

Tina Grosick

In 1995 my sister Dorothy persuaded me to volunteer on the Tall Ship Gazela. My interest in ships was mostly motor boats, whether for fishing or high speed thrills. I had no real interest in sailing but figured what the heck. That summer, my sister, our Mom (Priscilla) and I sailed together to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. It was one of the greatest things that we had ever done in our lives!

While in St. John Newfoundland, a friend took my sister and I to see the founding ship of ASTA, the Black Pearl. He warned us to be quiet because the Captain was sleeping and he was really tired. Dorothy and I tend to get a bit giddy when we are together and were quickly chased off the ship by a long haired grumpy man!

By the next summer, I had caught the sailing bug and decided to do it again, but solo. I met up with the crew the night before leaving at the infamous Khyber Pass Pub in Philly. Much to my chagrin, I spotted the guy from Black Pearl and found out he was one of the officers for the trip. Right then and there I thought it was going to be the trip from Hell!

We set off for Boston and I was on my best behavior. When we got into town a bunch of us went to the Black Rose Tavern. Grumpy and I ended up talking and I discovered that he never knew who I was because he didn't have his glasses on. Somehow, at that very moment, I think I fell in love with Robert Rustchak and we have been together ever since!

Gazela is a big part of our lives and I can't imagine what life would be like had I not taken that first step onto the gangway.