

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 12 – Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – Chincoteague Island, VA

What a gorgeous day. A little breezy but not enough to stop me from a 3.4 mile walk along Main St. and then over to the Veterans Memorial Park.



Vetrean's Memorial Park is open to the public. It has an amazing playground for kids with a junglegym, basket ball court, ramps for kayakers, and thankfully open public restrooms.

My main object of walking to the park was for the view which included the Assateague Island Lighthouse.

Little bit of Trivia:

The Assateague lighthouse, built in 1867, stands 142 feet high. The brick tower has two 1000-watt lamps that double flash every five seconds. At its base, the lighthouse is 27 feet in diameter and about 15 feet in diameter at the top. An internal spiral stairway leads up to the top. The lighthouse is located on the Virginia side of



Assateague Island, a windswept barrier island that serves as the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. <https://www.virginia.org/listing/assateague-lighthouse/4906/>

Along the way, I saw the ponies out grazing at the Carnival barns. I passed by a couple of cemeteries. One caught my eye and I wondered into it a little bit. Most all the headstones date to the 1860's.



Little bit of Trivia:

During the 17th century, the Island was used for livestock grazing. By 1800, families had settled on the Island full-time. These settlers learned the importance of our natural resources; oysters, clams, crabs, and fish. A seafood industry developed with trade to New York and Philadelphia.

I just had to take a photo of this. I mean really! The Island of Misfit Toys. So cute!



I have no idea what this is so please message me if you do. Mark guessed a steam-powered wood bender.

Wallops Island is next to Chincoteague Island and today, like many other days there are several, at one point I counted 5 planes circling.

And circling, and circling, for hours.

What are they doing?

First off, if you Google Wallops Island this is what you can find:

NASA's Wallops Flight Facility provides agile, low-cost flight and launch range services to meet government and commercial sector needs for accessing flight regimes worldwide from the Earth's surface to the moon and beyond.

Wallops provides many different suborbital platforms for science and technology research.

- Sounding Rockets

- Scientific Balloons

- Airborne Science

- SmallSat Support

- Launch Range

- Commercial Resupply Missions

To put it in easier terms:

Tucked away on Virginia's Eastern Shore, NASA's **Wallops** Flight Facility plays an incredibly important role in our understanding of earth and space science.

As for the planes that are circling: www.delawareonline.com

The Navy signed a \$1.9 million annual contract with NASA to begin aircraft carrier landing practices at Wallops. The program will have pilots landing on and taking off from Wallops runways equipped with lights and graphics to resemble the decks of carriers.

There will be 20,000 touch-and-go exercises per year at Wallops with the E-2 and C-2 aircraft, the only non-jet airplanes that land on carriers, officials said.

Mark took advantage of this beautiful day in a different way.

He painted the starboard salon windows with black paint to cover the caulking that was not UV resistant and would leave black streaks down the boat when it got wet and if you touched it it would rub off on you.

Mostly, he would say it was to give Valkyrie's aging window frames a beauty touch-up.



The Portside windows will have to come later.

It has been 8 days since we have filled the water tank. We are at a new record. We have been as efficient as we can with our water usage. The 150-gallon supply is used for drinking, cleaning, cooking, and everything else water-related. It has been 10 days since we have done laundry. Don't worry we stocked up on those unmentionables before we left 😊

We are here in Chincoteague for a couple of more days so the discussion had to happen; how are we going to stretch out our water? I do have disposable plates & forks we could use for meals; I could buy drinking water. We are already at every other day showers; so where else could we conserve? There isn't.

One possibility is to ask the town's marina if their water is on. We could try to make water. Or, we will have to make it stretch until we arrive in Chesapeake, VA.

It was determined that making water is not going to be an option. There is too much floating seaweed and the water looks dirty.

Waiting until Chesapeake, VA is not an option.



So we will have to try our best to get in touch with the town marina and pray they can provide us with water. Stay tuned.

We reviewed our onboard fire safety and decided a second fire extinguisher is needed in our closet. We had one in the liquor cabinet which isn't necessary because we have one hanging on the wall next to it.

Our inventory of fire extinguishers is plentiful. One (if not two) in each bedroom. One in the main salon, one under the kitchen sink, and the engine room have a built-in fire extinguishing system. In addition, we have a portable foam extinguisher in the engine room and a portable dry chemical extinguisher. On the flybridge, there is one under the sofa just at the top of the stairs and there is one in the tender.

Dinner was leftover Mexican casserole. After a 1.5-hour conversation with our youngest, we watched Santa Claus is Coming to Town and then went to bed.

Stay
tuned



Today's link: <https://youtu.be/nmrebc37-HI>

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