

Devon Strut Scout Aerocamp

The planning leading up to the Devon Strut's 5th Scout Aerocamp at Belle Vue near Great Torrington, North Devon, over the weekend of 5th – 7th June, was a little fraught as we experienced some staff shortages due to illness, aircraft unserviceability and a change in the weather which affected the flying activity of the camp. Regardless of the weather, the team all pulled together and most importantly the youngsters had a great time and all attained the badges for which they all worked so hard.

Our tutors and helpers did a sterling job to provide the Scouts with a first class system of lectures covering meteorology, R/T, instruments, GPS, controls & handling, marshalling and navigation. The last subject usually culminates in a local flight around a course that has been planned and drawn by the youngsters. The excitement of what is often their first flight in a light aircraft, and sometimes their first flight of any kind, is evident and it was a hard call when Pete White had to announce that for safety reasons the conditions were not suitable. Special thanks go to Chris Shaw and Leia Fee who stepped in and did a stalwart job on the meteorology and R/T lectures.

As only 5 of the 24 Scouts managed to fly at the camp, we subsequently arranged alternative venues so they could complete the exercise and be presented with their Young Aviator's certificates. Thursday 18th June, saw Strut members Derek Boyce, Geoff and Jenny Dalton, John and Anthea Colgate and Pete White flying Scouts from Bodmin airfield. On the same evening John Holden and Jim Gale were on a similar mission back at Belle Vue. Only a few Scouts from our original list of 24 are now left to experience the joys of flight and they should soon be getting aloft from Dunkeswell or Watchford Farm.

