

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

# Somewhere on the Water

December 19 – Sunday We are at Ocean Yacht Marina, Portsmouth, VA  
Day 12 of cruising



It was supposed to be a morning that we could sleep in. No get-up & go. But alas, 6:00 a.m. eyes open, rain falling, the wind rocking us ever so gently. It is pitch black dark in our room. The perfect environment for sleeping.

Rolled over in hopes that I would fall back to sleep like on a weekday; you know - when the alarm goes off and you hit the snooze button, you fall into a deep comfortable sleep and then the alarm goes off, startles you awake like an engine that just got jump-started.

I was hoping for that. It didn't happen.

Yesterday as we were settling into our new home here at the Ocean Yacht Marina we were discussing dock water. It is the source of conversation every day. Will we have water available? How is our water tank doing? Should I run the dishwasher? Can I do laundry?

Mark was not sure what the status of the dock water was here and we were hesitant to even use it if it was available. Trying not to be judgy but we are in a very industrial area and this water will also be our drinking water so we try to be cognizant of what we put in our tank.

Today is a day of chores and getting settled. Also, a great day to catch up on writing.

Water – we have water! Dock water is turned on. A 8:14 a.m. first load of laundry is in.

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Unfortunately, I am not having much luck with the **wifi** today so chores it is. A quick post on FaceBook will have to suffice.

Even though we won't be cruising for a week or more, we do have a lot going on, we need to have the starboard alternator looked at. Mark wants to have west marine make a delivery so it is waiting for us when we return from Vermont and the bow bilge leak needs to be checked out. An oil change needs to happen and there might be a problem with one of the stabilizers.

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While docked here I will share photos, video, and information on the area. A lot is going on around us. It is very intriguing to me so I hope that you find it interesting as well. I am going to start today with the following info about some of the things I see from right outside our door and the marina.



This is a photo I took standing on Portsmouth's Harborfront Seawall and the Elizabeth River Boardwalk at the entrance to our marina. It is called a dolphin.

A **dolphin** is a man-made, marine, independent structure that extends above the water level. It may or may not be connected to a larger pier, wharf, or bridge structure by pedestrian access walkways.

Dolphins are usually installed to provide a fixed structure when it would be impractical to extend the shore to provide a dry-access facility, for example, when the number of ships is greater than can be accommodated by the length of the berth/pier.<sup>[1]</sup> Typical uses include extending a berth (a berthing dolphin) or providing a mooring point (a mooring dolphin).

## Usage to protect structures

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Dolphins are also used to protect structures from possible impact by ships, in a similar fashion to boating fenders.<sup>[2]</sup>

Dolphins are also used to house navigation aids such as lights or day beacons and display regulatory information such as speed limits and other safety information, or advertising.

## Structure

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Dolphins typically consist of a number of piles driven into the seabed or riverbed and connected above the water level to provide a platform or fixing point. The piles can be untreated or pressure-treated timber piles, or steel or reinforced concrete piles. Smaller dolphins can have the piles drawn together with wire rope, but larger dolphins are typically fixed using a reinforced concrete capping or a structural steel frame.

Access to a dolphin may be via a pedestrian bridge, particularly in the case of mooring dolphins, but is often by boat.

-Wikipedia.



These two photos are of the Tortuga.

Tortuga is homeported at BAE Systems Ship Repair, Norfolk, Va. for an extended maintenance period.

Watching the crane operator move all sorts of items during our stay was entertaining. You just never

knew what was going to be swung around in the air to be loaded/unloaded. Today it was a vehicle. More importantly, every time



that crane moved it would signal with a horn. **A loud horn.**

I am not sure what their work schedule is exactly but there seems to be crew working around the clock daily.

Per OSHA 1910.179, cranes equipped with radio controls or cab controls are required to have buzzers, horns, or sirens **to provide an audible warning to other personnel while the crane or loads are in motion.**

This is one of our neighbors: S/V Mystic is from Newport, RI. Docked here since 2019. There is a Facebook page for this boat if you are interested in looking it up.



This is Bob and Jane. They are our neighbors in the slip off our Portside. They are here at this marina for an extended period.

Their boat lit up at night.



The same boat  
but angled to see  
more of  
downtown  
Portsmouth.

Thank you all for your support. We are having a great trip and appreciate you following along. We look forward to hearing from you and giving us your feedback. Tomorrow we go pick up the rental car and Tuesday we leave for a 10-hour car ride to Vermont! Stay tuned!



We took this over Thanksgiving break while Jordan was home with us.