

This picture shows a very familiar scene, while sailing along on a long passage, an approaching storm front with a rain squall & a 'bone in it's teeth' is gaining on us.

Our biggest sailing rule was to study the weather & time our passages for the best weather & plan to be securely anchored in a protective place when the big nasty storms come through. Simple idea, but although predicting weather is reasonably accurate for up to a few days, after that you can really only get an idea what might be coming your way when you get there. On long passages you can only time when you leave, you can get weather updates along the way that could help determine a route through calmer waters or at least let you know ya better brace for a rough ride.

Most of our passages where less than 5 days long, so we never were in any real storms on these shorty passages, But we would often be 'Chased by a storm' on many passages. We would often time our departure just after a storm has passed with the idea that we would sail along in fair weather & reach our destination before the next storm front comes along.

There is a bit of truth to the saying " sailing is 98% pure tranquility & 2% of holding on for dear life...except ya always have to be holding on for dear life unless the boat is not moving... The faster the boat moves, generally, the harder it will be to get back on. Waves & stormy conditions usually accompany the fast boat speeds, which make even seeing you floating away quickly a diminishing possibility. So even though there is no need to panic....you still have to hold on for dear life, this time with a wee bit more muscle in it ;-)

Holding on for dear life is, well, a way of life on the boat & I have my favorite places in which to hold on for dear life. The classic bow ride, Titanic style with the feet well supported & arms outstretched to the heavens while your magic carpet ride glides across the horizons. Then

when it get a bit too rough for the bow, there's a nice view from mid ship spreaders. These stout mast stays always provide a good solid grip.

If our only concern was to find a fun place in which to hold on for dear life, fine but often the only reason in the world to be on deck in nasty storm would be to perform some sort of boat duties, these activities of course require at least one or two hands, which challenging enough makes it a wee bit harder to hold on for dear life...our number 1 duty...staying on the boat.

So of course we're always 'tethered' on the boat... except at anchor, or a real calm sail...ok, at least at night & rough passages. This tether will do the holding on for dear life for us so we perform our boat duties with blue water awash from a breaking wave...except for the boat duties this is real fun AND ya don't have to even hold on for dear life the tether does all the work ;-) but the thought of how far will I be dangling from the the end of the tether? Will I be dragging in the water or dangling off the side of the boat? So while working the deck on a stormy passage. these questions cause us to at least hold on with one hand ... "one hand for yourself & one hand for the ship", as they say...