

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 51 – Saturday, January 20, 2024 – Atlantic Yacht Basin, Chesapeake, VA

Cold today. Overnight in the teens and today's high will be 32 with the wind blowing from the north. This wind direction blows up our tail creating a significant draft through the salon door.

Chore day today. Well, maybe half day of chores. I vacumed the flybridge all the state rooms, the salon and galley. We both did a couple of loads of laundry.

Mark cleaned the sea strainers for each of the engines, both of the HVAC pumps and the watermaker. He also replaced the watermaker filters.

This afternoon we watched some YouTube and had lunch. Mark watched a movie; we had fried pickles as a snack and then for dinner we had a sausage & veggie stirfry.

NFL football is on tap for tonight's entertainment. We were able to watch the 49ers & Packers.

Day 52 – Sunday, January 21, 2024 – Atlantic Yacht Basin, Chesapeake, VA

Sunny, cold morning. Teens overnight and 30 degrees today.

Mark turned the water maker on this morning. We did laundry all day yesterday using up most of the water in the tank. It will take about 4 hours to fill the water tank.

I am focused on getting caught up on videos and daily blog posts. The plan is to travel south tomorrow. We had discussed many different destination options and with the cold weather sticking around the Chesapeake Bay area we decided to go further south. The Dismal Swamp was also considered, however, it is closed right now so that was taken off the table for us.

Little bit of Trivia:

The Dismal Swamp, part of the ICW that runs from Norfolk, VA to Miami, FL is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. This 22-mile-long canal has a controlled depth of 6' at its widest 50' and narrows to 25' in some locations. It is often found to be heavy with duckweed which for a boat can cause issues so maintaining clean strainers, intakes, etc. is important. Currently, it is closed through March 2024

The Dismal Swamp Canal and a toll road adjacent to it were constructed between 1793-1805. Today it is the oldest operating artificial waterway in the United States. The nearby Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal was chartered earlier, but not completed until 1859. That was 54 years after the Dismal Swamp Canal opened.

The original design included seven locks, 75 feet long and 9 feet wide. The entire canal was elevated above sea level, and fed by drainage through the swamp. To obtain enough water, a feeder ditch was constructed from Lake Drummond to the highest point, the "summit" of the canal. In an 1899 reconstruction, the canal was excavated eight feet deeper. That allowed for removal of all locks along the canal, except for the ones at each end which brought boats back to sea level.

Construction started at Deep Creek on the northern end, and at Joyce Creek on the southern end. The enslaved men who dug the canal by hand averaged just 10 feet per day. The working conditions were brutal, with laborers standing in water, mud, and muck every day. Cutting roots underwater and prying them out with hand tools must have been exhausting.

<http://www.virginiaplaces.org/transportation/dismalswampcanal.html>

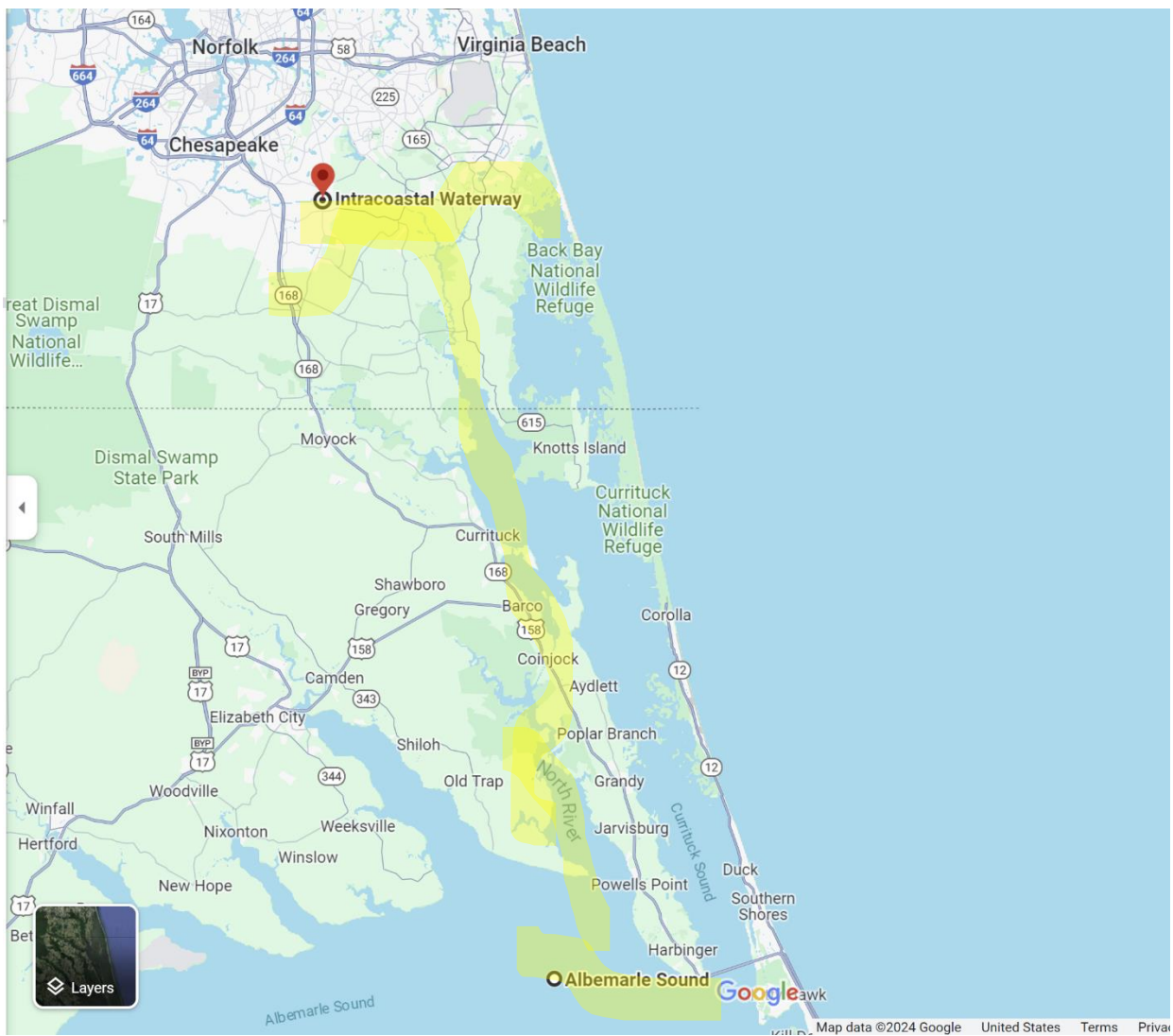
The navigation apps; Aquamaps and Navionics both got updates in preparation for tomorrow. Mark also updated Bob's 423.

There are rumors that there is a large stump that has been nicknamed the [Yacht Basin Stump](#) because many who have hit it have come to the Yacht Basin for repairs. Mark is feeling a little paranoid about hitting it since we just had all that work done to the bottom of Valkyrie and I don't

blame him. The water level is down a few feet which Mark thinks is wind-driven since we have had substantial winds out of the North several days in a row. He thinks it has pushed the water down and out into the North Landing River.

Tomorrow we are planning to cruise from Chesapeake VA passing by Coinjock (a popular boat stop) and anchoring in the North River, just shy of Albemarle Sound, NC.

Mark watched a movie, and then football. The Chiefs vs the Bills was the game we could access on our TV.





Since being stuck in Chesapeake for so long I did on one or two occasions treat us with a sweet reward, although I try not to have sweets on board regularly. On a cold day, a warm cookie is just so heavenly.

Day 53 – Monday, January 22, 2024- Free dock at the Great Bridge, Chesapeake, VA

There is ice on the water this morning. We will delay our departure until the ice melts. We just invested a lot of money into the bottom of Valkyrie and we don't want the ice chipping away at her fresh paint. We also do not want to leave without discussing and paying our bill here at the Atlantic Yacht Basin. Mark should be meeting up with the manager early this morning.

Mark noticed when we docked Friday after being put back in the water that the stern thruster did not work. There are 4 sets of spring-loaded brushes that send electricity to the armature. They get corroded and stuck from time to time. While we were waiting for the sun to melt the thin layer of ice on the AICW he tackled the stern thruster issue.

Unfortunately, as the warmest part of the day came and went the ice did not melt. We moved across the canal and tied up to the free dock for the night. Shortly after securing Valkyrie to the dock Mark and I took a 2.5 mile walk through the marsh trails.

Little bit of Trivia:

There is a website that lists all the free docks along the ICW (Intracoastal Waterway)
<https://www.icwfreedocks.com/va>

Dinner was burgers on the grill and salad.

Are we ever going to get out of here?



Ice on the ICW this morning.





Stay
tuned

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/bFWSPEc1yi8>

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