

# coast *character*

Powerboat instructor PETER WHITE on his switch from sailing and how he keeps married couples together **WORDS Janet McMeekin PHOTOGRAPH Claire Lloyd Davies**

**A**lthough I teach powerboat handling courses all over the country, I have a soft spot for Chichester Harbour in West Sussex. It's an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it's where I discovered the delights of sailing on my father-in-law's yacht in the Sixties. Soon, I had progressed from learning how to sail dinghies to teaching and I then qualified as a Royal Yachting Association coach. That's when I first encountered powerboats, and used them for both rescuing people and as a teaching platform.

'I spotted a gap in the market: there were no specialised mobile powerboat training schools in the country. People told me it wouldn't work but that was like a red rag to a bull! Seafever International was

born. Since launching the company in 1988, we've trained more than 3,500 students and the work has taken me from the British Virgin Islands to the United Arab Emirates. My clients range from pilots to barristers, fishermen to divers. I have taught celebrities, even royalty.

'I get a real kick from watching my students achieve. On more than one occasion, I've been told I have helped to keep marriages going by giving couples a shared interest. Powerboating has become a way of life for me and if I don't have my fix, I suffer withdrawal symptoms. It's pure escapism.'

Visit [seafever.net](http://seafever.net) for details. Powerboating: The RIB and Sportsboat Handbook by Peter White (£14.99, [wiley.com](http://wiley.com)).

