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## **Auto Racing Legend Bob Bondurant Buys R44 Raven Helicopter**

**Torrance, CA** — Bob Bondurant, operator of America's most renowned auto racing school, has just taken delivery of a new R44 Raven four-seat helicopter. Bondurant recently purchased the aircraft in partnership with professional helicopter pilot Barry Sprague of Austin, Texas. Sprague is moving to Phoenix – home of the Bondurant School of Driving – and will share flight time with Bondurant.

Although Bondurant has retired from all but vintage car road racing, he still has a passion for helicopters, and will use the new R44 Raven to observe and photograph students and the racing lines they take through tricky corners at his Firebird Raceway.

Bondurant began both avocations – auto racing and helicopter flight – at about the same time in 1963. His interest in helicopters was sparked by a visit to Marina Del Rey, California, former home of Hughes Helicopters, when he looked skyward and became intrigued by the aircraft flying from above the nearby dunes. It wasn't long before Bondurant decided he wanted to learn to fly helicopters himself and went to work as an apprentice mechanic for Harry Campbell Comet Copters at San Fernando Airport and took flying lessons. Bondurant obtained his pilot's license and owned an Aerospatiale Gazelle helicopter for many years before switching to the new R44.

Bondurant remains active in racing by driving karts, both KGB 125 Kawasaki shifter karts and CRG twin-engine Briggs & Stratton pro karts. His driving school teaches karting, in addition to road racing for beginning and advanced students, plus special courses for teenage defensive driving, for chauffeurs learning survival tactics against potential kidnappers, and for law enforcement officers forced to engage in pursuit tactics.

Robinson Helicopter Company is the world's leading manufacturer of civil helicopters and builds the two-seat Model R22 and the four-seat Model R44. Robinson helicopters are used throughout the world for a variety of private, business and commercial operations. For more information about Robinson, visit us on-line at [www.robinsonheli.com](http://www.robinsonheli.com).

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