

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

Somewhere on the Water

February 24, 2022 – Leaving anchorage at Chincoteague, VA
Day 79 of our trip.- Thursday

Headed to Cape May, NJ today out in the ocean.

Last night was another awful night of sleep. We went to bed after hours of calm water and winds. We are at anchor in Chincoteague Inlet. It was a nice evening with a sky full of stars and we went out back to turn on the underwater lights to see if anything was swimming underneath us.

We did not see anything swimming, but we marveled at the sky and talked about the spacecraft that just took off from right here at Wallops Island a few short days ago and is somewhere up there in space right now.

We looked for the space launch while we were in Norfolk on Saturday but even with clear blue skies, we could not see any evidence that a spacecraft had just been launched.

Back to our awful night's sleep. The wind.



Wow!

The wind started gusting and the water started slamming up against our hull echoing and splashing. Mark checked the anchor and our position several times even though the anchor alarm never went off. The GPS 'lost signal' alarm went off but we were very quickly back online with that.

The wind is still kicking this morning and we have a few miles of the inlet before we get out beyond the island into the ocean so we have no idea how bad the seas are going to be - we can only guess. My stomach is tight and I am nervous about what we will find once we get there.

Mark said he doesn't like to be a quitter but if we have to we will turn around.



Ocean City is a ½ waypoint between Chincoteague and Cape May so we have options.

After 1 ½ hour – Leaving anchor at 7:00 a.m. getting out beyond the point and into the ocean, Mark turned us around.

Predicted 2 – 5 feet waves were in actuality twice that with hours ahead of us and no relief in sight we are now at 10:30 a.m. tied up at the Chincoteague's Robert Reed Waterfront Park, again!

It was a valiant effort by both Valkyrie and Mark: <https://youtu.be/cti2oripA6Y>

Valkyrie is getting a rinse right now thanks to a long hose and the town water still being on – how lucky is that. We are not filling the water tank though, Mark thought it appeared to have a lot of iron in the water.

Now that we are tied back where we started on Monday, one of the town people saw that we returned and agreed that obviously, it is a windy day and that the electricity should be turned on at the pedestals further down the bulkhead where the small boats tied up so Mark tried to get there. Problem, we are not a small boat. Problem, it was windy and the tide was against us. Problem, we do not have anyone on land to help us with the lines. These problems lead to many challenges that we need to overcome to get Valkyrie hooked up to electricity.

Reminder, there are dolphins in front of the bulkhead pilings and we need to somehow get a line tied around a dolphin or piling several feet away. So the boat will rest up against the dolphins and are 4feet around and trying to get a line-up and over and around a 4foot dolphin or a 5-6foot away piling requires a skill that is not exactly a natural skill.

Mark is trying to keep Valkyrie in one position by putting the starboard engine in & out of reverse because the current and the wind are both trying to push us forward along the bulkhead into the finger docks.

Regardless of what you think about me growing up in Vermont, I am not a farmer and do not have cowboy lassoing experience. So...while I was trying to lasso the lines, unsuccessfully he says “here, drop the line and do this,” as he tries to get me to take over the transmission control so he

could take over the lines and the lassoing. He is not a cowboy either but he has a lot of boat experience and therefore line experience.

So in 20 mph winds, with the current pushing us in bone-chilling 38 degrees, we are both in the cockpit trying to hold Valkyrie in position using the transmission so Mark can lasso a stern line in position.

Eventually, we get a line on. Mark secures Valkyrie.

Why are we spinning the boat it seems a little ridiculous to be putting ourselves through all of this?

1. It is cold and we want heat without having to run the generator all the time.
2. Mother Nature has decided we need to be in Chincoteague for a couple of more cold days. Today was supposed to be the best weather window to travel north.
3. We wanted the bow to be in what we thought was the shallower water rather than the stern where our running gear is.
4. The power cords are closer to the front of the boat than the back of the boat.

After all that the power cord did not reach the pedestal!

Big sigh!

After some strategic line easing and re-tying, we gently slide Valkyrie as far down the bulkhead as close to the electric pedestal we can get her. It seems a bit frantic when fighting a current and winds to lasso a line around the piling that is several feet away from the boat. Even when the boat is flat up against the outer dolphin, with a wet heavy line it can take several attempts to get the line where you need it. Mark was out the back door – up to the side door – out the back door – throw a line, throw it again – I just looked at him with an expression somewhere between sympathy and omg what are we doing! All for the hope that we were going to be able to reach the electric pedestal.

Bigger sigh!

Mark is giving up! The damn cord doesn't reach!

This whole process was a couple of hours. It wasn't just easing Valkyrie down, it was jumping on and off the boat climbing over the pilings onto the dolphins and then onto the boat and vice versa every time he wanted to get to the dock to move a line.

As I am typing this with him, he asks me if this is a good time to mention that he was informed that these dolphins are going to be removed next month! – we can laugh about that now.



Mark suggested to them that more electric pedestals would be nice.

We have given up, it is 5 o'clock and cold and enough is enough for the night and Mark fires off the generator.

<https://youtu.be/GSbLKbCajf4>

Sorry about the wind in the video, you may want to turn your volume down. I tried to video Mark working on the lines but you cannot hear anything over the wind. This is a quick video trying to show you a little bit of the conditions and distance we tried to describe.

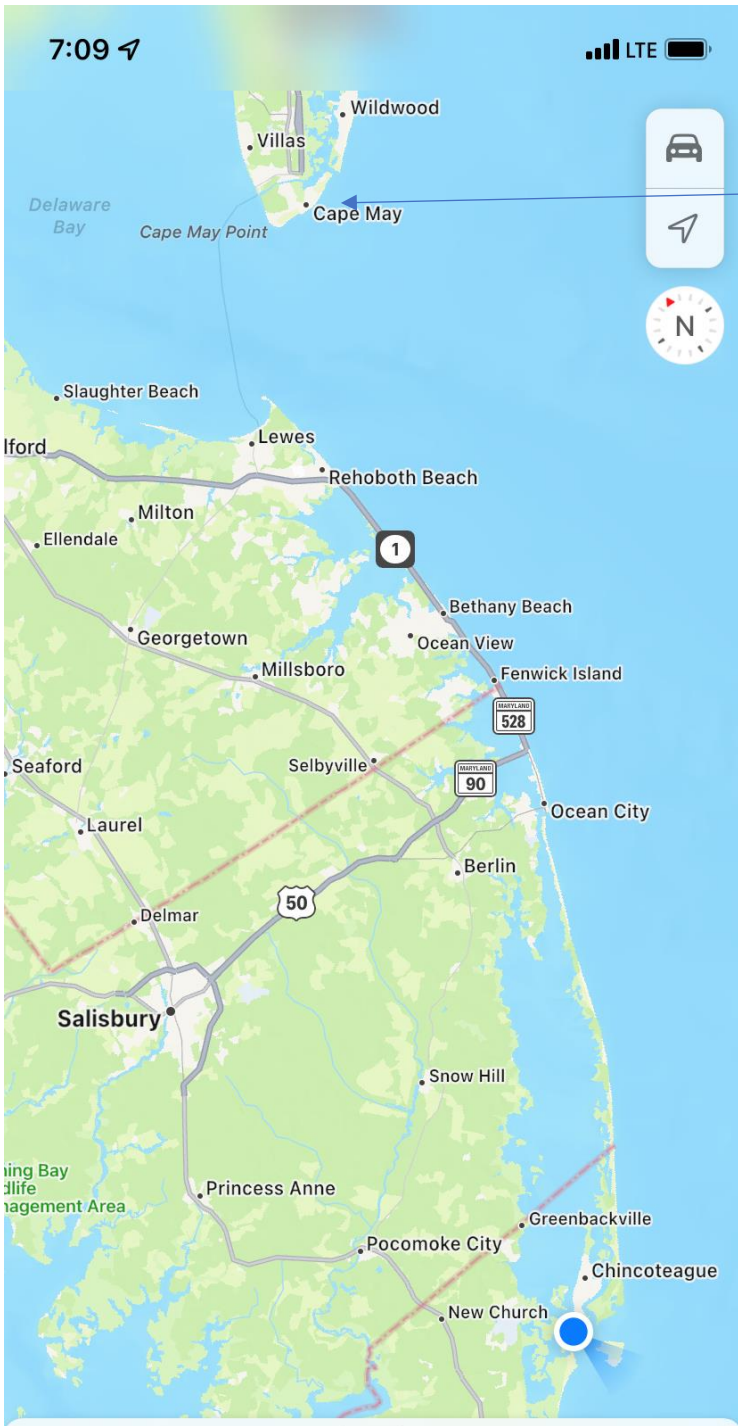


Mark has been defeated. TWICE in one day! Not a regular occurrence for him.

After the sunset, the wind calmed down and it got quiet so we could get some sleep. We all hit our beds by 8:30 p.m.

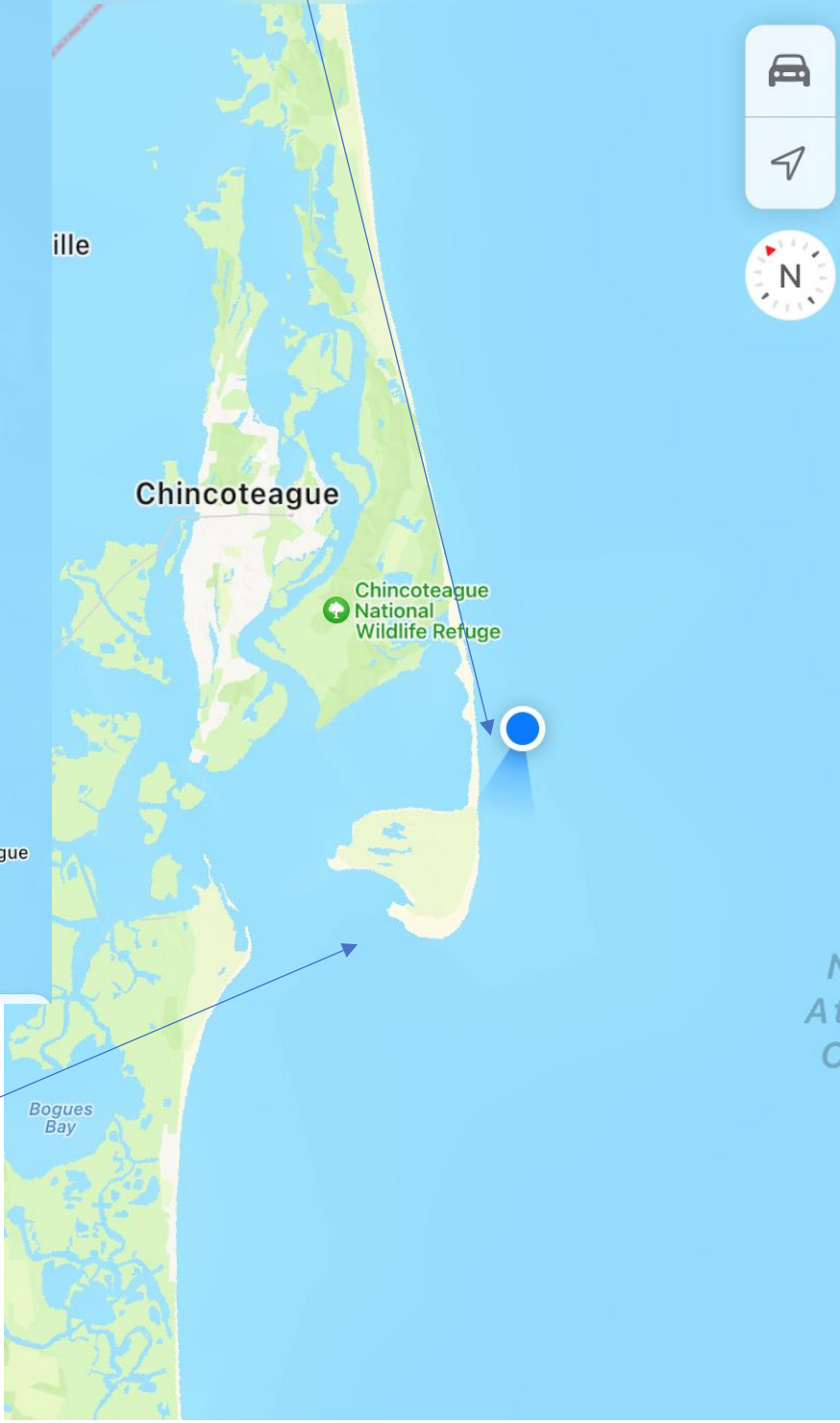
There's more





Where we wanted to go

How far we got!



Where we were when shooting the video