

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 2 – December 2, 2023 – Onset, MA to Thames River, New London, CT

Departure time: 7:00 am

Arrival time: 5:30 pm

Total hours cruised: 10.5 hour

Average speed: 7.5 knots against current

About Last night:

Last night Mark ran the generator for a couple of hours to recharge batteries, run the heat, heat up the hot water tanks, and provide power for me to cook dinner. We watched tv by candlelight and in bed by 10 pm. Valkyrie can get 'over-the-air' antenna tv. We had a few channels to choose from which is actually pretty amazing.

6:30 am the alarm went off, Mark was up, started the generator & the engines, made his coffee, pulled the anchor all before I got out of bed at 7:15 am.

The temperature in the boat this morning before turning on the heat was about 54. We both stayed plenty warm sleeping last night and with the heat on the salon was 71 by the time I made my tea around 7:30 am.

8:15 am (ish) Mark hailed this tug to ensure it was indeed stationary as we wanted to pass in front of it.



We were eventually given the all-clear. This barge will be coming in and out of New Bedford transporting the wind-turbine blades that have been stored in New Bedford's port. All part of the construction of the wind farm in Vineyard Sound. <https://www.vineyardwind.com/vineyardwind-1>

By 8:45 am we have West Island, our summer home off our starboard side with a view of WI Beach and its historic tower

Little bit of trivia:



Located on the southern tip of West Island, the 48-foot tower overlooks the beach and all of Buzzards Bay. Construction of the tower was announced in 1888, and the Army occupied the site during World War Two. The tower is identified as a Fire Control structure and was part of a Fire Control and Coastal Defense Artillery network that extended throughout the Eastern Seaboard of the United States.

<https://millicentlibrary.org/world-war-ii-lookout-tower/>

9:30 am we are hitting 4-foot waves with an occasional 6-footer. So far everything seems to be secured safely. Passing by New Bedford.

10:20 am We are passing Gooseberry Island part of Westport, MA

We need our sea legs today. Mark is hoping that once we get into Block Island Sound we may smooth out.

We have had two water bottle casualties plus Merry Christmas Blocks.



The weather prediction was 10-15 mph winds and 2-4 foot waves but at 11:30 am the winds were 23 mph gusting 28mph with waves 4-8 feet with large swells.

Little bit of trivia:

Just past Horseneck Beach in Westport is Gooseberry Island. There is a 1/2-mile trail out to the tip of the island. There are two observation towers. They were built in World War II to help spot German U-boats in Buzzards Bay. These two towers mirror the West Island tower.

Gooseberry Island dates back to 1602 from accounts of Bartholomew Gosnold's adventures, exploring, mapping, and naming Cape Cod, the Elizabeth Islands, and Cuttyhunk which can be seen from the beach on Gooseberry Island. There used to be 81 buildings on this island but several hurricanes over the years caused severe damage to them and by 1956 the State of MA took over the 73 acres, and removed any building remains. www.newbedfordguide.com

Although we do think we must be one of the last boats leaving the north heading south we have seen two pleasure boaters (fishing) and as we traverse Rhode Island Sound passing by Newport Harbor we see a car carrier, another ship in the cloudy distance and Mark has targeted a couple more boats. It is nice to know that we are not alone.

As we motor by Point Judith, RI, Mark spies a windsurfer!!

Point Judith is on the west side of the entrance to Narragansett Bay, RI as well as the north side of the eastern entrance to Block Island Sound.

You can find information on the lighthouse at:

www.newenglandlighthouses.net

Close call with F/V Shelby Ann! We were on a collision course until Mark radioed over to the F/V to find out his intent; cross our bow or our stern. Turns out they intended to let us cross in front of them but that was a little too close for my comfort. Mark never panics so all is good.



New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have a triangle border just at the tip of Fisher Island on the port side and Stonington, CT in view out the starboard side which we crossed around 3:30 pm as we entered Fishers Sound.

I did take a nap but woke in time to see Latimer Reef Lighthouse. This lighthouse is in New York, it is a sparkplug lighthouse on Latimer's Reef. It was constructed in 1804 and became automated in 1974.

At the mouth of the Thames River, New London, CT we will motor by the New London Ledge Lighthouse. Built in 1909 and was automated in 1987.



I love lighthouses and am thrilled that we get to see so many along the way. Most lighthouses have fantastic historic significance and contributions that you can read about here:
www.newenglandlighthouses.net

North Dumpling Island houses North Dumpling Lighthouse. This was barely visible to us today due to the clouds and approaching sunset. Since this Island (one of many small islands) off Fishers Island is in New York you would not be able to find info on the above New England Lighthouse sight but if interested you can find information on www.lighthousefriends.com

Dropping anchor at 5:30 pm

The first anchorage did not pan out. It had several buoy markers in the exact spot where we were going to drop anchor. After several minutes of evaluating and seeing that there wasn't much room for error, we left for anchorage spot #2, up the Thames River. It was dark but as we entered the river we had better visibility because of all the lights from the buildings, etc onshore. It was a little nerve-wracking dodging buoys until we got into the river.

We are anchored in Coits Cove near New London's city pier and the United States Coast Guard.

The original anchorage was in a small cove between Avery Point and Pine Island just across from the Pine Island Marina, Groton, CT



Note to Captain Mark:

- The spotlight doesn't work
- The Aquamaps app is not consistently accurate
- Great job with the stamina to cruise 10.5 hours and anchor us in a strange new area in the dark

Dinner was delicious. Creamy ranch chicken with green beans made in the skillet.

Mark found 'over-the-air' TV channels so a little TV and early to bed for another long day tomorrow cruising to Norwalk, CT

FYI

Sometimes while reading what I have written you'll notice that it is in the present tense because I am typing as it is happening. However, when I return to proofread or add content at a later time, I type in the past tense. You'll get used to it.

Today's YouTube video link: <https://youtu.be/kXt2CGykjFY>

Stay
tuned

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