

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

# Somewhere on the Water

December 21 – Tuesday We are no longer on the water! We are in a car traveling to Vermont.

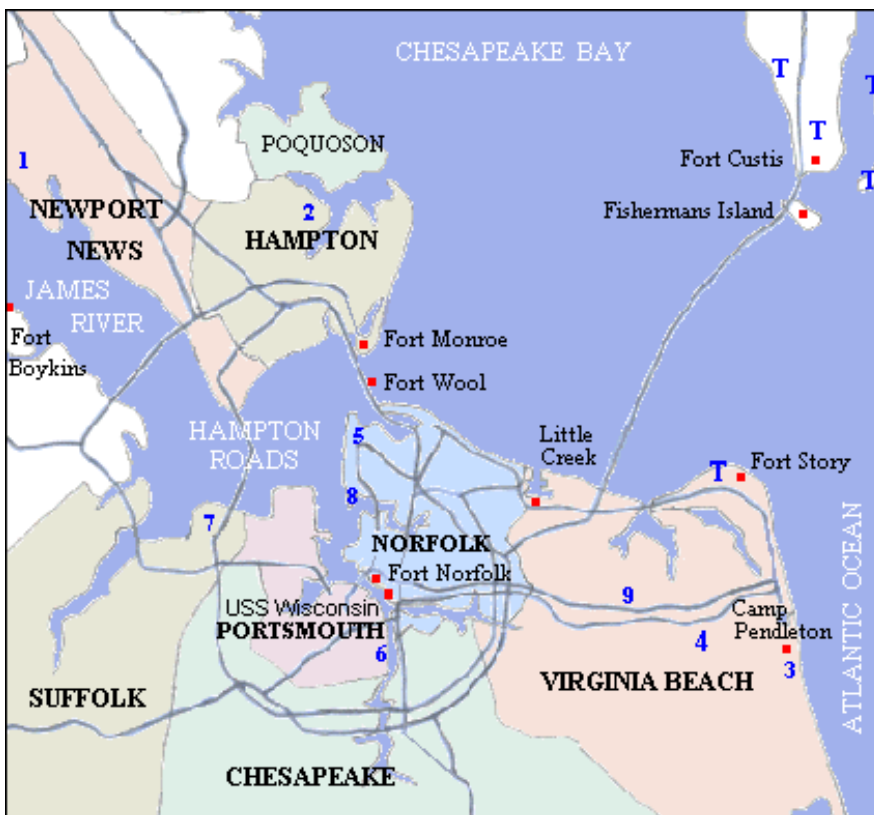
Day 14 of our winter adventure.

7:15 a.m. we are off in a car this time.

We crossed the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

17.6-mile bridge-tunnel crossing at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, the **Hampton Roads Harbor**, and nearby mouths of the James & Elizabeth Rivers. Construction started back in 1960. It is still under construction due to an expansion project adding lanes. The tunnels range in-depth from 25-100 feet.

Reports indicate that there have been 15 vehicles that have fallen off the bridge.



**Hampton Roads** is the name of both a body of water that serves as a wide channel for the James, Nansemond and Elizabeth rivers between Old Point Comfort and Sewell's Point where the Chesapeake Bay flows into the Atlantic Ocean, and the surrounding metropolitan region located in the southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina portions of the Tidewater region.

The body of water known as Hampton Roads is one of the world's largest natural harbors (more accurately a roadstead or "roads"). It incorporates the mouths of the Elizabeth, Nansemond, and James rivers, together with several smaller rivers, and empties into the Chesapeake Bay near its mouth leading to the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

-wikipedia

-the photo is from google

images; northamericanforts.com

<https://youtu.be/8zFk5TkQbtk> Video link of the bridge-tunnel.

These two websites are great resources for obtaining more information regarding the Bay.

<https://www.nps.gov/chba/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/facts>

Some of the fun facts that I found interesting are:

- The Chesapeake Bay continues to be one of the nation's most economically important maritime corridors. Each year, ports on the Bay handle 10,000 ocean-going vessels carrying 200 billion pounds (90 million metric tons) of cargo.
- Some 17,000 men and women working on Bay waters catch and process one-quarter of all oysters and one-half of all clams consumed in America.
- The yearly haul of blue crabs is the largest in the world.
- Major rivers emptying into the Bay include the James, York, Rappahannock, Potomac, Patuxent, Patapsco, and Susquehanna from the west and the Pocomoke, Wicomico, Nanticoke, Choptank, and Chester from the east.
- The deepest part of the Bay, located southeast of Annapolis near Bloody Point, is called "The Hole" and is 174 feet deep.
- The Bay is an estuary; a body of water where fresh and saltwater mix. It is the largest of more than 100 estuaries in the US and the third-largest in the world.
- The bay holds more than 18 trillion gallons of water; approximately 51 billion gallons of water flow into the bay from its freshwater tributaries.

Fun fact about the Tides that I found on google:

As CBF's Director of Fisheries Bill Goldsborough says, "Tide levels in the Chesapeake Bay are determined largely by two factors—the moon and the wind. The lunar effect on tides is from the gravitational pull of the moon on the water and thus changes as the moon revolves around the Earth...So, the lunar effect is predictable and is the basis for tide tables. In the Chesapeake, the wind is the second major control on tide level, but in some conditions of wind strength, direction, and duration, it can overpower the lunar effect. This is basically what happens with the blow-out low tides we sometimes see in winter. The prevailing winter wind direction here is northwest, and when it blows hard from that direction and for multiple days, it literally pushes the water out of the Bay."

[https://cbf.typepad.com/chesapeake\\_bay\\_foundation/2012/02/top-five-things-you-always-wondered-about-chesapeake-bay-winters-but-were-too-embarrassed-to-ask.html](https://cbf.typepad.com/chesapeake_bay_foundation/2012/02/top-five-things-you-always-wondered-about-chesapeake-bay-winters-but-were-too-embarrassed-to-ask.html)

We also crossed over the Chesapeake Delaware Canal – which we cruised under back on December 15. We took the St. Georges Bridge via route 13.

This bridge opened in 1942 and was the first 4-lane bridge to span the canal. It is 450' long and 135' above the water.



The GPS was set on the fastest route and with stops, we arrived in Vermont in just about 10 hours. What took us 8 days to cruise via Valkyrie took us 10 hours to drive. That puts things into a different perspective I guess. States we drove through today were Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.

My hometown, Brandon is blanketed with a couple of inches of snow. It should be a white Christmas.

When I googled Brandon Vermont this is one thing that came up:

What is Brandon Vermont known for?



Brandon is a quintessential New England town nicknamed **the 'Art & Soul' Village** of Vermont. ... Furthermore, since Brandon has a lively art community, there are several art galleries to explore, live music venues to attend, art studios for perusal, and a non-profit artists guild that promotes art throughout the state.Oct 2, 2021

I wonder who nicknamed it that? Huh! Who knew, lol!

Well, apparently everyone but me because when I visited this website they called it the same thing:

<https://www.vermontvacation.com/explore-vermont/historic-downtowns/brandon>  
**Unhurried, Unspoiled, Unforgettable**

#### A HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Welcome to a classic New England village. Dubbed the “Art & Soul” of Vermont, Brandon invites you to experience the best of both worlds: a vibrant, walkable center of art galleries, studios, shops, lodging and restaurants and a gateway to the best of four-season outdoor recreation. Brandon is a study in early American architecture and Vermont history, with its entire downtown core of 243 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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This nickname may or may not have anything to do with Warren Kimble who lives here. If you do not know who this artist is check this out:

<https://warrenkimble.com/about-warren-kimble/>

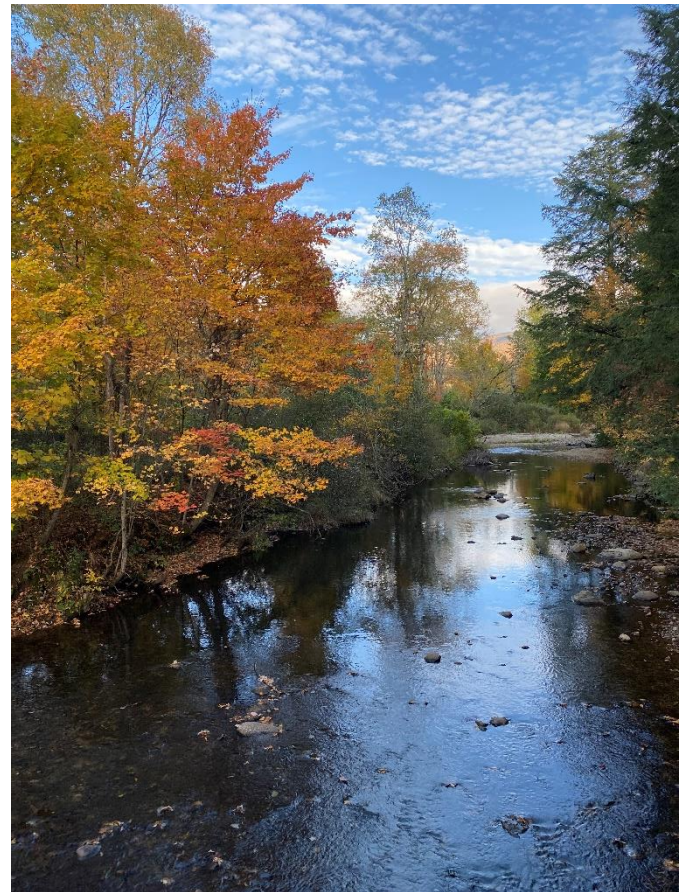


This photo is from the [vermontvacation](#) website I noted on the previous page.

Mark and I got married in that church and our reception was here in this inn in 1998. My mom & dad got married in that church as well as my Great Aunt Alyce & Uncle Don; my sister & brother-in-law; and my Aunt Lynda married her first husband in that church.

The church was established in 1785 and just one year later the Brandon Inn was established. I haven't been around since 1785 but I did grow up here in this town minus the 3-years I lived in Northfield, VT. Northfield is home to Norwich University, the oldest private and senior military college in the United States.

The last time I visited home was in October 2021. Columbus Day weekend is traditionally a family reunion of sorts. We pick apples, pumpkins, do a corn maze some years and this year we decided to walk the **Robert Frost Trail** in Ripton and then explore Texas Falls.



Yes, famous people do/did live in Vermont! Besides Warren Kimble and Robert Frost; President Calvin Coolidge, actress Cynthia Gibb, American Revolutionary War leader Ethan Allen, Rudyard Kipling (author of the Jungle Book), and John Deere to name a few.

IN 1920, 44-year-old Robert Frost moved from New Hampshire to **Vermont** "to seek a better place to farm and especially grow apples." For the next four decades, Frost lived principally in Vermont, becoming the official poet laureate of the Green Mountain State.



Texas Falls is a recreation area with a walking trail and is in Hancock, VT. It is a beautiful spot as is the drive on route 125 along Middlebury River.



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Over the next couple of days, we will be finishing up our shopping, visiting with friends & family, and getting fat on my mom's good ole home cookin' & bakin'. Bring on those whoopie pies!



I will not be writing over the next few days. I am not sure that our Vermont Christmas is what you are all here to read about. Our planned departure is Monday, December 27. Car rental gets returned on December 28.

Once we return to Valkyrie we will make our cruising plans and decide where we want to be for New Year's Eve!

Stay tuned....we will meet again, on December 28.