



Issue Number 21

November 2007

Hello again folks.

November normally represents a wipe out in flying possibilities due to inclement weather and lousy ground conditions, but this year the UK weather still permits flying when most of us should be servicing the fan and generally packing the kit away for winter storage. There has been some particularly settled weather and therefore some flying has taken place. I work on the premise that in winter if a field is half wet -it's still half dry and therefore hopable.

This also leads to a lack of material for editorial assessment and use, so if I take the opportunity to wander through some of the older classic material, it's because you the readers haven't sent me new stuff to pad out the newsletter.

With the year coming towards an end, it is interesting to reflect upon how the marketplace has performed over the last twelve months. This year has seen a marked upturn in hopper sales for Cameron Balloons Ltd with a fair number being sold including a Viva 31 design to Thailand (HS-HOP) as seen in last month's Gallery shots. The forthcoming use of hoppers in the latest promotion worldwide for Land Rover Ltd will also promote our unique sport worldwide and development continues on a light weight envelope design and new bottom end.

In Oswestry Lindstrand have recently completed a new demonstrator hopper and traditionally companies with demo

balloons available to fly seem to do better in sales during their time with the product available for viewing.



Recently purchased "As New condition", G-OOCH is an Ultramagic H-42(C/N 3), that featured in one day photo tether for Phillips before being stored in Holland unflown. Following some modifications expect to see it on the UK hopper circuit.

Over at Ultramagic Balloons Ltd, the push to further sales of Solo's and Duo's continues to bear results with increased sales of both products in 2007 including the as new one shown above for Peter Gooch and a first sale to Yugoslavia.

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1, Ed Speak by Steve Roake -

Ebb and flow! That seems to be the way of the world at the moment, and following on from the busiest month of the year in terms of hopper activity, it seems that we are into the quietest month of the year now. Is nothing happening with you guys ? Because you sure aren't telling me what's going on.

The exception to this rule comes from Graham Philpot who has been in touch with provisional dates for the 2008 Solo Meet, set to take place over the first weekend in May (i.e. 3rd-5th inclusive). This annual event, now entering its fourth year is seen by most as a must attend event held in great surroundings by the Black Horse Balloon Club team. So make a date in your new 2008 diaries for the weekend .Obviously this event will need confirming

, but take it from me It will happen, so make sure you are not busy that weekend !

2, The Features Section-

The weakest Link -The Quicklink

If there is one Achilles heal on my hopper (in my opinion), it is the Quicklink. I cannot stand the constant problems that having the Quicklink throws up on regular occasions. They are the pain of my life! How many of you have found yourselves setting up your bottom ends only to find that a quick link has either seized up or having flown you find that it has work tightened and you cannot get it easily undone again? No matter what anti seize lubricant you put on the thread it always seems the same, the course thread is hard to start and it always seems to lock on with a vice like grip.



The object of my hatred - The Quicklink!

Knowing that most 31,000 cubic feet hopper envelopes only lift a maximum of about 300-310 lbs of lift capacity ratio, I wish we could have a One ton rated karabiner instead. I have already changed the Quicklinks that are on the envelope to smaller 3.5Ton karabiners that are easier to use, but I'd imagine that climbers have smaller rated ones that would suit our applications. Do any of you have pet hates where your hopper is concerned? If so, tell us all and we can see if there is any way we can find a common solution to the problems.

Jeff Snyder relates his first hopper flight in David Tanzer's Holy Cow !

I'll make this fairly quick since I could probably drone on for several pages about this experience.

I was lucky enough to get to enjoy a flight in a cloud hopper this past Sunday morning in Charlotte, Vermont (pronounced "shar-lot" not to be confused with the pronunciation of a prominent North Carolina location). The weather was stellar - crisp and clear with light winds.

I was in awe from the moment two of us "lugged" this monstrosity (a whopping 35K ft/3) out on the lawn and it was buoyant and I was in the seat! My friend, David Tanzer, (who is now a REALLY good friend) was the owner of "Holy Cow" and the one whom I entrusted to get me properly rigged. I felt somewhat helpless during the rigging since I had never seen a hopper before and apart from the "concept" of the thing it is VASTLY different from a "basketed aircraft" if you will. I was all charged up after a leisurely (and nicely controlled:) take off. WOW! I found the hopper experience to be completely different than flying a balloon. There were no uprights, no basket, no other passengers or pilots, and of course - no place to stand. I made two trips



From the surface to 3,000' AGL and also made a brief trip to
- 2" below MSL (boot soles only thank you very much). It responded obediently to any short burns and slight tugs on the vent line. After an hour and twenty minute flight I had travelled about 8.5 miles and burned a whopping 10 gallons of fuel. I had misinformed David as to my location so I landed unassisted in a ploughed field that was frozen at about 1.5 MPH. I was walking myself (backwards) towards an appealing yard when David arrived minutes later and escorted me to a manicured lawn about 50 yards away.

There was no tethering for the "crowd" of three who came to greet us since there would have been nothing in it for them. This brings me to the only real negative aspect of a hopper which is that you can't take anyone else along. That however, also falls into the one of the positive aspects of this type of flight, if you ask me. Other than that, all I can say is a big thanks to David. Those who have not had the privilege of this experience you have got to try it. My ballooning

batteries were totally rejuvenated after a long commercial season.

Gentle Breezes,

Jeff Snyder

3, Updates to the website / Newsletter/ Forum Topics

One topic that continues to perennially crop up is how we all hang our instruments whilst hopping and again this month the topic has arisen on the Forum. There seems to be two distinctive camps over this most personal of decisions. The first is those who choose to go minimalistic and where possible use a watch with all the relevant features, and secondly those who use a flight case of some sorts, to hang their instruments off. In my case, as previously described, I manufactured my own design over one Xmas holiday (and for me this works), but one alternative that seems to get the thumbs up is the Gin paragliding flight deck. See below for details.

<http://tinyurl.com/2q58xc>

Also sent in as a message this month, Malcolm White has listed a couple of great You tube links on the yahoo site, check out Irish ballooning, but for quick viewing I have added one of them below.

Pauline's World record Flight

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeTIHYclebs>

Word from Malcolm is that plans are in place for some more record breaking attempts this winter and obviously as soon as we know what happens, you will be the first to know. Further to this

Malcolm White confirmed today (Dec 5th), that Pauline's records have now been ratified by the FAI (30th Nov and 5th Dec 2007). These records were achieved in the tiny 8,800 cu ft Lindstrand LBL-9A G-CEHX in Chateau D'Oex, Switzerland back in January 2007. This brings her total World Records to seven, following the loss of her female AX-4 duration record to Minako Inoue in Japan back in January (watch this space!!) .(We offer our congratulations!-Ed).

Homebuilt section

Nothing to report this month.

5, Gallery Pages.

This section is the Editor's choice of new and older jpegs/ visuals.



New Ultramagic Duo M-56 G-CEJG (c/n56/37) seen 4000m up Mount Everest tethering publicising Girl Guiding (jpeg by Paul Dickenson).



Unmarked New Cameron Z-31 (my hunch is this is either G-C ESX or G-CESY which feature in the new Land Rover Freelander Adverts, seen on its' test inflation). If this proves to be correct,

I understand that following filming, these may well now carry artwork.



Description: M-34

Colors: Royal and Silver Nomex: Royal

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This exciting Visual is Jonathan Trappe's new Cameron M-34 N102EE due for delivery just prior to Xmas (thanks Jonathan for the Visual).



Seen here with a regular bottom end, another shot of G-CEJG which is apparently a new Duo Chariot for Mark Warne, and the Girl Guides (Ultramagic M-56 C/N 56/37).

If your hopper /Duo picture has yet to feature in this section of the Gallery pages, send me a jpeg of approx 600kb size for future inclusion. Usual address Steve.roake@ntlworld.com

6, Manufacturer News /Events /Updates

A couple of quick items for you to consider. The Icicle balloon meet occurs over the weekend of January 5th /6th next year and subject to weather being good, expect some interesting Hopper activity at the event.



News from Ultramagic Balloons Tim Revel is that he is hoping to have the new burner system at the Icicle meet. Obviously, once I have been I will take the opportunity to give you all a good insight into their new system as we did last year with the kubicek burners. Whilst this may not be directly related to hopping, the technology tends to feed its' way down the chain to also enhance the hopper brands, hence I tend to include it.

Secondly, as discussed earlier but needing confirmation at a later date, the next Solo meet seems set for the first bank holiday weekend in May over the 3rd-5th. Make a note in your diaries and when confirmed by Graham Philpot, I will give you further details.

7, For Sale /Wanted section

G-CBLN Cameron Z-31 is for sale

Lee Hooper is offering for sale his Z-31 G-CBLN. See below for details.



Cameron Z-31. G-CBLN. 52 hrs, Orange with "One a day relief" artwork that can stay. Turning vents. It comes with brand new, un-flown Thunder & Colt Mark 1 hopper bottom end (Orange

parachute harness) with electric ignition. All bottom end equipment recently purchased from Camerons. C of A until May 2008. Great little balloon, all in excellent condition. All equipment being stored at Cameron Balloons in Bristol... £5500 ONO
Lee Hooper - 07973 741 025 e-mail: lee@spiritballoons.com or Colin Wolstenholme 0117 9637216

Second item for sale comes from John Tyrrell



Lindstrand Cloud Hopper Bottom End. Seat and burner mount directly to the 60L stainless steel tank, PRV and Internal Inspection until June 2015 and current CofA until July 2008. Date of manufacture 1995, estimated flying time around 45 hours. Finished in blue, complete with burner and tank carry bags. Recently adjusted jets by Lindstrand, flies very well under my LBL31A, flown at UK one man meet this year.

Excellent condition, offered for sale at £3150, contact John Tyrrell - john@ixthus.co.uk <<mailto:john@ixthus.co.uk>> or 07753 910992

Wanted- T&C Skychariot

Colin Wolstenholme has a buyer looking for a T&C Skychariot. The buyer is looking for a Mk2 version with nylon poles, so if you have one for sale please contact Colin Wolstenholme directly cwolstenholme@cameronballoons.co.uk

And Finally



Wanted -More winter shots -please send them in to your editor

Membership (current to December 5th) stands at a very healthy 325. Please keep putting the word about, we only thrive by growth and your inclusion of articles and projects.

All articles for inclusion in future issues will be gratefully received by your editor. Please forward them to info@cloudboppers.org and feedback good, bad or indifferent is

always welcome. Views aired by contributors may not be those of the Editor

Safe flying and hope Santa brings you what you want for Xmas!
Steve Roake.

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