

DYNAMIC DUO. The Nealises (below) found a great entertaining and cruising platform in their True North 38.



Jim and Bernadette Nealis: True North 38

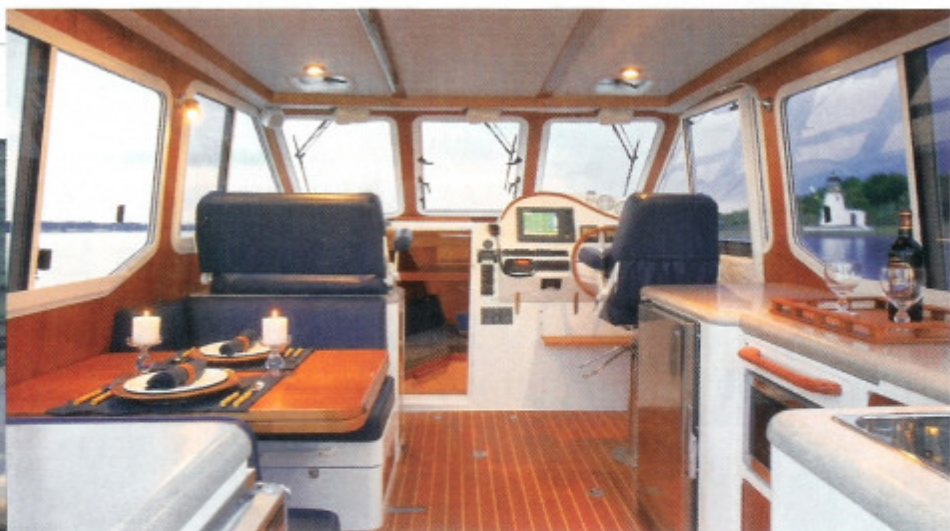
When they were shopping for their first powerboat, Jim and Bernadette Nealis of Rock Hall, Maryland, would ask for opinions from their friends who owned and had many years of experience with powerboats. The Nealises were not new to boating — they had been sailing for years on a 19-foot Rhodes — but this was unfamiliar territory for them in some ways. After they took delivery of their True North 38 in June 2007, they were happy to learn that many of their friends were telling their own acquaintances how well the True North performed.

“My neighbor, also an ex-sailor, was aboard one night, talking about his new boat and how noisy he thought it was,” says Jim. “He



was standing in the cockpit at the time. I asked him if he thought my new boat was loud and he said, ‘This is not noise.’ When I opened the hatch, he was shocked to see the big 480 Yanmar.”

Jim and Bernadette are pleased



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where they put their tools,” says Jim. “I was in the manufacturing business, so these details jump out at me. You can assess quality when you see how something is built.”

In addition to a well-made design, Jim and Bernadette were looking for a great entertainer and a capable cruising platform when they started their search for a new boat. They say they’ve found both things in the True North. “We do a lot of entertaining at home, but in the summer it’s all about the boat,” says Bernadette. The galley-up layout instantly appealed to both of them. So did the convertible seating in the big, 90-square-foot cockpit. Modular benches can be set up across the transom or moved to lie alongside the gunwales. When the benches are pulled away from the transom, two clamshell transom doors can be swung open for access to the swim platform. True North literature describes this feature as ideal for active people who want to pull kayaks and other water-sports gear on and off the boat easily. The Nealis say they’re not that athletically ambitious, but they do like all that the sleek lines of the tumblehome transom do for the look of the boat, which is more than an eyebrow-raiser.

“The staff at the marina where we

keep the True North tells us we have the sexiest boat on the water,” says Jim. “We hear that kind of thing a lot.” The Nealis acknowledge that “sexy” is a word more often used to describe an Italian import rather than a traditional New England boat built with Yankee ingenuity, but the adjective fits. When they first started their search for a powerboat, they did check out one European model with an excellent reputation. “It was gorgeous, right down to the glass sinks in the head,” says Jim. “But that wasn’t what we thought a boat should look like. We wanted something classic.”

Jim and Bernadette made the decision to buy a serious cruiser (the True North has a roomy single cabin for overnighting) because their goal is to explore more of the Chesapeake. With plenty of LOA and a V-hull, their boat, *LASTLAF*, can take them into the tributaries they couldn’t get to before, where they hope to put the anchor down and just enjoy. Their boat proved itself a capable performer early on, when the couple drove it down to Rock Hall from Bristol, Rhode Island, after they took delivery. “It ran well, even in the rough stuff that’s common in Delaware Bay,” says Jim. “Basically, it’s doing everything the builder said it could do.” ♦

True North 38

LOA: 41'6"

Beam: 13'6"

Draft: 3'6"

Disp.: 15,000 lbs.

Fuel: 220 gals.

Water: 100 gals.

Standard Power: (1) 480 hp Yanmar

Contact: True North, tnyachts.com

Price: \$482,500

with the quality of their True North, but it hasn’t come as a surprise. Before they bought the boat, they visited the builder’s yard in Rhode Island. They were impressed with the construction processes employed (Scrimp, for instance), the quality of the materials used in production and the people they met who were working there. “We saw how much time they devote to each job, how clean they keep the facility, even