

**Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our
56' Ocean Yacht.**

Somewhere on the Water

December 14, 2021 – Day 7 Tuesday Atlantic City, NJ to Cape May, NJ

Good morning from Atlantic City. It is such a beautiful sunny morning. I am so happy to have some time to enjoy a calm, flat calm, morning with the boat not rocking, or creaking. For the first time in over a week I was able to get on the rowing machine. I struggled through 5-miles and broke no records however I did work up a good sweat and my view was one of a filled marina. There are so many boats here. We are guessing some transients (like us), some must have slips here year-round, seasonal, and perhaps some have just popped into the marina so they can go to the casinos. All speculation.

The facilities at the Golden Nugget were challenging. Although we were told they clean the bathrooms/showers every day, the wad of hair in the middle of the floor of the women's shower room along with piles of wet towels on the sink does not lead me to believe it is a *thorough* cleaning! The lights are kept dim in there for a reason; so you cannot see what you are stepping into. It took forever and ever to get hot water to come out of the pipes. I almost gave up and left. **Finally; Success.** Maneuvered around a very tiny space and when Mark and I compared notes to how the men's room was, we discovered both would rate the Golden Nugget showers a thumbs down.

Risking TMI; the showers at the One15 Marina in Brooklyn did not offer any better of an experience. Cleaner, yes. The size was small. Once we were let into the locked marina office by a worker in the adjoining Ebb & Flow Bakery we discovered a one-stall shower room. Toilet separate. Mark and I looked at each other and shrugged our shoulders with a whatever attitude and both went in. With a shower curtain separating a small sink and fold-up chair, we managed.

The marina manager was in the office when we were all finished up. She was very chatty and nice letting us in on her daily struggles of employees,

covid, etc. The marina every year hosts a holiday festival with Santa arriving via police car, there is a toy drive, hot cocoa, etc. Pre-covid this was a huge event but the city made her scale it back and for just a few short hours they were allowed to host a small Christmas party for the local community.

Mark tried to clean the windows this morning with a vinegar/water solution. The Eisenglass in the flybridge along with all the windows on the main level are covered with salt. Ideally, we would have hooked up a hose and done a freshwater rinse over the whole boat. Mark was told there was a hose available on the dock to use but alas, no there was not. Everything you touch outside has a layer of salt that will have to get rinsed off at the next available opportunity just not today, not here at the Golden Nugget, nor at the next stop in Cape May.

Leaving to transient South as late as we have has turned up a few challenges but so far these challenges are minor inconveniences.

What weighs on Mark's mind most is the stabilizers. These will need to be worked on at some point and the small leak in the front bilge. For now, both of these things are not enough to keep us trudging forward but it is something to keep Mark's mind occupied rather than getting a good night's sleep.

During the day we are on high alert for all things that go along with boating, but not just that, we are moving our house and family. We are at full attention to everything that surrounds us at all times. It is exhausting. Even while at a dock we are constantly aware of our surroundings, Rethinking checklists, listening for anything out of the ordinary, and planning the next days' route.

In all of our years of boating, we were weekend warriors keeping to the same familiar waters every weekend, every summer, with only a few exceptions. For all of us, this adventure is filled with unknowns and unfamiliar territory. Exciting; to say the least, stressful; of course, expensive; yup, but we remind ourselves that this is what we wanted and we are lucky to be doing it together.

We left Atlantic City a little before 11 am.

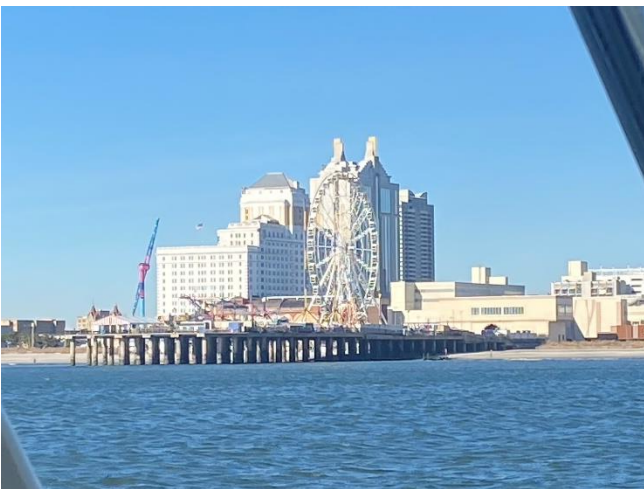
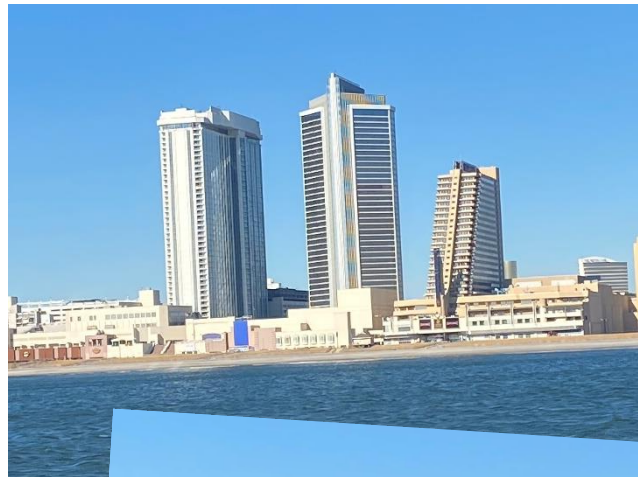
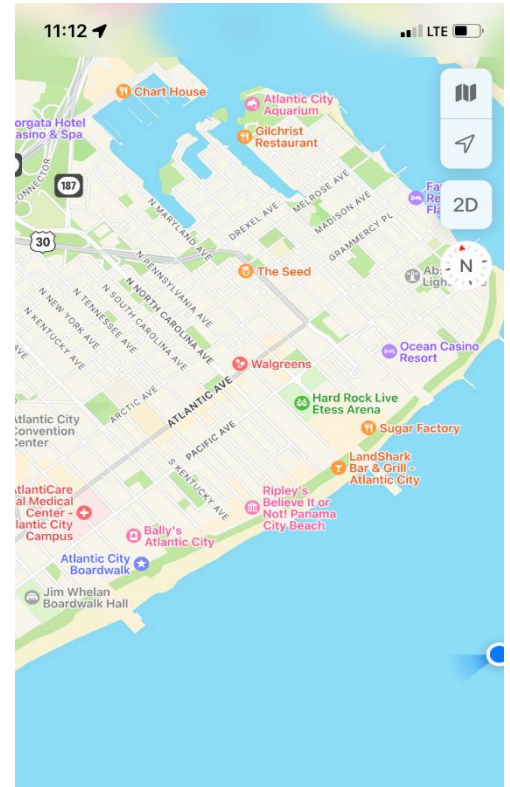
I took a video of us leaving the marina into the Atlantic with the city's skyline. <https://youtu.be/aq20EtdDJVk>

In the commentary, I mentioned something about the historic boardwalk of the city. What is in view in the video is Steel Pier, not the boardwalk

You cannot see the boardwalk in my video. I tried to take a photo, but not sure you can see with any detail the boardwalk.

After we turned into the Atlantic Ocean and turned south towards Cape May, Mark says we are taking a shortcut...with a chuckle. I hate shortcuts. This means he is outside the channel markers. Slowing way down to traverse shallow waters (12') makes my heart skip, or maybe race, I am not sure which because I am holding my breath until I hear the engines accelerate. That signals we are back in deeper waters.

We draw 5' so we want comfortably no less than 11' of water underneath us.



We cruised by Ocean City while I was working. It is 12:20 and Sea Isle City is in the distance. Perhaps due to the nice weather, and calm seas, or avoiding shoals, we are farther away from the shore than yesterday. Mostly 1-mile offshore yesterday, today maybe 1.5 or 2.

Sea Isle City I think is part of Ocean City but it has a promenade that boasts several arcades, shops, restaurants, and bars in the center of town.



12:20 p.m.

The New Jersey sea coast from Atlantic City traveling south is much different than the sandy beaches that created picturesque views that the northern part of the state offered. Today's view is more metropolitan with busy seaside resort scenery.

They all seem to market the same 'themed park, oceanfront, beach, family experience.' I wonder how the chambers differentiate themselves from each other when they promote their communities? From my view inland, they all look the same. Maybe because of my many years in the tourism industry does this sort of question comes to my mind.



2:12 p.m.

2:43 p.m.



Haleigh is in bed with a migraine today. Hot tea, ice pack, and Excedrin. Thankfully the seas are calm today and got whatever angered her Sunday and Monday out of her system!

Mark announced sightings of whale spouts. We are off the coast of Wildwood I think around 2 p.m.

The birds are feasting like kings out there and a few fishermen are out on their small crafts trying to get in on the action. There have been a lot of boats out here with us today most of them fishing.



If you see a gannet diving there are fish in the water.

Is this a gannet? Seagull? How can you tell? Do I care? Maybe I do but either way, there was a lot of fish to be eaten and these birds were getting their share!

2:50 – what is that off
the beach?

**Not the ship – the
other thing?**





Turning
into Cape
May
Harbor



Met a
fishing
boat on its
way out



On our right looking north towards Wildwood.

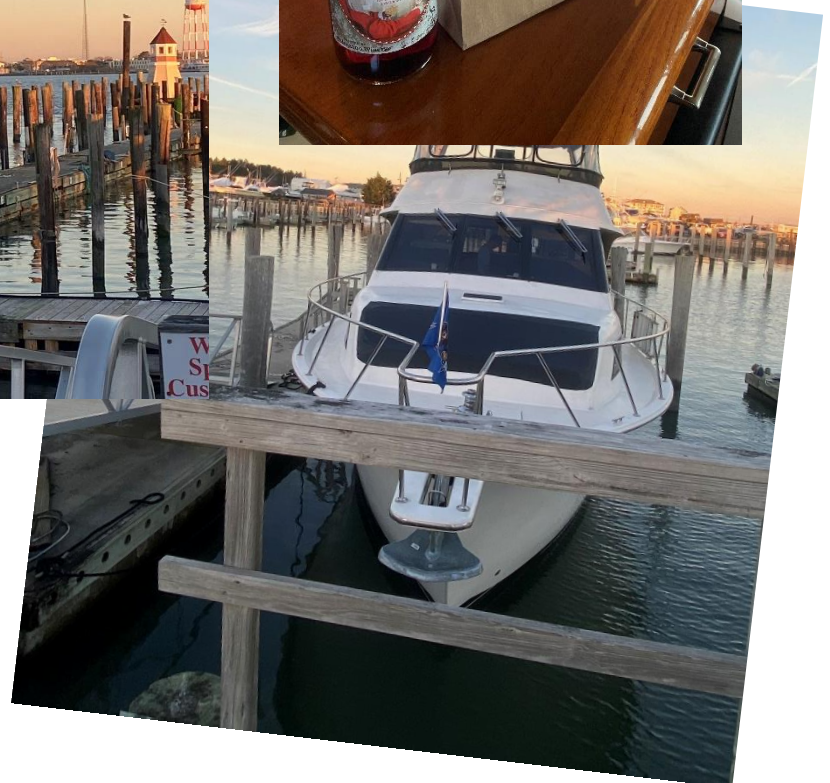
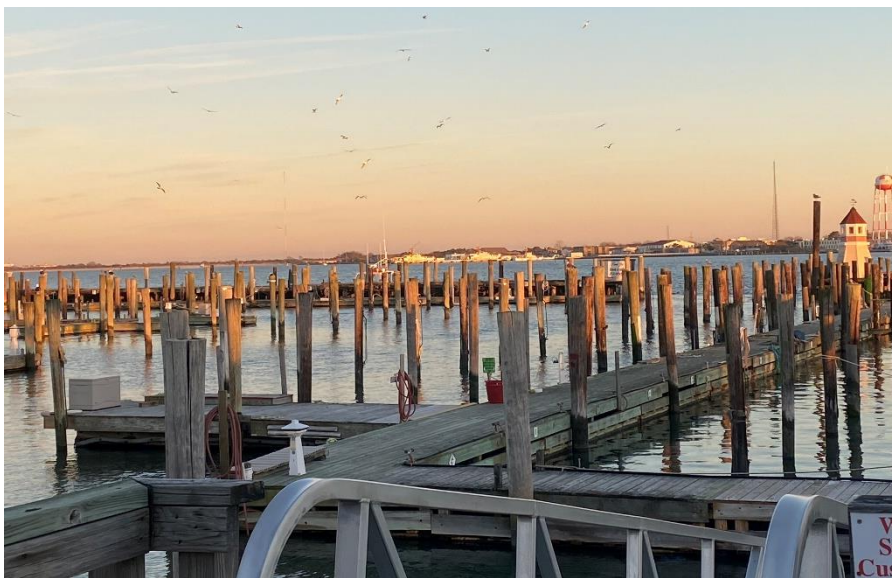


Looking behind us into the Atlantic from Cape May Harbor

Fueled up at 3:30 p.m. today. \$3.69 per gallon at 228 gallons.



What a tight fit for Valkyrie. The dockhand complimented Mark on how well he handled the boat. They gave us a goodie bag, some restaurant suggestions and provided a stunning view.



We walked behind the Marina, in a rather dark fenced-in lot; wondering if some guard dog hound was going to come out of nowhere and bare its snarling teeth at us and chase us like some trespassing vagrants.

(that is not true, we didn't think that we just walked in the dark 😊)

We found a small opening that led us to the parking lot of the Lobster House Restaurant. This restaurant has five dining rooms, with fresh fish from their fleet of boats.

Shopping the seafood market first, then ending up in a small dining room that resembled a diner, we ordered take-out and went back to the boat. The clam chowder and lobster bisque we bought at the market will be dinner another night.

The portions were small, but filling and very good. I had the crab cakes, Haleigh had the flounder, and Mark, the seafood platter. The side order of onions rings was the subject of a long conversation due to the unusual coating. Tasting more like the coating of a mozzarella stick, we can't say we liked them, nor disliked them. With the correct dipping sauce maybe we would have more enthusiasm about them.

Everything else was wonderful. Coleslaw is a hit or miss in my mind at restaurants and most of the time for me it is a miss. The Lobster House's coleslaw was delicious. I wonder if it is made with Duke's mayonnaise?

Looking forward to the chowder and bisque. Stay tuned for our critique.

Another early morning tomorrow. Leaving Utschs Marina, Cape May for Chesapeake City, MD

We love our friends and family. Whether you choose to smoke, drink, swear, fart, burp, or gamble. Yesterday's comments about the smoke inside the Golden Nugget was 'knocking' the casino for not having better ventilation and not placing judgment on any one person or persons. -love you all - thank you!