

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 70 – Thursday, February 8, 2024 – NPS Dock, Ocracoke, NC to Croatan Sound off Roanoke Island, NC

The winds have died down to 14 mph out of the north, northeast. It is sunny and 34 degrees.

The ferries left on time this morning and Mark is anxious to leave Ocracoke. He is bored. We have explored what we can on foot and bike leaving only a few “places of interest” unseen. We have enjoyed our stay and would definitely come back but would try hard to come before everything shut down for the winter. We would have liked to ferry to Hatteras Island, seen the Pony Pen and visited Portsmouth Island. Portsmouth Island is a short ferry ride from Ocracoke. Although the village is perfectly preserved, it is deserted. The last inhabitants of this island moved away in 1971. This ‘ghost town’ is self-guided. There are restrooms and a NPS office. The NPS does allow ORV's by permit only and they manage a few rental cottages and tenting is allowed.

Because of its' hard-to-get-to location, and lack of modern amenities, Portsmouth Island remains one of the last wild frontiers of the Outer Banks, attracting vacationers who have no problem roughing it, love being out in the wild, and simply want a 13-mile stretch of shoreline to call their own personal playground. <https://www.outerbanks.com/portsmouth-island.html#:~:text=The%20ferry%20ride%20to%20Portsmouth,number%20of%20vehicles%20on%20board.>

The Pony Pens:

Several hundreds of years ago, a shipwreck just offshore left a herd of Spanish mustangs stranded on Ocracoke Island. Their descendants still thrive here today. These ponies are a rare breed with an unusual number of vertebrae and ribs as well as a distinct shape, posture, color, size, and weight that sets them apart from other horses.

<https://www.visitocracokenc.com/ocracoke-banker-ponies/>

Before leaving we ran through the normal check list and thankfully we were able to fill the water tank and give Valkyrie a rinse. By 'we' I mean Mark. As you can imagine Valkyrie was a salty mess from the highwinds we have experienced while here.

9:50 am – Started the engines

10:07 am – Departed

4:55 pm – Shut off the engines. Securely anchored.

6 hrs 48 mins of cruising

8 knots average speed.

45 degrees with 8 mph winds at anchor.

As soon as we backed away from the dock Mark pulled the fenders and eased his way out the inlet into Pamlico Sound. It was not long after we entered the sound that we realized we were in for a bumpy ride.





See the rainbow?

Today's cruise on Pamlico Sound was not pleasant. It was about around 1:30 pm (3 ½ hours into the cruise) I noticed the wind dying down and the waves were not so overwhelming. It was an uncomfortable morning, to say the least. Valkyrie did a great job however I did feel her leave my feet behind on one or two occasions as we bounced around on some of the bigger waves. The boat shuttered and the dishes vibrated and thankfully they are plastic because we could have had a casualty or two. Mark rearranged some of the dishes in one cupboard that were being tossed around and made a big racket. I did not move around the boat much while we were in these conditions, it was uncomfortable and it was safer to stay put. I did try to capture all the angles of Valkyrie so if you watch the video you can get a real sense of what we were going through. We were too far from shore to see anything. I watched a movie on YouTube in between work calls to keep my mind busy with anything but the waves. We are fortunate that we are not prone to seasickness.

We were 5-hours into the cruise when the news of our not stopping was sprung on me. We were going to keep going for a couple of more hours and Mark thought we could anchor off the western side of Roanoke Island.

The closer we got to Roanoke Island the calmer the water became and we were able to set anchor at 5:00 pm start the generator and think

about dinner. The problem with that is the generator is not sucking in any water...ugh!! Mark will have to figure that out while he is in a 100-degree engine room.

45 minutes later Mark had the generator fixed and running. He had to replace the impellor. Incredibly, he can fix these issues as they arise. I am thankful for that and so many other things!

We had meatball subs and salad for dinner.




The NC Aquarium.

The broken impellor.



Stay
tuned

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/t9jJdx4Ax90>

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