Canal Boat Training Courses



[1]**The Pirate Castle offers a range of NCBA accredited courses and in-house experience days for canal boat handling and trip management. As a founding member of the National Community Boats Association (NCBA), we were at the forefront of creating nationally recognised training, accreditation and licensing frameworks for community boating operations across the U.K.**

Our NCBA trainers have many years' experience across a wide variety of craft (please see the biographies below), so whether you intend to work on a community boat or wish to learn the fundamentals of boating and canal etiquette, The Pirate Castle is the place to come.



[2]

Accredited training courses generally run over weekends throughout the year, with weekday sessions available by prior arrangement. You will have the option to stay on our boats overnight for certain courses if you wish - mixing with other trainees, sharing experiences and chatting with the trainers is all part of the experience.

Our courses and experience days are run from The Pirate Castle in Camden Town. You might want to have a look around Camden Market or slip into the West End at the end of the day.



[3]

Biographies:

Andrew Carpenter is our principle Boat Manager and Trainer. He became involved in Community Boating in 1998. He has had wide experience of both wide and narrow craft, and is a registered trainer for both the RYA and the NCBA. He also holds a Boatmasters Licence. Andrew’s other interests include Art, Music, History and Natural History.

Kal Webb is an NCBA Certified Trainer. She's also our Development Manager and first joined The Pirate Castle as a volunteer in 2004 when she trained with us to become a canal boat skipper to help run our Charity's boat trips. Kal's lived on her own narrowboat since 2009 and is passionate about sharing her boating skills and knowledge.

Petr Mitterbach is another of our Trainers and is also one of our long standing Volunteer Skippers. He became involved in Community Boating at The Pirate Castle in 2004 and is very experienced with narrowboats on London's waterways. Petr is also a registered trainer for the NCBA. His other interests include loud music, cycling and scuba diving - but not all at the same time!

We run the following NCBA-accredited courses:

The Certificate in Community Boat Management (CCBM), the Community Crew Course (CCC), the Boat Handling Certificate (BHC)

The CCBM

The **Certificate in Community Boat Management** is designed for those people who work with a variety of groups on the inland waterways. It is endorsed by the Canal and Rivers Trust and supported by the Maritime Coastguard Agency.



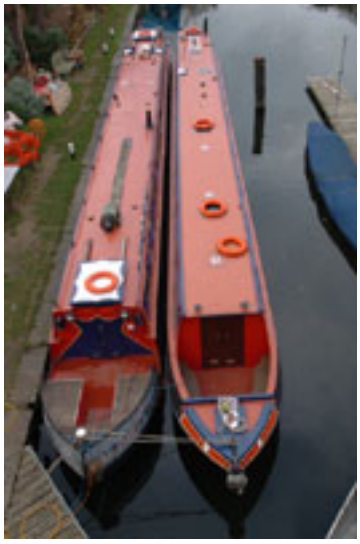
[4]The course draws on current best practice as supplied by the

member organisations of the NCBA, operating a wide variety of craft for use by community groups, often made up of disabled and disadvantaged people. It represents the minimum recommended level of training to become a community boat skipper (or small passenger vessel skipper).

The aims of the course are to give crew of community boats on non-tidal rivers and canals training in boat handling, boat maintenance and the management of group safety and welfare.

Anyone of the age of seventeen or over can obtain a CCBM Certificate. It is however assumed that you will have some experience of working with groups and have previous practical experience of boating. The CCBM Course itself is of 20 hours duration, run by a qualified NCBA Trainer and usually run over a long weekend, typically from a Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, including an evening session on the Friday and Saturday. We also encourage our candidates arriving on the first evening to stay on the boat if possible, as this gives everyone a chance to get to know each other socially over the duration of the course. The maximum number of candidates per course is five. Successful candidates will qualify to operate boats carrying a maximum of 12 passengers on the inland waterways of the UK.

The CCC



[5]The **Community Crew Course** is a foundation course, designed to build the levels of skills and experience needed to crew a community boat.

A Trainer or Mentor will lead the course which is of 20 hours duration. The NCBA CCC course can be delivered over a long weekend or spread out over four 5 hour days or longer if required.

The course will provide you with all the skills and knowledge needed to act as crew on a community boat. You will become the extra eyes, ears and hands of the person in charge of the boat. The maximum number of candidates per course is five and the minimum age requirement is 14.

You can take as little or as much time as you need to complete the course depending on your previous experience and aptitude.

The BHC

The **Boat Handling Course** is designed primarily for those who own their own boats or those who are contemplating a boating holiday. It will give you the foundation skills to operate a boat safely and efficiently on inland waterways, and is suitable for those with little or no experience, be they young or old, or those who would simply just like to brush up on their existing boating skills. The NCBA certificated course is taken over two days with the maximum number of candidates per course being four, and the minimum age 14. Note: This course is not

suitable for those wishing to be skippers of small passenger vessels (Please see CCBM above) and is only available by arrangement with us. Please contact us for possible dates.

In addition to the NCBA accredited courses The Pirate Castle also offers our own in-house **Boat Handling Experience Days** which offers tuition in basic boating skills but in a more informal setting. These experience days are also suitable for those contemplating a boating holiday, buying a boat, or those wishing to brush up on their current boating skills. This non-certificated one day attendance experience is available for a maximum of four people per day, with a minimum age of 14. Please see our News section for dates and times of upcoming Boat Handling Experience Days (if the scheduled dates of the Boat Handling Experience Days are not suited to your requirements then please contact us and we may be able to arrange a bespoke experience on a day of your choosing, subject to availability). We also offer the option for the BHED to be taken aboard your own vessel provided we are satisfied that the boat in question meets all our critera for suitability (we will provide you with a list of our requirements in this case)

The cost of the training courses:

If people are training for the purpose of becoming volunteer skippers for The Pirate Castle then some or all of the training costs may be subsidised (you will always have to at least pay the certification and paperwork costs yourself). As CCBM training is costly, our policy is to only take on volunteers who can commit to helping us run our services.

Outside groups wishing to do an NCBA training course at the Pirate Castle should ring Andrew Carpenter on 0207 2676605 to discuss their requirements and obtain a price.



[6]

What next?

The training will give you a range of skills in boat handling. It should help to build your confidence too. That is enough in itself, but we hope that you will decide to give some time to the cause of community boating. The Pirate Castle is always in need of trained skippers to run trips for the club members and the outside groups that use our boats. We also need a pool of volunteers to maintain our boats. Help is wanted for marketing and promotion as well.

For further information on training and / or bookings, please email us [7] or call 020 7267 6605.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Levels of qualification [8]
Training course programmes [9]

Source URL:http://thepiratescastle.org/canal-boat-training-courses-0

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