



Chapter 52 of the
Society of Broadcast
Engineers, Columbus
and Central Ohio
June 9, 2020 Meeting



Due to the Coronavirus and attendant complications for public meetings, the Chapter will have virtual meetings by means of internet mail for a while. We will take attendance and report same to the National in order to fulfill our obligation to have at least five meetings per year. To this end would you please register (fill in the data below) and return this e-mail letter to the editor along with your responses to discussion questions.

Name:

Affiliation:

SBE (Yes or No):

Member Number if a Member:

SBE Certified (if so certifications held)?

We would like to strike up a dialog by asking several open ended questions and having you respond as applicable to your station or to your knowledge. Please state if your answers are for attribution. Otherwise, the editor will treat all answers as ANONYMOUS. The editor will try to collect answers and publish them in the next meeting newsletter. We're off and running if you participate:

1. With the high cost of acquiring and maintaining helicopters, what stations if any still have them locally?
2. What are common annual costs of helicopter departments?
3. Do any stations have standing relationships with helicopter common carriers for quick service for news gathering?
4. What are typical annual contract standby helicopter costs?
5. Are any stations routinely using station owned **drones** to gather news?
6. Are any stations using outside drone contractors to gather news?
7. Are any stations using their own drones for field strength contour measurements?
8. Are any stations using contract drone operators for field strength contour measurements?
9. Has anyone experienced a lost of a drone because of?
 - Loss of Control
 - Out of Range
 - Loss of Power
 - Pilot Error
 - Other
10. How are your drones outfitted?
 - Communications
 - GPS
 - Video navigation
 - On Air Quality Camera and Link
 - Number of required operators
 - Range
 - Duration
 - Physical dimensions, weight
11. Drone Economics
 - Drone Cost
 - Camera Cost
 - Support Costs
 - Annual total cost

10. Feel free to comment on any pandemic related operations. Don't be shy. We look forward to your contributions.

Here is an article to set the tone.

Police Helicopter Collides With Police Drone

[Russ Niles](#) June 6, 2020, AVWeb.Com



There was likely a lively debrief after a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) AS350 B3 helicopter and an RCMP SkyRanger R60 surveillance drone collided while on a joint mission over a rural area of British Columbia in February. Although the incident happened in February, it didn't make it to the Civil Aviation Daily Occurrence Reporting System ([CADORS](#)), Transport Canada's daily list of tragedies, mishaps and oopsies, until June 3. This one rated five on a scale of six by Canada's

Transportation Safety Board in terms of seriousness and was classified as a "midair collision" that resulted in a "forced landing." The details are perhaps a little more mundane but they do possibly paint a picture of the perils of putting manned and unmanned aircraft in close proximity even when they're playing for the same team.

The drone was one of two involved in a "policing activities" with the helicopter about 15 miles from the small city of Houston in central B.C. The nature of the operation wasn't described in the typically clipped CADORS report. The helicopter and drone came together at about 300 feet AGL. After obliterating the drone, the helicopter exhibited a brief vibration and the pilot headed for a clear spot on a road below. The precautionary landing was uneventful and none of the three people onboard was hurt.

Whatever caused the miscue, it was an expensive lesson according to the CADORS report. "Maintenance staff found damage primarily to the main rotor blades along with superficial damage on the tail boom and tail rotor," the report said. "The affected components were removed as per the maintenance manual for repairs or overhaul as required. The RPAS was destroyed." The drone is popular among police departments and was made by Aeryon Systems. List price is about \$100,000. The CADORS report said it weighed about six pounds but the manufacturer says it's more like 10 pounds.

Thanks for your participation.
Ralph Hoffman, Bulletin Editor
R.Hoffman@IEEE.Org
740.625.6575