

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

Somewhere on the Water

January 4, 2022 – Tuesday, Day 28

Good morning. It is a chilly 32 degrees. I just read:
Drivers have been stuck on Interstate 95 in the Stafford County, Virginia, area for more than 15 hours after multiple trucks crashed amid a major snowstorm that left snow and ice-packed onto the road.

-Hopefully, everyone is ok! What a mess.



I am so excited! We are moving! After 16 days (7 of which we went to VT) we are moving! Albeit only 10 miles, but still, we are taking a step towards getting back on track with our adventure.

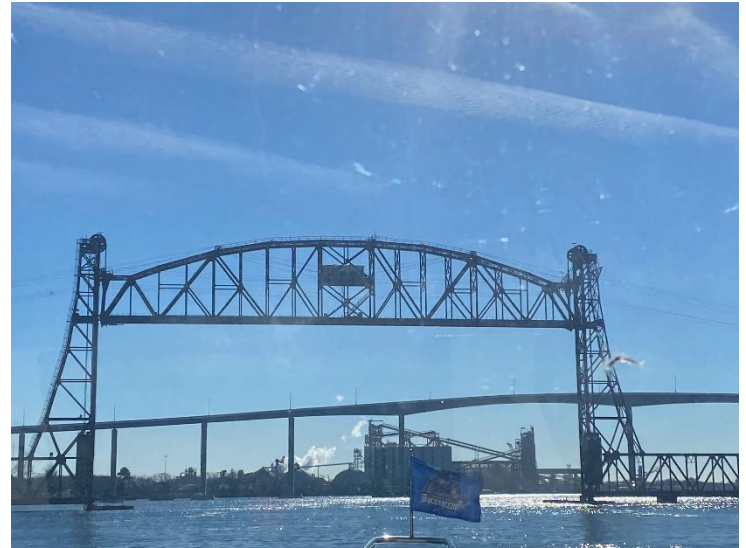


10:34 a.m. Mark has started the engines and we are leaving Portsmouth, VA to travel 10 miles to have Valkyrie pulled out of the water to get the stabilizers fixed.

We are leaving - *right after the Navy Police get their fuel and move!*



Some photos of the scenery as we cruise the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River. We are traveling a short distance today but it is an active day cruising under the Campostella Road Bridge, S. Military Highway Bridge, the Hampton Roads Beltway (rte 64) Bridge, through our first lock, and then the double-leaf rolling bascule drawbridge; Great Bridge.





This bridge's clearance is 33'
Our boat w/antenna is 29'.
I am just out there to make sure we are indeed going to clear it without hitting our antennas.

The South Norfolk Jordan Bridge.



Check out the 1st of 4 Videos I took today!
<https://youtu.be/wjViQ14Atjs>



12:33 p.m. We just went under the highway 17 bridge and it is almost looking..sorta...pretty unlike the otherwise very industrial areas we were seeing when we first entered the river today back in Portsmouth.



We are traveling at a very slow no-wake speed throughout the morning. It felt like no time at all we arrive at the lock.

Here is the 2nd video. It is a short video that shows some nice scenery and arriving at the lock. <https://youtu.be/LgamdPOPnVA>

What is a lock?: A **lock** is a device used for raising and lowering boats, ships and other watercraft between stretches of water of different levels on river and canal waterways. The distinguishing feature of a lock is a fixed chamber in which the water level can be varied; whereas in a caisson lock, a boat lift, or on a canal inclined plane, it is the chamber itself (usually then called a caisson) that rises and falls.

Locks are used to make a river more easily navigable, or to allow a canal to cross land that is not level. Later canals used more and larger locks to allow a more direct route to be taken. – Wikipedia

Great Bridge Lock in Chesapeake, Virginia, has an operating staff on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It opens on demand, but boaters should note the city of Chesapeake's Great Bridge Bridge, located adjacent to the lock, opens every hour from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on-demand afterward.- <https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/AIWW/>

The Great Bridge Lock is unique because it is a guard lock—it guards water quality. Freshwater flows into the lock from Currituck Sound in North Carolina. Salty water flows into the lock from the Elizabeth River which connects to the Chesapeake Bay.

Another unique feature is the two sets of gates at each end, making this a reversible headlock. Locks are used to raise and lower water levels.

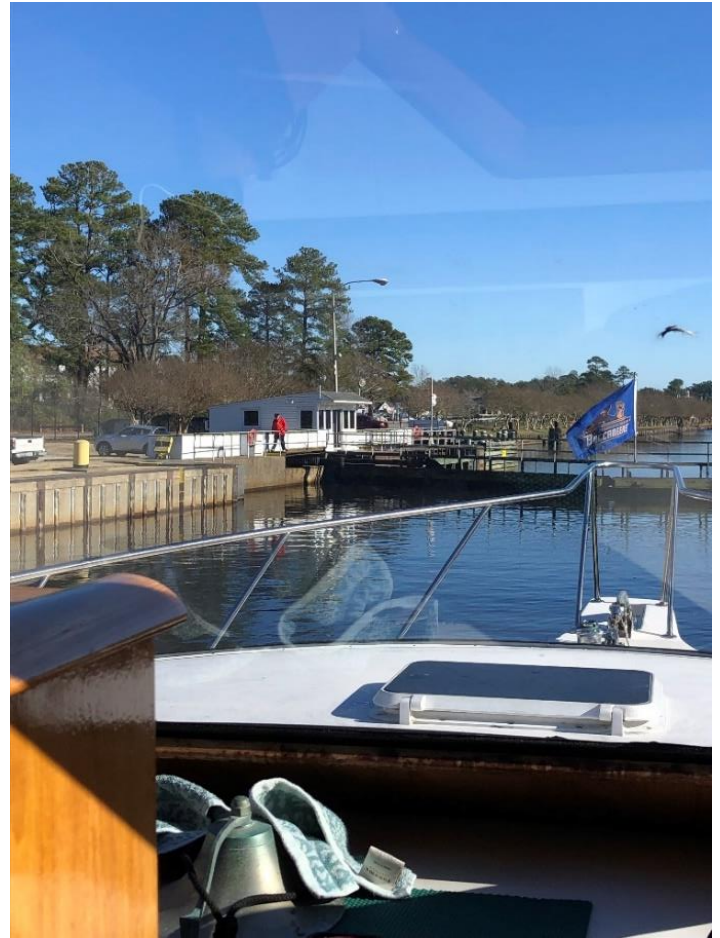
Depending on the water levels on each side, the lock operators can open or close four sets of gates and valves in different combinations to direct the water in the lock.

As many as 20 boats can fit in this lock!

<https://www.hmdb.org/>



12:55 p.m. We are waiting for the lock to let us in. It is a 10-15 minute wait but then the bridge right after it opens on the hour so we are in a waiting pattern for the lock and bridge.



This lock has a 2' water level change.

I am holding the line on the starboard side in the back and Mark is holding the bowline.

Haleigh was charged with camera duty.

This is our first lock. It was pretty easy. The lock operator was very nice, told me exactly what to expect putting my mind at ease.

2:17 p.m We made it through the lock, and the bridge.

3rd & 4th videos

<https://youtu.be/UN6ni1vqayl>

<https://youtu.be/Eig6QyQGPfw>

We are tied up at the Atlantic Yacht Basin.

The mechanic is climbing on board to evaluate the starboard stabilizer and hopefully, he will give us an estimate and time frame so we can get back on the water.



It is 5:30 p.m. I finished typing Dec. 18 and 19. The workday is over and I just looked up at our beautiful sunset here at our new location.



Look how light it is for 5:30 in the afternoon. I am liking that! Just wish it was a bit warmer. It is 33 degrees.



Haleigh made us dinner tonight. Veggie burritos and chicken burritos.

We stuffed ourselves with their yummy goodness then watched a couple of episodes of *Downton Abbey*. Sorry Mark, sometimes, not often, you get overruled when it comes to the tv.

I am so disappointed in the meat we bought at Food Lion. We purchased a package of beef strips for burrito bowls and we had to toss them out. Gross! In addition, I had to throw out the cottage cheese I bought. I do check the expiration date on things when I buy them, and I know it is not the fridge. Sometimes things like this happen I guess. Money in the trash. Bummer.

Tomorrow we find out when we get placed on the service schedule!