



In 1984 Classmate Bill Speary and his wife Judy made a decision that would totally change their lifestyle. They like to refer to their story as “How Not to Buy a Sailboat”. One day after Bill returned from the Annapolis Boat Show, he said “I want to buy a sailboat”. Judy was dumbfounded, but said yes even though they didn’t know anything about sailing. The next day they went back to the boat show and bought a Whitby 42 Sailboat. They

found out that the manufacturer offered a free week of sailing to new buyers on a Whitby down in St Thomas. A month later they were on a plane flying to St. Thomas. The flight to St. Thomas was tense with both thinking of all the money spent and their lack of sailing ability. When they arrived they hired a Captain to teach them how to begin sailing.

They told the Captain that he could sail the first day, but then, he could sit in the corner, and watch them try to sail the boat. They survived the week without doing anything dangerous or damaging the boat. A new lifestyle was born!!

They called their new boat JANUS (in Roman religion and myth Janus is the god of new beginnings – the End of one lifestyle, the Beginning of another lifestyle).

They sailed around Annapolis for several years. Around 1990 Judy decided they were going on sailing adventures or they would sell the boat. In October 1991, Hurricane Grace went north and JANUS went south to the Caribbean.

During the many years to follow there were many sailing adventures that took the Spearys to the Virgin Islands, Trinidad, Martinique, the Bahamas, Guyana, Mexico, etc. They sail a lot less now. JANUS is with them in Florida and they have been living on her since 2012. You can look at the Speary’s web sites at <http://cruising.speary.com/1985Janus5pg.pdf> to see a story from the viewpoint of JANUS and <http://cruising.speary.com/> to see accounts of all their sailing adventures.

May you have fair winds and following seas.