Igor Sikorsky, engineer of the modern helicopter, said that in an emergency the only thing a plane could do was fly over and drop flowers, but a helicopter would save your life.

Dick Boulais and his crews saved many lives flying the Sikorsky helicopter, affectionately known as the Jolly Green Giant. Whether it was rescuing Phoenicians during the Great Flood of 1983 or finding lost hunters in a blinding snowstorm in Prescott, Dick has seen it all. Please come and hear him discuss his experiences, the technological innovations of the helicopters he has flown, and his love of rotary wing aircraft.

Dick Boulais, helicopter pilot, will be presenting a blend of design history, aerodynamics and mechanics, and a few of his personal helicopter experiences, with the goal of de-mystifying helicopters and to encourage others to pursue their interests in rotary wing aircraft.

Boulais grew up in an Arizona farm family and flew regularly with his father from age five on. By second grade he’d set the goal of becoming a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. After a tour of duty as an instructor pilot, he learned to fly helicopters with the U.S. Air Force Reserve, which then led him to get a job later flying helicopters for his family business, and opportunities to be flying support for off-road racing.