

Our Story

By Roberto and Maria Rosa, Kadey-Krogen 48' North Sea, *Gratitude*

We always knew we loved being on the water. We took our first cruise to the Caribbean Islands in 1991, and immediately fell in love with the ocean. Every year, we would cruise twice a year, during our son's school vacations. It didn't even matter which islands the cruise ship would visit; we picked our cruises based on the "most sea days" they would offer. Something enchanting about being on the water and the sound of the crushing waves...

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Naturally, during the summer we wanted to be near the water, and each summer we began renting homes in various places along the Massachusetts and Maine coasts, and finally decided that we should buy a beach home. So we looked: Martha's Vineyard, Chatham, Onset, Gloucester, Bar Harbor among many other lovely places, but did we want to always go to the same place and give up all the others?

Then one day in July of 2008, we visited a friend in New Jersey, a long time sailor, and he invited us to have drinks on his moored sailboat. We spent the evening just sitting at a mooring admiring the scenery, the stillness of the water; then came the sunset... This was our first time sitting on anything other than a mega-cruise ship. We had told our friend that we had been looking for a beach house, to which he commented, "Forget the beach house, buy a boat. You can move your beach house wherever you want to go, and if you don't like your neighbor...you move."

We left that evening with a newfound dream. But how could we? We had never even piloted a dinghy. Well, we attended our first Newport Boat Show that year, and walked right past the sailboats, "They seem to be too much work and too complicated," we said to each other. So we started visiting slick-looking powerboats, and as we were approached by the





salespeople we would tell them that we were “new to this and had no experience.”

“Well...do you want a boat with a flybridge?” Maria and I looked at each other and asked, “What’s a flybridge?” You can imagine the reaction.

Finally we told someone that we wanted something more like a “home boat,” and so they pointed us to the trawlers. We climbed on board every single trawler in attendance, but kept going back on the Krogen, and that’s when our love affair started. We asked a million questions, and drove Bill Harris absolutely crazy. That fall and winter we started taking classes with the local power squadron and the following September chartered a Krogen 48’, *Ann Louise*, on the Chesapeake with John Martino and Doug Tyson from the Annapolis School of Seamanship. This was not meant to be a “pleasure” charter, but mainly a “teaching” charter, but also a test for us to see if we actually liked being on the water on something a bit smaller than a cruise ship, and with us in control. We LOVED it!

We knew that we had found what we had been looking for. We drove from Annapolis straight to the Newport Boat Show, met with Bill Harris and Larry Polster, and nine months later on June 16, 2010, our baby, *Gratitude*, was delivered weighing 55,000 pounds at 48-feet long.

We could write a book on our first days of training with Gregg Gandy, another saint

from Kadey-Krogen, but we will skip the details for now. Since that day, we have cruised the Narragansett Bay, Martha’s Vineyard, Nantucket, Wood’s Hole, Cape Cod Canal, Provincetown, Boston Harbor, the Connecticut coast, Hell Gate, East River, New Jersey coast, and have been through pea soup fog, cruised at night, and this year our first personal greatest accomplishment was bringing *Gratitude* to the Kadey-Krogen rendezvous in Solomon’s on our own. We enjoy every single moment we are on board. Whether we are at the dock (although we rarely stay at the dock), underway or our favorite part, anchoring, our Krogen has changed our lives for the better in so many ways. It is a more peaceful and relaxing lifestyle, and we have met some of the nicest people along the way.

Regrets? Yes. We should have done it sooner.

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