

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update November 9, 2022 – December 31, 2022

The last update for 2022! We have had an amazing year onboard Valkyrie. We are looking forward to another year full of adventures! Thank you for following along with us! May 2023 be a year full of peace, good health and a whole lot of happiness!

Our last update covered our move to our winter home and much more! Check it out here: <https://alongsidcreations.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/somewhere-on-the-water-West-Island-October-8-November-8-2022.pdf>

Here is what to expect in this



- Mark changed out the water pump
- Fishing from the dock! Did we catch anything?
- Winterization projects continue
- Valkyrie gets a bath
- Changing out the airvent filters and screens
- Trouble with the master toilet
- Celebrating the Holidays

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- Mark changed out the water pump

The fresh water pumps are located in the engine room on the starboard side. This is the second waterpump he has installed. It is a 120 volt water pump. The first time he replaced the 120volt pump was because it leaked. This second pump was replaced



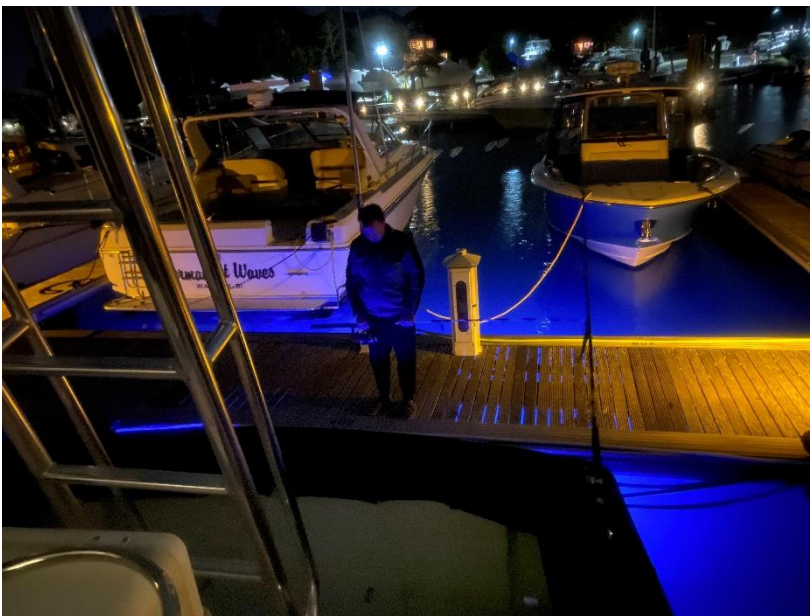
because after it sat unused for a while the cast iron pump head would give us a splash of rusty water. The replacement has a stainless steel pump head.

There is also a 12-volt water pump on board that is for use while we are at anchor or running on battery.

Did you know???

Here at the winter marina, we have a 200' water hose that we hook up to the frost-free spigot at the marina's clubhouse. We are averaging one full tank per week. This does not include laundry day. On the weekends while we are doing laundry we leave the hose out and fill it as needed. As long as the weather cooperates.

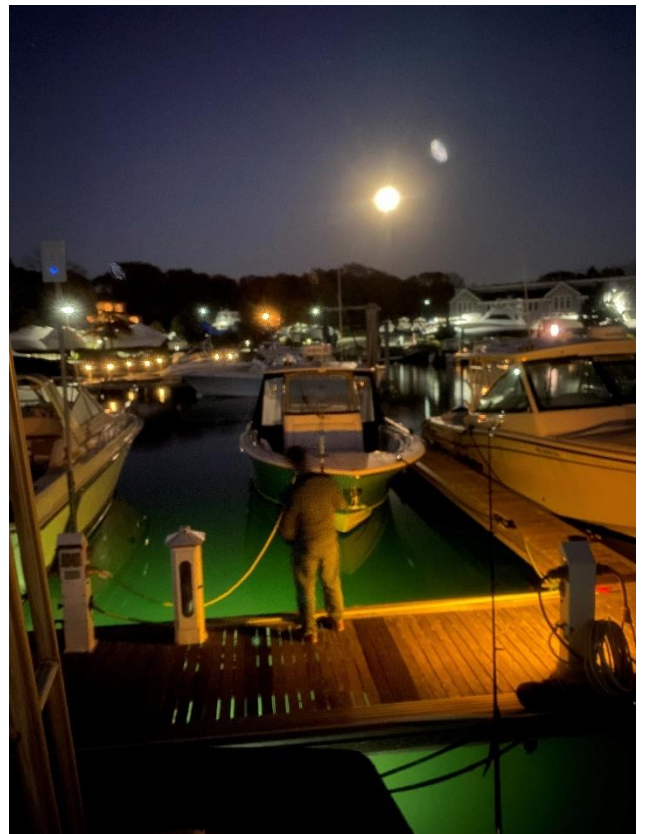
- Fishing from the dock! Did we catch anything?



Shortly after arriving here, we had a week where the stripers were finding their way into this tiny harbor. Mark fished for several nights. He was successful in catching several small fish. The biggest

measured 24". Unfortunately, not a legal size to keep but it was fun trying.

The calm nights and full moon were picture-perfect for anything but catching the big one!



➤ Winterization projects continue

In addition to the winterization projects that I mentioned in the last update Mark has:

- ✓ set up 4 new electric heaters
- ✓ taped off the engine room vents
- ✓ shut off our reverse-cycle heat
- ✓ put the block heaters on a timer so that we would have at least one block heater running every 4-hours to keep the engine room warm
- ✓ added the screen to the front window to help reduce condensation.



This is a small heater under the sink in Jordan's cabin. It is the lowest cabin on the boat so her pipes would freeze first.



We also leave the bathroom cabinet doors open in all the bathrooms (heads) as an added measure.

Plus:

- ✓ as needed we hang blankets/sheets in the doorway to further reduce any draft;



You might be able to see the screen over the windows in this photo.

What is a block heater?

Typically a block heater is used to warm up the engine's internal fluids before starting the engine. For us, normally, it would also cut down the amount of exhaust Valkyrie would create when starting the engines which our neighbors are appreciative of; but it has a lot more benefits than just cutting down on stinky exhaust including keeping everything in the engine room from freezing.

➤ Valkyrie gets a bath

How would you go about washing a 56' boat? It is not easy for one person to tackle alone. Valkyrie is also very tall at 19' and the brush extension handle only stretches so far.

So...Mark put his imagination and cleverness to good use and used this





Check out the video! <https://youtu.be/hhjlOZCk3s>



While Mark was washing the outside of Valkyrie, I was tackling the flybridge. After arriving at Fiddlers Cove the Flybridge became a "catch-all" space however many of the items up there need to be stored for winter.

before





after

After a couple of hours of washing the floor, around the helm station, the captain chairs, vacuuming & spot-cleaning the cushions, the hammock chairs were stored; the pillows were bagged and the flybridge is ready for winter.

- Changing out the air vent filters and screens

The reverse-cycle heating & cooling system, just like in your home has an air intake vent and an output vent. We line our vents with filters that we cut to size. The vents themselves came with a screen. To try to keep the air clean and the dust down we vacuum the vents; replace the filters as needed. This is the first time we replaced the screens. We believe that the screen was original to the boat but there is no way of knowing for sure.



Valkyrie's galley vent.



Filter material



Clean screen!

➤ Trouble with the master toilet

We had more trouble in the master's head. You may remember that Mark had to change the hose: video link <https://youtu.be/wMfxS98ftg8>

The toilet does not seem to be flushing well. The first and what we thought would be obvious is that it was clogged. Using the plunger did help but ultimately what we found out was that there was a lot of calcium buildup in the hose and fittings that needed to be scrapped out. The calcium build-up is not uncommon. The saltwater that the toilet uses to flush mixing with the waste is the cause of the build-up. We hope that adding vinegar to the toilet while flushing helps prevent this from happening again.

➤ Celebrating the Holidays

Plymouth, MA has a Thanksgiving parade every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This year we decided to go after a several-year hiatus.



I did not get great photos of the parade, but some of our favorites were Smokey the Bear, Santa, and the Clydesdales.



We enjoyed every day of the extended Thanksgiving weekend while Jordan was home.

First, we went to Newport Rhode Island for a visit to the Breakers Mansion and lunch at Deigo's on Bowens Wharf.





Then, we had an amazing Thanksgiving day with the morning at home watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade followed by a tasty dinner at Mark's mom's followed by some game time fun!



Day 3; Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Jordan, Haleigh, and I had our first visit to this museum. For hours we walked from exhibit to exhibit taking in as much as we could. We were exhausted by the end of the day but glad we did it.



Lastly: Valkyrie has a tree! We picked out our Christmas tree and had it up and decorated it that same Thanksgiving weekend!



We did not leave much time for Jordan to get her homework done, but she did have a little bit of time to relax and do schoolwork before heading back to school.

She did not have any time to miss us because of just a few days after returning to school.....

Haleigh, Diane, and I went to Kennebunkport to meet Jordan to celebrate her 22nd birthday! It was a rainy day but that did not dampen our spirits as we celebrated with shopping, lunch, and lots of laughs



We had the best time at our friend's Christmas party in early December! Melissa and Anto were wonderful hosts and our marina friends are the most fun!! Thank you so much for having us!

Valkyrie welcomed Diane, Joanne, and Vinny for a family fun Christmas celebration.



I could not wait to give Vinny his gift! A 50th Anniversary Aerosmith Fenway Concert jersey!

We were so disappointed that they were sold out when we were at the concert in September but Christmas Miracles of all sizes can come true. I was able to find the one-of-a-kind concert shirt and he loved it! The best reaction to a gift ever!!!

It is finally time to go home for Christmas...Off to Vermont for a White Christmas filled with family, snow, cold and fun! The wind storm that hit Thursday night/early Friday morning 22nd-23rd knocked out a lot of power lines due to downed trees. My niece and cousin lost power for several days. With extremely low temperatures there was a lot of concern but everything worked out in the end!

Despite the weather, we had 3-days of a house filled with family, food, laughter, and Christmas celebrations.



Leaving Valkyrie for several days did create some anxiety and worry. The predicted temps for Cape Cod were very low and the same wind storm that hit us in VT was also predicted for Cape Cod. Thankfully Mark was able to set up a camera onboard pointed directly at the circuit panel and our neighbor's boat camera was redirected to point to Valkyrie. We left a light on so we could see through that camera if the power went out and with the circuit panel camera, Mark could tell if there was a fluctuation on the meters which would indicate a problem with the heaters. He also placed a thermometer in front of the camera to keep track of the boats inside temp.

Thankfully Mark's forethought saved Valkyrie from potential problems because the marina did lose power. The electric heaters were off on a night that was 14 degrees. Valkyrie was now without any heat source!

A huge shout out and thanks to Vinny who did go onboard Valkyrie to turn our heaters back on for us. The heaters were able to maintain approximately 59-degree temperatures over the cold spell and we were able to return from our vacation to our home without any disasters.

On this last day of 2022, we would like to thank you all for your support, and love and for sharing this adventure with us.

Peace, good health, and much happiness are our wishes for all of you in 2023 and beyond! Please do not wait to follow your dreams. Someday is today!

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



OUR journey onboard Valkyrie continues...