



Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 114

May 2019

Blimey, end of May already?

Hello, and how is your summer going?

Here we are in full swing going from event to event. Make sure you enjoy them because before you know it they will have gone and you'll wonder where it all went?

Here towards the end of May and personally I have spent three weekends ballooning (probably too much to be honest). However, after a patchy start to the season it will be good to get out there and regularly fly.

So where will the activity have been taking place? Well for me I started in Telford, followed by the Midlands Balloon Festival and finally at the end of the month, the Solo Plus meet in Great Missenden.

As you can see by the content, the season is now in full swing and that is reflected in movement in the market for second hand balloons. Some have found new homes and others are now appearing on the market as people's choices change and they decide where their needs lie. Continued input from contributors means I have the stuff to fill content in your regular read, without the inputs of those who contribute, this magazine simply wouldn't exist as I would exhaust my ability to entertain you in an instant. So, thanks to those who have taken the time to help with this particular issue and please keep them coming. Here is what we have for you in this edition.

- Canowindra 2019 festival (Australia).
- The Ultimate Hopper?
- The 2nd Midlands Balloon Festival.
- Recent second-hand purchases.

Please send to me your items for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter to the email address below

Steve Roake- Editor,

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Interesting

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New Balloons

Just G-CLFL.

Second Hand Balloons

G-CJHV, G-CIBX, and G-CIOV.

Gallery Pages

G-CIOV and a new Adams.

Manufacturer

News/ Events

Still nothing yet confirmed on the OMM

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1, Ed Speak- Three events in May.

Shortly after returning from my American jaunt, we entered May (a very busy month). Three events in quick succession started with a weekend in Telford Shropshire where a great flight was had on the Sunday morning which reminded me why we hop. The early morning sunshine, in an area of outstanding natural beauty and around 7 knots just made the event memorable and upon landing in a set aside field a lady who lived locally came out with tea and coffee for myself and my crew.



Telford Hopping -photo by Bernie Williams

The following weekend, I was flying at the Midlands Balloon Festival set in the 300-acre grounds of Arbury Hall near Nuneaton Warwickshire. This time a totally different set of parameters saw some serious "Bimbling" within the 16th century period House and grounds. In two separate flights, totalling over 2 hours and 10 mins I never left the host venue. One week off and then after a bank holiday it's time

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for the Black Horse Ballooning Club's Solo Plus Meet. This time last year four intrepid hopper pilots enjoyed a very sociable weekend flying in the Chilterns. This year's event appears to be more popularly subscribed. Hopefully by the time this newsletter is delivered to you, we will have had another very memorable weekend with more flying.

Steve Roake

2, Essential Extras – Relive App by Linda Crossland Clarke

Relive App

I saw some of my Facebook cycling friends using this app and thought it could be fun to use it. It is! And possibly as more of the ballooning gang that use this, we can then tag and share photos and our flight tracks. You load the App on your smart phone/tablet, click record and start flying, any photos that you take on the same phone can be merged with the flight video at the end. Very slick. It uses data on your phone during the record mode but you can wait to upload the recording later on. It does only upload 9 photos at a time though. You can then share it with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.

There is also a height graphic – which some of you will have to try to see if you can work out if you can evidence a flight height ASL – as this could be useful and an easy way of evidencing not flying low over livestock! Please do share if you work it out. I've been using it for a year now and it still has my recorded flights and photos in its archive.



Relive - Your Outdoor 3D

Videos

Relive B.V.

Health & Fitness

UNINSTALL

OPEN

In-app purchases

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3, The Features Section. –

Cloudboppers Australia – Canowindra 2019 by Nathan Allen

I was lucky enough to escape some commercial duties during April to be a part of the SupaGas Canowindra International Balloon Challenge. Canowindra is located 5 hours from my home in the Hunter Valley and 4 hours from Sydney and is commonly known as the home of Australian ballooning. The area provides fantastic flying conditions for both competition and fiesta flying with large open landing fields and lots of friendly landowners.

This year's festival was set to be one of the biggest with the addition of major sponsor Supagas and also some government grants as a premier regional event in the state.

Each of the mornings began with a briefing for both competition and fiesta pilots including weather reports and any new PZ's that had arisen from the previous flights. Due to Australia being in the worst drought in 100 years the event committee put in large efforts with local farmers to continue the event. A farmer draw for every location launched or landed was place in the draw for a pallet of dog food, a much-needed resource in tough times.

4 Single Hoppers and 2 Duos were present – Nathan Allen Cameron Superlight O-31 VH-WNA, Steve Griffin Homebuilt 42 with Cameron Millennium Unit VH-LNE, Kevin Cooper Ultramagic Lightweight H-31 VH-IXW, Barb Smith Homebuilt 31 VH-BOX, Steve Campbell Homebuilt 60 with Bonanno Duo VH-XBI, Kevin Cooper Kavanagh 65 with T&C Duo VH-IXU.

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Day 1 was met with a long wait for winds to drop and competition balloons to clear the area which allowed for some social time on the launch field. Finally, we were given the green flag, a southerly track had us heading away from town away from the heavily cropped areas. We were treated to some lovely steerage winds which made it easier to follow my hare balloon as I had travelled solo to the event, I needed to hitch a ride with Barb Smith. After a nice 4 knot landing, we headed back to the local park for champagne and a catch up with lots of friends from around the country.



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Day 2 we were joined by a local news reporter who joined Steve Campbell in the Homebuilt 60 Duo. After some instruction we had the reporter buckled in, airborne and drifting north of town. This was a relatively short flight as we tried to stick together so the cameraman could get some balloon to balloon footage. The segment was featured later that night on the local news and was lots of fun to

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be a part of.

<https://www.facebook.com/WINNewsCentralWest/videos/2353784878174183/>



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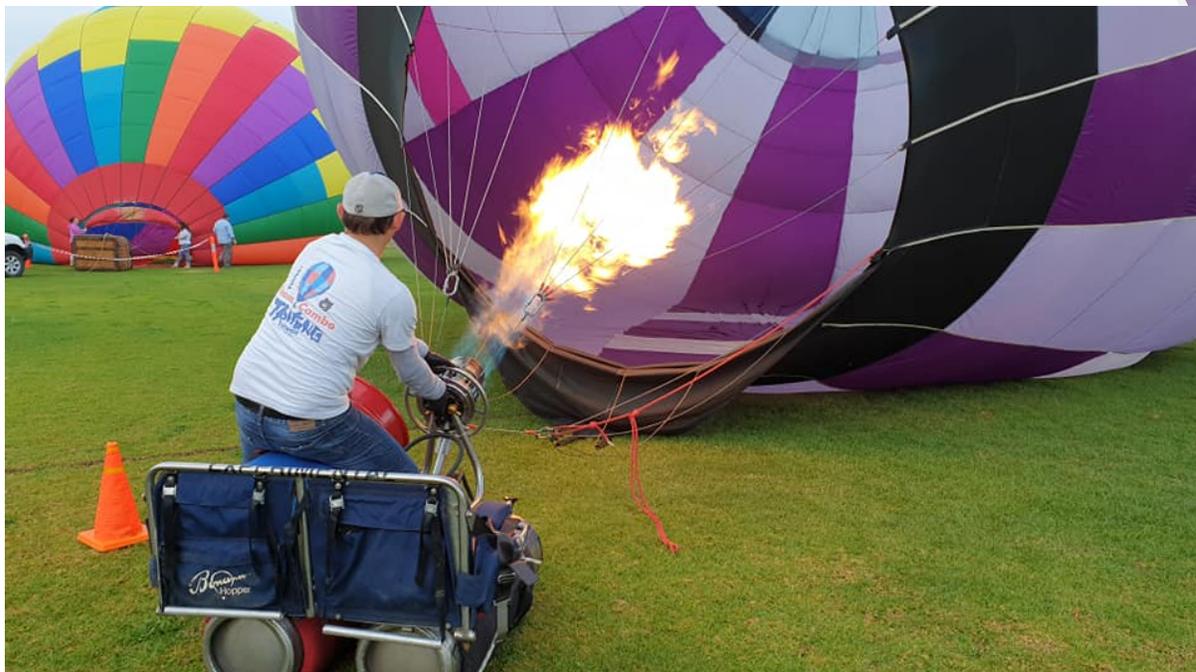




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Following the afternoon briefing I found myself talking to Steve Griffin who as the Safety Officer couldn't fly in the mornings when competition flights were being held and kindly agreed to crew for him. We quickly grabbed his gear from a nearby shed and made our way to the launch field. We experienced some light thermal activity but a lovely launch before we headed out of town on the chase. Steve travelled a short distance before landing with a lovely landowner who kindly opened and closed every gate for us after telling a few ballooning tales. A fantastic social afternoon on the ground for a change.



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Day 3 had the fiesta balloons launching south of town and with a gusty surface breeze we had some fun inflations amongst the hoppers. Big thanks to Steve Griffin who showed up to help each hopper get away without issue. We tracked to the southwest and were met by a myriad of paramotors who had come to follow the balloons. The wind was slowly increasing as the inversion disappeared past the river in which I was lucky enough to land reasonably soon adjacent to the paramotor airfield with a sportier 6 knot landing. Steve Campbell flew past moments later in the Duo 60 and had a lovely drag landing a few kilometres away.



Later that afternoon with some free time and light winds we decided to inflate another of Barb Smiths homebuilt balloons VH-BOX Deramecourt 31 in the camping area of the house backyard much to the delight of passing locals who flocked in to the see the little balloon up close and glowing. This made for some fantastic photos and a lot of fun for those involved.

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Day 4 was my last morning at the event and started with the daily flight briefing with coffee in hand. Event directors and weather officials advised of a significant wind band pushing through and advised pilots to make use of the early morning inversion. We promptly made our way to the main launch oval and got airborne. Much to our surprise we were treated to some lovely box winds over town and the launch oval making a great show for the spectators. Barb Smith flying the Duo 60 and myself climbed up and tracked to the east for around 20 mins before landing and being met by some amazing farmers who enjoyed some short tether rides in the Duo 60.

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Following this I had to rush back to pack up, a quick few goodbyes and make the drive back home ready to go back to work. All this way done was a massive smile as it had been a fantastic 4 days of flying and socialising with likeminded balloonist.

As the Canowindra event continues to grow along with Australia's cloudbopper base I hope to see more international

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pilots make the pilgrimage to the home of Australian ballooning.



Nathan Allen.

The 2nd Midlands Balloon Festival

Sometimes there are venues and then there are venues. Arriving at the second annual Midlands balloon festival at Arbury Hall near Nuneaton in Warwickshire takes some beating. From any of the three entrances I would estimate the "drive" into the festival was at least three miles from the main road. Sometimes you get a good feeling even before you chap eyes on the venue and this was one of those times. Litter free, the grounds had immaculately mowed edges to the smooth tarmac which proceeded the arboretum with hand-picked exotic trees, and then I saw the house. A 16th century Mansion owned by the same family for the last 450 years no less. This was definitely going to be a pleasure. The launch site was adjacent to a lake, broadly set in the middle of some 300 acres of old English establishment, and the balloonist's marquee was right next to the field in the very next field where we would be pitching our tents.

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This wasn't your average place to hold a balloon festival, some commented that it looked like Downton Abbey!

Looking on the map, you would question why anyone would want to stage an event in a thin corridor of free airspace three kilometres from the start of controlled airspace with the prevailing winds taking you towards the zone.



Bennie Bos caught the "splendour" of the Mansion House.

The other thing to note was that the weather didn't bode too well and the organisers were trying to follow up on an event which was basically perfect the previous year – and that was always going to be hard to follow. I was cautiously optimistic that there might be two slots in which I might be able to cruise around the estate in my hopper with light winds. However, Friday night was not one of those slots. We were all cautioned by event director Colin Butter about the direction and the lack of cut crops in the direction of the prevailing winds and

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so, no one flew. Some took the opportunity to tether whilst some of us headed to the nearest Pub for dinner. We arrived back in time for a Nightglow and some amazing aviation entertainment in the dark. Saturday morning briefing was at OMG 5-30am. The winds (what little there was), were 5-7 knots in the general direction of Coventry Which was a big "No-No", as the ceiling on the airspace was 1500ft amsl and the city was already 500 ft amsl. Coupled to that, Cloud base was 300ft.

An easy answer of not to fly was taken. Teams ventured into the launch field and dually tethered for the assembled crowds. Some interesting balloons appeared including a Dutch duo chariot PH-MAD.

Saturday evening was a whole lot better. The winds were dropping out and it was easy to "Bimble" around the site with a few competition pilots choosing to fly in. I flew from one end of the field to another in an hour.



First UK flight for Paul Spellward's G-OTTI.

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This pleased me immensely since most of your hopping is going from A to B it was nice to have some hang time. In fact, at one point I was in the slowest race ever with Tony Attwood who was in the RAF hopper.



Another stunning Bennie Bos picture featuring Tony Attwood.

Two points of interest happened this afternoon. John Hilditch and Niall Rowan took delivery of Lindstrand Tech series 1-31 G-CJHV and had it out for a tether, and also tethering was newly registered to Jeff Lawton Um H-31 G-CIOV, on its UK debut.

Then to top it off the end of the day had a Nightglow and Fireworks with aerial displays at night, some truly amazing flying by our fixed wing friends.

Sunday morning arrived at silly o'clock and it was obvious that it was once again flyable. Most pilots indicated a desire to again play around the launch field in the light winds, however on taking

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off they were slightly stronger than predicted and so staying on site wasn't easily possible. However, another short flight was undertaken remaining within the grounds of the estate. This curtailed my flying at the event and after returning and gassing up, all that remained to do was to pack away and head off home. Many thanks to the organisers for a nice event with great facilities for all and a success was achieved in what didn't at first appear a truly flyable weekend.

The Ultimate Hopper Bottom End.

Taking away any bias I've often been asked which hopper is the best one when it comes to bottom ends? So, I thought about it and wondered if you guys would agree with my ultimate hopper. This would be a composite package made up of the finest parts from all hoppers out there currently utilising the parts that make the difference. If you disagree with what I've chosen, feel free to send in your choices with some text why you'd choose a certain part over its competition.

Where to start? Well for me it's all about comfort so let's look at my choice for ..

Seat unit and Frame. This would have to be a Lindstrand LBL mark 2 seat. My one regret in my hopping career was selling my Mark 2 bottom end. It was so comfortable particularly with the extra one inch of memory foam I put into it. I have never found anyone who has or had a Lindstrand seat unit who didn't like it, but there are parts that could be better.

Tank straps- The best tank straps by miles are made currently by Cameron Balloons. They simply click into place around the tank with a double fixing and are so easy to use. I don't know why others don't copy this design because it makes fitting the tank a simple ten second affair and not the threaded twice back onto itself long straps that the others use.

Burner/ Burner Frame – The Best burner by far for me is the Power plus by Paolo Bonnano, put this into a gimbaled frame and you have pretty well sorted most people's wish lists.

Bottom End Bag- Once again the bag on the LBL mark 2 wins here. Plenty of space, with ample padding and handy pockets for storage.

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Inflation Fan Now I've been very fortunate to have tried pretty much all of the offerings that are on sale currently. Whilst I know there are plenty who love Klein fans, I've never been a big advocate of its abilities. There are times when it worked well and yet other days when it couldn't knock the skin off a rice pudding. None of the offerings are cheap and I spent over £1000 back in the day securing my Ultramagic 3hp fan but there hasn't been one occasion when I've questioned its purchase. The current offerings from Cameron are supposed to be better than the old ones (as they sit higher off the ground), but I haven't tried one yet.

4,Homebuilding Section-

The annual who's who of homebuilding recently took place at Post Mills airport in Vermont, where Brian Bolland had his annual gathering at the Experimental Balloon and Airship Meet. This took place over the weekend of 15th-17th of May and whilst the weather wasn't particularly conducive to flying I believe they had one mass launch and another where some flew. Hopefully there will be a report in next months issue. I do know that brits Andy Austin and Tim Wilkinson flew with a balloon to take part(G-CIWZ). Normally, people return from the event stoked and fired up with more passion to complete their individual projects having bounced ideas off like minded individuals.

Word on the street was that there were less there this year than the previous one and that the flying wasn't that good. I guess you cant have record events year in year out but from Tim wilkinsons perspective, taking his own balloon on Delta Airlines was interesting as it weighed around 40kgs, and over this side of the atlantic you only get 32kgs allowance for luggage whilst in America apparently you get 42kgs baggage. Therefore going forward Tim is looking into ways of Splitting down the luggage so it can be sub divided by the number of people travelling and therefore less excess baggage payments.

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Advertisement

CAMERON BALLOONS

Fact 1
Easy to inflate and pack away, Cameron Hopper units are extremely simple to operate.

Fact 2
The Cameron Hopper Base Unit is a fun way to fly while having reliability, ease-of-use and comfort at its core.

Fact 3
Hoppers operate at a fraction of the running cost of a conventional hot air balloon.

Fact 4
Superb for those who want a striking visual impact for marketing campaigns and promotions.

Fact 5
Extra harness padding enhances comfort and suits all pilot heights.

THE HOPPER

Small but significant benefits make a world of difference to your flying experience.
Our design and build technology combines safety with ease-of-use and exceptional comfort.

A padded head-rest, enhanced cushioning, adjustable seat, and an adjustable light-weight, foot-rest ensures pilot comfort.
Stainless-steel hinges, on all Base Units, make transportation and storage even more convenient; the whole back-frame system folds and packs neatly, even if you prefer to leave the harness attached.
The larger "rear-view" mirrors with an independent rapid-cut-off fuel system allow the Pilot to control the Hopper effectively and safely.
There is even a pocket, a perfect space for a coat or tasty snacks!

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5 Interesting Photos



G-CCHP Cameron Z-31 has just had its C of A renewed. It will be interesting to see what if any events this 2003 built craft attends as it is mega rare in the UK.

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6, New Allocations This Month / Changes of Ownership

Derek Hancock's Kubicek Mascot special shaped hopper which was mentioned last month has now been registered as G-CLFL.

7, Second Hand Balloons

Latest moving stock is G-CIOV Ultramagic H-31, which was with Glen Board. New owners Gary Madelin and Jeff Lawton have taken delivery of the low-hours craft. The envelope had barely over 6 hours total time and got its first outing at Arbury Hall, Warwickshire, the venue of the recent Midlands balloon Festival.

In the last few weeks, John Hilditch and Niall have taken delivery of the Lindstrand Tech envelope G-CJHV. This has concluded a protracted purchase for the 31 which has done just over 30 hours. Hopefully this will lead to the manufacture of another demonstrator craft by Lindstrand Tech in the not too distant future.

Having just returned from the Brian Bolland experimental balloon meet Andy Austin had decided he wanted to sell his Cameron Z-31 G-CIBX complete kit. A number of reasons, included lack of use and a desire to pursue the Annex 2 route with a collapsible lightweight basket. Priced at £7500 for an envelope which had done only 16 hours since 2014, and a Millennium bottom end, the kit sold super fast. Peter Van Harten from Holland was first across the line so good luck to him with his new purchase. The balloon will be re-registered as PH-HOP.

8, Manufacturer / Event News/ Industry News

Ernie Hartt has been recently advertising on Facebook the following event.

All right Hopperettes and Hoppers, it is time to start making plans for the 5th Annual 'Hoppers and Friends get together in Driggs, Idaho on 13 and 14 July, 2019. This is a pay-your-own-way event, and held the weekend after the regular balloon rally in Driggs. It is a beautiful place to fly, on the western side of the Tetons. Contact me for info if you are interested.

Image borrowed from NatGeoTravel's Instagram.

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Great shot in a picturesque background – Ed.

The 2019 OMM

Interest is continuing to grow in this year's One Man Meet. If I had a pound for every time I'm asked where it's going to be, I'd be a rich man. All I know (and I'm not in a privileged position), is that John Tyrrell and Wendy Rousell are looking at options that will suffice for us, and whilst it isn't a public event, they are aware that it is popular with the spotters and therefore has to be accessible.

All I do know is that as soon as there is any definite information I will be able to bring it to you, and that the area being looked at is in the Wye valley around the Ross on Wye area.

However, until things are confirmed nothing is set in stone- so watch this space.

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Advertisement

Cameron "Stock Hoppers" for sale exclusively to Cloudhoppers.org. These two beauties are both available with the regular discount using the code CAM01SJR and come in either 26,000 or 31,000 sizes to suit all. Prices start from £7335 excluding VAT and delivery for the O-26.

To purchase the current offerings please contact Cameron Balloons directly on +44(0)117 9637216, quoting the code "CAM01SJR" and ask to speak to either Craig or Simon about the Cameron O Types that are on the Cloudhoppers page.

O-26 - Stock 1 of 1 CAMERON BALLOONS

V20.954 Envelope SUPERLIGHT

Fabric Colours Used: PS ORANGE, PS NAVY, PS DEEP BLUE, PS FRENCH BLUE, PS MARINE RED, PS BRASSON RED

Artwork: - August 2018 Designer: WO

Scoop / Nomex: YELLOW Load Tape Colour: White Black

This visual is for guidance purposes only. Because of the limitations of graphic representation, colour scheme and artwork will be defined by the final order document.

O-31 1 of 1 CAMERON BALLOONS

V20.435 ALL SUPERLIGHT

Fabric Colours Used: SHAMON RED, SAIL FLOWER, GOLD, ROYAL BLUE, PURPLE, LIME, GREEN

Artwork: - December 2017 Designer: AB

Scoop / Nomex: Yellow Load Tape Colour: White Black

This visual is for guidance purposes only. Because of the limitations of graphic representation, colour scheme and artwork will be defined by the final order document.

Cameron Super Lightweight O types are currently the best-selling lightweight hopper envelopes available and whilst most purchases require three-month lead times minimum, these are a lot easier to purchase and are available immediately by request.

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7. Gallery Pages –

Your Editor's choice of New and unusual balloons.



Latest offering from Adams Balloons. Not currently registered but I'm told shortly it will be – Photo by Andy Richardson.

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Seen at the Midlands Balloon Festival was G-CIOV Um H-31
On its first outing with owner Jeff Lawton.
Photo by Kenny Blancquaert

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Facebook membership continues to rise with the current level of 1315 (correct to the 2nd June), current and still rising. Let's hope this trend continues as the popularity of hopping embraces even more people. All articles for inclusion in future issues will be gratefully received by your Editor. Please forward them to steve.roake33@gmail.com Feedback good, bad or indifferent is always welcome. Views aired by contributors may not be those of the Editor. Safe and happy hopping! **Steve Roake.**

For all previous newsletters visit www.cloudhoppers.org/newsletters

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