

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

Somewhere on the Water

January 5, 2022 – Wednesday, Day 29

It is a cold and rainy morning. About 44°. We are at the Atlantic Yacht Basin in Chesapeake, VA

A little history lesson for you:

Starting with just one shed and a few employees, Atlantic Yacht Basin is now the largest covered freshwater basin storage and repair facility on the East Coast. Family-owned since 1936 it is located in Chesapeake, VA on mile 12 of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. They have worked on all kinds of commercial, private, and historic boats throughout the years including the USS Sequoia.

The USS Sequoia is awaiting restoration in Belfast, Maine. At one point it was supposed to be available for public viewing during the restoration but the process has not begun due to COVID. It has been in Belfast since 2019.

- The *USS Sequoia* was built in 1925 and served eight presidents before Jimmy Carter put it up for auction in 1977
- John F. Kennedy added a king-size bed to the yacht and celebrated his 46th birthday on the boat. Marilyn Monroe may have also joined him for a cruise or two.
- It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987 and commanded rental fees of \$10,000 a day at one point.
- <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/a9985564/presidential-yacht-uss-sequoia/>

We are hooked up to electricity and we are docked right on the Intracoastal Waterway so if a boat passes we do rock a little bit. Since it is a no-wake zone the boats that passed by this morning caused such little movement that unless we were looking out the window we would not have known they were there. (No water hook up because it is off-season)

I used the rower this morning and then checked out the bathhouse. It is a small trailer that has two shower stalls with changing rooms. It is clean enough. The shower pressure was just right. Rather than go with the new-normal hair; messy bun, I used the blow dryer **AND** flat iron.



10:55 A.M. Mark took an uber to UPS for only \$11 roundtrip plus tip to do an Amazon return.



On another note: the new fender he bought and had delivered at Ocean Yachts Marina is not staying inflated so he has West Marine coming to our current location to exchange it and deliver some other stuff.

Hey..wait, here he is! 15 minutes later, he is back from his errand.



There was some debris (looks like logs) in the water this morning floating near the boat behind us. A tugboat pushing a barge came by around 8:00 a.m. Heading North it is about to go through the open draw bridge; I thought I heard it hit something in the water and assumed it was the same debris from earlier.



By 8:39 a.m. there were two men in a little boat removing the logs from the canal.



11:51 a.m. Mark is in the engine room. He has the music blasting, Haleigh is hanging out in her room, and I am writing, working, and hoping to organize the pantry; again, for the millionth time! We bought new canisters as a boat Christmas present so it is time to get them out of the box. Haleigh's chore today is going to be to sweep and mop the floors.

After a day of cruising, even if it is only a short trip, the floors get dirty from walking through the salon in our shoes. I have been wearing crocks but they are not ideal boat shoes. Boat shoes, which I do not own are ideal. I know, I know....how can you live on a boat and not have boat shoes?! I searched the Sperry website last night and if I do not find a store within walking distance while we are in Chesapeake I will order some. But I am not walking anywhere right now because it is raining!



1:00 p.m. A boat just floated on by my window and timed the hourly drawbridge opening just right. It is still raining.

Mark is working on trying to figure out the 12-volt system.

He is up & down and in & out of HB's room, the salon, and engine room so that has put my project of organizing the pantry on hold.

Small space living.

2:00 p.m. it's a boat parade. 3 boats just came through the draw bridge and are headed down the Intracoastal.

One of those boats just banged a u-turn and pulled in behind us. The Annie M, from Ida, MI

Haleigh started on dinner. A sweet potato salad. Onion happens to be an ingredient. She's crying while chopping the onion. I'm laughing at her crying.



4:00 p.m. I hear the draw bridge horn again. Two boats are coming through and both pull in here. They do not stay long.

Mark was busy this afternoon. If you saw his FaceBook post you already know, but here is what he had to say about his day:

So today was basically a standby day. Ready to move and be hauled out for servicing when the yard is ready for us. Hopefully tomorrow morning, however Covid has reduced the available staff so hoping for the best.

I spent the morning exploring and touring the Atlantic Yacht Basin marina and the vessel's stored here. Needless to say, there are some antiques that are older than I am. Very cool walk around looking at some really old boats. Thank you [Steve Conroy](#) for mentioning it. (James Taylor says hello)

I took an Uber to a UPS store to return some Amazon purchases and spent the rest of the day dissecting the 12volt DC systems onboard. You never know how previous owners wired things!!! I found a few things that aren't very logical and made a couple small wiring changes to improve and simplify.

A couple very weird things that logically don't make much sense but at least I understand it all and labeled everything. I improved what I could but without a major battery cable run from the engine room to the main panel it is almost perfect. In a nutshell the port engine starting battery does not come up to the main panel and is ONLY good for port engine starting. There are multiple battery switches that do allow me to

switch and combine multiple battery sources so that's good. A lot of redundancy and ability to crossover anything that needs more power, so that's all good. Original main panel labels needed to be tweaked a bit to actually correctly make sense. Again, it's all good. I suspected the starboard engine alternator was not putting out charge voltage and today confirmed that. Might have had something to do with the cross connection to the house battery system which I rewired today. Not a priority since I can charge that battery a few different ways.

Long story short, electrical is complicated. (But fun)



Dinner was steak and HB's sweet potato salad-which was amazing. I pan-fried the steak because I forgot all about cleaning the grill. Last time I used the grill we were in Chesapeake City. I grilled burgers, aka- hockey pucks! Half the grill was an uncontrollable fire and the other half would not light.

The wifi is working great here. I just uploaded December 18. I have to proofread December 19 and 20 then upload those tomorrow maybe.

9:00 p.m. There goes that bridge horn again.

It has turned out to be a nice evening. Haleigh and I are watching Downton Abbey and Mark is not.

