



Christmas Greetings everybody and Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Xmas copy of Cloudhopper's News, and as ever it is typically the time to reflect on the year and the highs and lows. Trust me, in the UK I think this year there were more lows than sustained highs where the weather was concerned! The list continues to gather strength with us passing the 250 mark mid December. Whilst this issue remains "Stuffing free", let's see what we have packed into this issue for you this month.



Nice winter scene with G-BVHP Colt 42A at play.

Content

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Ed Speak- By Steve Roake-This month's Stuff

December is a tough month to fill when doing a Newsletter. It is particularly hard following on from a month where there seemed to be plenty of action with two events. Obviously we can look forward to the New Year and The UK based Icicle meet with its exhibition at The Swindon Hilton Hotel, where I'm told hopefully Cameron Balloons are going to launch their new Hopper bottom end. Rest assured dear folks, if it happens then you will be the first to hear about it.

Luckily help is at hand with a feature from my old buddy Jonathan Dyer who, freshly back from Iraq, shows us his latest restoration of a hopper fan. JD as he is affectionately known is a man for whom one fan is not enough! That has to be the ultimate

understatement, and whilst some might think he is barking mad, he clearly loves taking older kit, tinkering with it and ending up with fine restorations (as you will see!). This then lead me onto other people's interpretation of small fans, so Glen Everett's small 3hp Honda fan and Andre Van Wyks are included as comparisons.

Other stuff of interest to you all .We have just exceeded 250 membership for the first time. We have also members joining from Denmark and India to add a couple more nations to our overall coverage worldwide. You guys are most welcome, thanks for being part of this great family.



Another thing that may strike you this month is my use of incidental jpegs with a winter's theme. Yes, I admit, it is your editor indulging in a pathetic excuse to show some of the more exotic shots taken with snow as a themed background. The above shot being a typical example. Chateau D'oex 1995 and John Race with his Cameron H-34 cloudhopper G-BZUV, getting ready to fly. More indulgences later.

Essential Extra's- Bob Redinger recommends the Fore Trex 201

Whilst a discussion has taken place on the forum about what items to use when flying, Bob Redinger suggests you could do worse than use the Fore Trex 201 because it has the altimeter built in.... have a look at the following URL.

<http://www.garmin.com/products/foretrex201/> These are the precise type of recommendations we are looking for, so if you are passionate over a piece of kit, let us all know about it.

Features this month-

Hopper building by Greg Winkler- Busy Boy our Greg, has promised more on this subject but alas so far it hasn't arrived, so when we get it you will too, hopefully for the next issue.

Andre Van Wyk's hopper bottom Ends

As you all probably know, Andre Van Wyk is quite well known for his small very nicely made single man baskets as used by Ian Chadwick, Pete Bish, Mark Redman and Sue Rorstad (which is still for sale). When The One Man meet was held in Wales in 2003, I was there crewing for Tony Bubb and lovely wife Pat, when I spotted Andre Van Wyk with his own home built balloon G-CCKZ , which featured a very relaxed recumbent bottom end . There was a write up about Andre's exploits in Issue 3 of cloudhopper news

but the hopper bottom ends never featured for some reason, probably because I concentrated on the baskets. There is always something to admire in an individuals take on developing new ideas and whilst these may not be new concepts, I thought it would be good to share them with you all now.

Below is a jpeg of Andre's mark one and mark two hopper bottom end designs.



As Andre said to me in his April 2005 email about them "The above picture shows the Mk 1 with the open burner and the one with the shroud around it is the Mk 2. On the Mk 2 you can also see the stainless steel polished mirror on a flexible mount so you can adjust it to suit your eye. We've marked the last 25% on the gauge of the flight cylinder with red. This makes it very easy to see when you're running low on fuel. The picture of the two bottom ends also shows the pouch underneath in which you store the envelope bag.



Clearly some thought has gone into the design of the burner on this Mark 2 with the flexible mirror for fuel gauge checks.



This style of bottom end has a distinctively relaxed look to it with comfort a key issue. Personally it looks very agreeable.



This particular jpeg shows another version with exceedingly long tubes linking the harness to the burner assembly.



The detail in the harness seems very good, but your editor is not sure if other versions of either the mark 1 or 2 bottom ends exist with only Paul Bailey the only other Custom craft exponent known to me.

Fan Frenzy- a clodhopper's feature

This particular section started off as a fill in with my good friend Jonathan Dyer (JD) showing me an older inflation fan that he was in the process of restoring. However it occurred to me that amongst all the database of stuff amassed on my pc were some fan jpegs from other people so this small feature appeared. The one thing that is very apparent, opinions vary dramatically about the usefulness of fans around the 3hp range and whilst we all bemoan them when they appear to run out of puff, we all wouldn't like to be without them.

Firstly the item that started it all. JD shares the opinion that whilst power is important, the blade is a vital ingredient in how effective your output is from the engine.



He acquired this particular fan in one of his many dealings (which typically sees him with half a dozen fans of various sorts- he loves to restore them and forward to eager new owners), for his own use with his hopper plans. The vintage is unknown but the frame is definitely early Thunder and Colt.

The original spec of the frame had two supports behind the engine but JD asked me to get it welded up with one central support as you now see. With the older style air intake on the side of the fan we estimate it could be early 80's vintage.



From the practical point of view, the thing I like about this fan as opposed to my Cameron / Lindstrand 3hp hopper fan is that it remains quite high off the ground and along with other hopper operators I have suffered from reduced performance whilst inflating in long grass.



So there it is , a very nice older piece of kit which sounds sweet when running and now fitted with a new prop (which hopefully we can feature an article on next month, from the man who makes them),and a shiny new chromed shroud which JD likes Just to tie wrap together rather than bolt up.

Second Fan - this time from Glen Everett

Another 3hp Honda but with a unique stand arrangement. I first came across this application at the OMM in 2005 and Glen seems keen on it.



Obviously, this fan is a newer model than JD's but again an unusual set up to suit the owner and it clearly copes.



Apologies for the relatively bad jpeg in the last version .This is a multi blade fan from Andre Van Wyk .Clearly scale of the fan can be seen when compared with a regular fan as seen here.



Power output in this case is unknown but again a variation on stand and propeller arrangement has affected a workable solution.

Updates on the website / Newsletter

Slow, steady progress is being achieved on the website with my main man learning the Dreamweaver program. Content is being revised for the all new launch and so far I would say that we are about 30% there, so some way to go. Fear not, as the wait will be worth it. Newsletter remains in its current format but subject to a successful conclusion with interested parties both the

website and newsletter will shortly (hopefully) benefit from a sponsorship arrangement with ongoing negotiations taking place. Announcement to all when they are finalized.



Another former UK balloon taken in winter climate at Chateau D'oex, G-BUJS was a very unusually pretty Colt 17A, Status now unknown (Photo from Mel Kirby). Why is it the entire very best hopper shots seem to be taken in surroundings with Snow? I love this scheme which to my knowledge was never repeated.

Gallery Pages-Editors choice of new and Older choice hoppers and Duo chariots.



Ultramagic M-42's c/n's 3, 4, 5 and 6 as supplied by Paul Dickenson,

Where they now and what are are their current statuses?



Another Ultramagic M-42 , from Paul Dickenson but this time with a contraption including a fan on the back .Can anyone shed any light on what they were doing and why .For the purists out there it is C/n 42/08



Italian Cameron Viva 31 currently for sale on www.zebeddeelist.co.uk has only a total of 38hours on it. Built in 1996, it is yellow and black with Hyperlast top and Scoop Last flight 2001, as new, always stored in warm and dry place. Available in Italy (Turin); possibility of delivery to all Europe. £ 3,400 - 5,000 Euro
Davide Morando - 0039.348.6123008 - sportpromotion@mongolfiere.com

Manufacturer News / Updates / Event News

With Thanks to Neil Ivison for sending these to me , I can let you all see more shots of the new Lindstrand Hopper bottom end as described in last months newsletter.



Not sure if the wheels do it for me, after all it is a hopper but I know they are detachable.



Shortly in the New Year, we will start to turn our attention to the organization of the EURO HOP. Running over the week from 1st September in Chauvigny near Poitiers France, we could really do with knowing how many of you are seriously interested in coming to this.

Please could you contact me directly to let us have a basis for forward planning. Thanks. As ever email me at

Steve.roake@ntlworld.com and mark the subject matter as EUROHOP please.

For Sale / Wanted Section

Chris Monk is in the market for a hopper folks. He is looking for anything complete ranging from a 31 up to a 42 considered. Chris can be contacted via the email Chris.monk@tiscali.co.uk with your recommendations. Thanks.

Martin Axtell has For Sale G-BRCO Cameron H-20. "It has done 70hrs plus a few tethers etc and flies and looks great". He is after £2500 for it. "It has a T& C bottom end with seat etc and is in very good condition." Says Martin who is available via email at mjaballooning@hotmail.com

Sue Rorstad is still keen to sell her Andre Van Wyk hopper basket and asking only £1200. Trimmed in Red leather with matching red pole covers. Weighing on 20kgs it features two holes for side mounting tanks. Phone 0044 1297-560460 ext 2 or email Sue at smrorstad@btinternet.com

Next Issue

In the next edition of the newsletter, I will be hopefully looking into the following items.

- News from the Icicle Balloon meet including (hopefully) the new Cameron Hopper
- More from Greg Winker on his Homebuilt hopper
- Graham Bell test flies an Ultramagic Duo and reports for us the plusses and minuses of it.

- Hopefully a visit to a propeller maker
- Any other stuff that comes my way

And Finally



I like this jpeg not only because it is Lindstrand Earning their crust, but more so because it is Mike Webb captured in a rare moment of hopping!

All hopper / duo chariot jpegs welcome to your editor particularly if taken in Alpine style environments!

Fly Safe everyone, Membership stands at 253 plus (mid December 2006)

See you all soon safe flying and happy New Year Steve

All articles for inclusion in future issues, please forward to the editor at Information@cloudhoppers.org and all feedback good, bad or indifferent will be welcome. In future we might even run a letters/email section. Views aired by contributors may not be those of the editor.

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