

BIO: DAVE AND JAJA MARTIN

Dave Martin, raised in Seattle, Washington, has been sailing since he was seven years old. After high school graduation in 1981, he chose cruising over college and moved aboard a 25-foot sailboat. “Going places” (geographically) became Dave’s number one ambition. In 1985, he completely rebuilt the boat himself, renamed it *Direction*, and set off alone to sail around the world. To finance his travels, Dave worked in various fields along the way, including commercial scuba diving, wooden boat construction, fiberglass boat repair, custom epoxy laminating, commercial cleaning (at one point he was cleaning 65 toilets a week), ceramic tiling, painting, public speaking, and sailing instruction.

Jaja (pronounced “zsa-zsa”) Martin was raised in Westfield, New Jersey, and learned to sail on the Navesink River. After earning a B.S. degree at the University of Maine, she went to work as a draftsman for a log home company in 1985. After six months, she became disillusioned with the 9-to-5 routine, quit, and began a new career teaching sailing for an international hotel chain. Her job took her to many different countries, including a small island in the Caribbean where she met Dave.

In 1988, Jaja joined Dave aboard *Direction*, and together they began a seven-year voyage around the world. They were married in Barbados, West Indies, and their three children—Chris, Holly, and Teiga—were born in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, respectively. Chris and Holly came on board as one-day-old infants. Teiga was born aboard.

In 1997, after a short stint living ashore in North Carolina, Dave, Jaja, and the kids—all under the age of seven—set sail again. This time, they moved up to the 33-foot *Driver*, which the Martins completely refurbished themselves. Their three-year, 11,000-mile voyage (the subject of *Into the Light*) took them north to the pack ice above the Arctic Circle.

Since 1995, Dave and Jaja have sold 30 magazine articles and over 80 photographs describing their cruising adventures. They frequently give slide shows and lectures, including a sold-out presentation at the Mystic Seaport Museum. In 2008 they were featured in the PBS documentary *Ice Blink*.

As well as sailing, writing, and photography, Dave has been a classical guitarist and a woodworking enthusiast for 25 years. Jaja began playing cello at age 11 and has performed in several symphony orchestras worldwide. She also likes to fly small airplanes, parachute, and scuba dive. Both Dave and Jaja are avid skiers and hikers.

The Martin family is currently living in Bristol, Maine.

