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56' Ocean Yacht.**

# *Somewhere on the Water*

December 31, 2021 – Day 24, Happy New Year's Eve

It is Friday, the last day of 2021. Congratulations for surviving another year of COVID and all the chaos that it ensued. I am blessed that my family is healthy and for the most part our 2021 was very good.

Last night Haleigh made us taco salad for dinner and we watched Shang Chi on Disney +

We did not set alarms and we were feeling very comfortable in our bed this morning but alas, the world did not want us to sleep in.

Foghorns and phone calls awakened us and so we started our day, the last day of 2021. It is a foggy morning out there on the Elizabeth River.

<https://youtu.be/mKQ-TgOWpPs> You too can experience the foghorn! Click here to watch a brief video!



After coffee, I started working on catching up with the blog, sorting photos, and taking a break now and again to stretch, clean the galley, and get up to the flybridge to use the rowing machine.

Mark is going to have to fill the water tank, again. Between showers, dishes, cleaning,

and laundry yesterday we used up the 150 gallons we filled up with on Wednesday. Other than that, Mark is taking the day off from chores.

Our plans for this afternoon are to catch a ferry from Portsmouth High Street terminal to Norfolk's Waterside. We purchased tickets to board the USS Wisconsin which is all decked out with lights for the Holidays and after that, we will walk to a restaurant named Todd Jurich's Bistro.



We took the 4:00 p.m. ferry. It is about 10-15 minutes to Norfolk's Waterside with one-stop in-between.

It's a paddlewheel!





We had a beautiful sunset walk along the river which offers a huge park, Town Point Park, and the Elizabeth River Trail, a 10.5-mile trail for walking, running, biking, and rollerblading or skateboarding.



We stumbled upon a bride and her wedding party having their photos taken.

She had an amazing backdrop with a sky all aglow from the sunset behind her.

We had plenty of time to explore before our 6:00 p.m. timed admission into Nauticus and the USS Wisconsin.

We found mile marker 0 of the Elizabeth River and mile marker 0 of the Intercoastal Waterway.

Milemarker 0 of the intercoastal is marked with a buoy in the center of the river but apparently, I did not get a photo of it.



We did however take a lot of photos of the USS Wisconsin and the informational signs along the river that filled our heads with a lot of history regarding the ship, and the naval station.



Dinner was very good. The restaurant is only just across the street from the ship so we were early for our reservation. We had a drink at the very busy bar while we waited for our table. I had the pumpkin & crab soup, pork loin w/bourbon brown sugar apples & sharp cheddar mac. Mark had the Ossobuco, and Haleigh had the Maine Lobster Rissotto. Although not served with Maine lobster, it was a Caribbean lobster, but still good. Haleigh had the bread pudding dessert.

We took the 10:30 p.m. ferry back to the North Street Portsmouth landing and walked back to the boat. By 11:30 p.m. we had the tv on watching the countdown and the news which showed celebrations from around the world. I'm gonna have to put Dubai on NYE on my bucket list. Wow, what a show of fireworks they put on.

We had been hearing pops and bangs all evening, especially around midnight. Mark was saying all along that it sounded like gunfire. This is one news release I found when I searched google:

**PORTSMOUTH, Va.** — The Portsmouth Police Department is asking the public to refrain from firing guns into the air in celebration of the new year. In a news release Thursday, a spokeswoman said stray bullets from reckless celebratory gunfire impact homes every year.


That's why they will have officers on patrol this New Year's Eve to address reckless shooting into the air.

The police department said this activity can damage property, endanger the lives of others, and can cause confusion and stress for both first responders and the public. "There are many ways to celebrate 2022 without endangering the lives of others," Portsmouth police said in the news release.

We thought we heard a bullet ricochet off the boat! Mark also found out that it is not that uncommon and there are several city police departments throughout the U.S. that are asking people not to go shoot their guns in the air in celebration of the New Year.

We are thankful we have lived a sheltered enough life not to have experienced this before!

Thankfully we rang in the new year safely! Happy 2022!



Overview graphic of berthing

Battleship *Wisconsin* berthed at Nauticus

Broadside graphic showing depth

## Battleship *Wisconsin*: Berthed in Norfolk, the Homeport of Naval History

Redefining the skyline of downtown Norfolk, battleship *Wisconsin* stands stoically with dominating presence. After months of dredging and construction, *Wisconsin* majestically slipped into the seemingly tailored berth without a hitch on 7 December 2000 - fifty-seven years after the warship was originally launched. Berthing the 45,000 ton, 887.3 foot long, and 108 foot wide battleship was a major feat of engineering. The waters of the Elizabeth River around Nauticus are extremely shallow for the 37 foot deep draft of *Wisconsin*. Varying tidal and weather conditions further complicated the berthing facility design. Working in conjunction with City of Norfolk and U.S. Navy planners, architects from the Norfolk-based firm Glenn & Sadler designed the channel and berthing facility next to Nauticus. Chained securely for hurricane force winds, *Wisconsin* presently floats on the water at an average of two to four feet above the bottom. This marker made possible by a gift from Glenn & Sadler, a Division of Transystems Corporation.

CITY OF NORFOLK



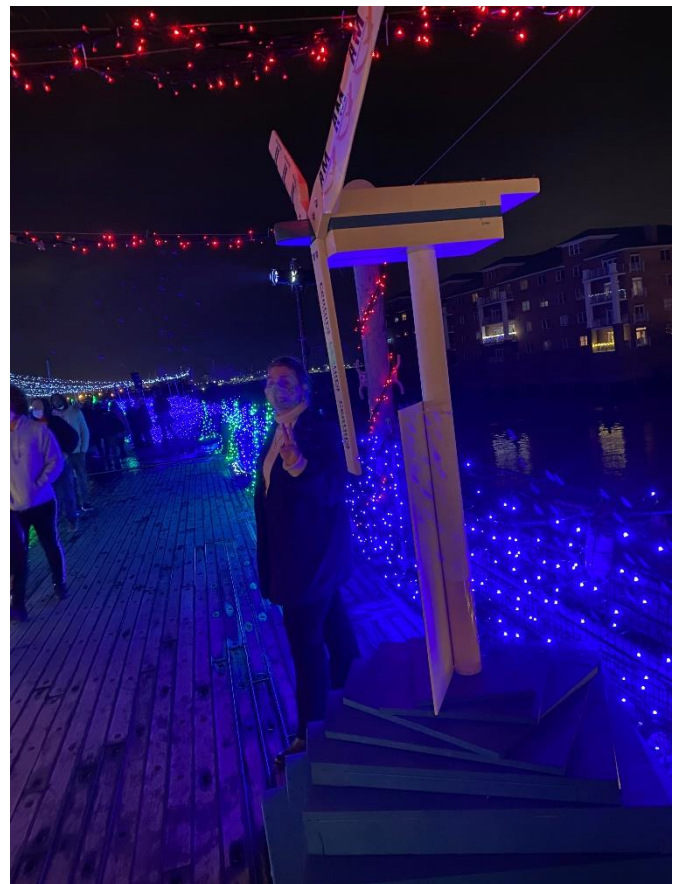
This is the Pagoda & Oriental Garden. We got there just as it was 'closing.' Signs indicated it was closed from dusk to dawn but I was intrigued so we walked through it quickly with hopes of returning in the daylight.

(we didn't)

This next picture is from atop the USS Wisconsin looking back towards Portsmouth and our marina.



If you can →  
make her out,  
this is Haleigh  
while onboard  
the ship. There  
was a cute  
little tree  
lighting  
ceremony  
with the  
Grinch  
himself who lit  
it up!





I did not go to Norfolk with any expectations. What I found was pleasantly surprising. A clean and vibrant downtown area that welcomes socialization with open public spaces. The townhouses that line the streets are quaint and blend in with the history of the city to create a quiet and quaint neighborhood. I hope to go back, during the day to visit. – I didn't!

Happy New Year to you!