

LA MIA BARCA (“My Boat”) – IN SARDEGNA (Sardinia)©

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, FL - July 14, 2025

For many years in my life I always wanted to own my own boat but it never happened. However, during December/1987-February/1992, while assigned as a Douglas Aircraft Co. “Tech Rep” to an airline located on the Italian island of Sardinia, in the middle of the beautiful clear & clean Mediterranean Sea, it did finally happen! Actually, an employee of the airline I was supporting was expecting an addition to his family, and it was time to sell his boat - TO ME!

I purchased the approximately 16-foot-long boat shown in the following photos for about 2500 US dollars. The boat had a near-new 25 HP Johnson outboard (help me please!) and could actually accommodate 6. It had life vests, flares, and other safety equipment as had to be inspected and approved by local authorities after I took ownership. Interestingly enough, according to Italian laws, any boat with a motor over 40 HP required the owner to have a “basic Captains License” after which the holder of the license could pilot a boat that weighed up to 11 tons! This requirement was far beyond anything I expected to do, so I learned to love my little 25 HP Johnson! Hey, I did have two 5 gallon tanks to enhance the range of my “barca”!



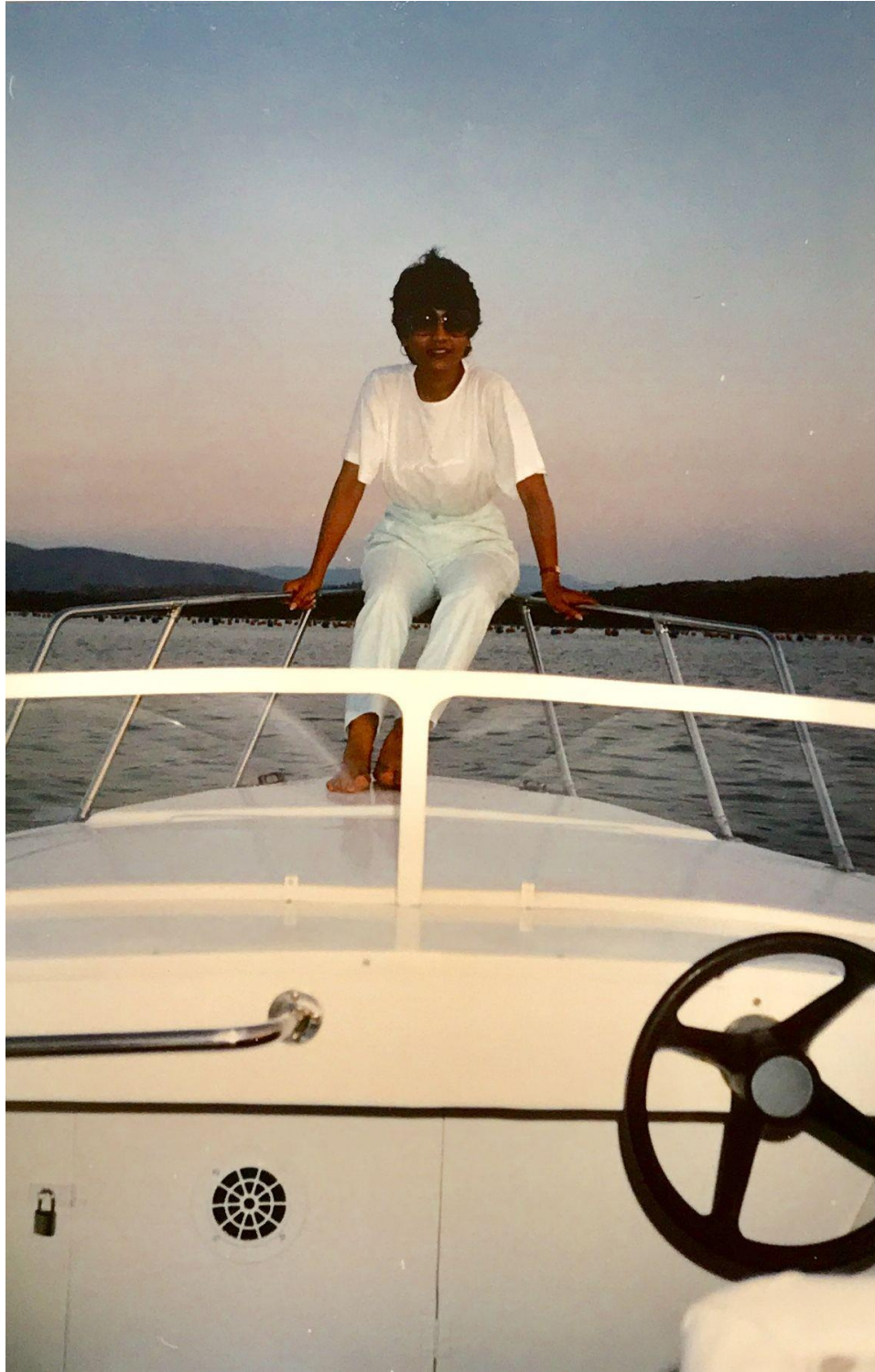
Safely docked inside the port of Olbia (On Italian Island of Sardinia)



"Capt. Dan" at the Helm!



2 Beauties – Sadhana & The Sunset!



Sadhana Enjoying a Late Afternoon Sea Breeze!

You might well imagine that taking this little under-powered boat out into the Mediterranean Sea during rough and windy conditions was not a wise thing to do and you “seasoned boaters” would be correct! But, Sadhana and I did this frequently to test our “seamanship” skills (I’m ex-Navy you know!) and with the grace of the “Goddess of the Seas” on our side, we always managed to get her back into the port and tie her up at the dock! On calm, warm, and sunny days, in the crystal clear multi-colored water of the Med, we simply jumped over the side of the boat and had a very pleasant swim!

During the time we owned this little boat, I painted it, installed a new windshield, and new carpeting. After owning this boat for several years, upon our departure from Sardinia, we managed to sell it and recovered all our expenses. So, is it really true that the best part of boat ownership is “the day you buy it and the day you get rid of it”? Perhaps so, but I don’t think we could buy the boating experiences we had in Sardinia for all the money in the world!

After my retirement in 2009 when we returned to our home in Kissimmee, Florida, I had many thoughts about acquiring another boat (only our 2nd) so that I could enjoy bass fishing in our adjacent very large East Lake Toho, a bass fishing hot spot in the USA! Well, I got entangled in Corvette ownership (a 1991 ZR1 we bought at a car show and then a new 2002 C5 coupe). For an extended period, I took care of these 2 and we attended car shows almost every weekend. And now, even though the Corvette enthusiasm has waned for quite some time and we no longer attend car shows every weekend, at our ages, purchasing our 2nd-ever boat is not a very high priority for us!

We do recognize all the fun that is being had by all of today’s boat owners and look forward to seeing the associated photos! Our simple little boat was just that, SIMPLE, but fun enough for us!



AHOY TO OUR FRIENDS! JUST STAY SAFE!