

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

Somewhere on the Water

We are at our summer home! West Island Marina
Welcome to our newest update! July 29 – September 7, 2022

What to expect in this



1. Portuguese Fest
2. Illumination Night
3. Weekend getaway
4. Flooding
5. Thunderstorms
6. Special guest
7. Back to College

I know it has been a while since the last update. This summer has proven to be spectacular. We have had weekend after weekend of carefree fun, relaxation, and celebrations. What have we been celebrating? Mostly – LIFE! We took a gamble selling our home and moving our family on board a boat and although not without its challenges, this lifestyle has provided us the opportunity to meet some amazing people, experience some of the most beautiful sunsets mother nature has to offer and create a newfound family comradery amongst the four of us that has created life long memories.

Keep reading – this update will cover the fun, and the not-so-fun we experienced over the last month and get you all caught up on our life onboard Valkyrie.

1. New Bedford Portuguese Fest

AKA: The Celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament.
This annual event takes place at the beginning of August in downtown New Bedford. Containing all the things that make a festival a festival; parade, food, music, rides, and games. Mark and I were invited to go with our friends MJ and Mike and their daughter & boyfriend. This would

be our first time attending. We were in good hands because our friends were not only Portuguese but also regular attendees of this festival and many others like it.

The hit of the night was Mark trying to pronounce the food items he wanted to try which included the:

Cook-you-own barbecue beef (carne d'espeto), sweet malassadas (fried dough) plus linguica (sausage) and baccalau (codfish) sandwiches.



Check out the website if interested: <http://feastoftheblessedsacramentcom.ning.com/>

2. Illumination Night

Planning for Illumination night can be as much fun as attending. This year is Valkyrie's 2nd year at West Island Marina and our 2nd Illumination Night.

Last year we did not know what to expect. We had seen a few photos and heard about some great themes and stories full of shenanigans. We decided to light up Valkyrie and go with the flow. We had strobe lights, and music, and Haleigh baked cookies.

There was participation by almost every boat at the marina. The themes included Halloween, Christmas, Charlie & the Chocolate Factory, Disco, Patriots, Aloha Hawaiian, and sharks, and we were introduced to the infamous Ice Luge.

2021



This year we had full-family involvement and a theme.

Alice & Wonderland's Mad Hatters Tea Party.

We had the Red Queen, White Queen, the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum, and of course Alice. We had tea party treats and served our signature cocktail The Valkyrie.





Thank you to Vinny for creating this unique – one of a kind – signature cocktail for Mark and Valkyrie and for being our bartender!

Other themes included (not limited to):

Mexican

Aloha Hawaiian

Jaws

Christmas

Back to the Future – Our Winners and new King & Queen – who will host next year's Illumination night



<https://youtu.be/mM51srfrXx8>

Check out Mark's drone video!!

3. Weekend Getaway

Valkyrie left the dock again and cruised back to our favorite anchorage; Bassetts Island. https://youtu.be/51MujVG_s-o

This time we had company. Jordan, Vinny, and friends came aboard for an afternoon of swimming, and jumping and mastered a great trick jump off the side of Valkyrie that we captured on video.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/DcJIR9FH9Fw>

I challenge you to show me a better cannonball!

<https://youtu.be/O7T-Z8iurm0>

It was all but a perfect weekend except for maybe one hiccup. Jordan and Vinny got stranded with the tender.

Yes, I said stranded! Total malfunction!

Mark had to jump into one of the kayaks to go save them as they were floating away in the channel.

Have you ever known me to be dramatic?
Maybe once or twice...lol

Jordan and Vinny were not stranded. Mark did have to kayak out to them just a few yards away from the boat.

Why?

When we are done using the tender in the evening (or for a few days) Mark unplugs the fuel line. Jordan did not know this and took off shuttling our guests back and forth to shore so when the fuel line ran empty of the gas left inside it the engine stalled.

No big deal and no one was hurt or in any danger whatsoever!

Valkyrie cruising Buzzards Bay: <https://youtu.be/28c03MQiqLs>

4. Flooding

OMG – yes flooding – but not outside – INSIDE!
Inside Jordan's closet!!!



If you have been following along you will come to realize that this is a reoccurring hang-out spot for Mark.

This is the food pantry that has to get emptied every time he has to access piping for the a/c & heating system.

Jordan's closet flooded; unfortunately more than once. For some reason, the water is backing up

and overflowing into Jordan's closet. After many attempts to remedy the situation, Mark decided to install new a/c hoses. An unusually high

temperature and high humidity summer season have meant that the a/c never shut off. Keep in mind our a/c & heat system uses sea water so any algae growth could be a contributing factor.

Valkyrie's back deck/cockpit became a clothesline and drying station. This same scenario repeated itself on a few occasions. It got annoying really quickly.

5. Thunderstorms

Where is the craziest place you have had to “ride out” a thunderstorm? Getting caught in the rain is one thing, but being on a boat with a thunderstorm over your head is a bit, shall we say - **exhilarating**. Not only was it a hot, humid summer, but it was also a very dry summer. In Fairhaven and much of New England, we saw little rain this summer, and several towns called for water bans. I know at one point we were hovering at a 3” shortage of rain than normal.

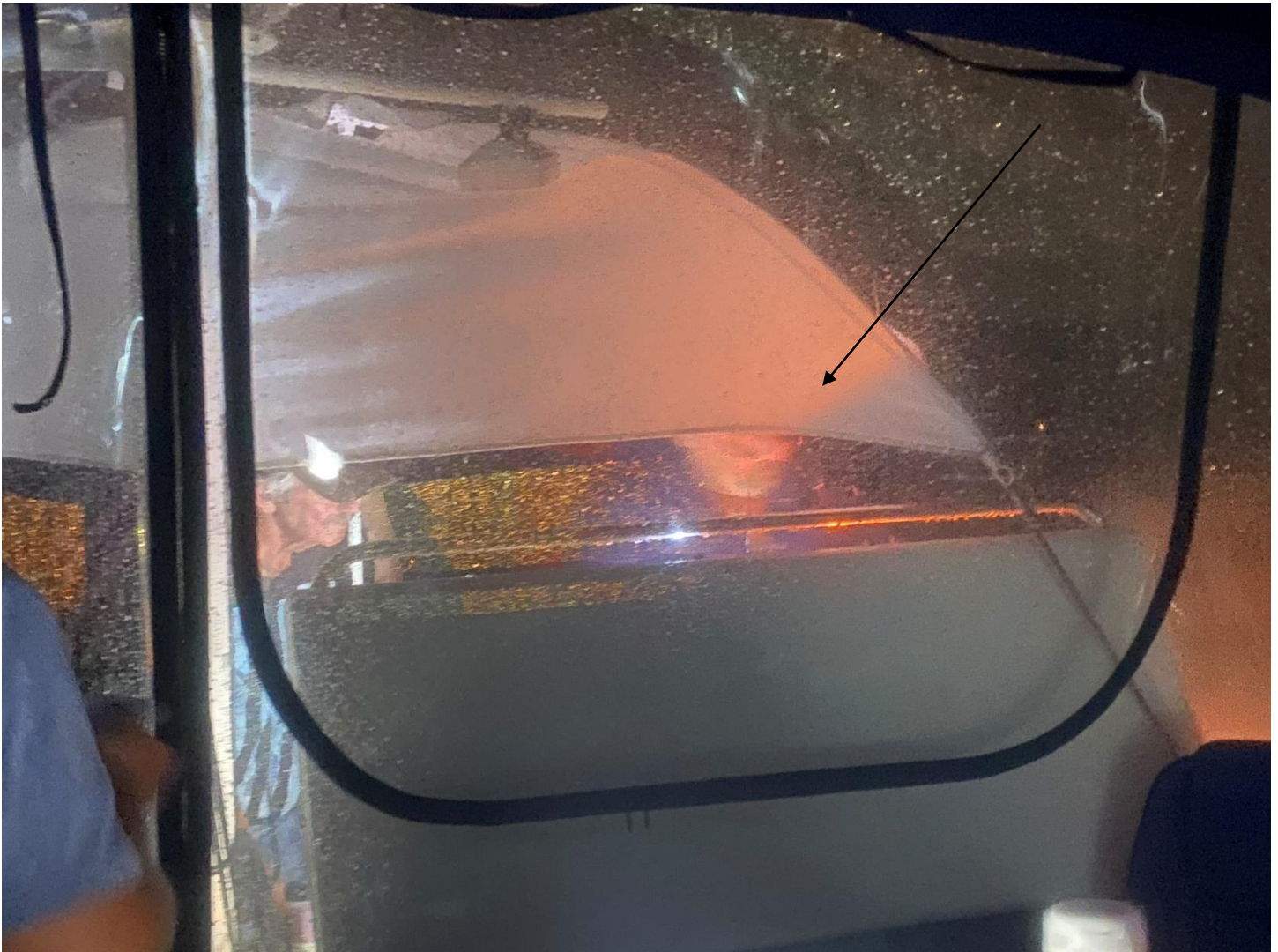


Yes this is my photo – pretty cool – if I do say so myself

We were excited to see this double rainbow at the end of one storm. We could see both ends of the rainbow.



We had a string of thunderstorms over several days. One happened upon us when we were having a birthday celebration for Mark and Bill onboard The Boss Sea Lady. It poured rain, lightning strikes all around us and our boat neighbor Anto is grilling food for about 17 of us. With Mark's help trying to stay dry and execute burgers, hot dogs, chicken, and I don't even know what else... can you see him? He is under there somewhere.



We had the best time drinking, eating, laughing, and singing.

After the storm passed and the rain subsided, we had cake. We were in stitches laughing the whole night thanks to great boat neighbors!



Happy birthday Mark and Bill!

6. A special guest

We were so excited to welcome my mom onboard. She stayed with us for a week. She got to witness the first thunderstorm shortly after her arrival. It was a doozy. Haleigh saw lightning hit a street light and the mast of a sailboat all while undercover at the marina restaurant.

My mom settled into boat life just fine..a good book, a comfy chair, and sunshine...





I took this photo but for more information visit the website.

<http://forttaber.org/>

On the list of adventures during my mom's visit was seeing Fort Taber/Fort Rodman and the Military Museum. Absolutely worth exploring if you are in the area. It was all free of charge (we left a donation at the museum) and easily could spend a few hours walking, biking, picnicking, etc.

Something we do not take advantage of often here onboard Valkyrie is our underwater lights. The longer you leave them on the more sealife you are likely to see. On this particular night we counted up to 7 striped bass; 2 eels; a crab; one pipe fish; one unidentified fish; and many little itty-bitty fishies that the neighbor boat kids like to scoop up with nets.

When we took our eyes off the water and looked up we had an amazing night sky full of stars where many constellations could be spied with ease.



In addition to the forts & museum, we participated in our weekly musical Bingo night, shopping with lunch, and mom was our White Queen at Illumination.

Being inconvenienced for many weeks with having only one car between Jordan, Haleigh, and me, having mom and her car to help shuttle everyone to work, internship, errands, etc., was extremely helpful. Being down to one car was hectic, and inconvenient and every other word you could use to describe the situation would be accurate. It sucked, but we got through it. Our family has always been pretty flexible and generous with each other and sharing one car for many weeks would not have happened without a good attitude and willingness to be flexible.

7. Back to College

Say it isn't so!!!

Just like that Summer vacation for the college kid is over!



Living onboard Valkyrie forces you to be very conscientious about how much shit you have and how to compactly store this shit. Vacuum seal bags are a vital tool for me onboard Valkyrie; for

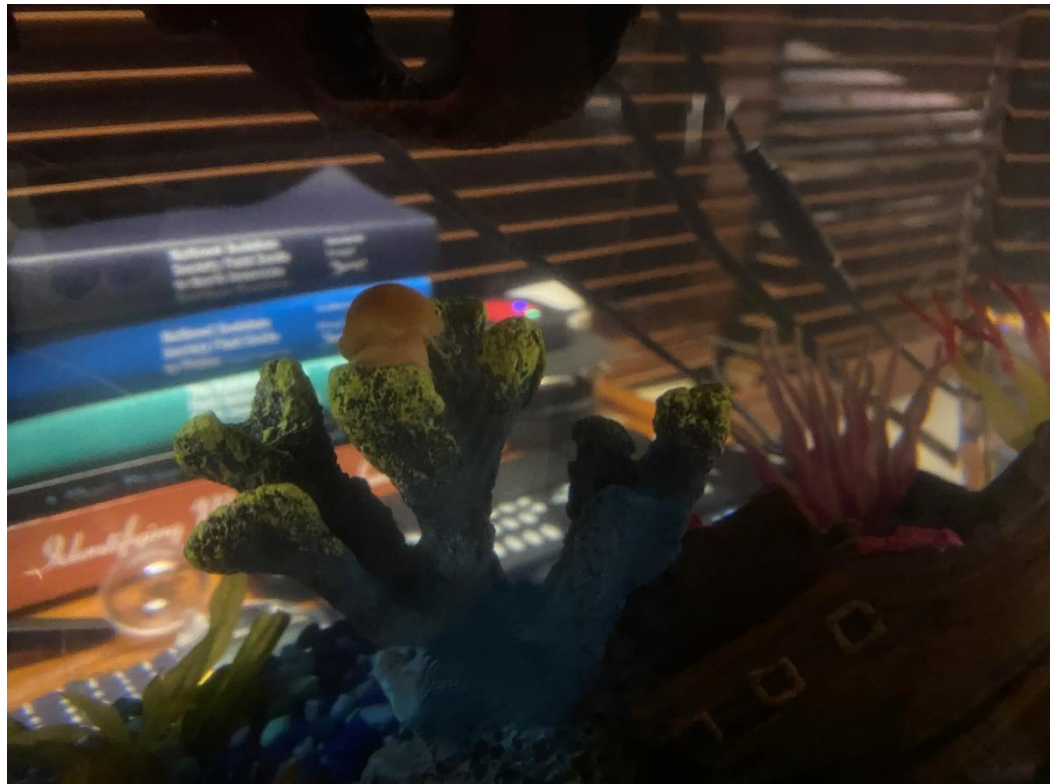


our storage unit and for packing up a college kid. Even with using vacuum bags (you can vacuum seal just about any bag, including trash bags) it took us 3-cars to get her and her belongings to school.

Jordan needs to pack for the entire year including her winter clothes, boots, etc. Don't forget her house moves, so she may not have access to anything she inadvertently left behind. Plus, I don't have a car so I cannot easily drive to her either. It is best to just go with everything.

Fish tanks cannot be vacuum sealed or shrunk. I tried to convince her to leave Elvis behind but she said no. I am pretty sure you have all been introduced to Elvis but what about Turbo?

Can you find him?



After leaving Jordan at school for the last time (she is a senior!) we finished out our week and then had a wonderful Labor Day weekend here at the marina. Monday, Labor Day, was gloomy weather so people left to return home early in the day. Haleigh worked. Mark and I did nothing. We took a day off from everything. It was quiet. Peaceful. A tad depressing. Soon boating season will be over, our marina friends will return to their normal winter routines and we will be moving our house; somewhere. Not sure where, but when we do figure it out we will let you know.

That is a wrap for this update!

But before I let you go let's take a look at what is to come!



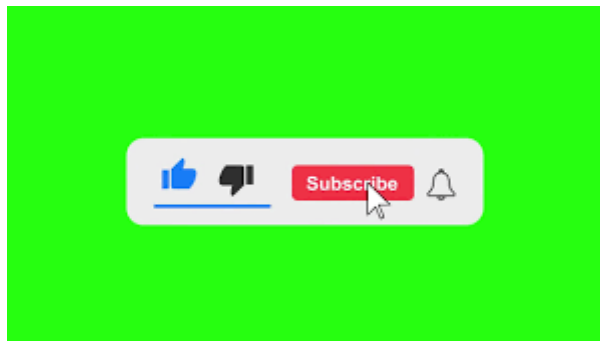
Haleigh and I will be saying goodbye to morning walks on West Island where we see this guy and a few of his friends along the conservation trail.



- Valkyrie will soon be on the move
- Aerosmith concert!
- The annual trip to VT is coming soon

Time is unrenewable and tomorrow is never promised so do it before you can't!

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All contributions go directly to creating content including the written
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<https://alongsidecreations.com/somewhereonthewater/>