



Cloudhopper News

Issue Number 50

August / September 2011

Welcome One and all to a Milestone.

Ed-Speak – Let's start with a small dose of back slapping, Who would have thought we would be here with the 50th edition of Cloudhopper News? When I started this, I didn't think that anyone would read the first issue let alone the 50th. I am very pleased to say that hopping is alive and well and judging by the activity at Metz, it's getting bigger all the time. The same issues remain, enticing you lot to share your stories and getting enough material to print something approaching An issue but we continue to write rubbish that some of you even comment about when we meet up. Therefore thanks for sticking around and let's go have some fun flying hoppers. If this issue strikes you as thrown together I apologise in advance as quite frankly I am starved of free time at the moment and hence the attention to detail may not be as good as normal. Sorry!

Steve Roake



Mass hopper launch at Metz – by Charlotte Fraser

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50 issues
reached!

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Essential Extra's – Some things never change! Is this section surplus to requirements, as you guys never come up with those must have items you can't fly without? Feedback needed before I scrap it.

The Features Section- Bristol Fiesta by Steve Roake

The International festival at Bristol isn't really a Mecca for hoppers. Occasionally, you will see an operator have one tagged on the side of a regular balloon but for this year two enthusiastic forum members decided to fly their respective craft from the event.



Neil Roberts prepares to fly –photo Thanks to Neil Roberts



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Neil Roberts registered his hopper G-IHOP, as his only balloon for the event and with the possibility of decent weather he took the opportunity of hopping out of the arena and into the bowl on the other side of Ashton Court. Not content with a short flight, he returned and we did it again setting him off for another flight. With Louise his fiancée crewing we ensured that he returned with a smile on his face.

Tony Jay decided to have one flight with his hopper G-EECO the LBL 25A. Whilst he was busy with another balloon for most of the weekend, the flight across the city was by all reports very nice but it also highlighted some important issues which were witnessed during his inflation. He was boxed squarely in by other balloons which made the inflation difficult but also showed the importance of a decent fan. If his fan had been more powerful then the inflation process would have been quicker and the potential for being up and away and clear of the other balloons would have been easier. It also highlighted the importance of crew with experience who can make the transition from inflating to preparing to fly easier as they know the drill like second nature.

Steve Roake

Metz Festival 2011 by Steve Roake

The Festival of Pilatre de Rozier Lorraine held at Metz Chambley Air Base tends to be a biannual Pilgrimage for us Brits. A mix of charming surroundings, easy flying, generally good weather and free gas tends to focus the folks who love to attend on ensuring that they get there. The first thing that anyone who attended couldn't have failed to notice was the complete overhaul of the infrastructure which everything moving to the opposite side of the airfield. The only facility for balloonists left on the old site was a brand new refuelling facility with capacity for 185 tanks at any time. Total cost of the build program was an alleged Euros 27million. The new facilities are clearly a statement of intent along the lines of "build it and they will come" However, as a seasoned Metz Participant there is a fine line between nice and overcooked.



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One rumour circulating during the festival was that phase two of the build program would be landing lights and an ILS system for the airport so that in future years, the Paris Airshow could be relocated here. So if you improve the facilities you then need the infrastructure such as car rental businesses and hotel chains etc. If this route is followed the festival as such (in my opinion), will be killed off as the quaintness of the villages and the rural surroundings are the factors that make Metz a success. However even in the village we stay at (Jaulny); one essential ingredient had fallen in the recession. The fabled Pizza restaurant had died through lack of business- truly a great shame.



Great photo by Charlotte Fraser of 7 hoppers on the deck plus one duo chariot and another airborne behind.

However, some things at Metz still flourish, and the hopper content continues to grow event by event. The only downside to this is the organisers still haven't understood what it's like to fly one or what is possible and what isn't. They continue to pursue stupid ways of trying to show us off to the public and this year's farce was as good as last times. Wait until all the others have flown they said and then chase a balloon on a bicycle. This is a real shame because



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the number of hoppers and duo chariots attending was the highest since I've been involved. I counted 25 hoppers or duo chariots /techno's attending the event which isn't far off the overall record that we had at the ilam OMM . The shame of it all is that at no time did we ever get more than 10 to fly together. Not forgetting Ian Chadwick who flew G-BVCN Colt 56A singularly with a small basket on all of his flights.

In my case I had a few good hops , particularly after id parked my Lindstrand 90A in a Forrest near Waville, and enjoyed the ability to mingle with the other balloons , even if slightly disconcerted when a Um 425 doesn't heed the rules of the air and give you space when below him . Rest assured that the way our section of the balloons has been handled will not be sorted and with my "new found relationship" with the organisers, I will be in discussion with them to try and address the issues before 2013 gets organised.



Dan Wilson Leads the launch party – Charlotte Fraser jpeg once again

Many thanks to Charlotte Fraser for donating the action Photographs



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My First Hop – by Martin Axtell

Since I began ballooning many years ago { approx 30 yrs } I have always been fascinated by these one man flying machines since working for Flying Pictures and the Airship and Balloon Co. in the early years. Upon gaining my licence I never had the chance to get aloft in one of these balloons so thought I would try and find a second hand one to buy if possible. So began the thought of some I remembered from both companies.

The one that always stood out for me was the Cameron H-20 'Shell Unleaded' hopper registered G-BRCO. I did some searching and tracked the envelope down to a barn in France. I contacted the owner who was at the time in the UK and asked the question is it for sale? He agreed to sell the envelope for the sum of £1000. I got hold of the 'Virgin Megastore' hopper bottom end which was an old T&C swing style seat and hey a complete hopper was assembled.

After being invited by our Ed. Mr Steve Roake to the OMM at Ilam Hall Derbyshire, Trevor Read and I made the short hop into Derbyshire for a weekend of fun flying and good conversation and of course a beer or two. Sat dawned too breezy so back to bed for a snooze. Sometime later I could not believe what saw! I said to Trevor, "Hey buddy there's a balloon flying past our window". He burst out laughing. "What in this"? He said and sure enough never to be out done was John Russon in the Lindstrand G-BXIZ "Hyundai".

We were so excited just to see John disappear into a tree. The forecast was looking good for Saturday evening. Having had a briefing we made our way down to the launch field having secured a flight in the new Ultramagic demo from the very kind Tim Revel. Thanks Tim. Having set the hopper up ready for inflation my bum started to twitch a little. Fan on; the hopper began to take shape. Having checked and double checked a little hot air in, and she stood tall. Everything happened so quickly. I got strapped in this primitive machine and began to get a feel for it pretty quick. Checks done heart racing and a little burner and hey I was in the air { on a tether}. I was watching Nick Langley and Trevor take to the air and came down for a gentle landing. I thought to myself right Martin it's now or never. Hands on quick release off a little burn and hey presto I am in the air. I floated off in the direction of the hall and the view and feeling was



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truly magical and I never wanted it to end. Unfortunately we only flew for a mile or so and landed in the grounds near Kevin Tanner and Trevor who could not thank me enough for asking Tim.

Since that flight I have owned at least another 4 hoppers and just taken delivery of my customcraft 25a and look forward to many memorable flights in G-CCKZ. So that ladies and gents was my first and certainly not the last hopper flight.
Martin Axtell

So that's the format, what happened on your first ever hop and how it felt compared to your expectations? Submissions to me please at steve.roake@ntlworld.com

Three Favourite Jpegs and why-by Neil Roberts

In this thirteenth selection of my favourites and why, Dr Neil Roberts selects his three favourite photographs with reasons why he loves them. Neil currently flies a Cameron Z-31 millennium edition hopper frequently.



In Neil's own words, "shall I"? first flight in Cameron's Demonstrator –photo by Neil Roberts



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Neil's second choice



Showing his unique humour Neil says of this shot, "now where did I put my extinguisher" taken at Bristol 2007 Fiesta. – photo thanks to Neil Roberts.



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Third and final submission from Neil whilst short on words is high on impact.



Neil's view on this photo is "Now you can't do that in a 90"!

Many thanks to Neil for his contribution like him you too can send me your favourite three shots and the reasons why you like them. This section lives and dies by you agreeing to support me with your shots and views on why you like them.

Contributions for future editions of my three favourites and why to steve.roake@ntlworld.com please. Do it today folks and share those memories.



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4. Updates to the Website / Newsletter/ Topics of Interest

The forum has had many varied topics this month, and a healthy forum shows that hopping is still a growing sport, however with Albuquerque in particular, now is the time that somebody states side takes charge of ensuring that the hoppers have their own place amongst the many balloons. So who will rally for all our American colleagues and get our space in amongst the attractions. Come on people it's time you raise your voices.

5. Homebuilt section- Another blank month.

6. Gallery Pages - This section is the Editor's choice of new jpegs, visuals and older balloons of interest or alterations. If you know of a new or interesting hopper or Duo that hasn't featured in this section, then feel free to forward details of it with a suitable photograph to me using my normal email address.



Submitted by Bill Teasdale, Where is this hopper Now? Last seen in 1995 when withdrawn from use, nothing known since. Answers to your Ed please.



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Our newest flying artwork. This is the balloon I helped Troy Bradley and his family make for 9-year old Bobby Bradley's successful solo flight a couple of weeks ago. I'm super-grateful to Troy and family for helping fill the sky with more spirals! This one is a 32K ultralight balloon, made of 1.1oz calendared fabric, using a 16 gore pattern by Tim Cole (who also made the basket). I've been talking with the Bradley family since last year about making this balloon, and it's so fun to see it finally take flight. Bobby's grandmother sewed the whole thing over a few weeks, and she did a great job, especially as this was her first balloon - but not her last! It took me and my crew less than a week to tiedye the 9 spirals, which was really a pleasure, since the bigger projects can take months to dye.

I haven't gotten to fly this creation yet, but I'm excited to do so. I've chased it through the desert a couple of times, and it seems to fly great. This might be the balloon to take to next year's XLTA, as we could just throw it on a plane...

Fun!

-Jonathan Wolfe,

<http://SkyDyes.net>

<http://FractalFoundation.org>



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Manufacturer News / Events / Updates

Sackville

This event was postponed earlier this month and whilst by the time you get this it may have happened, I have a hunch that this year's event may not be as normal. A combination of a lot of variables including October weather could be the catalyst for the undoing of this tremendous annual gathering. There are also differences of opinion amongst the organisers. Maybe it is time for this event to be rescheduled for earlier in the calendar season.

This year's One Man Meet is only a couple of weeks away, being based at Welshpool airfield in North Wales over the weekend of 14th-16th October. Hosted as ever by Phil Dunnington details are as follows.

ONE MANS' MEET 2011

Mid-Wales Airport, Welshpool, Powys.SY21 8SG

52.37.54N/3.09.01W. GR: SJ223045

14-16 October 2011

Once again we look forward to a new and challenging location for the OMM. Welshpool is set in a pretty and largely SA-free valley and the airport management are very balloon-friendly.

We expect to have camping facilities and a local supply of propane, at least on Friday and Saturday morning.

Please either arrive for the first briefing at 1530 on 14 October at the Airport or on Saturday 15th at 0730 at the same location (GR: SJ223045)

Subject to wind direction we hope to fly from the beautiful clean grass of the airfield itself.

You should have a marked up OS map (126), or better still one of Lindsay Muir's 'centred' maps – cheaper than buying the 4 existing, and any refuelling hoses specific to your kit or spare tanks.

There is a wide range of hotels, B&B and self-catering around Welshpool.



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Entry is not limited as long as you have a 42 or smaller with valid EU insurance and EASA CofA (unless Annex II). Entry fee £20+VAT (£24) payable to Gone-With-The-Wind Ltd. Please make arrangements to pay in advance by cheque or electronic transfer to NatWest a/c:00658499 Sort code: 52-10-03.

Please spread the word to anyone you know with a hopper or small basket balloon.

Look forward to another hopping year.

Phil & Allie Dunnington

Adverts / For Sale / Wanted section

Ultramagic H-42/05



Ultramagic H-42 (Year of Manufacture: 1996), believed to be C/N 05. Zero hours flown only 2 or 3 inflations. Possibility for attaching banners to envelope.

Price: € 5.500,- ex VAT. Contact: Pieter **Kooistra** joure, The Netherlands

Phone: +31 - (0) 513 - 417503E-mail: kooistapieter@yahoo.co.uk



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G-BVUI is for sale

Lindstrand 25A. 1994. G-BVUI. 96 hrs. Lindstrand colours (no words) in red, yellow & blue. New EASA C of A on delivery. £1700 Zebedee Balloon Service - 01488 681527, 1700 British Pounds= (+ -) depending on exchange rate: \$2700.00 Photo of balloon is the first one on the Zebedee list under envelopes. web page:

<http://www.zebedeelist.co.uk/list/list.php?section=envelope>

I also have the matching Lindstrand hopper bottom end that I might be willing to part with. If anyone is interested, E-mail me at advanced@gci.net, or call me in Alaska at 907 242-5860 Jack advises that £3750 buys the complete kit.

Malcolm White advertises a Lindstrand 25A for sale.

Have decided to sell my Lindstrand LBL25A Hopper envelope – N40287. It's multicolored and is in Albuquerque. It has an Experimental rating and is in excellent condition. I have uploaded a photo taken on its last outing from the bag at last year's Fiesta. It was originally on the UK register as G-BWNW and has done around 70 hours. It will be available for collection either during or after Fiesta this October.



Email Malcolm if interested at Malcolm@white.ie



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The Klein FAN

Smaller is better!



Tiny but surprisingly powerful
inflation fans!

9 kg empty, 10.5 kg full (fuel
+ oil)

2.5 hp Honda engine

One fan easily inflates
balloons up to 2000m³

Two fans will blow your
socks off!

Contact Advanced, Inc.

advanced@gci.net

Tel. +1 907 346-3495

www.kleinfan.com

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And Finally.

Membership is currently a healthy 431 members and numbers are generally still rising. All articles for inclusion in future issues will be gratefully received by your editor. Please forward them to steve.roake@ntlworld.com and 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.

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