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## Sisters offer marine science expeditions at a discount out of West Palm

By **Kimberly Miller**

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Docked at the Palm Harbor Marina among multimillion-dollar yachts is a 65-foot research vessel hoping to open doors to marine scientists stymied by a lack of funds.

The Angari, the name of the boat moored in down-town West Palm Beach and the foundation that runs it, is the dream of two sisters who grew up on the water exploring the big blue Atlantic from their home in Hilton Head and vacations in the Bahamas.



**Angela Rosenberg steers the Angari off Palm Beach.** [GREG LOVETT/PALMBEACHPOST.COM]

Angela and Kari Rosenberg, whose names were combined to come up with the unique moniker Angari, founded the not-for-profit in 2016 with an initial expedition setting sail in October of that year.

Since then, they have participated in about 20 more research trips, including acting as a support vehicle for a Discovery Channel film crew working on a “SharkWeek” special, helping U.S. Geological Survey scientists study sea turtles in Everglades National Park and ferrying the University of South Florida’s Oceanography Camp for Girls on three-day trips offshore of Tampa Bay.

Angela Rosenberg, 34, who runs the daily operations of the foundation as its president and captain of the boat, said research groups are given up to a 75 percent discount compared to what it would normally cost to rent a similar vessel and crew.

“We had been talking about doing this for nearly a decade before we finally decided to do it,” said Rosenberg, who lives on Singer Island. “All the time there are scientists out there trying to do research and the funding environment isn’t great right now, and more importantly, we wanted to share what they are doing with people not in the field.”

The foundation’s website, Angari.org, includes detailed accounts of each expedition, including videos and links to articles, research papers and contact information for the participating scientists.



**The Angari Foundation owns and operates a 65-foot vessel that has been refitted to serve as a research and education platform. [ANGARI FOUNDATION]**

Angela Rosenberg has an MBA from the University of South Carolina and a master’s degree in marine geology and geophysics from the University of Miami.

Kari Rosenberg, 31, who has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Miami, creates virtual reality films for Angari as its vice president of production, but she lives in California, where she is a director of development at Marvel Studios.

While the development of the foundation was put on the back burner as the sisters pursued their educations, it became a priority after graduation when Angela Rosenberg was working at another nonprofit and saw the need for discount expeditions.

“Angari has the real potential to help local researchers by providing them with a platform from which to conduct longer duration and more distant research projects,” said Florida Atlantic University shark expert Stephen Kajiura. “With a live-aboard vessel it would provide us with greater flexibility than we would have with our university vessels, which are all small coastal boats.”

The foundation's boat has three staterooms and two bathrooms with a fully-equipped galley, washer and dryer and DirectTV, but it is small enough to maneuver close to shore for shallow-water research experiments.

Angela Rosenberg said they found the boat in Fort Lauderdale and spent about \$1 million buying it and retrofitting it with underwater lights and cameras, a 1,500-pound capacity crane and a 500-pound capacity winch.

The sisters' parents helped launch the foundation with startup money.

It also takes donations and writes grants to operate on about \$500,000 per year.

“We want scientists to come on board and be excited about getting out there and be comfortable after a long day of working,” Angela Rosenberg said. “We want them to get a good night's sleep so they can get out there the next day and get to work.”

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