

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 22 – 35 December 22 – January 4, 2024

We were on a Christmas Vacation!



Days 36 – 40 -Friday, January 5 – Monday, January 9, 2024

Atlantic Yacht Basin, Chesapeake, VA

It is Friday. Getting right back into boat life after a 2-week Christmas Vacation trip to Vermont and Massachusetts.

Today's goals are to provision, post office, unpack and organize the many supply packages that Mark had delivered to our daughter's house that we brought back with us, plus the supplies that were delivered to the marina store here at Atlantic Yacht Basin.

We need to find out what day the boat is getting hauled and make arrangements for a hotel if they are keeping the boat out overnight.

We were gifted a new air fryer. It is a combination unit air fryer, microwave & convection oven which will replace our existing microwave.



When we went to Walmart to get boat provisions, we made sure that we bought food just to try it out tonight.

The Walmart near the boat that we went to was a super Walmart that had just about everything we could need.

However, since we do not know when we are going to get hauled I opted not to buy too many perishable items just in case we don't have electricity while we are out of the water.

Since I need the exercise I will walk to Kroger (1/2 mile) to get what I want daily until someone decides when our repairs will get scheduled.

Tonight's dinner: air fryer Porkchops w/rice pilaf

Day 37 – Saturday, January 6, 2024

It's a rainy day here. A good day to take it easy, right? Well for me it is. After sleeping late, having a cup of tea, and watching some news I did a few light chores and then took a couple of hours for some self-care: *How to Get Away with Murder* on Netflix and a self-manicure and pedicure.

Mark on the other hand – has been busy with engine room stuff. An oil & filter change on the main engines, followed by fixing the spotlight by installing a new control panel on the flybridge.

Tonight's dinner: air fryer chicken thighs breaded with breadcrumbs served with a side salad.

Day 38 - Sunday January 7, 2024

A beautiful day. Mid 50's here in Chesapeake, VA

Mark took the newly purchased bikes out of their bags and went for a ride. Did I mention Mark bought bikes? Well, he did. On our way back to VA, he stopped at a bike shop in Wareham, MA, and bought two. He had been researching electric bikes but then found these as an alternative to try since electric bikes are a tad pricey.



I insisted Mark be the guinea pig and try one out for comfort and ease of pedaling before I got my ass on one.
His bike ride stats for today:

4.62 miles
1 hour
4.5 mph avg
403 calories
1.35 avg heart rate

I took a walk through the marina's grounds and boat sheds. I also crossed the road over to the walking trails at the museum. There is a 1 ¼ mile trail that provides an easy level-footed nature walk that is open to the public and free.

Little bit of Trivia

The Great Bridge Battlefield Museum & Historic Park

<https://gbbattlefield.org/learn-the-history>

The Battle of Great Bridge on December 9, 1775, played a critical role in the Revolutionary War and the subsequent creation of our great nation. It was this Patriot victory that forced Lord Dunmore, British Royal Governor of Virginia, and his soldiers to evacuate and ultimately leave Virginia. As a direct result of this victory, four days after this crucial battle, the Virginia Convention adopted the first public declaration expressing a spirit of independence. How different our country might be had it not been for the Battle of Great Bridge and the significant contributions of our waterways.



Today is Sunday so that means football, and the last game for the New England Patriots. Playing the Jets at home in the snow.

I prepped a salad for lunch and chili for dinner. The football snack will be fried zucchini that we will cook in our new air fryer.

Day 39 - Monday January 8, 2024

We finally got a work order for Valkyrie. Mark started calling them back in October to let them know that we were coming and what we wanted done. He is persistent that way. Even while we were en route, Mark had been assured that we could come on in, no problem, we can get you

taken care of. Well, we arrived here on December 18, and now, today, we are getting a work order, the catch; no confirmed haul-out date.

Together we went for a bike ride. We crossed the canal, rode the trails at the museum, and then headed over to the Great Bridge Lock Park. Our bike ride stats:

5.34 miles
1hr30 mins
246 calories
3.5 mph
1.02 avg heart rate



Little bit of Trivia

<https://www.visitchesapeake.com/listing/great-bridge-lock-park>

The park – located along the Intracoastal Waterway just off Battlefield Blvd., where the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, coming up from North Carolina, meet the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River – is named for the Corp of Engineers' lock which separates the salt water of the river from the fresh water of the canal. This 19-acre park, a small peninsula surrounded by the canal on one side and the river on the other, features a two-lane boat ramp, a raised berm area, with interpretive signage explaining the lock system, permits spectators a great view of the many yachts which transit the lock on this busy waterway which runs from Maine to Key West, FL.



We had to wait for the bridge on our way back to Valkyrie.

There is an antifreeze leak that Mark has been chasing for most of this trip. Today he thinks he found it. The radiator cap. Antifreeze-like water expands when it gets hot and the radiator cap is set to pop open at 7lbs of pressure. The problem is when the antifreeze is expanding it is leaking past the cap's seal.

Tonight's dinner; salmon served with asparagus and salad

Day 40 - Tuesday January 9, 2024

Rain today. Dark and dreary morning. Still waiting for the word from the marina when we are getting hauled out. Possibly tomorrow, Wednesday. Boat life isn't always glamorous. Most days we aren't doing anything different onboard Valkyrie than what you are doing in your homes. Cleaning, laundry, work. Today Mark is making water. Not sure how we are going to make out with this. The water here in the canal is mostly fresh however it is brown. With little tide or current to circulate the water and being next to a wooded area, the runoff of dirt, leaves, branches, etc. rot in the water causing it to look brown. Mark ordered several water filters so we are going to give it a shot.

The water maker has been running all day. Mark is doing laundry at the marina facility. It is about 2 pm and we heard a loud roll of thunder so he just ran out to get the last of his laundry because he said the shit is about to hit the fan with a storm coming in.

We have had two new boat neighbors since yesterday. One of them is traveling north and missed the bridge opening by 5 minutes. Unfortunately for him, the bridge is going to stay closed until the winds die down.

Dinner is leftover chili

We had a snack around 2 pm of artichoke & spinach dip from Walmart with crackers and pita bread. So yummy.

Mark made an Amazon wishlist for Valkyrie. If any of our supporters would like to look at that and place an order we would be much appreciated.

Not only are we thinking about this winter cruising on this wish list. It also contains items we will need when we do the loop.

Stay
tuned



<https://youtu.be/Elr6NXqO7Xs> Tour of Atlantic Yacht Basin
https://youtu.be/xg3tNnb9_w0 Hodge Podge of clips
<https://youtu.be/iuBJmkRtfvE> Valkyrie makes water
<https://youtu.be/KYTFnCaynPs> Bike Riding Adventure

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