

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

# *Somewhere on the Water*

December 28, 2021 – Day 21 Tuesday

We are in Portsmouth, VA at the Ocean Yacht Marina located on the Elizabeth River.

Welcome back. We have returned from Christmas in Vermont after being in the car for 15.5 hours. This includes a detour to Cape Cod to see our daughter Jordan.

I am sorry to all of our friends and family located on the Cape that we did not let you know we were in the area. Jordan missing Christmas in VT was a last-minute plot twist and seeing how Santa delivered all of her gifts to Brandon, VT we wanted to make a special delivery.

We were only with her for about an hour before taking the 10-hour trip back to VA.

Not having Jordan with us in Vermont meant a lot of tears were shed. We never imagined being separated on this very special holiday. This is a part of parenting that you cannot prepare yourself for. You can tell yourself over and over again all the things that you are supposed to say to make yourself feel better but the logical side of your brain cannot override your sentimental side and stop the tears from coming. She was in a very safe and caring environment. Her boyfriend's family took very good care of her and if she had to miss this Christmas due to covid it eased us knowing that she was being looked after by people who care about her.

We do hope that you all had a great Holiday.

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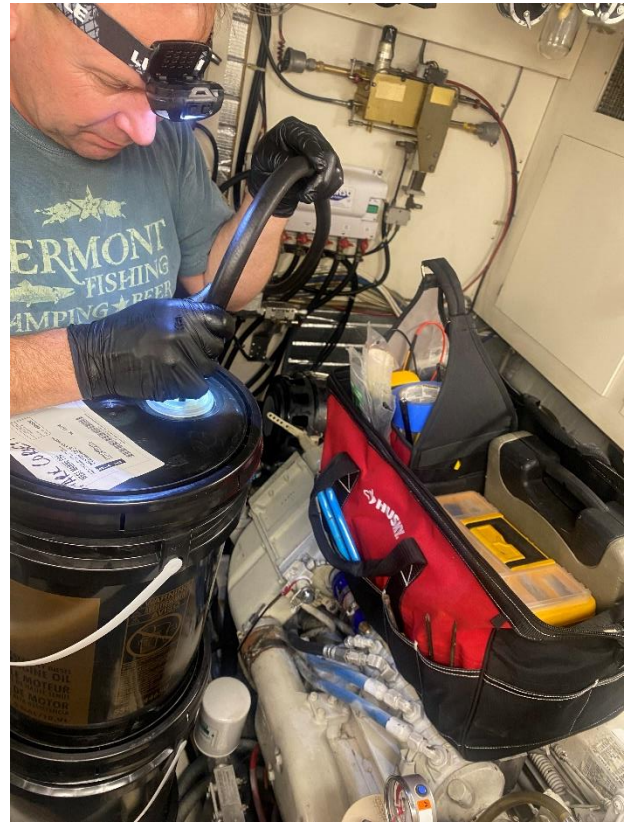
This morning we did not set an alarm! We woke to sunshine and t-shirt weather. We have to return the rental car today so Mark is getting the oil changed on the boat so we can drop the used oil off at an appropriate location before we return the car.

Mark emptied the new oil into these white buckets.

Using the boat's built-in oil change system he pumped the used oil into the black buckets.

Reversing the cycle he used the same pump system to pump the new oil out of the white buckets.

Doing it this way allowed him to have a safe secured, sealed container to transport the used oil off the boat.







New oil filters are in place.

Remember that we have two Detroit Diesel engines so this process had to be done twice!

<https://youtu.be/JaKeqUKZCnk>

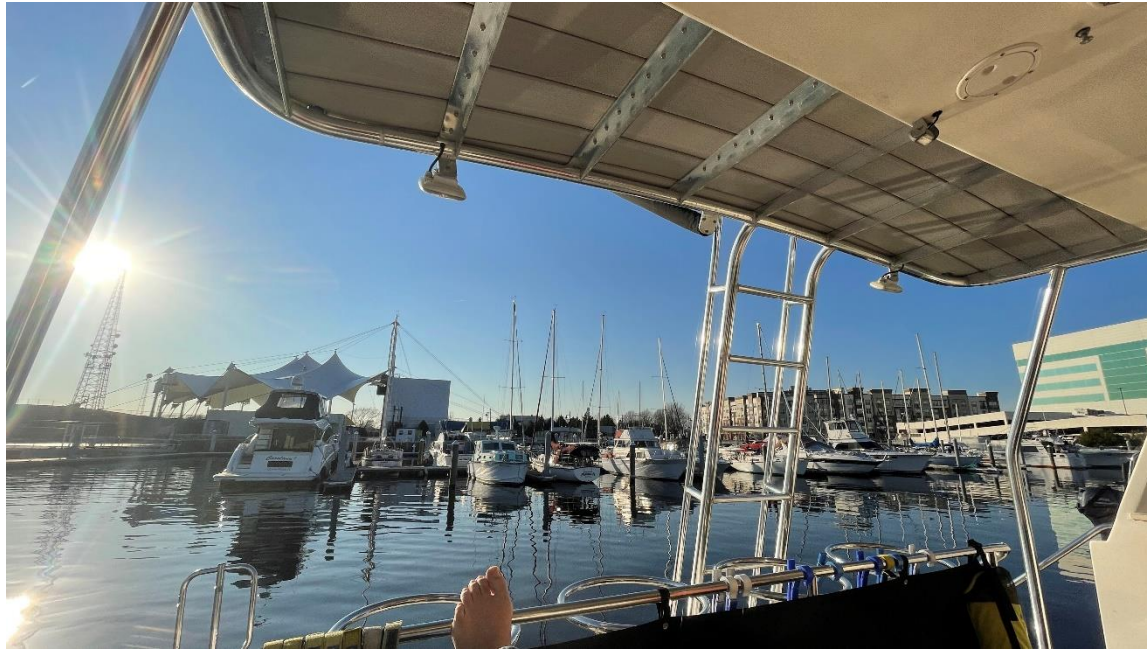
We dropped the oil at an Auto Zone right here in Portsmouth and then off to the Norfolk Airport to drop the car 1600 miles older; then an uber ride back to the boat.

WHEN MARK WALKED INTO THE STORE WITH ONE 5-GALLON PAIL A CLERK TOOK IT AND WALKED AWAY. WHEN HE RETURNED A MOMENT LATER WITH TWO MORE 5-GALLON PAILS A DIFFERENT CLERK WAS LIKE "WHAT'S THAT?!"

"MORE USED OIL", AND WITH A QUICK WAVE AND THANK YOU, HE JUMPED IN THE CAR AND TOOK OFF WITH EXHILARATION AND ANX AS IF HE JUST STOLE SOMETHING! THIS WAS A LITTLE BIT ON THE DRAMATIC SIDE AND RATHER COMEDIC SINCE IT IS VERY MUCH A TYPICAL SERVICE THAT AUTO STORES OFFER; DISPOSAL OF OIL WASTE.

In addition to the oil and oil filter change Mark also cleaned the screen filter on the gearboxes. Cleaning the screen is a once in 1000 hour job so nice to have that done and off the 'to-do' list.

It is t-shirt weather today and we did steal about 30 minutes of sun and relaxation on the back deck while Haleigh 'undecorated' the tree. Doing so always sparks an emotion inside me that is a combination of depression and relief. I hate putting the Holiday Season away for another year but it is nice to reclaim what little space I have in the salon that the Christmas tree was taking up. The tree went up earlier than normal this year and is coming down earlier than normal. 2021 has been anything but normal so why try to start now.



Tomorrow Haleigh and I are going to venture out and take a short ½ mile trek to a grocery store and post office while Mark installs a chain locker check valve fitting and is going to top off hydraulic steering fluid and air pressure. At some point over the next couple of days, we are going to wash the boat in what is predicted to be 70-degree weather!

We ended our evening with dinner on board, watching the last two episodes of Hawkeye, and then watched the movie Encanto.