



TROPICAL MARITIME

THE METEOROLOGY NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH WEST AREA SEA CADETS
ISSUE 1 – JANUARY 2008 (INTERNET VERSION)

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Having recently taken over the role of Area Staff Officer for Meteorology in the South West Area, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my aims for developing the subject in the area. I have recently rejoined the Sea Cadets after 8 years away during which time I have had the pleasure to serve as an Officer in the Royal Navy's submarine service. During my previous life as an SCC instructor and when service commitments allowed following that, I have always been actively involved in Sea Cadet Met, mostly with the Southern Area where my roots lie as a cadet.

My aim as your ASO for Meteorology is to raise the profile of the subject across the area and to increase the number of proficiencies awarded to cadets across units and districts within it. To achieve that aim, I have set the following objectives:

1. Provide Introduction courses at AMTACs to stimulate interest in the subject and encourage potential instructors to undertake the full course at national level, thereby increasing the number of units/districts able to undertake Met instruction.
2. Providing cadet courses at area level to provide opportunities for those units / districts without access to active Meteorology Instructors.
3. Support instructors by providing an easily accessible repository of up to date and innovative training resources.
4. Facilitate practical training, even where there is no access to meteorological equipment at the point of training delivery.

In summary, I believe that the key to promoting Meteorology within the South West area is to increase the base of active instructors, and to provide such instructors with the support, encouragement and resources they need to carry out high quality training within their units and districts. Some of the other

articles within this news letter will give some indication of how I intend to provide that support.

In the meantime, I am happy to discuss any aspects of Meteorology instruction in South West area. If you have any suggestions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me on:

Please contact South West Area Office for contact details.

Tristan Heal
SLt (SCC) RNR
ASO (Met) (SW)

NEWS

Congratulations to cadets from Avon District for recently passing their meteorology proficiency. 9 cadets from Weston-Super-Mare, Bristol Adventure, Avonmouth, Swindon, and Chippenham units recently completed the second of 2 weekends to qualify for their Met badge. The cadets certainly had lots to observe during the final weekend, with 2 separate frontal systems developing bringing wet and windy conditions across the UK.

CADET TRAINING

For 2008 it is intended to run a 4 day cadet course spanning a bank holiday weekend, starting on a Thursday evening and finishing the following Monday lunchtime. This will allow cadets to complete the course over one event, whilst minimising the amount of time off work and school required by instructors and cadets. The course will include a visit to a local air station and a captive weather balloon launch in addition to the usual syllabus content. Further details will be promulgated nearer the time.

ADULT TRAINING

At the current time, it is not possible to qualify instructors at Area level; this can only be done on a national course. Since attendance on such a course

requires a significant commitment in terms of annual leave on the part of the potential instructor, Met Instructor Acquaint courses will be run on 2 AMTACs during 2008 so that potential instructors can get a taste for the subject before deciding whether to commit to a week's course or not.

It is hoped that instructor training at area level may be a possibility for the future, and that opportunity is currently being explored with the HQSO (Met). If accreditation of area instructor courses can be achieved it will mean being able to conduct such training within AMTACs, thereby increasing accessibility to the subject for potential instructors, and will go a long way towards increasing the subject's profile in the area.

NEW WEBSITE

Over the next few weeks, a new website is being developed to act as a focal point for sharing information and resources in the area. As well as including suggested lesson plans, visual aids etc..., it will also host interactive online models to act as revision or pre-course study for interested cadets / adults. Additionally it will include web access to the data collected from an automatic weather station being setup at a unit. This will allow units / districts who do not have access to observation equipment to undertake practical observations based on "real time" data from a remote station.

It is hoped to bring the web site online during the first few weeks of 2008. If anyone has any suggestions for content on the new site, they will be gratefully received.

2008 CALENDAR

The following activities are currently planned for 2008:

25 – 27 April 2008	AMTAC (Adult Met Acquaint)
22 – 26 May 2008	**Cadet Area Met Course
17 – 19 Oct 2008	AMTAC (Adult Met Acquaint)

*** An Additional cadet course may be run later in the year depending on demand for the May course.*

CALLING ALL INSTRUCTORS ...

Unfortunately I don't have a complete list of instructors in the area. I would be grateful if any qualified instructors/assessors could drop me a quick email or phone call with their name, unit, and details of

qualification, so that I can get a complete picture of instructors in the area.

INVITATION FOR ANY NEWS AND ARTICLES ...

The primary purpose behind this newsletter is to share information about Meteorology in South West area, to generate interest in the subject and share news. To that end, I will gladly receive any stories, news, photos etc... that I can include within this newsletter that might be of interest to its readers.