



After the CPL (H)

Profiles of two recent graduates from Ardmore Helicopters

A TYPICAL helicopter CPL consumes something in excess of 150 hours flying time, 12 months of study and training, and \$75000. But then what? In an industry where experience matters most, employment can be very hard to come by and paid employment more so. Fortunate students may well get some support from the company they trained with, gaining valuable experience with which to leapfrog other new graduates in search of full time flying positions.

Two good examples of this process are Rob Anderson and Steve Logan, both graduates of

Ardmore Helicopters Limited at Ardmore Airfield. Patience and determination are pre-requisites, but the rewards are there for those willing to pursue them.

Rob Anderson says that it took him a long time to get from 150 to 250 hours and that he spent many hours helping out “until the only way the boss could get rid of him was to send him flying.” Rob’s efforts paid off though, as his role in the organisation grew.

Coached into an instructing position, he ultimately acquired B-cat status and also held a Senior Person’s role overseeing the company’s management systems. Whilst at Ardmore, he met pilots working in all

sectors of helicopter operations in NZ and around the world. Although he enjoyed his instructing position, eventually he decided to head to Canada to see what sort of work he could find there. The work he obtained utilised helicopters to a far more intense degree than anything he had experienced at home with constant landings in unprepared sites, rivers, wetlands and bogs. He quickly gained a whole new set of independent flying skills, being away from a base in remote Arctic locations for weeks at a time.



Rob Anderson is now flying in Canada. The task when pictured was to establish a fuel cache at Nanacho Lake in the NorthWest Territories.

Rob recommends that new pilots take the time to learn from people that have been down the path they want to follow, be prepared that the process is a long one, and be willing to commit 100% to it. “The rewards though, are plenty.”

From the very beginning of his CPL training, **Steve Logan** saw the opportunity of gaining commercial experience with Ardmore Helicopters. Steve was determined to be an “active participant rather than a spectator” and assisted in a variety of commercial operations even though he was

training on a very part time basis. Once he had his CPL, Steve’s efforts were rewarded with a part time commercial flying role at the company. His first jobs involved local scenic flights and short joyrides. Over time he moved into more advanced roles of banner towing, photography and frost protection. Steve notes that this was always under the watch of more senior pilots in the company, the culture of whom was to nurture the up and coming pilots rather than view them as competition.

An opportunity recently arose for Steve to train as an Ardmore Helicopters Instructor. Steve had a busy start to this part of his career, managing to

acquire 100 hours instructing time in the first three months of having his rating. He is enjoying the role immensely, gaining a lot of satisfaction from watching students progress. Now aiming for a B-cat next year, Steve is delighted to be in a position where he can offer the same mentorship to CPL students as he received himself.

Ardmore Helicopters offer training that is personalised to suit your needs. For more information, phone them on (09) 298 1899 or visit www.chopper.co.nz.



A part time commercial pilot, Steve Logan recently returned to study and gained his Instructor’s rating.

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