



Issue Number 34

August 2009

Dear Aviators,  
In this month's magazine, we bring you the delights of the festival Mondial de Lorraine otherwise known fondly as Metz. Whilst plenty of flying was possible during the event, some things need addressing to ensure that this bi-annual festival remains as popular as ever.



*Typical hopper pose with Tim Dudman, Steve Lacey and your Editor loitering with intent to hop!-jpeg by Bennie Bos*

From a hopping perspective, numbers were once again increased but the organisers don't understand the issues some of us could have with heat limitations and so once again didn't get the maximum publicity out of us that they could have achieved. Specifically, they had an idea for an evening fly-out with a gimmick but it was poorly supported as it was an evening rather than a morning event. Shame really because there were over 20 hoppers and Duo chariots present at the event. However, this was a great event with fantastic flying and for that alone we are most grateful. Let's get into the magazine!

## **Contents**

In this 34th edition I have for your reading the following choice subjects;

- 1, **Ed Speak**- The good and the bad from Metz
- 2, **Essential Extra's** - Lindstrand Map case - flight tested!
- 3, **The Features Section**-featuring the following submissions:
  - Tim Dudman comments on a Sky reunion!
  - Which hoppers attended and who was also there without their hoppers.
  - Metz from your Editors viewpoint.
  - Ultramagic's Metz en mass
  - My favourites and why -by David Tanzer
  - G-UHOP's envelope bag update- satisfaction achieved.
4. **Updates for the Newsletter/Website/ Forum talk**
5. **Homebuilt Section** -
6. **Gallery Pages**- Another mixed choice of hoppers, selected by your editor including a new special shape.
- 7, **Manufacturer News / Events / Updates**
  - OMM News- the venue and the dates are known.
- 8, **For Sale /Wanted Section**

- G-BVRL LBL 21A Envelope is for sale
- G-BSDV Colt 31A Envelope is up for grabs.
- Mark 2 T&C Sky chariot bottom end for sale.

## 9, Last and not least.

### 1, Ed Speak by Steve Roake - Metz, The good ...and the bad!

The thing that gets to you about Metz, above and beyond any other factor, is that you have two years to get enthusiastic towards going to it. In my case, I never have an option whether or not to go, because in 2009 my crew numbered 18! So with all those people ready to spend their hard earned money attending and prepared for the onslaught of 5 o'clock rising and late evenings for ten days, how can I turn them down? Taking both my hopper and an LBL 90A, my work was going to be cut out to get them all flown. Luckily friends with balloons helped out so that most achieved three flights out of the ten slots we flew, with "intermediates" the norm, and in the end we had a "fleet " of four balloons servicing my "staff". This left a small window of opportunity to fly the hopper and two of my ten flights were hops. So in terms of flying, I did more flying than in 2007 with more accrued hours total time, but some things at the festival still need sorting out. The logistics of the organisation were at best "woeful", which considering they have had two years to prepare for the event is not good enough. We tried to check in on the Friday, having all our documents read but checked manually due to lack of Computer equipment, and passes (what passes?), didn't arrive until Saturday night. Gas was also a problem initially; we ended up queuing around 3pm and getting it with a paper hand written pass! The evening slot (which was supposed to be for hoppers), was missed as most queued for 3hours getting their late passes. The organisers speak of big plans for the future

which will enhance the experience for balloonists, but for example (and I'm not trying to be hypercritical), three queues of teams trying to get passes from two people with only two pc's don't work. The investment must be in admin as well as structures, and at the end of the day "All the glitter doesn't sell the concept....efficiency works best so please listen".

Steve Roake

## 2, Essential Extra's- Lindstrand Map Case now flight tested!

This was the biggest foregone conclusion ever staged, but as requested I have now flight tested the new improved Lindstrand Hot Air Balloons Ltd hopper map case. I am delighted to say that as expected it worked as well in the field as I thought it would and thoroughly recommend it to you all as a must have item for your kit! The wider field of vision on the clear section adds clarity to the scale of available viewing area thus decreasing pilot workload during the flight. If I have to be critical, the only fault as far as I can see is the massively oversized carabineer that is supplied with the product. My version will be modified to accept a snap lock style fastener which is more in keeping with the minimalistic approach most hopper pilots use and I suggest that the factory use a smaller fastener on production versions. This will add a few pounds to the price, but money well spent in my opinion. I suggest you get in touch with the factory now for speedy delivery of this effective solution to one of the longest gripes I have ever had in hopping! Thanks to all those involved for the answer!

Steve Roake

### 3, The Features Section

#### Tim Dudman comments on an unusual "Sky" reunion in Metz.

Not many people will know this, but in the end Sky balloons produced eightoppers of various sizes during the production years, and ironically half of these attended Metz this year. Two of these were with new owners, the ex Andy Austin 31-24 was flying with Dutch owners as PH-ZSL, and Geoff Lescott flew G-CFPS the ex Bill Brogun (Austrian) 25-16 on its first ever free flight at the event. The other two were flown by Geoff Davis and Tim Dudman.



*A rare sight, both the Sky Demo hoppers flying together at Metz- jpeg thanks to Tim Dudman.*

As Tim says; "This is a shot of Carol Davis flying G-BXWX, the Sky 25-16 demonstrator alongside my Sky 31-24 demonstrator. I think I am right in saying that these are the only two Sky demonstrator clodhopper envelopes in existence. When I bought my clodhopper in 2006, I was lent G-BXWX by Pete Bish. I test inflated it and it lived in my house for several months before I finally bought G-BXVP instead. Quite a coincidence then that we ended up staying in a small B&B near Chambley with one other balloon team - Geoff and Carol Davis! Small world. Both envelopes have a Cameron Millennium bottom end."



Tim (being the shy retiring type), was "clocked" setting the above jpeg up by myself mid hopper flight, and as he says himself; "You saw that I couldn't resist posing on the bales after our hopper line-up flight so here it is! Really sums up what summer ballooning should be all about."

Was this the biggest sky hopper turn out ever?

### **Which Hoppers attended Metz and also who visited without!**

For those who like such things, quite a few folks attended the festival with and without hoppers .those who travelled a long way to attend without their hoppers included Jim Rogers, Rick Jones(ring me next time eh!), Adam Barrow, Kevin Tanner, Gareth Gray(itching to get his new toy) and Peter Mossman.

### **Hoppers seen flying included (names where known)**

G-BEUY Cameron N-31(Joe Daly)

G-BMWU Cameron N-42 (Ian Chadwick)

G-BXVP Sky 31-24 (Tim Dudman).

G-BXWX Sky 25 -16 (Geoff & Carol Davis)

G-BWEE Cameron V-42(Jackie Hibberd?)

G-CBZJ LBL 25A (John Hilditch)

G-CEOULBL 31A (pilot unknown) Demo hopper

G-CFJP Cameron N-56 Duo Chariot (Karl Heinz Greunauer)

Welcome to the list!

G-CFPS Sky 25-16 (Geoff Lescott) also welcome!

G-LELE LBL 31A (Steve Lacey)

G-RBMV Cameron O-31(Rob Bailey)

G-HOPA LBL 35A (Steve Burden)

G-UHOP Um H-31b (some idiot)

D-OKES Cameron H-34 (unknown pilot) ex G-BRWY

D-OOUM Um H-42 (Pieter Kooistra?)

EC-KUS Um M56 (unknown pilots)

F-HABA Cameron Z-42(unknown pilot)



*G-CFJP Cameron N-56 photographed at Metz by Sandy Mitchell  
(and one of two missed by your editor-G-CFPS being the other!)*

PH-SJK Cameron Z-56 Duo Chariot (unknown Pilot)  
PH-ZSL Sky 31-24 (unknown pilot)  
HB-QTB Um H-31 (Pierrick Duvoisin).



*You guy's torture me! Seen here in Metz, recent recruit Geoff Lescott free flew G-CFPS for its first time in Metz and then glowed it at Streatley Bucks recently- jpeg by Bernie Williams Coming to the One Man Meet Geoff?*

## My View of Metz- by Steve Roake

For me personally Metz was interesting this year! A number of things either happened right or didn't happen at all. I flew a total of 10 slots out of a possible (iffy) 12, with the two I missed being firstly the one if I hadn't been in the queue for passes all night on the first Friday, and secondly on another evening if I'd had driven out of the airfield for a fly-in on a night when it looked like the wind wasn't going to drop but in fact did (late).

I thought the second occasion was a pity to miss as we failed to have another opportunity to attempt a fly-in during our time at the festival (which is unusual), shame as I quite enjoy the challenge of a target.

A success as always was taking enough fuel tanks to only have to endure the refuelling process once a day. The technique being to fuel after the morning flight, have enough fuel for two flights and then fill the lot after the following mornings slot.

My two hopper flights were also very nice with both out towards Sponville. The first one had plenty of directional change with a reasonable amount of left on the surface and loads of right at about 2000 ft, there was the ability to position yourself where you needed to be in the sky to obtain the track you sought for the eventual target point you had in mind. I landed near to Geoff Lescott and obviously got them on board the list(ha ha!).I took the opportunity to show him the new Lindstrand Map case.

The second one was supposed to be a hopper line-up flight. However a combination of a poor attempt the previous night to follow helium balloons down the runway by cyclists with a view to catching them! (Heat is always a factor here and they just don't understand, but insist we play for the evening crowds), and poor communication of what we wanted to do on the morning slot (not told the night before as requested) led to just (thanks guys), four of us playing .



*Just after launch ( a 4ship ascent)-jpeg thanks to Bennie Bos (featuring Left to right John Hilditch, Tim Dudman , Steve Roake and Steve Lacey).*

Another great flight however, with close flying ensuing, maybe too close at one point till Tim woke me up!  
Then watching Tim stage his "posing jpeg" (btw congratulations on the pregnancy to you both!) and another final landing in Sponville.  
This may sound crazy, but to me, this event is about the sociability of flying, not how much I've done, but renewing

friendships. In our team this year we took a volleyball pitch and played daily (beating the local "Scratch" French side in volleyball and football).I know some (Ian Chadwick for example), are keen on the competitive part of the event, I was merely pleased that

with help from my friends (thanks), all 18 of my crew flew at least twice, most three times and five newcomers were taught how to fly straight and level and be able to land the 90A balloon in an emergency. A good balance with some hopping, but if the organisers actually read this stuff, please spend on logistics before 2011!  
Steve Roake

### Ultramagic's -"Metz en Mass"

"What are you on about"? I hear you say, to the above title! Actually, technically it is correct. Both Ultramagic Test balloons and Pierrick Duvoisin's Hopper were at Metz getting more valuable test mileage on the Aerofabrix materials that they are developing.



*Two prototype balloons using Aerofabrix -jpeg by Bennie Bos*  
According to Tim Revell (UK sales agent who was out for a few days delivering my new hopper bag amongst his many chores ....many thanks loads better Tim), Pierrick was flying his balloon HB-QTB with greater spacing between the twin skin construction to see how it performs compared to the standard fabric. The

second balloon in the picture EC-KUS is a duo utilising only the silver top section in Aerofabrix material. These were joined by the M56 EC-KMM that was at the icicle meet in the UK in January.

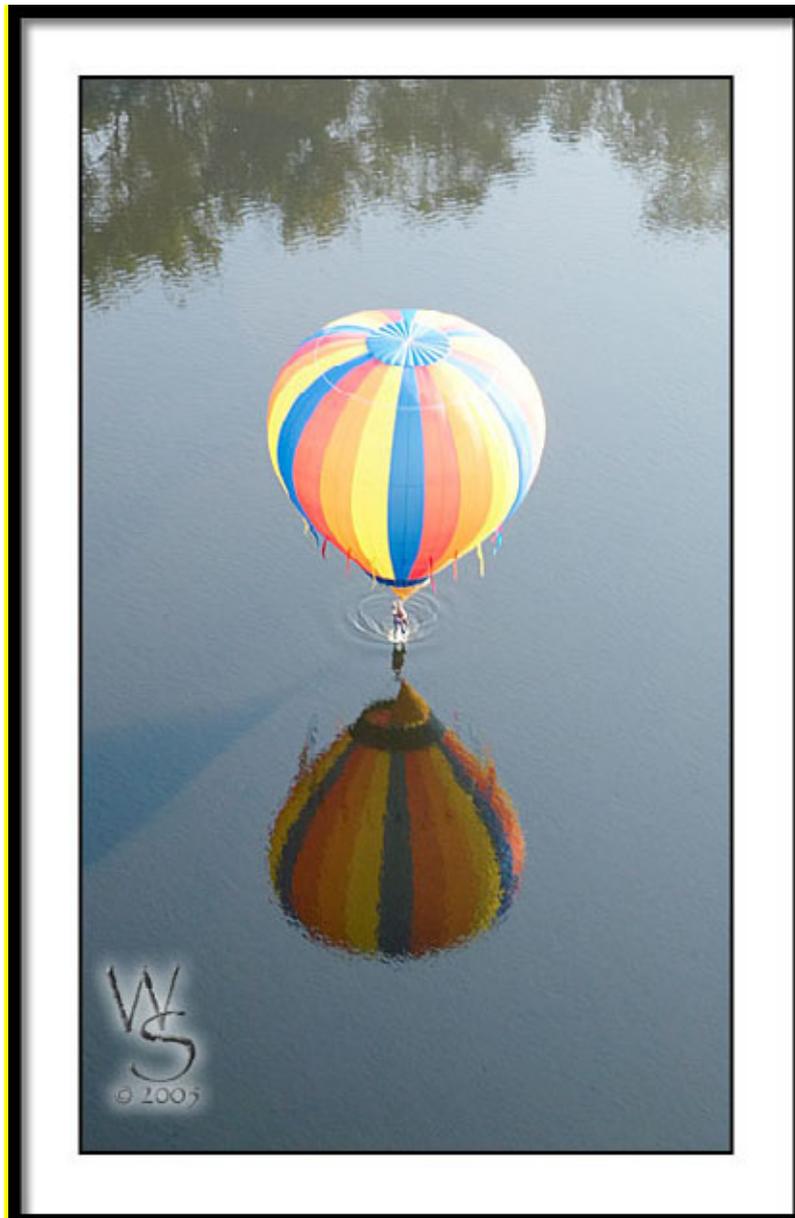
### **My Favourite Jpegs and why-by David Tanzer**

In this fifth selection of my favourites and why, David Tanzer selects his three best jpegs.



As promised, I've attached three of my favorite hopper photos. Somewhat embarrassingly, each of these three photos features me. The first photo was taken by my friend, Sean Greenwood. I believe it was taken during the second flight of my Lindstrand 35A, "Holy Cow!" It's a stunning photo, and was taken about a mile

south of my home. It was at the end of April, and you can see that the Sugar Maples have blossomed, but not yet leafed out. This photo appeared on the cover of ballooning magazine.



The second photo was taken by Victor Hoyt during the first XLTA meet in 2005. Victor caught me in my T&C 31 just as I touched down on the Connecticut River for a splash and dash. Actually, it was much more of a dunk and dash, as I misjudged my descent and ended up going in up to my chest. Among other

things, I dunked my radio, but I was able to dry it out and, to this day, it still works really well.



The third photo was taken by Joe Lasker during the 2007 XLTA meet. The thing I really like about this photo is that it seems to capture the essence what it feels like to fly a cloudhopper. I think it's a beautifully composed photo.

So there you go—I hope you and the readership enjoy them.

David Tanzer

Many thanks David for your choices of favourite jpegs and why. I agree with you on the third one it has essences of what really makes a great flight. The expression in your face alone is fantastic and you have been caught in a very relaxed mood. Once again Thanks for taking the time to do this -Ed!

Next Month Bill Teasdale has agreed to come up with his favourites and Why but I would prefer volunteers please folks. *So now who else would like to make their unique choices of hopper or duo chariot favourites? Selections to me as ever please, care of [steve.roake@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.roake@ntlworld.com).*

### **3, Updates to the website / Newsletter/Forum Topics**

With everything else that is currently going on, I can only say that nothing of note occurred again this month of note for this section, I hope for more next time.

### **4, Homebuilt section -Zilch yet again!**

Another month escapes with a big fat Zero content from the Homebuilders out there .I cannot believe that you have all downed tools and are doing nothing, so how about telling us all what you are up to and where in the build process you have got to. Emails to your editor (as ever) [steve.roake@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.roake@ntlworld.com)

### **5, Gallery Pages.**

This section is the Editor's choice of new jpegs, visuals and older balloons of interest or alterations. News arrives of a new shape for one of our members. This beautiful new Ultramagic M-56 Duochariot HB-QOP C/N 56/34 has recently been delivered to

list member Benjamin Senn from Switzerland with jpegs posted on the forum. As seen from the visuals, the overall effect is fantastically captured in reality.

## M-56 Duo "CAT"

Ref.: 239E



This visual is intended for guidance only.

Approved:





*New Ultramagic M-56 Duo chariot, here seen on one of its first flights -jpeg and visual copyright and thanks to Benjamin Senn.*

The knowledgeable ones on the forum have this Ultramagic envelope married to a Cameron Duo bottom end but with the new Ultramagic Bannano burner and frame (probably a first application of this setup).

Secondly, news of a restoration to the UK balloon Register in the shape of G-WETI. This 1979 Cameron N-31 has only done around 60 hours total time, and is restored to Colin Butter of Newbury.



*Thanks to Bill Teasdale for the jpeg of G-WETI and the additional information that this balloon is "One of the old Balloon Stable N31's, although it did very little flying in its commercial life, hence its good condition now"*



*Caught here by Bernie Williams, G-BEUY Cameron N-31 belongs to Joe Daly and was spotted flying in Metz, being purchased in June.*

## 6, Manufacturer News / Events / Updates

Ultramagic Balloons Ltd- had two new offerings making their debuts at Metz. The first is a new style gauge for fuel tanks. As commented by Stefan Vogel from Germany on the forum; "Ultra magic has shown in Metz tanks with an electronic measurement System. The System depends on a Sensor that replaces the standard measurement system and an electronic box that calculates the filling.

During my flight in Metz with the DUO from Joseph we used this system. I am still alive :) They plan to have a longer cable so that all hopper pilots can place the display in their view field."

They also had a prototype lightweight balloon system with a collapsible basket and 50,000u ft envelope. This system lends itself to one man/ two man flying minimalistic ally, so could be either a One man hopper or the envelope alone could be used in conjunction with the Duo they currently sell. Prices are yet to be fixed for the dealers but expect this product to be very competitively pitched at the marketplace with strong rumours of sub £10,000 all in being talked about. Exact pricing structure from Um Uk as soon as they release it. The basket alone needs seeing to just relate to how small and compact it is when folded away for travel and utilising the new Um super single burner it is aimed at folks who want to put the system in an estate car or people carrier rather than tow a trailer.

OMM 2009- Phil Dunnington writes in with more information on this year's One Man Meet which is situated in Somerset this year.

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Hi everyone,

As I hope you will already have noticed in Aerostat we have a new location and date for the 2009 event.

Focus will be at the Glencot House Hotel in Wookey, near Wells, Somerset, on 16-18 October. The hotel (01749 677160; [relax@glencothouse.co.uk](mailto:relax@glencothouse.co.uk)) is a quirky (if rather expensive, but fascinating) location run by Martin Miller, a characteristic entrepreneur who also produces his personal own-label gin! A 10% discount is available for OMM entrants.

The hotel has a private cricket pitch with excellent shelter and alternative nearby launch sites are also available as required. Refuelling will be possible not too far away thanks to Nigel Appleton, local rides operator, who is supporting the meet with local facilities & advice. There are plenty of alternatives for accommodation in the pretty Mendip area.

All briefings will be held at Glencot, starting at 1530 on Friday for those who want to get that extra slot in. You need to bring your balloon documents - particularly insurance (to EU levels), CofA and ARC (unless you are one of those lucky ones on Annex II) -plus a £15 entry fee per balloon. I would prefer you to let me know in advance that you are coming so we can plan facilities at Glencot.

Please also pass this invitation on to anyone you know with a balloon sized 42 or less as I can't always keep up-to-date with new owners or changed e-mail addresses.

Looking forward to see you there.

Phil Dunnington.

As ever -please register your interest at

[phil@gonewiththewind.uk.com](mailto:phil@gonewiththewind.uk.com) .

**Video from Thailand-** from Bob Knupps.

Nice 5min film from our Thailand correspondent Bob Knupps as featured on U-tube recently.

"Hi it's Bob in Thailand. I finally got a good connection and uploaded a 5 minute clip of G-BVRI a Duo Airchair flight here in northern Thailand. The sound track is interesting too.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJ1I8SaBvY>

Also off my YouTube page there's also some micro light flying clips taken up in the hills where I live if anyone's into that."

Bob Kupps

Pai, Mae Hong Son

### 7. For Sale /Wanted section

Martin Axtell's G-BVRL LBL 21A didn't find its way to the new owner in Lithuania as he was messed around .However, having spoken to Martin, he has indicated that having put the balloon complete up for £3200 , he would be agreeable to accepting £2500 for a quick sale. Martin can be contacted on 07742-666554 or at [mjaballooning@hotmail.com](mailto:mjaballooning@hotmail.com) .

**G-BSDV Colt 31A for Sale (Price reduced again now only £1750)!**

Your editor is selling his Colt 31A Envelope, registered on 19th April 1990, she has done 76hours 15mins (last flown 21<sup>st</sup> march 09) and cold inflated in July. EASA C of A (just lapsed but

will be renewed as part of the sale) she is now surplus to requirements with the new purchase (G-UHOP).



*Ready for a new owner -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 £1750 seems fair (to include a new C of A), from the £1850 previously quoted.

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](mailto:steve.roake@ntlworld.com)

## Thunder and Colt SkyChariot Mk 2 Bottom end for sale

Just a small reminder that the ex BT Chariot bottom end is still for sale by Dave Baker. This represents a very good way to get into hopping when you consider that the price includes the integral fuel tank and therefore is a complete bottom end ready to fly. It dates from 1993 and has done approx 200hours.



The bottom end comes with an integral H-30 Tank which has a Rego fitting. It all looks in great condition-Ed!



The Bottom end utilises the Colt Mark 2 Single burner which has a Liquid Pilot light. Naturally this sale is as a complete kit and Dave isn't going to split it up. The price is a very reasonable £1850 complete. Contact Dave Baker on mobile number 07860-937103 or 01635-866682. Email via [dave.2.baker@bt.com](mailto:dave.2.baker@bt.com)



## And Finally



*Another stunning Greg Winker jpeg, this time from Prosser2008. Greg is in the red/white hopper !*

Membership is currently a healthy 384 members and despite a small dip, numbers are generally still rising. We are getting closer to the magic 400 mark. Not far now! All articles for inclusion in future issues will be gratefully received by your editor. Please forward them to [steve.roake@ntlworld.com](mailto: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.