

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Days 17, 18 & 19 – Sunday-Tuesday, December 17- 19, 2023
Chesapeake, VA Free Dock next to Great Bridge –
Atlantic Yacht Basin, Chesapeake, VA

Weather! Wind and rain. Mark soaped up the boat in hopes that the rain would rinse it off. It did not start raining until much later than predicted so lets hope it worked out in our favor after having the soap on the boat for a couple of hours. There was a light rain throughout the day, however the downpours did not come until late afternoon and lasted throughout the night.



We watched the Patriots lose, again. They looked good for the 1st half but that 2nd half was disappointing.

We had snacks throughout the game and I made Sausage with orzo for dinner in the skillet. Yummy!



I worked on day 6 & 7 videos. Unfortunately, I overwrote the day 6 video with day 7, so all those hours (we are talking many hours) were wasted! Ugh!!! I am already so far behind!

Did Mark's soap trick work? No. It did not. Lol. Oh well.

We woke up Day 18, December 18, 2023, to sunshine and warm temperatures. It is Monday, so I am working. Mark's plan for this morning was to take Valkyrie to the other side of the Great Bridge and dock at the Atlantic Yacht Basin, our final destination before driving back to New England for Christmas. Once there, Mark will paint the portside salon windows and talk with the marina shop manager about getting Valkyrie on the schedule for repairs and maintenance.

We went through the Great Bridge at the 11 am opening. It was a shitshow of a tie-up at the marina dock. It was windy and the dockhand had no patience to wait for lines or to take Mark's direction on how he wanted to tie up. Eventually, the dockhand just left and a neighbor boater came to help.

After the windows were painted Mark spun the boat to our normal starboard tie. Once again our kind neighbor came out and helped with the lines. This docking experience, both of them, left a very sour taste in my mouth. I have a pinched nerve in my neck which has caused me a lot of pain in my right arm and have not been able to do many things with my right (dominant) arm let alone lift (or throw) heavy things. To make things worse, right before we left for this cruise I threw out my lower back which adds to my limitations physically. When Mark asked me to toss lines (wet, heavy lines. Let us not forget we had downpouring rain yesterday), I knew it was going to be a disaster. Disaster it was. Embarrassing, it was.

Lines went in the water, more than once and each time my pride and my arm were bruised. I am not asked to do many things to help Mark when it comes to docking and when I am asked, I hate not being able to do it. If it hadn't been as windy as it was he wouldn't have asked, but he needed the help. He of course kept his cool through the whole thing.

By 3 pm the painting was done the boat was spun and we were tied starboard side to the dock and hooked up to electricity.

Before the end of the day, Mark arranged a West Marine delivery of oil and other items. Valkyrie's engines get an oil change every 100 hours. Right now she is 10 miles over.

Dinner: Cheeseburgers and roasted vegetables & potatoes.

Day 19 – Tuesday, December 19, 2023 – Atlantic Yacht Basin, Chesapeake, VA

Mark received a portion of his West Marine order. With that, he can cross a couple of things off his list. One of those things is to change the diesel fuel filters.

A few other items on the chore list for today:

1. There is a small corner just outside our back door that needed some caulking. It should help with the draft coming in through the windows.
2. The tender and the flybridge seating were covered.
3. I wrapped the decorative pillows and our towels in shrink-wrap bags. Something I should have done in the Fall.
4. There is a new crack on the isinglass that was repaired.
5. Mark filled two holes in the hatch cover to the flybridge. These aren't new holes, they are from a past repair that was left ignored.

6. Purchased gas for the tender.
7. Work in the engine room that got done:
 - Oil change on the generator
 - Changed the oil and cleaned the filter strainers on both transmissions
 - Topped the house bank batteries with distilled water

What did I do today?

I dusted and swiffered the floor. Doesn't that sound exciting?!

I worked.

Took a walk over to the store. Within walking distance are Rite Aid, Krogers, Dollar Store, Chilis, and Panera Bread to name a few.



Day 20 – Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – Atlantic Yacht Basin

Mark did his laundry yesterday. Today I will do mine, plus the boat laundry; sheets, towels, etc.

The laundry is \$1.00 (quarters) per load. We can use our dryer. It is the freshwater we are trying to save. Electricity for the dryer is not the issue.

About last night:

Dinner was leftovers. The goal is to empty the refrigerator. Thankfully we will have the boat plugged into electricity while we are gone but if we lose power for any reason, I don't want to risk losing food to spoilage. Chances are we won't. Since we are next to a Kroger provisioning the boat when we return won't be a problem. I can use our wagon to cart the groceries the ½ mile distance.

We watched some Christmas shows which included the Great Christmas Light Fight.

Our boat neighbors here at the marina just left this morning. They have been here for two months with mechanical difficulties. Waiting on parts, etc. Family of 5 with dog and cat. Bless them, that could not be easy on any of them.

In hindsight, it would have been easier to just use the marina's laundry dryer. It is 4:40 pm and I am still waiting for laundry to dry in our dryer. Our dryer does not like to be overstuffed so I cannot put 2 loads of wet clothes in at one time. The dryer takes over an hour for each load, so I am never going to get to bed at this rate and our sheets still need to be dried. Ugh.

I had multiple days of photos and videos to download off my camera and phone. Most of the time my computer and I get along, but there are days we do not. Today is one of those days.



Day 21 – Thursday, December 21, 2023 – Atlantic Yacht Basin

We are getting ready for our road trip. I have to pack and go to the store for some car ride essentials, translation = junk food, and a few more stocking stuffers to help Santa out. Packed up the gifts, my work stuff (yes I will be working while traveling), and clothes. What to wear? Between deciding what to wear every day and deciding what's for dinner every night – these two questions consume way too much of my time.

Mark's goal is to fix the spotlight. He thinks he got it, however he may need to replace the flybridge control panel. Did you know that it is hard to work on a spotlight during the daylight?



While I was out shopping for food I found a clothing shop. I stopped and bought 2 tops for myself which someone is going to wrap and give me for Christmas.

In preparation for leaving; Mark ordered a Lyft to the rental car and has made a list of all the things he is going to shut off on the boat. The water heaters, water pump, all the non-essentials, stove, outlets, etc.

Essentials that are always kept on onboard Valkyrie, even when only on battery power:

- Forward stateroom outlets
- Salon outlets
- Master head outlet
- Galley outlets
- Refrigerator

How do we know that they are essential? Because the previous owner indicated as much to us and marked the breakers with blue tape. Mark is certain it is because the carbon monoxide detectors are on these circuits.

Tomorrow, Day 22, Friday, December 22, 2023, we leave at 7:30 am to pick up the rental car and drive an estimated 10-12 hours to Vermont. We will be in Vermont for Christmas and New Year's Eve and then drive to Cape Cod for a few days. I have a doctor's appointment on the 4th. Friday, January 5 we will provision before returning the rental car. We are renting our car through Turo, a car-sharing company much like Airbnb. I will let you know how it goes.

Thank you so much for allowing us to share our lives with you. Peace and good health to you all during the Holidays and New Year.

We will be back on January 5, 2024. Until then...

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

*Stay
tuned!*



<https://youtu.be/aL8lyAxGHh4>