



# THE PANTHER

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The Official Newsletter of 146 (Northwich) ATC

August/September 06



Once again it's been a busy summer at 146, but all too quickly the sunshine has gone, and another school year has already begun. This months' PANTHER brings you a variety of the cadets experiences throughout the holidays.

## Summer Camp 2006 – RAF Innsworth

From 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August 40 cadets and NCO's from 146 took over RAF Innsworth for a week of summer camp. Although the accommodation left more to be desired (the males were put in tents due to problems with the second accommodation building, and there was no common room available) the weeks activities certainly made up for it.

Cadets had the opportunity to go flying and shooting, including an afternoon session on the SAT range, with computer sequenced targets and laser L85 and LSW rifles. There were also plenty of sport periods planned in and inter-flight competitions were held in rounders, quick cricket, and football. The 4 flights also gained points for uniform, orienteering and the drill competition at the end of the week.



Excursions out were also frequent and as much as possible was packed into the week. One day was spent at the high ropes centre in the Forest of Dean, and cadets completed a range of activities including the Leap Of Faith, Jacobs Ladder and other group objectives high above the ground. There were also trips to Laser Tag, an afternoon of free time spent in Gloucestershire and Cheltenham.

One of the highlights of the week was the night-ex, organised by the RAF Regiment.



After some GDT training

on camouflage and concealment, and cooking tea from ration packs, 2 teams filled up their water pistols and battled it out across a 1km stretch of open grass land. The teams were briefed on a number on objectives which they had to complete, as well as holding back the enemy, to win the exercise.

The evenings were just as busy with quizzes and more trips out bowling, and to the cinema. There was also a trip out to the "Crime through Time" museum at a local prison, which proved to be very unusual and interesting.

To end the week in style, a revue was held on the last day and everyone participated in funny sketches, videos and the infamous "Paper Plate Awards" were handed out. (Congratulations Flying Officer Thomson for "Most stalls in the Minibus"). Real awards were also given out. Best Cadet to Cdt Barden, Best Junior NCO to Cpl Hughes and Best Senior NCO to FS Stott.

All in all the week went smoothly and a great time was had by all. I'm sure many cadets will be first in the queue for next year's camp.



## IACE Austria 18<sup>th</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September by FS Peter Hooker

Back in August I traveled to Austria to represent the Air Training Corps, and the UK on an International Air Cadet Exchange. I spent 16 days touring the country, visiting 5 of the 9 provinces of Austria.



The visits to towns and cities included very interesting city tours and formal buffets, all hosted by ‘important people’. There were also many opportunities to fly, with gliders, powered gliders and aerobatic planes. However most of the time was spent out of uniform, visiting local attractions and leisure activities such as a 1.5 km tobogan track, swimming in the stunning warm lakes, go-karting, and best of all an afternoon canyoning down a river. On most evenings we were either treated with a BBQ or we ate out at local restaurants, experiencing the local food, and beer!!!



Above all the most memorable occasions of my IACE have to be both the visit to a local village festival near Bregenz, and the two afternoons of swimming in lake Worthersee, near Klagenfurt.

I would like to thank the squadron for the support, encouragement, and opportunities you have offered to me throughout my time as a cadet. I very much doubt I would have achieved half as much as I have if I wasn't a part of such a successful squadron.

## Parachute Jump by Ex-WO Martin Moores, an account of his once in a lifetime trip

I was recently selected to attend a parachute course at Skydive Western near Oxford. I had applied for the same course several times in the past but had not made the grade due to the limited places (2 for the whole of EC+SM Wing). So I was very fortunate to get on the course in my last year as a cadet. A week had been allocated for the course, 2 days training and the rest of the week spent doing the jumps, but it was completed in just over 2 days. There was a brief introduction on the evening we arrived, then training was completed the next day, and finally the jump before I went home.

The actual jump was done at 3000 feet on a static line parachute, this means that the parachute is actually attached to the plane, so as a first time jumper, there is no worrying about deploying the parachute. The training involved fitting of parachutes, checking the security systems in place, emergency drills, navigation whilst in the air, landing procedures e.t.c.

I was very nervous on the day of the jump, despite the excellent training and completely fail safe parachute system. Having heard several of the others talking about their experience after their jump, I was very much looking forward to getting up in the air.

My group of 10 was called to get kitted up soon after lunch time, after being fitted with jumpsuit, parachute, helmet, altimeter and radio we boarded the aircraft. Soon reaching 3000 feet, the first jumper left the aircraft then after the aircraft had done a circuit, the second cadet left on the next pass over the airfield. I was next in line, so preparing in the door of the aircraft, I awaited the command to “JUMP”, the feeling was fantastic, the momentary free fall gave me a real rush. I completed my checks, ensuring all was fine and enjoyed the rest of the decent, I had a bit of a heavy landing but everything went without a problem. I had a fantastic few days and would go again if I ever got the chance.



## Adventure Training Action in Windemere

Cadets from 146 (Northwich) and 236 (Bollington) Squadrons spent a week in the cadet centre in Windemere on a trip organised by FO Pinder, the recently appointed Wing Adventure Training Officer. Cadets took part in a wide range of activities throughout the week. I interviewed Cdt Moores to find out what happened.



So, what kind of things did you get to do?

*Rock climbing, kayaking, mountain expedition, raft building, human bowling and a ride in a huge off road truck.*

Quite a bit to do then, were the evenings just as busy?

*Yeah, we went into town a few times, and did the Kinelzat competition. We played a lot of sports too.*

What was your favourite part of the week?

*Rock climbing and square ball (it's a sport involving a ball, lots of people and a 25m square) were the activities I enjoyed the most, but all parts of the week, even the expedition were fun.*

If you got the chance, would you go again?

*Yes definitely, the activities available like rock climbing were great and I enjoyed learning leadership skills. It would be good to improve them.*

Would you like to do more adventure training if you had the opportunity?

*Yes, I really enjoyed the things that we did, and I think that many people would enjoy it.*

Looks like another action packed trip, and another chance to meet cadets from other squadrons. No doubt there will be call for another one to be organized next year! In the meantime you can look out for TS Palentine watersports courses and Climbing Courses with

the Army. Also FS Hooker and CI Moores have both recently qualified as kayak instructors and will hopefully be taking some groups out soon!

## Swimming Success

Once again 146 stormed the inter squadron swimming competition this year entering someone in every race in each of the four teams. Junior Girls did exceptionally coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, the senior girls in 6<sup>th</sup> place and the boys also keeping up a good record juniors finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> and seniors in 8<sup>th</sup> place. These strong results gave 146 a final position of 4<sup>th</sup>, excellent in a competition of 25 squadrons. Well done to all involved.

## In Other News...

- **Another Round Of Promotions**  
Congratulations go to the following recent promotions: Sgt Bishop, Sgt Brooks, Sgt Buckley, Sgt Bracewell and Sgt Priestley.
- **Aircraft Recognition Team Fly High.**  
The two teams entered the inter-squadron competition on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Sgt Martin who gained the highest score from the 146 teams.
- **Band Sound Out For Battle Of Britain.**  
The band has been parading both in Manchester, leading the wing BOB parade, and in Northwich raising money for RAFA. Cadets have also been helping with car parking, collecting money and offering assistance to the RAFA at the Lostock club, gaining service hours and raising money for the squadron. Keep up the good work.

## Supply Sort Out

Over the summer the Supply team and other NCO's completed a refurbishment of the squadron stores. All uniform was taken out and re-organised into sizes, the general layout was changed and the shelves were re-painted. After more than 2 weeks of hard work, the room was completed and a database has been started to record the contents in the future, and maintain the efficiency of stores. Many thanks to Supply li/c Sgt Harry Clarke and the other NCO's who helped out.

## **Final Goodbye's**

September this year brings the end of an era for several NCO's amongst us leaving to go to university or take a year out. Being senior in the squadron (all FS and above) they will all be missed as they have contributed massively to the running of the squadron. Thankyou's and best wishes go to the following:

CWO Brecknell, who goes on to Edinburgh University to study Architecture.

FS Bullen, also Studying Architecture, leaves us to go to Sheffield University

FS Ebbitt is taking Geography at Aberystwyth

FS Hart goes to do Computer Science at Sheffield

FS Ross begins an English Language course at Cardiff University

FS Hooker starts a degree in outdoor learning and the science of adventure at Glamorgan University.

FS Hoolohan is also leaving us to take a gap year. During the year she will be going to Brazil to work with drug abused children, teaching English in India at Everest Base Camp and spending her time travelling.