



'Gazela' Makes Side Trips to Baltimore and Annapolis

by KYW's Steve Tawa

Philadelphia's own tall ship, the Gazela, will shove off from the Penn's Landing waterfront before dawn on Wednesday, to be one of the star attractions at Baltimore's inner harbor festival.

An entirely volunteer crew of 25 will be aboard the ship as it motors to Baltimore at about eight miles per hour.

Volunteer Gina Pickton is a medic when not tying knots, steering, standing watch, and climbing 90-foot masts to set the sails. She says the Gazela holds up well against other tall ships:

"I think she's one of the cooler ones. She's got so much history. So many of the boats are just reproductions -- she's the real thing."

Ed Stemmler, head of the Ship Preservation Guild, says there will be dockside tours at the Baltimore harbor fest until May 4th, when the crew will install sails and nearly 100 lines to sail the 177-foot-long ship in a parade of sails to Annapolis for a yacht race:

"We're going down as an historical representation of what used to be, versus these 70-foot megayachts sailing around the world."

Her records date from 1901, but there's good evidence that many of the timbers used in the construction of the Gazela, in Portugal, were from the 1880s.

When not docked in Philadelphia this summer, the Gazela will sail to Norfolk, Va.; Portland, Maine; Newport, Rhode Island; Gloucester, Mass.; Cape Cod; and Lewes, Del.

(File photo: CBS-3)