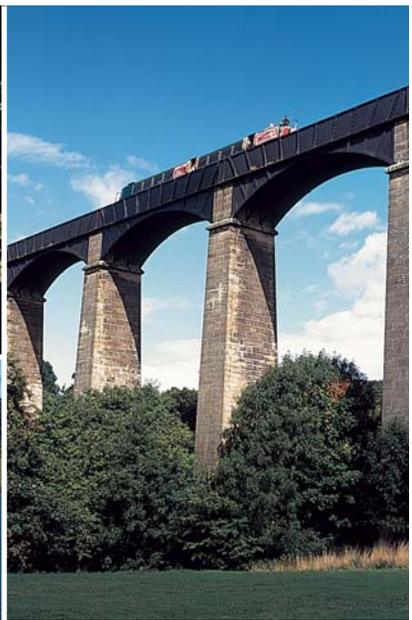


Golden Jubilee
Celebrating 50 years

The APCO Guide to

Inland Waterway Boating Holidays

Including operator guide

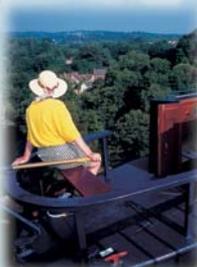
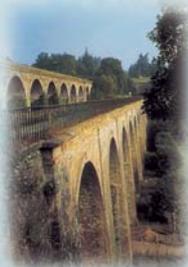


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The APCO Guide to Inland Waterway Boating Holidays is produced by Waterway Images Ltd, 10 Cheadle Road, Cheddleton, LEEK, Staffordshire, ST13 7HL, Tel: 01283 790447 for the Association of Pleasure Craft Operators.

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In OwnerShips, we still have this old fashioned idea that the customer is king! We therefore welcome owners' thoughts and ideas via the discussion group and chat room on our web site; we publish "OwnerShips" - a magazine written and edited by owners; and organise annual end of season meetings for all owners.

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The APCO Guide to Inland Waterway Boating Holidays

Welcome to the APCO *Guide to Inland Waterway Boating Holidays*. Your introduction to the holidays, boats and services provided by members of the Association of Pleasure Craft Operators. For the last 50 years APCO companies have been successfully pleasing our customers by providing relaxing and fun-filled holidays and short cruises on our rivers and canals.

Hence we are taking the opportunity to celebrate our Golden Jubilee by describing some of the history of the Association and giving you a taste of the heritage of pleasure boating on our inland waterways.

Boating can be an all-round activity and our Association offers all the types of holiday that people have come to expect – short breaks, shared ownership, time-share, self-catering or hotel standard service.

Included in the huge choice of boats available on Britain's waterways are a vast range of self-drive narrowboats and river cruisers. For those who prefer a skipper and crew there are hotel boats on which - just as in a hotel - everything is done for you. If visiting a waterway is only part of your holiday, or just a day out, there are self-drive day-boats or passenger trip and restaurant boats.

The APCO members listing pages towards the back of this booklet describe hire boat operators based on the canals and rivers of England, Wales and Scotland, hotel and passenger boat operators and companies offering specialist services relating to pleasure boating. To find out more about boating holidays or spending a day out on Britain's inland waterways contact any APCO member by phone, e-mail or their website –

www.britishmarine.co.uk/apco

A WELCOME FROM THE APCO PRESIDENT

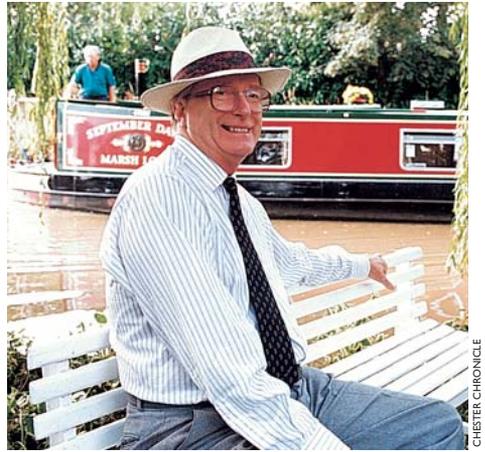
50 years is a major milestone in the history of any organisation. But for the Association of Pleasure Craft Operators it covers virtually the whole period of the regeneration of our main river and canal network after World War II and its transformation from an artery of industry to a national leisure amenity.

During this time APCO has done much to influence navigation authorities and Government in legislating for the future of the waterways and the promotion of their use for pleasure cruising and especially boating holidays.

The Association has created a strong bond between boat operators, service providers and their customers, ensuring that holidaymakers and boat owners enjoy high standards in both boats and waterside facilities.

I have been fortunate to be involved in pleasure boating on the waterways all my life, succeeding my father in running one of the pioneer holiday hire companies, which was also one of the earliest APCO members. As a past secretary and chairman of the Association I have been able to work for and follow closely the expansion of the waterway industry.

Later, as Chairman of the Government's advisory body, the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council, I was able to finally see inland boating officially accepted as a national leisure pursuit and a major contributor to British tourism, and to see the influence of APCO recognised in this field.



I am also pleased to acknowledge that this anniversary booklet is being produced by Waterway Images, the publication company of Harry Arnold, who was APCO's first professional secretary and worked with me during my first chairmanship of the Association.

A Golden Jubilee may be seen as celebrating the past achievements of an association but it also marks the determination of APCO to continue to represent the industry in providing the best for their customers in waterway holidays and services.

David Wain OBE
APCO President

The Association of Pleasure Craft Operators (APCO)

APCO is a group association within the British Marine Federation representing companies operating high quality craft on Britain's inland waterways. Craft range from Hire Boats to Passenger/Restaurant, Shared Ownership, Hotel and Day Boats. In addition our members build and refit boats, and offer a full range of maintenance services, sell fuel, gas and chandlery and provide safe and secure moorings. The membership also includes other activities such as surveyors, marine consultants, insurers, photographers and computer software experts.

For 50 years the Association has represented its members in working for the benefit of holiday-makers and boat owners in campaigning for better facilities and standards on inland waterways. It has itself established new facilities – such as the toilet pump-out network – by co-operation between member companies.

APCO represents the inland waterway industry by consulting with navigation authorities, government departments and other official bodies on the many regulations – both national and European – that affect the safety, environment and use of rivers and canals. Customers can therefore be confident that companies are aware of the latest legislation.

The Association is also actively involved in marketing waterway holidays and services. In conjunction with its parent body, the BMF, it provides information, via publications, its website and through meeting the public at boat shows.

The British Marine Federation (BMF)

The British Marine Federation (BMF) is the trade association for the UK's boating industry. Its primary role is to represent and promote the industry both within the UK and overseas.

It has 1500 members, which are companies drawn from a wide cross section of the UK boating industry - from boat builders to marina operators, hire boat operators to specialist equipment and clothing manufacturers.

The Federation works to encourage more people to get out on the water and enjoy boating. It promotes safety on the water and careers in the industry and helps people to become more environmentally conscious of the seascape, the shoreline and our rivers and canals.

The BMF, through its subsidiary National Boat Shows, runs the two leading boating exhibitions: the *Schroders London International Boat Show* in association with *The Daily Telegraph* and the *Southampton Boat Show* in association with *The Daily Telegraph*.

These annual exhibitions are an exciting way to find out more about boating; try-a-boat and participate-in features which enable you and your family to learn more about boating. With over 600 exhibitors they are a must see for all the family.

To find out more about our events, careers and jobs in the industry, our weekly radio programme *Making Waves* – or free downloadable publications with stacks of information – then log on to www.britishmarine.co.uk now!

INLAND WATERWAYS - WHERE CAN WE GO BOATING?

There are over 3,500 miles of canals, rivers and lakes in England, Scotland and Wales that are navigable by holiday hire craft - the survivors of a vast network of navigations constructed as the transport arteries of the industrial revolution.

There is no better way of exploring Britain's countryside than travelling by boat. Contrary to a once popular belief, rivers and canals are not dirty and polluted and very few miles of them pass through urban areas. The majority wend their way through peaceful and often spectacular scenery, away from the noise of roads and the rush of 21st century life.

With so many miles of waterway to cruise - at an average speed of 4 miles per hour - the choice is endless. The canal and river system criss-crosses the centre of England, covering the Midlands counties with a maze of waterways and extending northwards and westwards to Merseyside, Lancashire, Yorkshire and into Wales. Or head south to Oxford or London and explore the Royal River Thames along its

route from the capital to Lechlade. Scotland's waterways include the spectacular Caledonian Canal, cutting through the highlands of the Great Glen and linking together Loch Ness, Loch Oich and Loch Lochy.

Unlike rivers, canals do not stick to the valleys, but climb over hills using flights of locks or burrow through in long, cool tunnels. Cross the mighty Pennines on the Leeds & Liverpool and Rochdale canals or experience the stunning scenery and spectacular tunnels of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. High embankments and aqueducts carry canals across the valleys - to look down from a boat on Telford's 120 feet high Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, carrying the Llangollen Canal over the Dee valley, is an unforgettable experience.

Nowhere will you live closer to wildlife than on our waterways. In spring and summer wild flowers paint the banks in a blaze of colour. The busy mallard, stately swan, silent heron and even the secretive kingfisher are among your nearest



Cruising through Scotland's Great Glen on the Caledonian Canal.

INLAND WATERWAYS - WHERE CAN WE GO BOATING?



Entering the River Avon at Shakespeare's birthplace of Stratford upon Avon.

neighbours. Remember to take your camera!

But a waterway holiday is not just boating. Many attractions are next to rivers and canals, from a tiny village church or mill that features in the Domesday Book to great cathedrals, castles and stately homes such as Lincoln, Windsor and Shugborough

Hall. Study the colourful history of our waterways at the national museums in Gloucester and Ellesmere Port. Walk the Moorlands of Yorkshire and Staffordshire, the battlefield at Bosworth or the Brecon Beacons. Visit historic centres such as Chester, Bath and Oxford or - if you prefer the big city life - you can moor opposite Birmingham's International Convention Centre, by London Zoo, or in Manchester's Castlefield complex.

These are just some suggestions. Look at the map overleaf and you will see there are many other variations. For those who like to plan in detail contact APCO about where to obtain further waterway maps and guides.

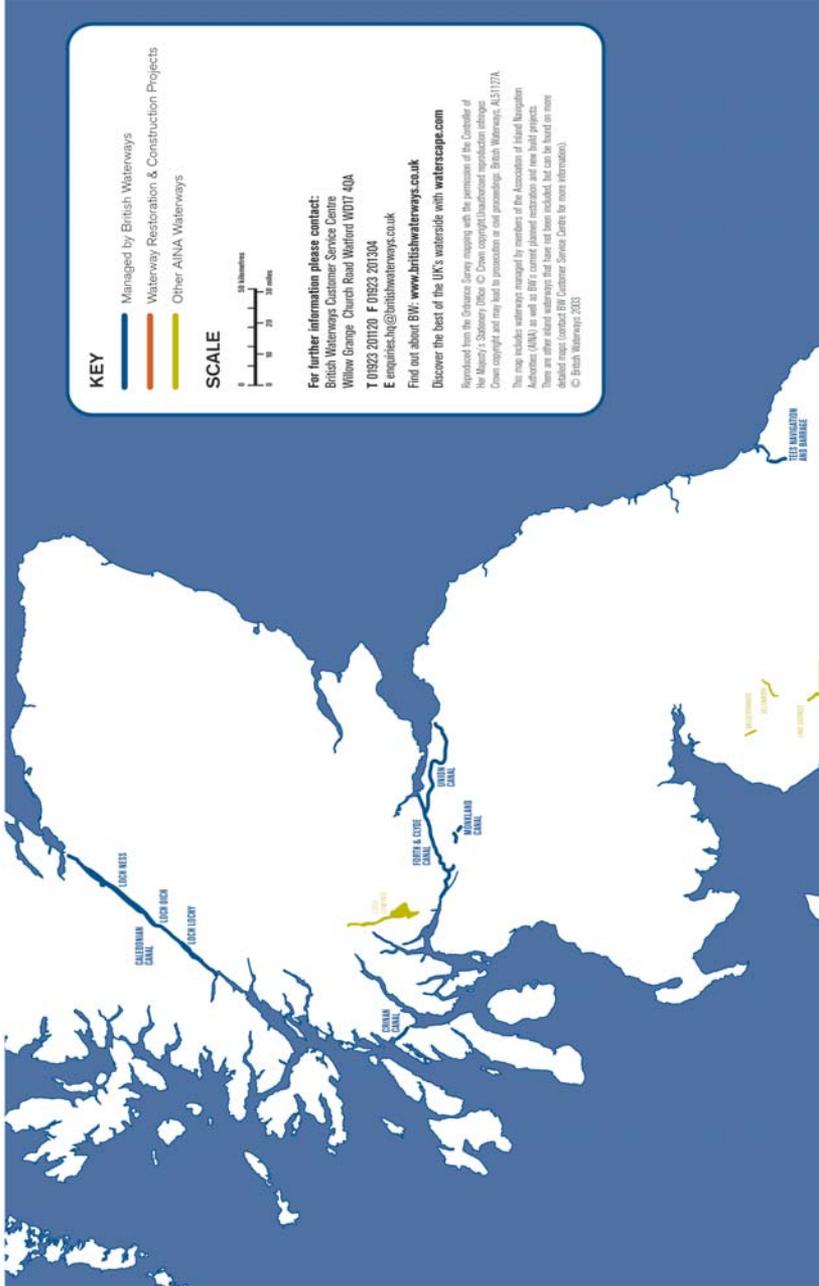
Your boat is a floating holiday home – look forward to relaxing, enjoying exploring the inland waterways and visiting some of Britain's most famous waterside places and its best kept secrets!



Passing one of England's great cathedrals at Worcester on the River Severn.



WATERWAY MAP



SELF-DRIVE BOATING HOLIDAYS

A holiday aboard a self-drive boat gives you total freedom of choice in canal and river cruising. The freedom to boat along some of Britain's finest waterways: the choice of cruising from misty dawns to spectacular sunsets, to visit market towns, glide through the heart of busy cities or to just linger leisurely in remote and rural places aboard your self-contained floating holiday home.

Boating is fun what ever your age. Relax, sunbathe as the countryside slides by – or there is lots to do for all the crew. Children take to canal boating immediately and quickly learn the few essential safety rules. Your hire boat company will also provide buoyancy aids. Tunnels, aqueducts and locks add to the adventure. Locks are easy to operate and great places to meet and chat with other boaters. And it is a holiday where you can easily take a pet - dogs in particular love boating and towpath walking!

Operating a boat is simple – a single lever gives both forward and reverse. Engines are reliable and you will be given all the necessary instructions, along with tuition on handling the boat, steering and how to work locks.

There are a variety of self-drive boats from which to make your holiday selection – from a small family cruiser up to a large 12-berth boat suitable for the extended family, groups of friends or school parties. Boats are offered for hire by the week or as short-breaks and often all year round. Canals are a magical place to spot the first spring flowers or surrounded by autumn colours, and a warm, comfortable boat makes for a cosy Christmas afloat. All this can also be enjoyed as part of a timeshare holiday scheme, or aboard your 'own' shared-ownership boat.

Because the 18th century engineers built the waterways to varying 'gauges' most boats fall into two distinct types:



A modern self-drive holiday boat gives you the freedom of the waterways.

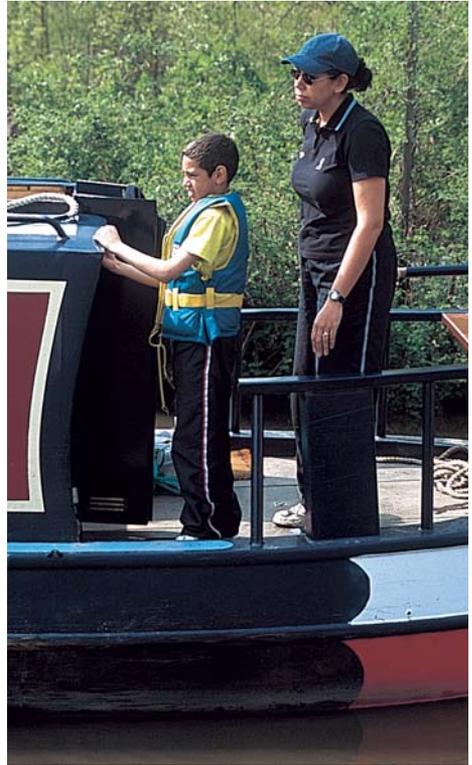
SELF-DRIVE BOATING HOLIDAYS

narrowboats - under 7ft (2.13m) wide, capable of negotiating the locks of the narrow canal system and the rest of the inland waterway network - and wide-beam cruisers (over 2.13m) generally only available on rivers and the larger canals such as the Caledonian in Scotland.

Whatever their size holiday craft do not differ in general style - the object being to provide you with a comfortable and safe boat to live aboard. Modern boats are built to high standards, fully insulated and incorporate central heating systems, constant hot and cold running water, showers and flush toilets. Fleets are continually overhauled and equipment updated, with new boats being built all the time. The great choice of holiday boat accommodation available from APCO operators is all priced at very competitive rates.

Your well-appointed holiday boat will include full-size single and double beds, ample storage space and accessories such as TVs and radio/cassette players. The kitchen is carefully planned with a refrigerator and household-size gas cooker along with a full inventory of crockery and cooking utensils. On more luxurious boats you will find extras such as microwaves, hair-dryers, CD players and mobile phone sockets. Many boats are awarded tourist board ratings.

As far as eating is concerned you can live as moderately or as richly as you choose. Boats are fully equipped to cook the most lavish meals on board and shopping for local delicacies in towns and villages along the way is always fun. But



Steering your boat is fun for all the family.

waterside restaurants and friendly local pubs abound and you can eat out every day if you wish. There need be no 'galley slaves'.

With a choice of start days for short breaks, weeks, or longer holidays, how far you cruise depends on how much holiday time you have available. Remember much of the central network of waterways is inter-connected so circular cruises are possible as well as out-and-return trips. The choice of locations from which to start your waterway holiday is enormous, many

SELF-DRIVE BOATING HOLIDAYS



Shared ownership and time-share are becoming a popular way to get involved in boating.

operators have more than one base and also offer one-way cruises.

The route your boating holiday takes will also depend on how long you wish to cruise and how much time you wish to spend sightseeing. For those who like to plan in detail your chosen APCO holiday company can supply appropriate waterway maps and guides in advance.

There is perhaps no comparable experience to living in comfort aboard a well-appointed holiday boat right next to the wildlife of the waterways: Swans, herons and kingfishers are almost within reach – fascinating for photographers, artists and for those who just love the countryside. History is all around – heritage craft, wharves, stately houses and fine grooves worn in bridges by the towing

ropes of horses long passed.

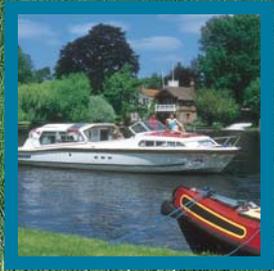
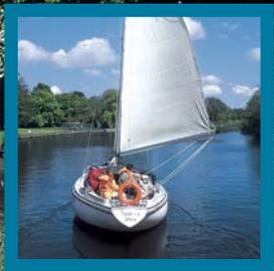
All the family and friends young and old will find delight in a boating holiday. Contact APCO or one of the holiday companies listed in the following pages to find out more.



Moor up and enjoy a meal at a canal-side pub.

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HOTEL BOAT HOLIDAYS

One of the ways to sit back in complete comfort and enjoy our waterways is to holiday aboard a hotel boat. As the name implies, the boats have all the comforts, service, and full-board accommodation you would expect in a hotel but contained in a single, or a pair of, wide or narrow beam canal boats.

Cruise periods run from short breaks to a week or more. They generally start and finish at locations where it is easy to join the boats from public transport. Individual companies cover much of the waterway network during their season, so there is a wide choice of areas. Indeed, by choosing

from the whole programme provided by APCO operators, you could cruise virtually the whole canal and river system by hotel boat.

Hotel boats offer single, twin and double cabins – many with full en-suite facilities. There is a dining room, lounge and bar and outside seating areas. None carry more than twelve passengers so there is a high standard of individual service from the friendly and knowledgeable crew and a pleasant and informal atmosphere between passengers.

Superb cuisine is the order of the day, with full English breakfasts, snacks, lunch,



A pair of hotel boats cross Chirk Aqueduct on the Llangollen Canal.

HOTEL BOAT HOLIDAYS

teas and often a four-course dinner. Chefs are used to looking after those on special diets. All food is prepared in the on-board kitchen and often includes such home-made items as cakes and bread. You can of course choose to 'walk-it-off' along the towpath or help the crew with the locks - or simply relax and enjoy the passing waterway scenes!

Booking is by individual cabin but there is the opportunity for whole-boat charters by groups. Some companies run special interest cruises featuring subjects such as painting, embroidery and waterway and industrial history. Excursions to places of interest just off the waterway are often organised as part of your holiday, and cruises are planned to include overnight moorings at agreeable locations with time to stroll for the inquisitive.



ROBIN SMITHETT

Moored up and enjoying the evening sunshine.



ROBIN SMITHETT

The conviviality of a meal aboard.

Hotel boat operators are proud of their boats as they are in their way the successors to the pairs of working narrowboats. Paintwork and decoration is often traditional, always smart and the brasswork gleams. Just one of the many reasons why their passengers return time after time.

Contact APCO or one of the specialist companies listed in the following pages to find out how you too can holiday in comfort aboard a hotel boat.

CRUISING BY THE HOUR

A popular short cruise on our waterways is aboard a passenger trip boat or a self-drive day boat.

An introduction to the delights of the rivers and canals for some and for many groups a regular outing in their social calendar.

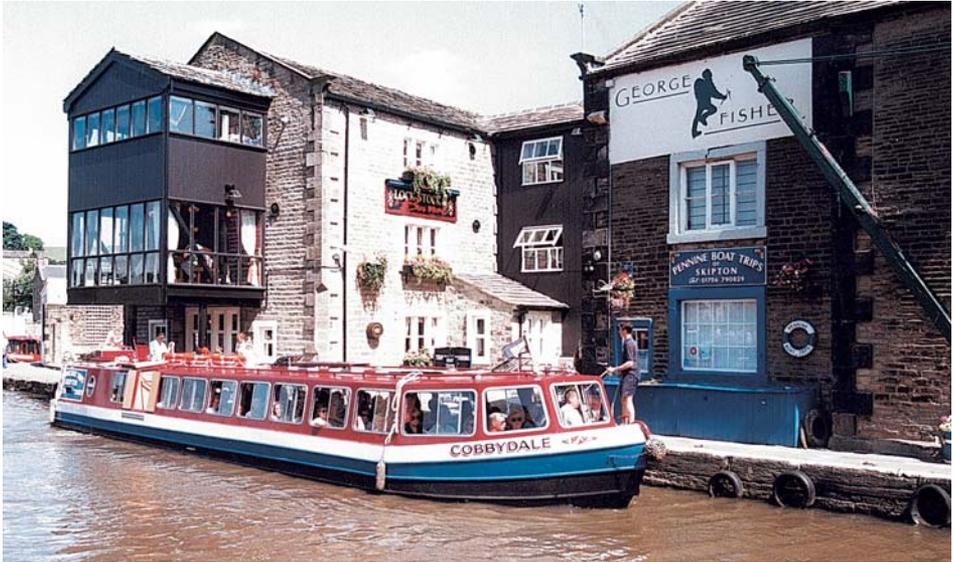
Passenger boats can be completely booked by a group or a school for an educational trip, or – particularly in the case of dining cruises – by reservation of individual seats or tables. In some locations they operate as public ‘water buses’. They usually carry between 30 and 100 passengers – depending on the waterway.

Most have a bar, which serves snacks or light meals and drinks, including alcoholic beverages.

Some are very sophisticated craft, serving freshly cooked meals of the highest standard. Sunday lunch and afternoon tea cruises are particularly popular family outings. Seating and table layouts are often totally flexible and dances, buffets, banquets, weddings, meetings, conferences and promotional events can be catered for. There is no better venue to ‘let loose from the office’ to hold a confidential meeting or celebratory party than on board a boat. Audio visual aids



Hiring a self-drive day boat is an ideal family outing.



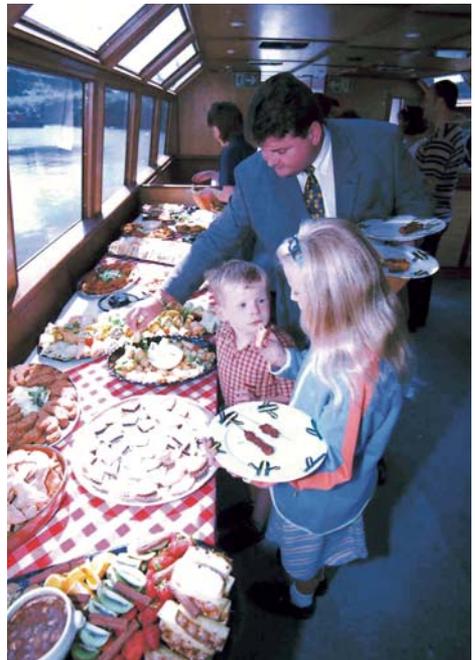
ABOVE: A trip on a passenger boat is a popular outing.

RIGHT: Meals of the highest standard can be served aboard.

and disco lighting are often standard features.

Another ideal outing for the family, or a group of friends, is to hire a self-drive day boat. Some of these can accommodate up to ten people and have cooking and toilet facilities. Usually hired by the half or full day, they provide an ideal introduction to the sights and delights of waterway cruising; with your own choice of where to stop for a while. Perhaps a picnic, or a drink or meal at one of the many waterside pubs.

Contact APCO or one of the companies listed in the following pages to find out where you can spend a day out on a boat.





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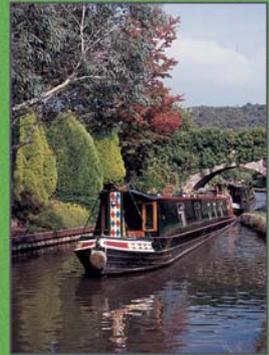
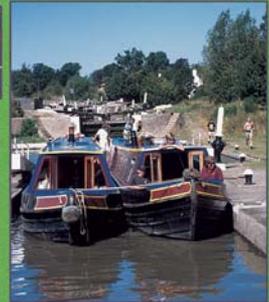
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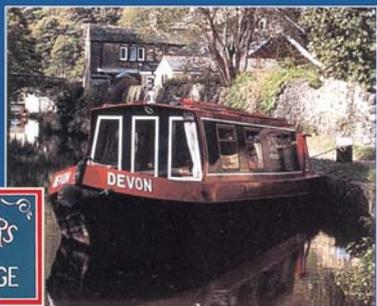
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THE HISTORY OF APCO

The birth of APCO resulted from a meeting held at PenkrIDGE – on the Staffs & Worcester Canal in Staffordshire – on 6 December 1953, to form the 'Inland Waterways Pleasurecraft Operators Association'. Subsequently changed to the 'Association of Pleasure Craft Operators on Inland Waterways' then shortened.

Representatives of seven companies attended: Canal Pleasurecraft Ltd of Stourport, Inland Waterway Cruising Company of Leighton Buzzard, Inland Navigators of Banbury, J.G.J. James of London, Waterborne Tours of PenkrIDGE, Holidays Afloat of Market Drayton and Canal Cruising Company of Stone (the latter two are still in business and APCO members). These, along with Inland Cruising Association of Chester, Deans of Chester and Dobsons of Burton-on-Trent, formed the Association at its outset.

The objects of the Association were then simply "to promote and protect the interest of members" but have become much wider and more detailed as APCO has progressed; they now include promoting pleasure boating, representing the industry, increasing boat safety standards and actively encouraging people to 'get on the water'.

The chairman of that very first meeting was a Mr.R.H. Lee, who appeared not to be involved in the canal business but was a council member of the Inland Waterways Association and also a very good amateur film-maker - as his surviving waterway films illustrate. A committee of three was formed - Tom Whitley of Waterborne Tours, Rendel Wyatt of Canal Cruising Company and John James – who between them represented hotel, hire and passenger boat operators.

It was agreed that this committee should

One of the earliest APCO leaflets.

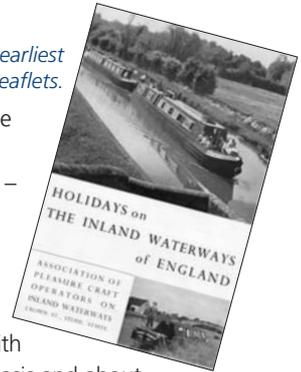
meet the board of the Docks & Inland Waterways Executive – which administered their waterways in separate 'Divisions' – to establish whether APCO should deal with them on a national basis and about unifying the differing charges for pleasure boating made by each division. Boat licence charges have been on APCO agendas ever since!

A small leaflet, listing members, was to be printed and distributed and an advertisement placed in the holiday page of *The Sunday Times* inviting "enquiries as to canal holidays".

The first AGM was held at Braunston on 12 December 1954 when Tom Whitley and Randall Wyatt stood down, due to pressure of business, and Captain Lionel Munk of Maid Line Cruisers Ltd was elected as chairman, with Michael Streat of the Inland Waterway Cruising Company as secretary.

APCO has since had a history of elected officers prominent in the industry and the waterways' world. All originally served on a voluntary basis until – with the expansion of membership – a paid part-time secretary, Harry Arnold, was appointed in 1970.

Since 1980 the Association has had its own headquarters where secretary, Bob Johnstone, is based and is now backed by the resources of the British Marine Federation – since APCO became a BMF group member in 1990. The Association also has regional branches to assist with any local matters.



INLAND WATERWAY BOATING - 50 YEARS AGO

There has been pleasure boating from the earliest days of the canals. The Duke of Bridgewater had his own boat at Worsley in the 1760s and there were others during the subsequent 150 years, such as Temple Thurston and Henry de Salis, who boated for pleasure on a largely working system. There were of course trip boats, rowing boats and punts for hire, particularly on rivers, and especially popular in Victorian and Edwardian times.



A hire cruiser on the Shropshire Union Canal almost 50 years ago.

What we now call 'live-aboard' boats, for private and holiday use, first developed on the Broads in the early twentieth century, closely paralleled by the River Thames. On what might be described as 'the rest' – the main river and canal network – holiday boating didn't really start until the 1930s, with pioneering boatyards such as the Inland Cruising Association (subsequently Inland Hire Cruisers) at Chester offering boats for hire on the Shropshire Union and Llangollen canals. This business was started by David Wain's father and carried on by David, who is now APCO President.

With World War II came the publication of Tom Rolt's famous book *Narrow Boat* which awakened a new interest in waterway cruising on the main canal network that was, by 1948, mostly nationalised and managed under the name of the Docks & Inland Waterways Executive; later British Waterways. Rolt's writing had led to the founding of the Inland Waterways Association in 1946 and inspired many to get onboard a boat and explore our canals and rivers.

So, what was it like in the early 1950s, and how could you get afloat? You could follow in Rolt's footsteps and convert a working narrowboat. Commercial carrying was generally declining and narrowboats could be bought fairly cheaply. There were a few specialist cruisers being built, mainly on the Broads and Thames and you could have one 'narrowed': Or buy a small cruiser that was built primarily for sea-going use but would fit through narrow locks. There were very popular do-it-yourself conversions of

INLAND WATERWAY BOATING - 50 YEARS AGO



CANAL CRUISING COMPANY

Some of the first canal hire boats were converted working narrowboats.

all sorts of hulls; particularly ship's lifeboats and ex-army pontoons, and others such as inspection launches, ex-wartime fire floats and even Uffa Fox-designed airborne lifeboats.

New holiday hire companies started: the Canal Cruising Company at Stone in 1947 and a little later, the Wyvern Shipping Company at Leighton Buzzard (both still APCO members). Blue Line at Braunston, Welsh Canal Holiday Craft at Llangollen, Deans of Chester and Canal Pleasurecraft at Stourport; Davisons and Dobsons on the Trent and the Trent & Mersey were others. Some, like Lionel Munk's Maid Line, expanded from the Thames to acquire Midland canal bases. Most pioneered the building of specialist 6ft. 10in. beam canal

hire craft, which were also bought by private owners. Hotel boating had also just started, with New Way Holidays, and there was a cheaper alternative aboard a horse-drawn 'hostelboat'. John James, with *Jason*, began running canal trips to London Zoo during the Festival of Britain year of 1951.

The elaborately fitted, box-construction steel narrowboats that now proliferate were still over 10 years away. In 1954 there was no central heating, showers, refrigerators and on-board entertainment systems. Loos were mostly 'bucket-and-chuck-it' and there were no sanitary stations: You carried a shovel and buried the contents behind a hedge. Some boats had sea-toilets, flushing into the water,

INLAND WATERWAY BOATING - 50 YEARS AGO

which is now frowned upon and illegal.

A few boats had pumped pressure water systems but drinking water was mostly carried in containers. Water points were few and far between and were generally located by lock cottages where the working boat families filled their water cans on the move. Apart from the slow-running diesel engines in bigger boats, most power units were oddly marinised petrol engines or somewhat unreliable outboards. Fuel was a problem and generally involved long walks with cans to a garage.

Detailed guides and maps didn't come in until the publication of the British Waterways' 'blue books' for individual waterways in the late 50s. A copy of Teddy Edwards' reference work *Inland Waterways of Great Britain*, used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey maps was the usual combination. Henry de Salis's *Bradshaw's Canals & Navigable Rivers of England and Wales*, published in the early years of the century was highly prized for its technical detail but did not provide the descriptions and information we take for granted in today's cruising guides.

Although you wouldn't meet many like-minded pleasure boaters, there was still heavy commercial traffic on many of rivers and the wide canals into the early 1960s. On canals like the Grand Union, the Coventry, the Northern Oxford, the Shropshire Union, the Trent & Mersey and the Bridgewater you would regularly meet working narrowboats.

In the 1950's there was little chance of 'eating out'. Many original canalside pubs

have survived and indeed have multiplied, but were then rather basic bars. A pork pie and a pint were the likely fare on offer, with little choice of drinks for the ladies. But the bonus was that you often spent your evening in the company of working boatmen, canal maintenance men and other knowledgeable locals. The canalside village general store was frequent in the 1950s; a source of miscellaneous hardware and regular fresh provisions - remember there was still some rationing. Today's small canalside shops have diversified into crafts, souvenirs and convenience foods and major



CANAL CRUISING COMPANY

The interior of an early canal hire boat.

INLAND WATERWAY BOATING - 50 YEARS AGO

supermarkets occupy prime waterside sites. Facilities may have improved, but shopping is not quite the experience it was - modern hygiene restrictions mean you can no longer moor up and buy milk 'straight from the cow' at the local farm!

Today's waterways are a hive of leisure activity and a focus for rural and urban regeneration. In the 1950s you would have found many waterways busy with commercial traffic and a lot more maintenance staff – including lock keepers - on the ground, but many more navigations (now re-opened) had been closed, or were becoming impassable. The Upper Avon had long gone, but the first waterway restoration scheme - for the Lower Avon - had started. This was soon to

be followed by schemes to restore the upper part of the Great Ouse and the virtually derelict southern section of the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal. The Huddersfield Narrow Canal was officially closed, as was the Montgomery and Llangollen canals, but boats were still pushing their way up the latter, always popular waterway. The Kennet & Avon Canal had fallen into disrepair, as had the Brecon & Abergavenny, the upper parts of the Chesterfield and the Lancaster, the Rochdale, Ashton and Lower Peak Forest canals.

Although there may be some nostalgia for the old days, in fifty years much on Britain's inland waterways has changed for the better.



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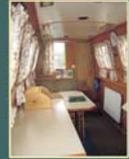
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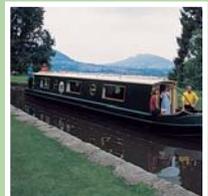
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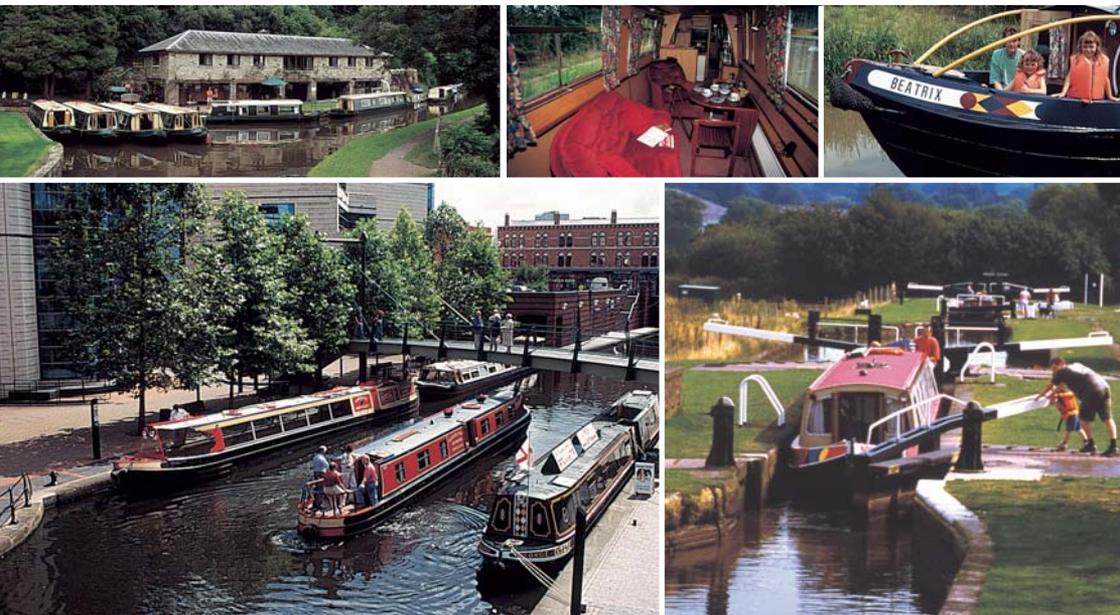
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