



Issue Number 39

February / March 2010

Dear Readers,

As I sit here, Mid March, amidst the rain and cold biting winds, my thoughts always drift to the Alpine meets that occur this time of year. Normally, I have ample reports from the folks who attended and whilst there have been reports sent in, this year all wasn't as it should have been in Austria and Switzerland. Some events had unchallenging flying, others didn't really occur. One was resurrected only to be dashed by bad weather. I wonder if we need to reinvent the winter alpine meet in some new venue? Before we start though, I would just like to wish Bill Mackinnon a speedy recovery after a really bad skiing accident whilst attending Chateau D'oex. All here wish you a swift return to health and hopping!

Contents

In this 39th edition I have for your reading the following choice subjects;

- 1, **Ed Speak**-Weird Alpine Meets Season.
- 2, **Essential Extra's** - Mirrors by Barry Conway.
- 3, **The Features Section**-featuring the following submissions:
 - Chateau D'oex- by Martin Freeston
 - My three favourites and Why by Pat Bubb
 - Inzell by Pieter Kooistra

4. Updates for the Newsletter/Website/ Forum talk

- Fire Extinguishers

5. Homebuilt Section -

6. Gallery Pages- Another mixed choice of hoppers, selected by your editor

7. Manufacturer News / Events / Updates

8. For Sale /Wanted Section

- G-BSDV Colt 31A Envelope is up for grabs.
- G-CBLO Lbl 42A is for sale
- G-BVUI Lbl 25A is also available to buy

9. Last and not least.

1, Ed Speak by Steve Roake - Weird Alpine Meets Season

This year we have seen some strange happenings involving the regular Alpine events. Late in 2009, Stratos Ballooning went into receivership and Markus Haggerney (the proprietor) was the chap who organised the very well received Mauterndorf (in Austria) Ice and Fire event, this left a hole in the calendar as there was no-one to run the festival. As it happens, a combined Anglo-German effort meant that there was an event organised low key by some attendees, but the weather wasn't kind and in a week, only one flyable shot was possible. Coupled to this, the nearby Filzmoos Balloon event didn't live up to much. Some, who would have gone to Mauterndorf, ended up going to Inzell in Germany and have supplied a report. The old blue ribbon event has always been Chateau D'oex in Switzerland. This year some flying took place over a number of days, however Jeff Lawton reported it as "Tedious, flying at 10,000feet doing one knot for an hour looking for somewhere to land"! Not great to hear, which leads me to the question. Do we need a new winter event? Winter flying should be glorious and fun, but it appears that the steam has run out of

some of these established traditions. Is it time we reinvented the fun? Steve Roake

2, Essential Extra's- Barry Conway on Mirrors

On the forum there has been some talk of mirrors and their effectiveness. One scribe, Barry Conway who is a Cameron Millennium exponent has an Essential Extra that may help others looking to improve the ability to view the fuel tank contents. The Bonus with Barry's idea is also that it is relatively cheap and fairly accessible coming from the Toys R Us chain. So if you are looking to improve the way you view the contents of your tank try this link below.

<http://www.toysrus.com/product/index.jsp?productId=1997017>

However, Tom Hilditch (writing on the same subject), reminds us that A few years ago, Tim Ward fitted a small glass mirror onto a piece of wood that clips into the fittings the same way as the polished metal but is much more reflective and coupled this with a free standing mirror that can be strapped to you arm so you don't have to crank you neck when reading the fuel gauge. The second mirror also results in the fuel gauge being the right way round still!

Thanks to both of these inputs, it makes a nice change to be able to bring you something in the Essential Extras section.

3, The Features Section

Chateau D'oex by Martin Freeston

Sandy and I set off for the annual bash in Chateau D'Oex for our 5th time on Friday 22nd Jan 2010.

Up at 03:00 for the 05:30 P&O sailing Dover to Calais. Once out of Calais and on the French/Swiss motorways, we made very good progress until we hit very heavy traffic on the Swiss motorway

with the GPS stating we would have a 30min delay so I decided to take a detour via Montreux, right on the edge of Lake Geneva. This proved to be a bit of a mistake but worth the view I must admit. We are now 12 miles out of Chateau D'Oex on the twisting mountain road and the diesel warning light tells me that I am about to run out. No problem as it is downhill all the way to the village from here. We roll into Chateau D'Oex, straight over the "balloon" roundabout and into the petrol station on fumes, phew we made it! Next stop the media tent to pick up the passes and then off to check into our apartment.

A meal in the Richemont that night made a nice change from our usual chateau D'Oex tradition of the first Friday night in the Pizzeria.

Saturday 23rd Jan - The official start of the event and it is flyable so we get the meet off to a good start and only -11^oC today.



The following hoppers flew today:

G-HEXE	Colt	17A
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Sunday 24th Jan - Another flyable day.



The following hoppers flew today:

G-HEXE	Colt	17A
G-CDAD	Lindstrand	25A CLOUDHOPPER
HB-QTC	Ultramagic	M-56
LX-BBC	Libert	Replica Montgolfier



Monday 25th - No flying, **Tuesday 26th** - No flying, **Wednesday 27th** - No flying.

Thursday 28th - No flying again!

Go to Co-op and then a long visit to the balloon museum to watch the Chateau D'Oex - Bristol - St. Niklaas - Romorantin video. If I ever have to watch the St.Niklaas video again it will be too soon. 10 Mins for Chateau D'Oex balloons, 5 mins for Bristol balloon fiesta, 10 mins of Romortin with about 30 seconds of balloons and then 15 yes 15 mins of St. Niklaas watching some bloke who I can only guess is gay, prancing about the screen and then finally you get to watch about 2 seconds of ballooning!

Friday 29th - no fly

What do you do when it is snowing in Chateau D'Oex for the 5th day in a row and there are no balloons? Go to the Co-op, a quick visit to the balloon museum and then hit the "Richemont" for lots of beer and naughtiness of course!



Saturday 30th



The weather was not too good today so only a tether.

HB-QOP	Ultramagic	M-56
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Sunday 31st - "The witch and the wizard"

Finally back to some good weather for a change. The reported minus 25°C was only -17°C but cold enough all the same.

The following hoppers where noted

G-HEXE	Colt	17A
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HB-QTC	Ultramagic	M-56
HB-QOP	Ultramagic	M-56

This was before it started to snow again marking the end to a very enjoyable week of "ballooning in the freezer", but not before Ali Dunnington dressed up as a Witch and flew off towards the "squeeze" in G-HEXE. After about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour or so G-HEXE returned to make a landing almost inch perfect from the point it had taken off. Only this time it was piloted by Phil, who calmly stated to us that the witch had a sex change and was now a wizard.



This year the weather really did prove that it is well worth the expense of staying in Switzerland for a whole week to ensure you get the most of the flyable slots.

Monday 1st Feb - Get up early (well not really only 6am) to leave at 7 for the long haul home. It's only -12⁰C today as we clear the car and make the slow drive down the hill past the Richmond over

the balloon roundabout and head off up the hill through the mountain pass. Saw the temperature hit a relatively warm -17°C as we hit the top of the pass and make the downhill decent towards Lake Geneva. Now leaving Switzerland and it's the single carriageway pass over to the French auto route system. This proved to be extremely cold, as the cars outside air temperature sensor bottoms out at -24°C . All I can say is that the Swiss Alpine diesel works well. This was OK until Sandy decided to open the window to take this shot at which point the inside of the windscreen instantly froze.



Despite the St. Niklaas video, this was an extremely good meet with some flyable days and lots of beer and general naughtiness. Roll on 2011 we WILL be back. (Ed note-All jpegs used in this article are by Sandy Mitchell and Martin Freeston).

Martin & Sandy

My Favourite Jpegs and why-choices by Pat Bubb.

In this tenth selection of my favourites and why, Pat Bubb selects her favourite three photographs with reason why she loves them. Pat's first selection is husband Tony with Graham Bell in Metz Lorraine in 2001.



G-EECO and G-BRLU Tony Bubb and Graham Bell Evening hop in Lorraine 2001.

Buying a hopper made our flying much more fun. With one balloon we were always arguing so we decided that separate balloons was the best option. Tony used to try and fly and land G-EECO the Lindstrand 25A as close to me as possible and usually succeeded. By having two balloons we were able to have the best of both worlds, usually involving the crew doing a solo double retrieve and with my large basket we could fly with a P1 and take passengers. This system worked well.

Ed note- G-BRLU was Graham Bell's first ever hopper. Being a Cameron H-24, it sported a very unusual colour scheme. Can anyone tell me why it was made this way and does anyone have a good individual jpeg of it please? Also this was sold to the USA, any ideas on its status?



Pat's second selection - Tony Bubb flying the FT hopper at Chateau D'oex in 2002- interesting View.

Eds Note. I remember this one myself. Pat and Tony had travelled to Chateau D'oex to take in the spectacle of the event but bumped into Jon Mason who flew the FT shape and hopper. Pat got to fly with Jon in the shape and Tony flew alongside in the hopper. When they had finished the flight I believe Jon stacked the hopper on top of the newspaper for a photograph whilst Tony tethered the shape.



Someone from Virgin ABC in the drink at Longleat in G-OSVY Sky31. Pat describes this as "So Last Centaury"!

The third submission by Pat Bubb is this one of G-OSVY the Sky 31 hopper playing around at a glorious Longleat Balloon festival. Whilst I can't remember the year, your editor remembers this event as I was crewing for "Team Bubb", and in over 1hr 30mins of flying on this particular day, we never left the grounds of the stately home- such fun!

Next Month's submissions are by Kevin McLaughlin . Who will follow with their hopper or duo chariot favourites? Selections to me as ever please, care of steve.roake@ntlworld.com.

Inzell by Pieter Kooistra

This year we went to the Kaiserwinkl Balloon Meet instead of Mauterndorf which was not organised. The meeting in Kaiserwinkel is a meeting organised by a local balloon company based in St. Johann in Tirol. The organisation was very good with some nice social events and good food, also the area to fly was suitable for valley flights and long distance flights.

We went with two balloons: My 120 and a cloudhopper, the cloudhopper was the only one at the meet. I think it was because there were no English teams. We flew two times with the hopper and attended a nightglow.

Rick Kornet flew the first time in the hopper and it was his first hopper flight in a hopper like this. The picture shows that he seems lonely but when you see the back picture you will see it is not the case. Hoppers seemed to be rare and something special at this meeting.





When Rick took off on Wednesday to fly out of the valley I made a small hop, that why they call it a hopper I guess!



The nightglow was something special. The organisation had scheduled eight balloons to participate because of the scheme of the music. But we had two balloons Rupert Maud said then "ok, I will stand on top of our 120 to make one balloon out of two so that the organisers do not have a problem anymore". So it happened. During nightglows you need to vent and I forgot Rupert was on top and when I was venting I heard someone screaming like he was burning, it was Rupert (oops!). I quickly closed the parachute and vented from now on with both side vent lines open. The proof that Rupert was ok came a few minutes later when he called me in the basket and ordered one beer and a Bratwurst!



"Stacked"! The hopper on top of the 120 during the nightglow



And a view of the "Hot Seat" from inside the 120!
Cheers, Pieter Kooistra.

Ed - (All jpegs with thanks care of P.Kooistra).

4, Updates to the website / Newsletter/ Forum Topics

The hot topic on the forum this month is Fire Extinguishers and whether or not to fly with one. Now the jury is about 50/50 on the merits or not of flying with an extinguisher, with Cameron Balloons producing the Millennium bottom end with a pouch to carry the application. Some expression of opinion is that perhaps the ineffectiveness of the extinguisher to tackle a fire in flight negates the relevance in having one. The instruction when learning to fly is always to extinguish the source of the fire as soon as possible and on the Lindstrand hopper bottom ends, there is an inline shut off valve that assists in this task and as fires occur most prominently on landing, this ability to easily cut off the source of gas supply is deemed important. I guess the important thing if you have suffered a fire in a hopper is to evacuate as soon as is possible so shutting off the gas and emergency landing

sounds favourite. I think this is on par with whether or not to fly with a handling line .Some like the security of having the ability of being pulled clear from an obstruction whilst others see the line as dead weight and think you shouldn't get into this position in the first place. Suffice to say -in both cases, the debate continues!

5, Homebuilt section

Homebuilding section received no submissions this month!

6. Gallery Pages-This section is the Editor's choice of new jpegs, visuals and older balloons of interest or alterations.

New to the British register this month is G-OINN which is an Ultramagic H-31 for Glenn Everett- hopefully we will receive a jpeg of this soon. (C/N for those interested is 31/10).



Recently donated to the BBML, G-BKBO Colt 17A will be at their Inflation Day in May. Info and jpeg thanks to Bill Teasdale.



This delightful jpeg was sent in last month by Kasey Schwemmer.

It was built by Jeff Wagoner and his father. Kasey says, " I like this one because it was built with low-cost and ease in mind (also with the help of Curtis Pack. See <http://jeffwagoner.com/balloon.aspx> for the construction of this balloon). I believe they gathered all the fabric from various Wal Mart stores they visited and put together a very simple but effective seat rig. This is a good story of people completely foreign to ballooning being able to create and fly a balloon with little difficulty". Ed-Not only a nice story but also a nice early morning photograph.

7, Manufacturer News / Events / Updates

News in on some forthcoming events starting with:

2010 XLTA at Amherst Massachusetts. Hosted by the lovely Dan Nachbar, I would personally recommend this event to anyone who understands the freedom of hopping and the joy of sharing the experiences. I can only apologise to all the nice folks who made me welcome last year, by declaring myself a non starter for this event (with pending redundancy over my head- I cannot commit to this level of expense whilst none the wiser to my fate). Dan has announced that this year's event will be a week later and is scheduled for June 11th-13th. Any interested parties please let Dan know of your intentions to attend at dan@nachbar.com .

Joure Holland 2010

I received an invitation from Daan Elfring with an open invitation to all hopper pilots to join him at Joure in Holland. See below for the details;

We organize in Holland in July the Frisian Balloon Fiesta. This year we celebrate the 25th edition of the fiesta. In Holland we have the maximum of 35 balloons but this time we will try to get 125 balloons in Joure. It is not easy to get 125 balloons and that is the reason we mail you. Can you help us to arrange cloudhoppers for our fiesta? Maybe we can make a cloudhopper festival or something during the fiesta. It is only an idea. Here you find the official invitation for our fiesta. Maybe you have some ideas to arrange cloudhoppers together with us or maybe you can send this invitation to your friends so they all can decide to come to Holland in July.

I hope you can help us to make the biggest festival in the Netherlands till a success.

Hope to hear from you.

Kind regards
Daan Elfring
www.ballonfeesten.nl

Dear Balloonist,

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You are cordially invited to fly at the Frisian Balloon Fiesta in Joure in The Netherlands, commencing on Wednesday the 28th of July through to Sunday the 1st of August 2010.

We hope you can find the time to enjoy five fun-flying days with us. This year will be special and unique, as the Frisian Balloon Fiesta will be celebrating its 25th edition.

The fiesta organisation is aiming to launch 125 hot-air balloons from the fiesta site on the first day ~ Wednesday the 28th of July.

Together with the Foundation 'Muscles for Muscles', we plan to give 125 children with muscle disease, a chance to fly in a hot-air balloon over Joure*.

The Frisian Balloon Fiesta is the largest of its kind in The Netherlands and every year there are more than 50,000 visitors to witness this wonderful spectacle.

During the course of each day there is a full program with attractions such as music, horses, fireworks and many more. Then we have the main ingredient ~ the balloons.

Joure is a lovely, rural town situated in the north of The Netherlands. It is a great location to go flying and is surrounded by plenty of places for landing. A balloon festival in The Netherlands is usually limited to a total of 35 balloons. However, due to this year's celebration, we have gained the permission for the mass balloon launch on the fiesta's opening day.

We are asking as many pilots as possible to join in with our festive spirit and to fly at the 25th Frisian Balloon Fiesta 2010. The launch of 125 hot-air balloons is restricted to the first day only. All foreign pilots will have the possibility of staying with us for the whole fiesta.

The fiesta organisation will provide every balloon team with the following ~

- Free propane for all flights
- Breakfast and dinner for 3 people
- A farmers package per flight
- Champagne per flight
- Unique flight on Wednesday the 28th of July
- Evening flights for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday
- Accommodation ~ staying with a host family (free of charge)

We are currently negotiating a price with a local hotel. If you would prefer to stay at the hotel while you attend the fiesta, then the price per person, per night, will be around 33 euros.

There is no entrance fee but we do ask you to fly 3 passengers in total during the whole fiesta (passenger arrangement by the fiesta organisation). Any additional passengers you are asked to fly by the fiesta organisation shall be noted and you will receive 90 euros for each passenger. We don't give any guarantee on passenger numbers.

If you are interested in participating in the 25th Frisian Balloon Fiesta then please fill in the attached registration form and send it to Daan Elfring (daan@ballonfeesten.nl) or Rik Kornet (rik@ballonfeesten.nl).

This invitation can also be sent to any other balloonists you may know. We are ready for the 'big gathering' in Joure and we are convinced that the combination of 125 balloons and 125 children will be a fantastic experience for everyone. Roll on beautiful weather.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding the 25th Frisian Balloon Fiesta then please call or e-mail Daan or Rik. You may also wish to visit our website ~ www.ballonfeesten.nl for impressions of last year's fiesta and also the latest news. Everyone will be kept informed of the latest developments for the fiesta.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you at the Fiesta.

Daan Elfring: daan@ballonfeesten.nl +31 6 55 11 89 94

Rik Kornet: rik@ballonfeesten.nl +31 6 20 01 60 17

Johannes Kooistra +31 6 53 71 88 59

Sackville Lodge -Grass Roots Festival (10th-12thSept)

Once again the premier event in the UK opens its doors to all balloonists. Mark, Rob and Tim are up for anything and have suggested that perhaps we could organise something hopperish for this particular weekend. I'm open to any suggestions even a joint group hop around sunset along the main runway could be feasible. Please use this as an open forum to discuss but keep the organisers abreast of any plans we come up with. The organisers have recently sent in an update on this event as shown below.

Quick update to you as a previous participant, or as someone who has registered their interest.

Arrangements are at an advanced stage and we look forward to seeing you in September.

It is highly likely that we will need to increase the entry fee this year to £20. This is partly because we do not envisage receiving a BBAC grant this year, although we will be requesting one - our view is that it does no harm to ask, and as ever we are extremely grateful to the BBAC Committee for last year's grant. We have estimated that c.500 BBAC members attended last year's event.

We trust that this still represents good value for money as it includes camping for your teams (with showers this year!).

We run this event on a not-for-profit basis and simply need to cover our costs. We plan sending entry forms during May.

Thanks for your continued support.

Rob Cross, Tim Wilkinson, Mark Stelling, Peter Gray.

The Black Horse Ballooning Club MAYDAY FIESTA 2010

We are pleased to announce that we will be running a fiesta over the May Bank Holiday weekend April 30th to May 3rd inclusive which is again being supported by Ultramagic.

The Fiesta will open on the Friday evening with a 'free flight' the first task will be set for Saturday am. Saturday evening is specifically nominated as an 'Ultramagic evening'.

Serious competition and fun competitions to involve both pilots and crews are being planned. This **Fiesta will incorporate our previous 'Solo Meet'** with competitions specifically for hoppers and solo balloonists.

The Fiesta is FREE to members; cost to non members is £25 which includes membership of BHBC until December 2010. Camping and caravanning in the Black Horse field is possible by prior arrangement with our landlady Annie Walker.

To register your interest in participating in this weekend please contact Tim Crowdy at ballooningtim@btinternet.com

Will hopper and solo competition pilots request the Solo Meet specific entry form from Tim.

8, For Sale /Wanted section

Dave Baker reported to me the successful sale of his Chariot Bottom end recently, but two complete systems have emerged on the marketplace bolstering the availability of various sized craft to three current options.

G-BSDV Colt 31A for Sale priced to sell £1500 for cash!

Your editor is selling his Colt 31A Envelope, registered on 19th April 1990, she has done 76 hours 15 mins (last flown 21st March 09) and cold inflated in July 2009. Lapsed Cof A with EASA agreement to be renewed. She is now surplus to requirements as I can't fly two at once.



Ready for a new owner in 2010 -who will buy G-BSDV Colt 31A?

Turning vents are currently disconnected but lines will be supplied and can be reused. In the current climate, a price reduction to £1500 for a cash sale seems fair. The price includes the original Colt bag and stylish Lindstrand 31A replacement bag. Great entry to Hopping Balloon with loads of life left in her, she needs new Loving owner!

Contact Steve Roake on 07721-358758 or 01276-516125 after 7pm weekdays or Email steve.roake@ntlworld.com

Nick Calvert offers for sale G-CBLO

Envelope - Lindstrand 42A (formerly N Power, now reads Power) 85 Hours
Cameron SkyHopper c/o chrome frame with seat, twist grip action with
Worthington 40ltr tank mounted on back.

Klein fan, quick release, etc etc or in other words a complete kit.

Not prepared to split at the moment unless I have interest in the three
main items

C of A October 2010

Package £4,500. Based in Bristol, email me nick@calvertuk.com if you are
genuinely interested.



John Hole Offers for sale G-BVUI LBL 25A

Lindstrand 25 Hopper. G-BVUI. 100 hrs approx. Lindstrand demo
colours. No artwork. Velcro for banners but never used. V30
cylinder with recent 10 year update. Stainless fan in good
condition. EASA C of A till Nov '10. Good fun kit. £3900 complete

could split fan/cylinder if not required.

John Hole - 07967 145536 or john.hole@hotmail.com

And Finally.

Membership is currently a healthy 408 members and despite a small dip, 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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