

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

Somewhere on the Water

December 29, 2021 – Day 22 Wednesday

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

Not too much excitement today.

Haleigh and I did not walk to the grocery store. After a second look, we decided that the stores within walking distance did not appear to be full-sized grocery stores, more like convenience stores.

After telling Haleigh to be ready to go at 10:30 a.m. we did not leave until 11:47 a.m. I had to download the uber app, set up an account, and wait for our ride.

And, I think Haleigh jinxed us because last night before going to bed she said; *as soon as we get ready to leave your work phone is going to ring and we won't be able to go.*

Guess what - as soon as we were ready to go my work phone rang!



Haleigh is very punctual and more often than not she always gets ready to leave **on time** and ultimately ends up *waiting* for me to leave. *waiting*, and *waiting*, and *waiting*. She loves that about me....not!



So, get this....we get into our uber car to go to Food Lion and the driver says; *you should go to Kroger, it is a much better store. Whatever you do, just go in, get your stuff and then call an uber back to your boat, do not walk around. This is not a neighborhood you should be in.* Then he proceeded to drop us at Food Lion!

The store was fine. Shopping in an unfamiliar store does typically take a little extra time; you may have to substitute some of your items and it is fun to see what the store has to offer that differs from home. The people shopping inside were very polite, the cashier was talkative and pleasant and we did see a lot of items that indicated that we are in the south. For example Duke's Mayonaise (yes I bought some) grits, hominy, and succotash.

After we checked out we ordered our uber back to the boat. Of course, we got a different driver. As soon as he saw us he said:

You should have gone to Kroger. It is a much safer neighborhood and a better store. He got out of the car and helped us load our groceries. Being a boater himself he had a lot of good things to say about the marina we are at, and about the local fishing. He suggested a few safer places to



walk around like Olde Towne and crossing the river to Waterside. Getting us a cart upon return to the marina and loading it up for us he commented and laughed at the quantity of ginger ale (we bought 8); asked us if it was a mixer or does someone really like ginger ale?

It's a mixer!

Haleigh unloaded the groceries while I worked and Mark did a few chores.

1. Vacuumed the bilge.
2. Loaded our new ditch bag.
3. Filled our water tank.
4. Vacuumed the sink & shower sumps.
5. Worked on his boat budget.
6. Researched New Years' Eve events near us.

What is a ditch bag?

A ditch bag also called an abandon ship bag, **contains key items needed to summon help and to survive in a life raft while waiting for rescue to arrive.** A ditch bag must be kept in an accessible location onboard, ready for immediate removal should the need arise.

I took an evening stroll along the river's seawall. This beautiful Christmas tree is at the end of High Street. This is where you can get the ferry over to Norfolk.

In November there was a tree-lighting ceremony and craft fair. This portion of Portsmouth is called:

OLDE TOWNE
EST. PORTSMOUTH VIRGINIA 1752



I also stopped and admired this Fresnel Lens.

The First Order Fresnel Lens is from the Hog Island Lighthouse off the Eastern Shore. It is one of the largest and brightest of its kind, standing 10 feet high, weighing 2,500 pounds, with more than 250 prisms of optical glass, and valued at nearly \$1,000,000. This design was originally developed by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel. Housed in a 16-foot wide pavilion, this lens is the only one displayed outside a museum setting. -

<https://oldetowneportsmouth.com/listings/fresnel-lens/>

Because we came into this area via the Chesapeake Bay we did not pass Hog Island, Virginia which is a Barrier Island, oceanside. When we traveled by car via route 13 along the peninsula that is called Virginia's Eastern Shore we passed signs for it.

What is a Fresnel Lens: A Fresnel lens is a type of composite compact lens developed by the French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel for use in lighthouses. It has been called "the invention that saved a million ships." [Wikipedia](#)



**FIRST ORDER FRESNEL LENS
from the HOG ISLAND LIGHT**

This pavilion displays a first order Fresnel lens from the second Hog Island Light. The lens began its service in 1896. Originally built in 1852, the first building was destroyed by erosion and rebuilt in 1896, only to be deactivated in 1948. The locations of both of these lights are now under water off the Eastern Shore.

The Fresnel Lens was named after Augustin Fresnel - the French physicist who devised the optical system around 1822. At about 10 feet high and 2,500 pounds, this lens is among the largest and brightest of its kind, with more than 250 prisms of optical glass. Only the lens at Makapu'u Point Light, Hawaii is larger.



Established in 1852, the Hog Island Light was located on the north side of the Great Machipongo Inlet on the Eastern Shore of Virginia until its demolition in 1948.



The first Hog Island lighthouse was built in 1896 and was last lighted in March 1948.

The original lighthouse & keeper's dwelling on Hog Island.

The restoration of the lens and the construction of the pavilion were funded by the Portsmouth Museums Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with the City of Portsmouth and the Fifth Coast Guard District. The dedication ceremony of the Fresnel Lens Pavilion took place on November 5, 2003.

Path of History
PORTSMOUTH, VA

I walked the other docks here at the marina and took this picture. Several people appear to have made their boats their home as well. Although it does suggest that most of them make Ocean Yacht Marina their permanent landing; because there is sooo much stuff on the dock space where they are tied, I do suppose that there are transients like us here as well. I do know the sailboat next to us, *Jane Marie* is a transient. We met Bob and Jane upon arrival here.



Thank you for following along! Stay tuned for more!