



Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

Hello again

Welcome to your pre-One Man Meet compact newsletter. Due to a lack of time and to a certain extent a lack of content, this issue will be both concise and fairly small in variety but none the less quality reporting.

Plenty to talk about with a recent success of the Exclusive Ballooning Longleat Safari and some more hopper transactions. On the photo front, there are at least two new registrations and a French hopper that was registered the other month but was omitted from the last newsletter by mistake.

I'm sure like me you just want to see what we have for you this month, so in this edition we have:

- The 10th Exclusive Cup at the Longleat Safari.
- Suunto Gore Watch is an Essential Extra.
- John Tyrrell joins the "O Club".
- Last word on the 2018 OMM.
- Barry Newman has been busy.
- New Balloons (G-CKYX and G-HDUO).
- Second hand balloons update
- Interesting photos.
- Tim Wilkinson features on Aunty Monkey
- EASA updates.

Please send to me your items for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter to the email address below. without any more waiting let's get into the newsletter

Steve Roake- Editor: Steve.roake33@gmail.com

Contents

Ed Speak –

Longleat challenges

Essential Extra's

Suunto Gore Watch.

The Features Section -

The Exclusive Cup Longleat Safari.

John Tyrrell joins the "O" club

Homebuilding.

Barrie Newman has been busy

Interesting

Photos

Ross Powell's annex 2 bottom end

New Balloons

G-CKYX and G-HDUO.

Second Hand Balloons

Gallery Pages

GCKYX, G-HDUO, F-HHJT

Manufacturer News/ Events.

flydoo. A new idea by

Leandro Corradini

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

1, Ed Speak- Longleat Challenges

Welcome again people and let me say If Bristol was a bit of a damp squib, Longleat certainly wasn't. Third time back here for the Exclusive ballooning Longleat Safari and it just gets better and better through all the efforts of Andrew Holly's team. With weather that appeared perfect for the weekend and some changes to the packaging from the previous year to assist those camping I ventured down from Friday afternoon. Suffice to say I got to fly what can only be described as an interesting slot But if you take the Saturday on its own, when was the last time you went anywhere in the UK and saw 200 balloons out? Some very interesting craft were either flown or tethered. More on this in my detailed report later but I will probably be going back next year again.

Elsewhere it makes a change to see some activity on bottom ends with some homebuilding content and another up for sale. Let's hope the proposed changes by EASA with regard to balloons smaller than 42000 cubic feet helps promote lightweight flying further.

In this month's essential extras section, I have gone slightly off on a tangent with regard to watches as we all know the world is changing and the day isn't far off where we will be able to have all the information on your fingertips on a timepiece so I thought I'd buy one and check them out.

Steve Roake

2, Essential Extras – Suunto Gore Watch

With the whole world getting gadget crazy these days and the likelihood of everyone going instrument free at some stage of the future, I thought I'd indulge myself with a watch that encompasses both an altimeter and a compass. Checking through the various types available, it soon became apparent that a company called Suunto were one of the class leaders and I selected their Gore watch for purchase. Coming to the Irish National Balloon Championships, I knew I'd find the time to check it out whilst flying my bigger balloon. So, what do I think of the purchase?

Starting with the price, I thought £140 through Ebay wasn't too bad for a timepiece that promises to have an altimeter and compass that you can manually set the QNH readings on.

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

Secondly, the finish appears to be top notch but with a rubber plastic finish overall.



Having set the elevation to a known spot height I went flying with it and found in comparison to my variometer it was within 50 feet of the reading and so I have no doubt that once I work out how to set the QNH accurately it will serve the purpose well.

Therefore, with all things that feature in this section of the newsletter, I have no problem classifying the Suunto Gore watch as an "Essential Extra" worthy of your consideration.

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

3, The Features Section. –

The 10th Exclusive Cup Longleat Safari.

The tenth Exclusive Ballooning Cup event recently took place at the prestigious Longleat estate in Wiltshire and what a great venue it is too. This being the third time that Andrew Holly's team have held the event here, they have built on solid foundations and modified the formula to suit the conditions. One area in particular this year that caused angst last year had been addressed was the camping facilities which now were located off site and a mere ten-minute drive away from the main site on a dedicated facility.

Arriving on Friday afternoon, the event had already run the previous day with both free flying and a night glow having taken place but the Friday weather wasn't conducive to flying and so we relaxed and waited for the evening nightglow. Whilst very well-choreographed and well executed it held no interest to our genre of flying.

One balloon that was of interest was the first inflation (briefly) of John Tyrrell's new Cameron O-31G-CKYX which was to have its first free flight the following day.

Saturday morning arrived bright and early with some fine early morning mist over the estate and a thorough briefing which probably went on longer than it should have, as the weather slot was deteriorating as the morning progressed. Some 138 different balloons took to the skies in the early morning slot with myself as one of the last ones to leave the site. I flew at 08-30 and only flew some 20mins to the north east towards Warminster. Outside of the estate were some suitable fields previously identified by Andrew as available for landing and whilst it wasn't ever going to be the longest flight in history due to the closeness to Salisbury plain and Army testing ranges which were a no-go area, the winds were very fickle and as I approached Cley Hill just outside the boundaries of the estate, I wasn't prepared for the curl over. Approaching the hill, I expected to be pushed around the obstacle, but on the prevailing wind side of the hill there was no apparent perceptible change of direction of the track, and whilst I was doing 12.2 knots I didn't expect the severity of the curl over that was being produced on the lee side. Apparently, Andrew (in the hare balloon) had experienced this



Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018



Prepping to Fly – photo by Nikki Byrne.

previously earlier and whilst trying to communicate this to others on the ballooning frequency, couldn't as some kind soul had an open mic situation, preventing word getting out. Subsequently as I descended on the lee side a tremendous force pushed me down further than expected and whilst I burnt to arrest the descent I still impacted the ground on my initial landing harder than planned. I subsequently regained control and executed a full stop landing in the adjacent field still at some 12 knots. Unknown to me the force of the impact had broken the wood supporting my seat unit. I was actually very lucky not to get more injuries from the incident. I was later told others had been less fortunate with some major damage to craft including one that impacted a tree. A good lesson learned, it had been an interesting 2.4nm.

I understand the flight put some other hopper pilots off flying later that day and so went home. However, on that particular slot others who flew included the Lindstrand Tech Hopper(G-CJHV), Kevin Tanner(G-HOPR), Bill McKinnon(G-IAMP), John Tyrrell(G-CKYX), Niall Rowan(G-CBZJ), Chris Dobson(G-OCGD), and Mark

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

Warne tethered briefly G-HEAL.

Returning to site, the rest of the day was punctuated by tethering and another launch pm and a glow which resulted in 201 balloons being either inflated or flown within the 24hours. As I had asked Mark specifically to bring G-HEAL to the event, I was temporarily irked that I had missed it however he very graciously allowed me to cold inflate it later so I could see the thing, and very nice it looked too (thank you so much).



G-HEAL Lindstrand Tech Series 1-31 Photo by Kevin Tanner.

The evening lift was once again flyable but with a similar track to the morning lift I decided not to fly and enjoy the spectacle and be there for the glow.

This would be the last of the flying at the event as Sunday morning was known to be a blow out in advance so I awoke, packed away the camping kit and ventured home again.

Longleat is an ideal venue for a balloon festival, and with lighter winds the bowl of a launch field is ideal for loitering around in a hopper so, I will definitely return next year. Thanks to all at Exclusive Ballooning for their collective efforts, and should you be thinking of attending, I can recommend the weekend package as good value for money.

Steve Roake

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

John Tyrrell joins the "O" Club

Coming as something of a surprise, John Tyrrell who runs the One Man Meet recently purchased and had delivered G-CKYX his new Cameron "O type" 31 envelope. I believe this is intended to replace his stalwart G-FFFT LBL31A whose fate is unknown currently. John becomes the 17th recent member of the ever expanding "O type" owners club which shows no sign of getting any less interest shown in it. A photo of the craft is in the New Balloons section of the magazine later.

The new balloon is expected to feature at the forthcoming One Man Meet scheduled to start on October 5th in the Cotswolds.

4,Homebuilding Section- Barry Newman has been Busy.

Homebuilder Barry Newman has already built himself a hopper in the Ladybird schemed G-CJSY. Now he has gone on to complete an Annex 2 bottom end to go with it which appears to utilise two wortington tanks .



Photo with thanks to Barry Newman

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

Barry thanks his son for all his help in producing and designing the bottom end which comes in at 99.8kgs including the two tanks and the Lindstrand burner. This kit is expected to appear at the forthcoming One Man Meet.



First flight was successfully completed of the complete kit on 25th September 2018- photo by Barry Newman.

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

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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Cloudhopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

5 Interesting Photos

Whilst on the subject of Bottom Ends, one has come up for sale that I've known about for a number of years. Ross Powell has decided to part with his annex 2 bottom end. This in previous ownership was owned by Peter Gooch and used under G-BKIX for a number of years.



Anyone interested in purchasing the above can contact Ross via his Facebook page.

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

6, New Allocations This Month / Changes of Ownership

Hot on the tails of G-CKYU in last month's new allocations are the following two new registrations. G-CKYX is a brand-new Cameron O-31 for John Tyrrell. C/n 12246 has already flown at Longleat Safari and will again be active at the forthcoming annual OMM.

The second new allocation is of a second hand Ultramagic M56 which used to be based in France. G-HDUO is owned by Shiralee Collin and is based in Kent where it will be mated to a Cameron Duo bottom end. In its previous Life, c/n 56/46 was previously registered as F-HDUO and a photo is featured in the Gallery section below.

7, Second Hand Movements



Photo by Phil Mccheyne

Newsletter supported by





Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

As I sit writing this newsletter in a hotel room in Birr Ireland whilst attending the Irish Nationals, a mere 2 miles down the road from me Stuart Skinner is proudly assembling his recent purchase (yesterday) of the ex Joe Daly Cameron N-31 G-BEUY. This old girl (1977 vintage), has a six-year young millennium bottom end and will provide Stuart with exactly the kind of start he needs to his hopping career. Wishing Stuart great success with the purchase and wishing Joe Daly well with his desire to buy a Duo bottom end to go over his 56 as a replacement. I'm glad both parties got satisfaction from the transaction.

Stuart hopes to get a late entry to the OMM and if all is well she should feature (dependent on some small jobs first).

8, Manufacturer / Event News/ Industry News

Recently I received an email from an Italian chap called Leandro Corradini

Introducing himself and his company Flydoo light sport balloons.

They have so far made a lightweight 56 envelope which they say weighs 34kilos in the bag. Based in France the company is expecting to branch out into smaller sizes which will be of interest to us and I have asked Leandro to submit more information about their products when they appear. The current offering appears very well made and more information is available at their website www.flydoo.fun.

They also have a very nice video presentation utilising the link below.

<https://www.flydoo.fun/about> . I for one look forward to watching their progression.

Aunty Monkey -Episode 21 Tim Wilkinson

In the latest of a great series, Adam Barrow interviews Tim Wilkinson whilst attending the recent Brian Bolland experimental balloon meet. Whilst there the two guys discuss all things Annex 2 and the infectious way Tim has single-handedly pulled the homebuilding scene into the current rosy place it now resides. Without his input the whole home building scene wouldn't be as healthy as it is and he passionately promotes the whole idea of home building to new potential tryers.

Catch the full interview (35mins) at Aunty Monkey @ Facebook.

Newsletter supported by





Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

The Last word on the One Man Meet 2018

As you all should now know the Annual One Man Meet starts on October 5th (i.e. next Friday). The Venue from Friday onwards is the Lynchwood Golf course in Lyneham Oxfordshire (not to be confused with the one in Wiltshire).

Briefing starts at 3-30pm and as of the Monday before, the weather appears good for continuing the trend of being flyable during the event.

I am not one of the organisers but I believe the latest figures indicate 25 plus entrants for the event.

Therefore, we all look forward to some great flying and some immense sociability at the event, see you there folks.

EASA Update

Interestingly following the statement from EASA on ditching balloons under 42,000 cubic feet I tried over the last month to establish what in practicality it means. From the stance of authorisation, all authority for balloons of these sizes revert to national aviation authorities. In the case of the UK, this means the civil aviation authority. From the perspective of type driven balloons, they will continue as before with annual C of A's and the known backing of the manufacturers.

However, at Longleat whilst at the Safari meet I got the opinion of David Boxall and Nick Purvis from Cameron Balloons. Both welcomed the proposal stating that from Cameron's perspective, it just means you can order your new balloon either to be type certified or you could have it as an Annex 2 balloon. The way you choose to run it is down to you the individual however both were very keen to hopefully get assurances that should the balloon be subsequently sold to a new owner, that person should be able to opt back into certified operation if they choose to do so.

So, in theory, you should be able to order a Cameron hopper envelope and be able to marry it to a Bonnano bottom unit.

The only problematic area going forward will be being able to get permission to take them abroad from the host country. However, with particular interest from the Annex 2 movement, Tim Wilkinson is trying to get an organisation started to help achieve this freedom of movement and any of his and their collective efforts should be both endorsed and admired.

I do believe that this is an emotive subject that will run and run but as the facts emerge from the theoretical rhetoric, I will do my best to decipher the facts from the chaff and report back here in future editions of the newsletter.

As with all these things, watch this space.....



Cloudhopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

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

Artwork: -

August 2018

Designer: WO

Fabric Colours Used: PS ORANGE PS NAVY PS DEEP BLUE PS ROYAL BLUE PS DRAGON RED PS DRAGON RED

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

Artwork: -

December 2017

Designer: AB

Fabric Colours Used: DRAGON RED SUN FLOWER GOLD ROYAL BLUE PURPLE LIME GREEN

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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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

7. Gallery Pages –

Your Editor's choice of new and interesting hoppers and duo's active in the world of ballooning right now.



G-CKYX Cameron O-31c/n 12246 at Longleat
photo by Wendy Rousell.

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018



G-HDUO seen in its previous registration F-HDUO, is a new Allocation to Shiralee Colin- photo by Kevin Boon.

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018



F-HHJB is a recent Cameron O-31 c/n 12207 which has been delivered photo by MJ ballooning.

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Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 108

September 2018

Facebook membership continues to rise with the current level of 1223(correct to 30th September), current and still rising. Let's hope this trend continues.

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.**

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Issue Number 108

September 2018

Newsletter supported by

