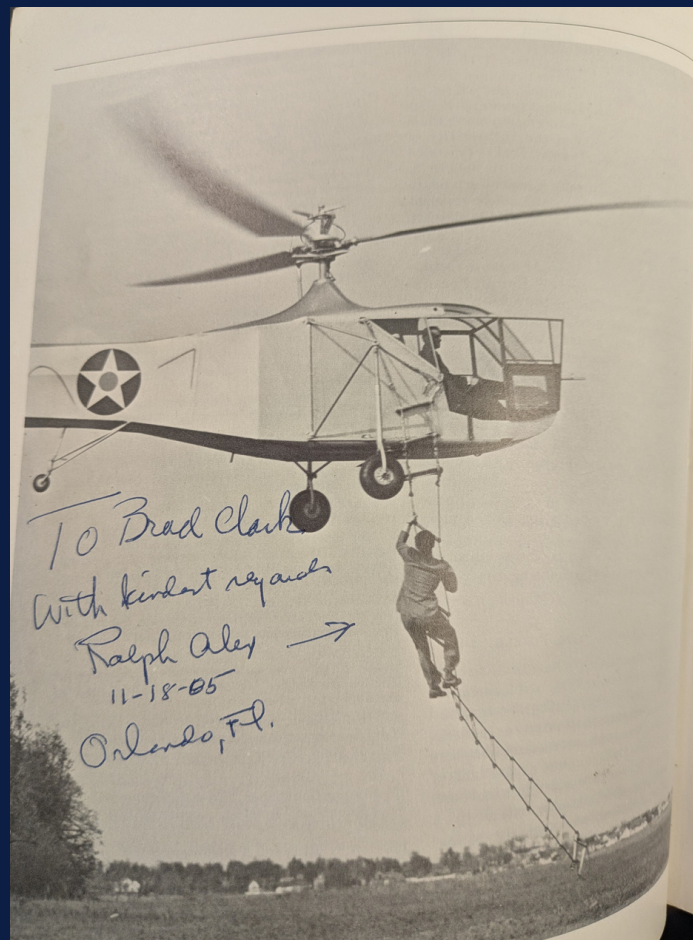
Did you know that the legendary S-52 made aviation history with a borrowed Army O-425-1 engine producing 245 horsepower?

With test pilot Tommy Thompson at the controls and Ralph Alex as co-pilot, the S-52 shattered the world helicopter speed record at Cleveland, Ohio, reaching an impressive 129.552 mph, surpassing the record previously held by the Fairey Rotodyne of England.

The S-52 didn't stop there. It also climbed to 21,220 feet, setting a new world altitude record for helicopters.

Perhaps even more remarkable, the S-52 became the first helicopter to perform a complete loop, demonstrating its exceptional control authority and maneuverability. In a dramatic display of confidence and engineering excellence, the aircraft was filmed performing multiple loops at altitudes below 300 feet—a feat that remains astonishing even by today's standards.

From speed records to altitude records to aerobatic firsts, the Sikorsky S-52 helped redefine what a helicopter could do.





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CERTIFIED DESIGN AT A HOMEBUILT PRICE

Vertical Aviation Technologies, Inc., located in Sanford, Florida, is the manufacturer of the Hummingbird helicopter. The company was founded by Bradley G. Clark in 1987. We have sold over 400 helicopters worldwide from commercial helicopter operators to governments. Currently, Vertical Aviation Technologies, Inc. produces the Hummingbird S-52 series helicopters.



Vertical Aviation Technologies: Making Aviation Great Again.