

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

Somewhere on the Water

February 12, 2022
Saturday, Day 67

Free city dock, Chesapeake, VA to Portsmouth, VA

Yes, we are headed back to Portsmouth, VA. We have prepaid time left to use up at Ocean Yacht Marina. Not that we have to use it but it is a good place to be with snow in the forecast for tomorrow and we want to watch the Superbowl with the comforts of electricity and heat.

This morning was 68 degrees and warmed up and top off at 70 degrees. Mark and I had our morning coffee then headed out for a 2 ½ mile walk in the wooded paths along the water. The same walking path I did with Haleigh the last time we were here only Mark and I went a bit further.



I got my foot a little muddy, but just a little.

Upon return, I gathered a short shopping list and walked the ½ mile to the grocery store. Empty shelves were not a welcome sight. Covid is still effecting us.



We did a 1 o'clock bridge opening with the Great Bridge Swing Bridge then directly into the lock. I got put on line duty in the cockpit with Haleigh. The fumes from our engine were strong with an unfortunate wind direction. She bailed and went inside so I put her on camera duty.

<https://youtu.be/4MIHnSWRDVc>



After a successful trip through the lock, Haleigh is back to her favorite spot in the cockpit to soak up the sun. Mark is driving (of course) and I am snapping pictures (of course). I did learn how to start the boat today but am not attempting swing bridges or locks yet.

Everyone is chomping at the bit to be outside today. The parking lot near the walking trails was full. There was an outside demonstration at the Great Bridge Museum, kayakers, paddle boarders, kayak fishermen. We saw someone magnet fishing off the free dock today. I totally had no clue what that was and in my naiveness asked what the magnet did to the fish. Hahahahaha



Just after passing under the Veterans Bridge, there is so much activity here. Cranes, barges, processing plants. It is full of thriving industries.

Coming up to the Highrise Highway 64 bridge. <https://youtu.be/h-M7-yURauU>

The project will widen I-64 from four to six lanes and add one high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane in each direction. The new High Rise Bridge will be built adjacent to the existing one to carry the three lanes of I-64 west traffic over the Elizabeth River. The existing High Rise Bridge will continue to operate during the construction. Once the new bridge is complete, the existing High Rise Bridge will carry three lanes of I-64 east traffic.-roads/bridges.com

We learned yesterday that there are several days that all passages under this bridge will be closed. Thankfully today is not one of them!



Besides the lonely pelican we saw in the Chesapeake Bay, Mark and I were questioning if we had seen pelicans in the Portsmouth area. I am thinking yes when I was videoing the James River and the Navy Ships, but Mark and I also remember being excited to see them in Belhaven, NC. The marina manager had told us that he typically sees them in the Fall and not this many.

Well, there is no mistake that on this beautiful winter day, there are pelicans here!



Gilmerton Highway bridge closed is 36' clearance which we can successfully fit under. However: Norfolk #7 when closed, but normally open is closed and only has a 7' clearance.

Mark is just about to call the bridge operator on the radio but; there is a southbound vessel that the bridge operator was communicating with and 'he is working on it.'

This is a train bridge. It's 2 o'clock and we have been waiting for a few minutes and have no choice but to wait we cannot clear this bridge.

So idling Valkyrie with 2 – 1991 Detroit 2-stroke diesel engines with over 3000 hours. They do not like to idle for a long time. They get a little gummy, gunked up, clogged with carbon, oily gunk, and basically fester in their own filth.

Last night waiting over 1 ½ hour for the swing bridge was not ideal so when the swing bridge opened we hit it hard so to speak and got the RPMs back up to help blow out whatever filth that had gathered before arriving at the dock to shut the engines down for the night.

Sécurité, Sécurité #7 bridge will be opening momentarily.
2:13 p.m. and we are through the bridge.



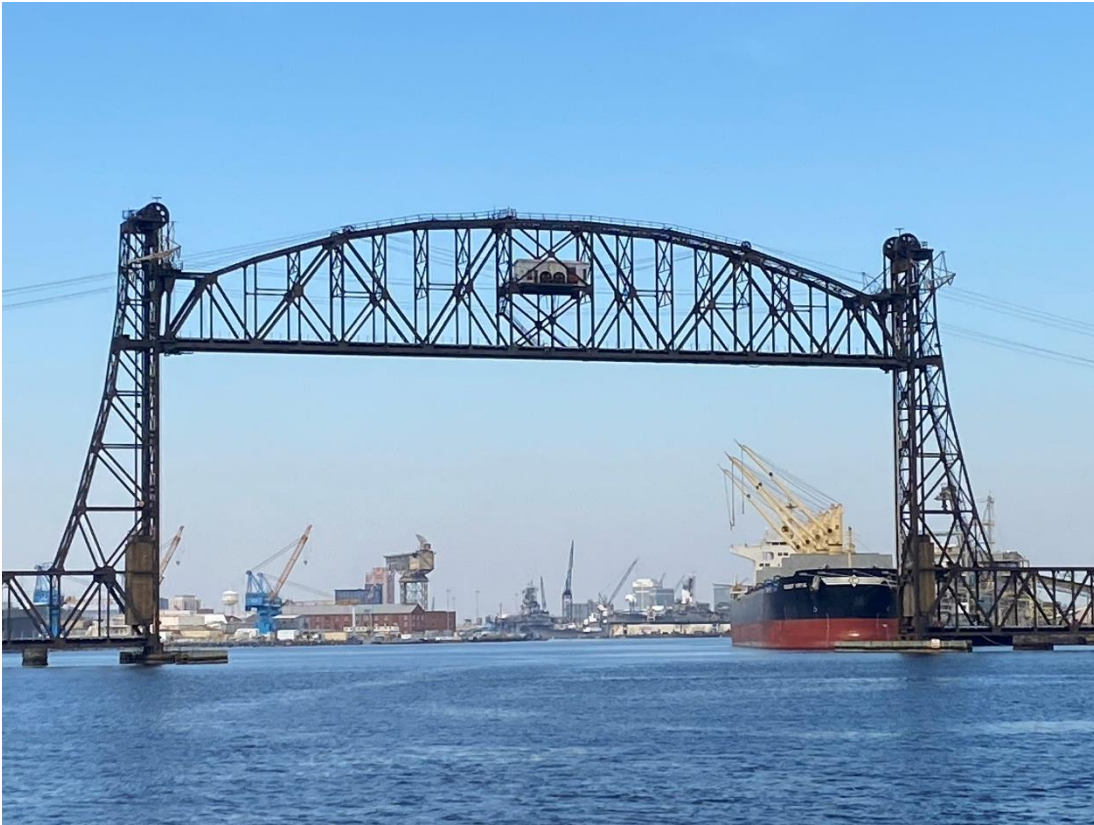
The southbound vessel – now known as the yellow vessel; it is so new it doesn't have a name on it yet, went through as soon as it could clear the bridge. So unsafe. For so many reasons you should wait until you get the green light before going through. Especially when the bridge is undergoing repairs.

Sorry about the wind in the video:

<https://youtu.be/ABerwYC-KvI>

Liquid petroleum. – stored here. Perhaps for the Navy ships?





It is 2:25 p.m. and Mark has called the marina and is making arrangements for our arrival.

It is so overwhelming to come into this area. There is so much to see and everything is so massive. Portsmouth, VA is home to just about any type of industry you could imagine. Combined with Norfolk, VA the huge military

presence, and of course the enormous maritime industry, manufacturing, transportation including railway, and oh so much more. It is a thriving area.

2:50 p.m. we are tied, engines off, and reminded by Rodney the Marina Manager that we are expecting snow tomorrow. Yes, Rodney sadly we know that already, one of the reasons we are here. He is so nice.

Mi-T-Mo a boat we saw here at this marina last time is heading south and getting pulled out in Beaufort, NC for some work. He has his boat wide open with Jimmy Buffet coming from the speakers and also in the background, the familiar horn blows every time the crane is about to move on the navy ship #1 that is in drydock across from us.



Mark and I had a cocktail on the back mezzanine while it was still warm outside. I shook things up this afternoon with a Malibu rum & juice rather than a glass of wine.



The sunset has lit this sky up with red and purple hues that are amazing and we could hear Colors being played in the background. The only other time we noticed that it was being played at sunset was back on New Year's Eve while we were over in Norfolk.

Leftover night tonight and Olympics on the tv. We are ready for the snow and rain to come into the area tomorrow. All nestled in here at the marina with freshly purchased snacks, we are ready for the Superbowl as well.