



# Cloudhopper News

Issue Number 48

April/ May 2011

Another Newsletter arrives

**Ed-Speak** – Hello again Folks. The original plan of action was to combine April with May's newsletter to incorporate the action from the Graham Philpot Solo Meet held over the first May bank holiday weekend at Great Missenden. But the weather Gods transpired to act against us and the event has had to be rescheduled for the end of May Bank holiday weekend, due to strong winds which gave no hope of flying over the original weekend. Unfortunately, the same fate happened over the 2<sup>nd</sup> proposed bank holiday weekend and so now 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June is the third proposed date for this event.

**Steve Roake**

**Essential Extra's** – nothing reported this month!

**The Features Section**- Hoppers at the London Marathon

Since I can remember, the start line of the London Marathon has been a place where you can expect to see balloons as the runners set off on their personal challenges. Over the last couple of years, Glen Everett has enticed clients to the value for money aspect of using hoppers and has three in his current stable. He has brought them to the Marathon for the last two years since he got an Ultramagic H-31 for Holiday Inns (one of the events main sponsors).

This year Glenn arrived at the marathon with another brand new hopper for a new client "Webroot Internet Security". All three of Glen's recent arrivals have come from Ultramagic Balloons and the new one featured a very wide mouth to assist in tethering, which when displayed over a small basket, works very well. The new balloon G-CGWC joined G-OINN on display prominently adjacent to the start line in full view of the television cameras.

However, Glenn wasn't alone in having a new hopper at Blackheath that crisp April morning, the event organiser Nick Langley, who runs The Airship and Balloon Company had a launch of a new client who also had chosen a hopper as their choice for product Placement. Lucazade, a company associated with energy

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Solo Meet rescheduled.

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*Ernie Hartt on his first ever hop*

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*New Um's  
Manufacturer News*

### **Adverts/For**

**Sale** Klein fan



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Replacement drinks had a newly liveried Lindstrand 35A that was on its first public outing having only been delivered days before the event. Being the MD of the company, Nick decided to tether the LBL35A himself and being a lucky guy, he got perfect weather for the tether which was even more impressive as he utilised a hopper bottom end rather than a basket.



Nick Langley at work! – I said to him “Tethering hoppers is a tough Life Eh Nick?” As you can see from his expression, nothing is Easy LOL! Could you get a better tether morning? I think Not! Photo by Steve Roake.



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I was at the venue to assist a friend with her liveried Balloon, and for anyone who has never attended the Marathon, you have to get up at Silly o'clock (3am in my case), to be on site by 5am as the surrounding roads are closed to form the route. Once at the display area we received a briefing on the Met from Nick prior to commencing the tether. With cameras rolling from 7-30am, most balloons were inflated by 8am at the latest to ensure that valued exposure time is achieved.



G-CGWC UM H-31 is unveiled to the world -jpeg by Steve Roake



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In my opinion this was the easiest ever tether I have been involved with. From Hot inflation until deflation the balloon literally sat above our heads in still perfect conditions which was so jammy for Nick Langley who in other conditions would have had a spirited job to do.



G-CGVM is displayed in its Lucazade "Yes" livery. But "Yes" to what??  
Another photo by Steve Roake.

I have included a general shot in this series of photos that show all three hoppers in action just to give you a flavour of how close the balloons are to the start line and how effective the mediums work. clearly we will have to wait until next year to see if this trend continues.



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G-OINN  
UM H-31

G-CGWC  
UM-H-31

G-CGVM  
LBL 35A

Start line



Start Line Action at the London Marathon-photo by Steve Roake

## **My First Hop – Ernie Hartt**

I made my first flight in a ‘Hopper (hang ballon, one-man balloon, etc.) in July 1991, in a Cavis Air Sports 19,000 cubic foot balloon built by my friend, commercial pilot and balloon builder Fred Barnes. At the time, I had exactly 2 hours of instruction flight in my balloon pilot’s logbook. I had known Fred for a couple of years, crewing for him a number of times, and my girlfriend (now wife) Jenny and I were soon to house sit for him and his wife Geri while they went off to France where Fred was going to fly for Buddy Bombard. Jenny and I had just purchased our first balloon, so Fred knew we were serious about becoming pilots.

Fred was going to be leaving behind his ‘Hopper in our care, and as I had already expressed interest in flying it, we went out that afternoon to Pumphouse, one of the old Del Mar area launch sites. It was calm afternoon, and after inflating the ‘Hopper, Fred had me, Jenny, and



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my sister Maria all take it up on tether to get comfortable in it, in case we wanted fly it while he was in France. Then, when it was approaching the usual launch time of an hour before sunset, Fred surprised me by asking if I wanted to fly. While I only had 2 logged hours at that point, I had well over 500 crewing hours, and knew my way around a balloon better than most novice pilots. I was game to try it, and thought that if Fred, one of the pilots that I trusted most, felt that I was ready, then “Hell Yeah!” I was ready.

While Fred prepped me for the flight, the lower winds were headed almost due east, down the considerable length of the launch field, so I would have ample time to make sure I was comfortable taking my first ever solo flight. By the time I took off, however, the wind had shifted somewhat, and was now headed east southeast. As I lifted off and noticed the change, I knew I had to quickly decide what I was going to do. The south side of the launch site was at the bottom of a 300’ ridge, and about 30’ below the level of the road running along the base of the ridge. Once you crossed the road, you were committed to a flight, as there was no open access to the ridge. My heart was beating pretty fast, but this was something that I had really been wanting to do, so I called Fred on the radio, told him I was going for it, and off I went.

Jenny, Fred, & Maria then packed up at the launch site and started on chase, the three of them in my little 2-seat Ford Escort EXP. I had decided that since I was committed to this flight, that I would enjoy it, so I did, doing some mid-level flying at first until I had reasonable control over my burns, then dropping down to contour the chaparral, which was great. The crew got ahead of me, and was waiting for me on the next major road to the south. They caught me as I came in, and set me down gently, and that was that. And just as I was hooked on ballooning after my first balloon ride, I was hooked on ‘Hoppers after my first ‘Hopper flight!

Ernie Hartt



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

## **Three Favourite Jpegs and why-by Chris Dobson**

In this nineteenth selection of my favourites and why, Chris Dobson selects his three favourite photographs with reasons why he loves them.

When Steve asked me to do this I was more than happy to look through some photos and chose the ones I like. Then I remembered that I don't often take photos when ballooning! So here are my three favourite pictures from a photo collection of about five - and one of them I didn't even take!



This is a very self indulgent picture as it's my cloudbopper, being flown by myself, but hey. I love it simply because of the composition of the shot. The scale and insignificance of a cloudbopper - in relation to - their bigger basket'ed siblings is really evident in the photo. And I remember it being a cracking early morning flight with loads of steerage!



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Apart from the fact that Steve Roake is about to inflate his Ultramagic 31 for the first ever time in the foreground, I've always liked this photo for the simple fact that there is a real sense of motion and activity in it, you get a feeling that it shows the start of an adventure. It also shows that cloudhopping isn't the antisocial part of ballooning people seem to think it is – 7 people on two 'hoppers?!

Ed- I'm sure there must be photos out there that don't involve me –lol!

I believe it's prudent to finish with the arty contrast shot – so here it is! Taken in the Italian Dolomites, it shows Pauline Baker testing out one of the rigs she has for flying her tiny AX1 hopper. I like it as a photo simply because it shows just how simple you can go - obviously in the name of saving weight to break records - and still take to the skies.



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Many thanks to Chris 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](mailto: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**

Bob Kupps sent in an interesting article about a nine year old boy who wants to solo. Nothing like setting your stall out when you are young. See below

<http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/environment/9-year-old-plans-solo-balloon-flight>

With the Placement of our first revenue earning advert from Jack Klein, (many thanks), all classified adverts now will no longer be placed for free. I'm not out to make money from this venture but costs towards webhosting, which traditionally I have covered will now be contributed to by your support. These costs are very low for advert placement but please expect to contribute to ensure you get maximum exposure.

## **5. Homebuilt section Jack Klein reveals his new hopper**

Following a short build period, Jack Klein has just finished his latest project which just happens to be a 35,000 cubic feet hopper. Without revealing all his secrets (because I'm hopeful jack will write a full article on the project), some details are known. The 16 Gore design weighs 72lbs or 32.7 kgs without the scoop. Finished on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, Jack needed to wait a few days before he could test inflate and adjust a few lines.



**Jack test inflates the hopper**



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Whilst I don't want to take anything away from the forthcoming article, clearly some test inflation modifications were needed to ensure satisfaction with the final product was achieved. Hopefully more on this project soon from Jack himself.



Here is the Alaska Balloon in its finished guise on test inflation.

**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. This month's new shots are of brand new balloons sent in by Paul Dickenson from Ultramagic Balloons in Igualada Spain.



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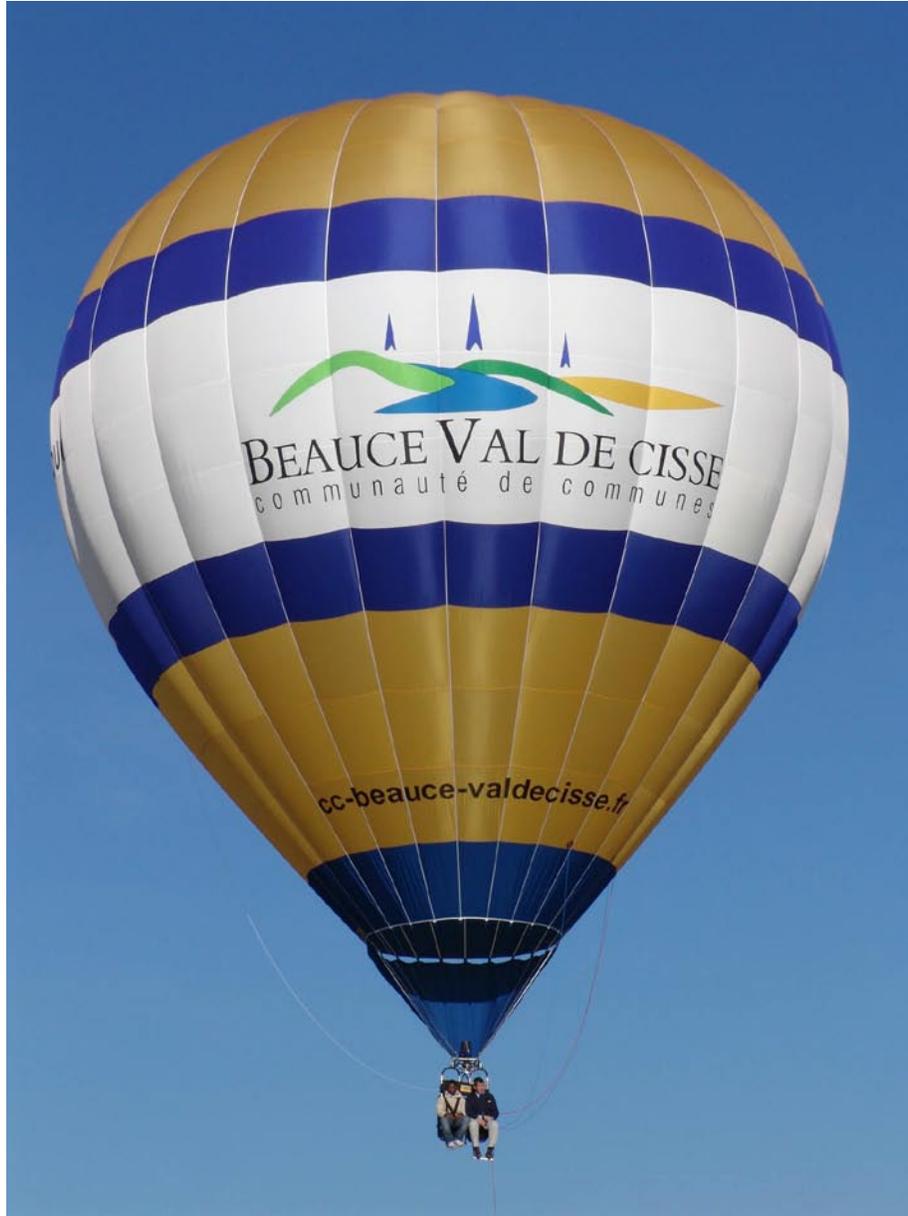
Brand new Ultramagic V-25 for Austria .c/n is 25/02.



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Second new Ultramagic sent in by Paul Dickenson is this Duo for France, F-HDUO is c/n 56/46 .Many thanks for the jpegs and info.



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## **Manufacturer News / Events / Updates**

Once again Paul Dickenson from Ultramagic Balloons has confirmed that the company continues to deliver Solos and Duo's as demand warrants. Recent sales include the delivery of a Solo V-25 to Austria, and a Duo to France. Paul also indicated to me that Ultramagic have sold a Solo H-42 and Techno sales continue a pace with recent orders for the type from Switzerland and Germany.

I would also highlight that Paul's very own H-31 Envelope is currently for sale, with details in our for sale section.

**The European Balloon festival 2011** is now receiving entries based at Igualada Spain for the first 50 balloons. Should you be interested in entering the event which takes place from the 6<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> then I suggest a swift email to [Tim@ultramagic.co.uk](mailto:Tim@ultramagic.co.uk) for more details.

## **XLTA 7 Amsherst June 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>**

Dan Nachbar once again hosts this very fine event.

The registration page is at <http://www.xlta.org/regform2011.php>

The full invitation is at <http://www.xlta.org/invitation2011.html>

Dan will also be posting invitations to the various ballooning email lists.

This year Keith Sproul has generously offered to give lessons on making eye-splices in double-braided rope. Keith's idea is to have a learning exercise that also produces useful results. So please bring double-braided ropes with you to which you'd like to add an eye or two.

Keith has also offered to do a workshop on the latest and greatest in GPS. There are some GPS features that make it practical to add a bit of friendly competition for those who want to do so on their XLTA flights this year. Keith will also cover adding way points, routes,



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and red zones to GPS databases.

## **Grass Roots 2011 Sackville Lodge Airfield Bedfordshire**

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible at this year's event over the weekend 9-11 September at Sackville Lodge.

Our hosts Tim Wilkinson and his family will as ever ensure that you are well looked after!

The general consensus from participants is that we shouldn't change a thing; therefore the format will be similar to previous years with camping and catering all on site.

We're proud of the positive relationship that we have built with local farmers and landowners - thank you for your generosity in providing basket spaces in the past.

We will again be approaching the BBAC for a grant and sending out registration forms in May.

If the weather looks wholly unsuitable for flying we will aim to 'roll' the event to the following weekend.

Please refer to our website for the latest information: [www.grassrootsballooning.org.uk](http://www.grassrootsballooning.org.uk)

Soft landings

Team Sackville (Rob Cross, Tim Wilkinson, Peter Gray, and Mark Stelling)

## **Adverts / For Sale / Wanted section**

Ultramagic H-31 Solo envelope. 2006. G-CEFB. 16 hrs. Yellow, red & royal blue. No artwork. Scoop. Ultralite silicone coated fabric, black load tapes. Rotation vents. Small banner position. Excellent condition. EASA C of A. Current list price new 8280 Euro + VAT. Can deliver in UK. £5100 No VAT Email : [pauldickinson@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:pauldickinson@tinyworld.co.uk) or Phone Paul Dickinson - 0044771 5510021

Rare for a 31 with such low hours to be available in great condition -Ed



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## 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: [kooistrapieter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kooistrapieter@yahoo.co.uk)

Sounds like a bargain to me - Ed!

## Jack Klein selling G-BVUI

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](mailto:advanced@gci.net), or call me in Alaska at 907 242-5860

Jack advises that £3750 buys the complete kit.



## The Klein FAN Smaller is Better!



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### **And Finally.**

Membership is currently a healthy 432 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](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.