

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

# *Somewhere on the Water*

December 7, 2021

We are on the eve of our first trip from Cape Cod, MA. We are planning to cruise South along the East Coast towards Florida. Our final destination is flexible at this time.

## **Why are we uncertain about our final destination?**

1. Work dictates that we return to MA by the end of March 2022.
2. We only cruise at maximum efficiency of 8 knots (that is not very fast).
3. Once we hit the ICW we will want to shorten our cruising days to allow for land tours at each destination we overnight at.
4. You don't know what you don't know. Weather can keep us from cruising, mechanical issues could arise, and if we arrive at an area we like we may want to stay awhile.
5. Take timeout for Christmas in Vermont!

Regardless of the many reasons we are uncertain of our final destination we need to get far enough south that the sea temperatures do not drop below 40.

*More on that below.*

Prepping for this departure has been a very long endeavor; trying not to miss any detail and making sure we have what we need for a minimum of two weeks.

---

## **Why two weeks?**

We are cruising the off-season. Winter is knocking on our door, literally. It is predicted to snow tomorrow.

Our heating system uses seawater. The system cannot withstand water temperatures below 40. As of this week, the temperatures were 41 degrees. Until we get south of (guessing) New Jersey into Virginia where sea temps are a little warmer, we will cruise longer distances. Basically, if

the sun is shining, we are cruising. So that means little to no time to get provisions.

---

One contributing factor that prep has taken so long is because I (Cynthia) do not have a car, so I go shopping when Haleigh is not working.

Plus, trying to shop and run errands around work limits the number of days per week I have to accomplish these errands and in addition, budget. Purchases are made week to week based on sale items, and income.

Planning the budget between provisions for the boat, food, drink, toiletries, etc., I am also Christmas shopping and, most importantly, I needed to shop and plan a special day for Jordan's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in Maine.

**Keeping in mind that we are not only cruising this long-distance for the first time, but this boat is also our house. Taking every precaution we can to eliminate as many uncertainties means a lot of research; phone calls, Facebook posts seeking advice, education on the routes, marinas, downloading and preloading our navigation waypoints to the iPad, its been a lot.**

**We also had to arrange for storage of Mark's truck, Haleigh's car, our mail pickup. It has been a long checklist.**

Have I mentioned that Mark, our fearless Captain is the only one with cruising experience? Yup, we are as green of a crew as you can get

By the time we embark on our return trip, we are hoping to be pros!

Something that has been on the top of our concerns is water. Being the off-season for boating here in New England, many marinas, although accepting dock reservations have shut off their dock water supply. We have 150 gallons of water in our tank to wash dishes, do laundry, cook, and shower. We know that one tank of water gets us through one week of washing dishes and a few loads of laundry and miscellaneous everyday use.

We have ideas on how to conserve water which includes showering at the marina bathhouses, using paper plates and plastic utensils if needed, perhaps running the dishwasher, and when available using laundromats vs. onboard.

Do we have a watermaker? Yes, we do!

Does it work? Yes, it does!

We had a part hand-delivered to us this morning, thank you PJ.

It had been ordered a while ago and we thought for sure it wasn't going to come, but it did. Mark spent a better part of the day fixing it. It was working, and the quality tested excellent.

Yay. What a relief, this is a backup source of water that will alleviate a lot of stress.

Oh, wait! Plot twist!

As quickly as we got excited, we were disappointed. Something on the watermaker burnt out, not the correct wattage(?)

As our afternoon progresses, Mark is feeling confident that all systems are ago for departure, until:

1. The navigation system on his phone doesn't seem to be working. After hours of plotting the route, it is not booting up.
2. The starboard engine block heater all of sudden stopped working.
3. Went to order a part and Amazon is having technical difficulties and the site is down.

*Are we done... bad things happen in 3's?!*

As the evening approaches we are checking off a few things:

Jordan and Nana will be arriving at some point tonight so the airbed is inflated and ready.

The laundry is almost done.

The refrigerator drinking water dispenser is filled.

The coffee maker is set and ready for tomorrow morning.

Some dock lines have been undone.

Flags have been unfurled.

Extra fenders have been removed.

Leaving at sunrise.