

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 77 – Thursday, February 15, 2024 Anchorage off Kitepoke National Park to Chincoteague, VA

6:30 am – Started Generator

6:35 am – Started Engines

7:00 am – Hauled the anchor

2:36 pm – Engines off

7 hours 36 minutes of cruising

Low 40's today with 12 mph winds

Averaged 8.5 knots

This mornings sunrise was beautiful. The sky was filled with purple and pink hues. As we cruise north the waves seemed pretty steady and tolerable. Mark took his first break around 8 am to check the engines and finish up his morning routine.

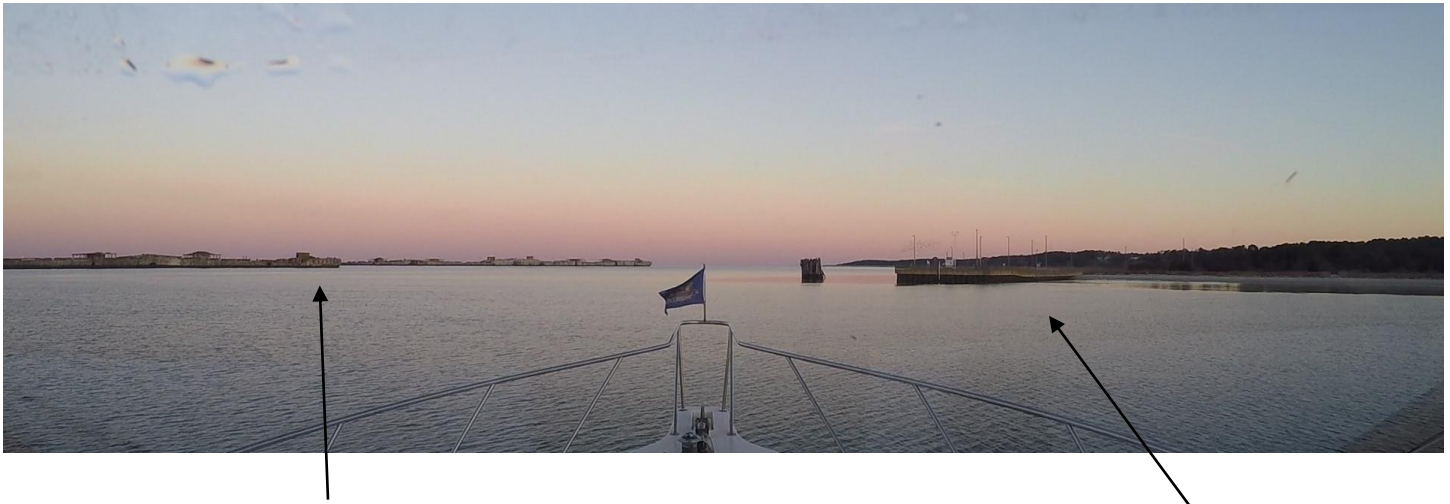
We saw dolphin this morning just after crossing under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

About Last Night:

The anchorage was amazing. The concrete boats gave us much to talk about and provided the protection they were intended to so we had calm waters. Although not too warm we sat on the mezzanine where we were out of the wind. There was a pod of dolphin in the distance that were very actively feeding, jumping and diving. It was a magnificent show. I made a salad and South West Beef & Sweet Potatoe skillet dinner. While the generator was running we of course turned on the heat but also turned the water maker on as well.

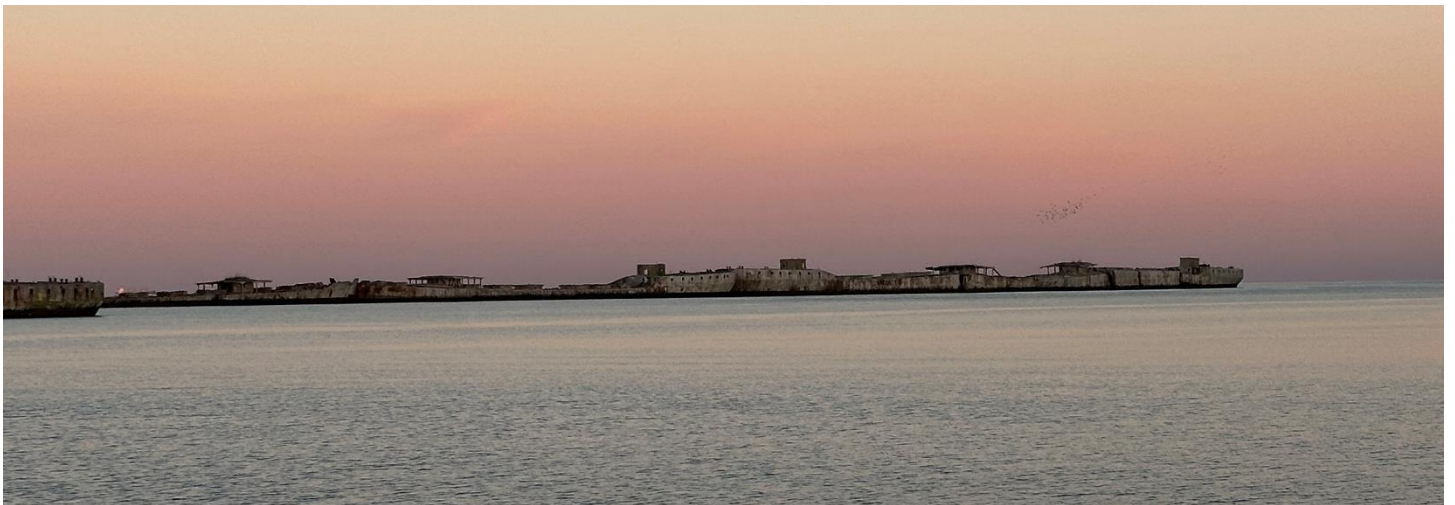
We anchored off Kiptopeke, VA which offers many activities for visitors and residents. There are approximately 5 miles of biking & hiking trails, the fishing pier that you see in the video is open 24 hours and the concrete ships enable excellent fishing. Swimming and boating are allowed. If you have a small boat, kayak, etc., you can explore the concrete ships up close! Bird watching is abundant and you may also be lucky enough to see fox and deer.

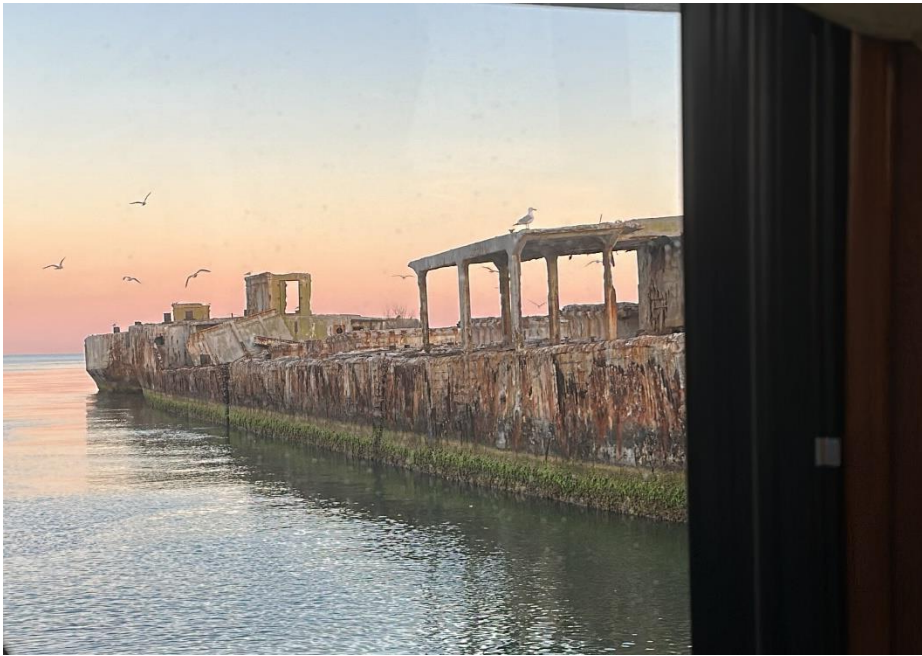
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/kiptopeke#recreation>



9- WWI & WWII Concrete ships in place as a “breakwater.”

Kiptopeke Pier





Cape Charles Lighthouse

Lighthouse in Northampton County, Virginia

Description

Cape Charles Lighthouse is an octagonal cast iron skeleton tower lighthouse at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay on Smith Island which was officially removed from service in 2019. It is the tallest lighthouse in Virginia and the second tallest in the United States.



Today has been a quiet day on the Atlantic. We had choppy waves at the start however for several hours we encountered swells that gave us a little bit of a jerky kiddy roller coaster feel. The sun's shine kept the salon above 65 degrees. I sat outside on the mezzanine for a little while. I find staring at the water displacement and listening to the hum of the engines soothing.

Both of us had lunch which is a bit unusual for us. We turned last night's leftover salad into salad wraps.

You may remember that Mark has been toying with the clutch to get the engine synchronizer to work. Today he succeeded and it worked great!



I have talked about Wallops Island several times...like NYC and Norfolk, VA I never tire of it.

Coming into the Chincoteague Channel is a slow process. We did hit some debris that neither of us saw. A large plank of wood. Mark will check the starboard side of the boat for damage. We hit the edge of the plank so hopefully no significant issues.

2:45 pm – Engines are off, we are tied to the dock at the Robert Reed Waterfront Park and we have heat!

It seems like every time we come into Chincoteague, VA Mark has a lot of adjusting to do to Valkyrie to get her in just the correct position so our electric cord reaches the pedestal and that the side door is not blocked by a piling. Because of the shape of Valkyrie and the pier we cannot get on and off the boat from the cockpit which is our preferred embarkation point.

It is 40 degrees and the wind bites at the hands like only Jack Frost can.

Another one of those "can of worms" scenarios happened this afternoon. I was going to vacuum with our handheld Dyson. It turned out I was not

going to be doing that very easily. The main power unit has power but the roller would not spin. Took everything apart that could come apart, cleaned what could be cleaned, and tinkered with what could be tinkered with and no go. It is something that I have wanted to replace but will have to stay on the "someday list." I have a central vac, a broom, and a swiffer. I can make do. I am not spending several hundred dollars on a new one.

Mark is checking the weather predictions for the upcoming days. Tonight there is a gale warning throughout the day tomorrow. Weather predictions change all the time so Mark will keep an eye on it as he always does.

Stay
tuned



<https://youtu.be/8W53w5mfjDE>

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