

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update December 31, 2022 – January 31, 2023

Happy New Year and welcome to the first update of 2023!

Welcome aboard Valkyrie!

In case you missed our last update, the link is here:

<https://alongsidecreations.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/somewhere-on-the-water-West-Island-November-9-December-31-2022.pdf>

Some of the things you will read about in the last update:

- Mark changed out the water pump
- Trouble with the master toilet
- Winterization projects continue

Here is what to expect in this



- Valkyrie sprung a leak!
- No more storage space.
- River Otters.
- Chores, maintenance and projects.
- Onboard winter living!
- Winter beach walks!

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- Valkyrie sprung a leak!

It was the last day of 2022. Mark was filling the water tank. It is normal for Mark to fill it as full as possible, keeping an eye on the tank meter and an ear out to hear if it by chance overfills and starts pouring out of the back

discharge pipe. Unfortunately for us, what should have been a normal task was anything but. How did he know? There is water on the master bedroom floor. Why?

The water tank is located underneath the bed in the master cabin and unbeknown to us..there is a new crack in the tank.

Running the water in the galley sink to lower the tank level was the immediate fix to stop the leak. The long-term fix: Mark will repatch the tank. The leak is from an already patched crack. For now; the crack will be monitored and the tank will be filled to $\frac{3}{4}$ level rather than full.



New Year's Eve continued with a lot less excitement. We stayed home and rang in the New Year with Miley & Dolly on TV.

➤ No more storage space.

Woo Hoo! I am so excited about this and very proud of myself. When we decided to sell our house and move on board a boat I had a very difficult time parting with our things. Haleigh was my go-to girl when it came to organizing, downsizing, and staying focused. You can read about all of that in our Back Story which is located on the website.

As good of a job, as Haleigh did keeping me on task during this transition period, we did end up with 2-storage units. Once we acquired Valkyrie and moved on board we were able to eliminate one of those units, however, the remaining storage unit was so full. Too full. There was no way anyone could maneuver inside it.

After 2 years the storage unit was getting to be a bit expensive. The rates were going up and we still have 3 years left of our original 5-year plan. With the amount of money we have paid out we could have repurchased the same items.

We once again tackled the overwhelming task of donating, selling, and reevaluating what was important for us to keep or ditch.

Ta..Da..We did it



June 2020

January 2023



➤ River Otters.

We have 3 river otters living near the marina. Mark spied them one morning playing together in the ice-covered cove and then again this morning. I was fortunate to get a video. 1/3/2023

<https://youtu.be/cl7CpiF0DDw>



➤ Chores, maintenance & projects.

Winter is a time that Mark's work slows down which enables him to focus on some projects that he wants to do.

- Cleaned the bilge pumps. This is normal maintenance. You can learn about it here: <https://youtu.be/FPuTmrDZ3mM>
- The bathroom sinks were draining slowly so Mark had to clean those out.
- Replaced some lightbulbs
- Started Project: Soft Floor

This will be a multi-day project in the mid-cabin; aka Jordan's room. The floor in front of the washer was soft when we bought the boat but has gotten worse. This project will be documented in a video with detail in the next update.

➤ Onboard winter living!

Even though I am grateful to be able to work from onboard, I do get a bit stir-crazy come the weekends, especially when the weather is mild. I find that walking the beach is soothing for the soul.

This is from January 7: Video link to my winter-day walk on New Silver Beach. <https://youtu.be/4Bk3EbKHAqU>

January 9, 2023, was a rainy Monday. I hit the snooze one extra time rather than get up and take my morning walk. Typically, Mark is up first but this morning it was me.

Coffee and tea are top priorities every morning so I commence to turn on the tea kettle and the coffee maker. Yea...no, not a good idea.

The electric heaters are a huge draw on our system. We monitor the voltage/amp draw daily to learn what we can and cannot operate. Today I learned you cannot make morning tea and coffee at the same time. I tripped a breaker.

What other idiosyncracies have we learned?

- ✓ In the galley, the electric fry pan and the microwave cannot be used at the same time.
- ✓ Do not use the toaster oven and microwave at the same time.
- ✓ When the heaters are on high; no galley appliances except the fridge.

Jan 14-16 We had multiple days of cold, high wind, rain, snow, and sleet; a wintery mix of everything.

The wind came in from the north so our boat was rocking and rolling, the lines were creaking and we had a howling wind. Someone who lived in a nearby neighborhood decided that the noise of the wind was being amplified by one of the sailboats. They helped themselves to walk down the docks and then called the marina to complain.

The boat owner is in Columbia; not too convenient for him to come down and try to remedy the situation.

The marina staff decided to turn the boat around. This should prevent the mast from creating the ghastly loud whistling wind when coming from the north.



When the boat was repositioned into the slip it was facing bow first rather than stern in as shown above. They also left the boat unplugged from the electricity. Once the owner realized the boat had no electricity he called Mark (from Columbia) asking him to plug it back in. Unfortunately after tugging on the cord as much as possible, it just was not long enough. After making arrangements (again all the way from Columbia) for someone to drop off an extension cord, Mark was then able to get the neighbor's boat plugged back in.

Of course, the wind does tend to change direction so just a few short days after turning the boat; the staff had to turn it back around again when the wind started to come from the south.

During this 3-day winter weather event, it got pretty cold in our salon. The electric heater was not keeping up. Our temperature was dropping even though the heaters were set on high. Mark measured the temperature of the seawater and determined that it was safe enough to turn on the boat's salon heat so we could warm things up a bit. Reading a 38-degree water temperature we were able to warm the salon up with no consequence to the boat's system. That was Sunday. (15th)

<https://youtu.be/6H7Xc9tdEzc> This video shows Valkyrie in its Winter-Ready state...see how we set up the heaters, how that affects our electricity usage, etc.

We had a very quiet, boring weekend the next weekend 21-22nd. I left Valkyrie Saturday and went for a long walk on Chapaquoit Beach here in Falmouth. This is a great beach to walk to, especially at low tide.

Check out the video and photos: https://youtu.be/A1_v6RtNCL8

I also stopped at Old Silver Beach. (not in the video) I did not get out here. Just enjoyed a similar view from what I see from New Silver Beach.

Upon my return to the boat, I snuggled up in a blanket with a glass of wine and watched football with Mark. I was not properly dressed for my beach walk and was chilled right to the bone as the saying goes.

*I made the best burgers I have ever made. So yummy.
And, for the first time in a long time, I pulled out the crockpot. I
slow-cooked chicken thighs. The chicken was very tasty. Brown
Sugar Chicken & Fam's Favorite Burgers
Find the recipes here:
<https://alongsidedcreations.com/health-wellbeing/>*

January 28: We got together with some of our boat friends at Harry's in Middleborough. It was fantastic. We had a lot of fun and the restaurant was very accommodating. The staff was wonderful. It was a rather mild

day for January and after we finished eating they let us have a fire in their outdoor fireplace and served us cocktails out on the deck. Most of us chipped in and shared chicken wings. There was a huge variety of flavors available. They were delicious and the cocktails were perfect. I had coconut margaritas. It was the perfect afternoon (except for missing a few friends that could not make it)



We were thrilled to have Jordan home during her winter break from college and with her came Elvis and Turbo.

Back to school they all went for Jordan's final semester as a college student! Good luck!



As always thank you for following along with us as we live, cruise, and otherwise make things up as we go onboard Valkyrie.

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



OUR journey onboard Valkyrie continues...

- Project Soft-floor
- Multiple boat projects including an engine fix that has been on the "to-do" list since we bought the boat
- The big freeze – how did Valkyrie make out in below-zero weather
- Valentine's day