

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

# *Somewhere on the Water*

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 78 – Friday, February 16, 2024 Robert Reed Waterfront Park,  
Chincoteague, VA

**We have no heat!** 🤖 🤖 Yes we are plugged into electricity and we should have heat but last night both our heat pumps stopped working! Mark was up last night troubleshooting and has an idea of what he going to do to try and fix this situation; clean the strainers.

It is in the 30's outside this morning. Our master cabin maintains a decent temp overnight so waking to 60 degrees is not unbearable. Mark plugged the electric space heater in last night so the salon is hovering at about 67. We own 4 Dr. Heater Infrared electric space heaters. They work amazingly well. We used them last year while docked in Fiddlers Cove, Falmouth, MA for the winter months. Since space is an issue we brought one space heater with us this cruise. Thankfully we did.

Mark confirmed that his intuition was correct. The strainers for both heat pumps were clogged with seaweed. Fluffy brown hair seaweed which is a nusince. We did not have this issue last time we were in Chincoteague so why is it different now? We don't know.

In addition to the strainers being clogged, the intake is also clogged. Whatever the reason for the seaweed being a significant issue this time we do not know but, it is. To be on the cautious side we will not run the boats heating system. We will use the portable electric space heater today and move it about the boat as necessary.

Day 79 – Saturday, February 17, 2024, Robert Reed Waterfront Park, Chincoteague, VA

Today we were going to take the bikes out and explore a few trails that we have not done yet however it is too cold. It is a “feels like” 20 degrees day and the wind is whipping. We knocked out a few minor chores this morning. I meal-prepped a few snacks for us to have on hand while we cruised the next stretch north toward New Jersey.

Peanut Butter Energy Bites:

Look for the recipe on the website:

<https://alongsidecreations.com/health-wellbeing/>

Making water was one of the items on today's chore list. Mark changed the filters a couple of hours in because it seemed to be struggling. Unfortunately, the water maker became clogged with seaweed so we had to shut it down. We have less than ½ tank of fresh water which is too bad because we have at least 2 more loads of laundry and both of us want to shower. Mark will attempt to unclog the water maker and make another attempt to run it in a couple of days after we leave Chincoteague.



We have decent WiFi so Mark can stream shows and movies. As the day continued Valkyrie got colder and colder. The electric space heater was moved from the salon to the mid-cabin back to the salon. The mid-cabin is the closest to the waterline so we have to keep the water pipes from freezing. We do think that our space heater works well however it could not keep up yesterday afternoon and into the evening. The clouds did not allow the sun to give us any radiant heat and the wind was finding its way through the doorframes causing a draft. We dressed in layers, covered up with our snuggies, and were extremely uncomfortable. Basically, we were @\$%& freezing. Valkyrie ranged from 45-50 degrees inside depending on the room. Eventually, I gave up trying to stay warm in the salon and went to bed. Mark moved the space heater to our room and since our room is small it warmed nicely and stayed warm enough throughout the night.

Day 80 – Sunday, February 18, 2024, Robert Reed Waterfront Park, Chincoteague, VA

Mark woke first. He took the space heater up to the salon and in the little bit of time between removing the space heater from the bedroom to the time I got up our room had already dropped to below 60 degrees.

If you have been following along you will know that back in Chesapeake, VA I was struggling with having to live onboard Valkyrie while we were in the shed on the hard at Atlantic Yacht Basin. There is a constant internal battle between being the good sport and “sticking it out” vs. being the “high maintenance” wife and creating demands to change the situation. Mark did not set out to put us in this situation. We have been at this dock on 3-separate occasions for multiple days per visit with no issues so there is no reason to think that this time would be any different. He couldn't predict it. It isn't his fault and he is as miserably cold as I am, and what would I even demand? A hotel? He would not leave Valkyrie unattended overnight here at this public dock. Should I go to a hotel without him? That hardly seems fair and funds are running low so yes, it would bring immediate relief from the cold but only by adding another expense to our fastly shrinking budget.

Today is not a good day to cruise but he did make the effort to call a marina in Ocean City. A short cruise to Ocean City to a marina with electricity and different water could provide us comfort. If he is deciding to move to a marina then that is on him to add to the budget issue. Of course, he wants me (and himself) to be comfortable but there are a lot of things to consider other than just budget. The safety of the boat cruising on a high wind & wavey day, our comfort during this cruise, and of course the expense of adding a marina. So many factors to consider when making decisions. It is not easy but since there was no answer at the marina, the decision was made for us; it is a no-go.

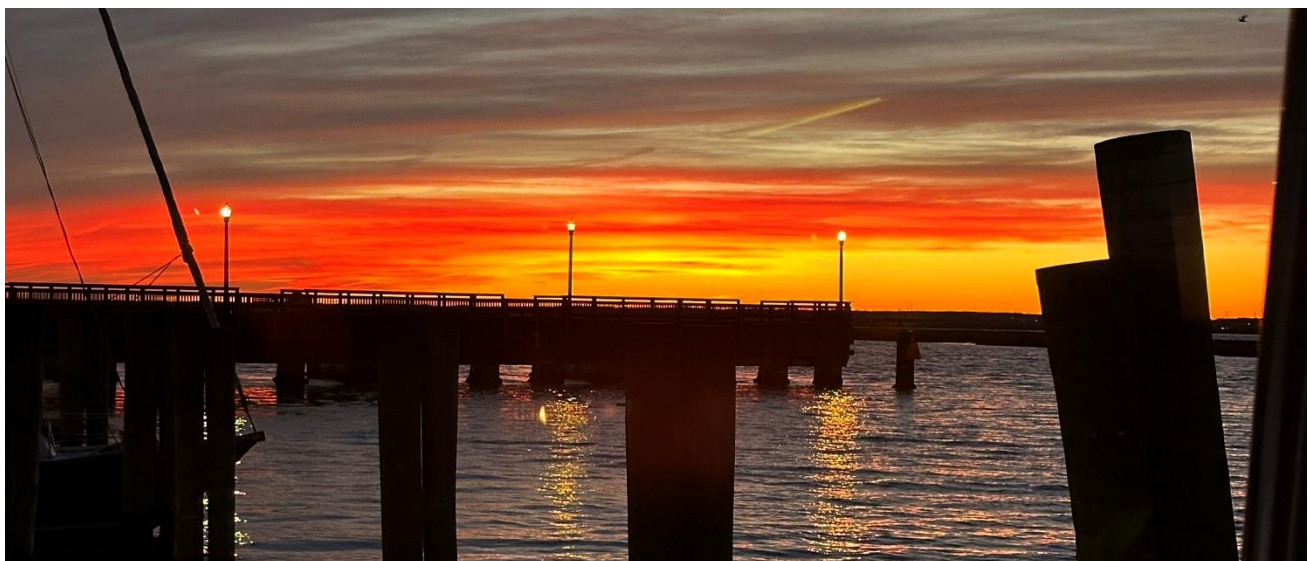
I went for a walk today. I saw some ponies which is always a treat. The Park and downtown have been full of people this weekend. A lot of schools are on break so it has brought Chincoteague a little “life” in the middle of the cold winter.





I have written a lot about Chincoteague, VA during our previous visits. Check out the website if you are interested. We were here Dec. 7-14 2023. And, Feb. 21-28, 2022 during our Winter 2021/2022 cruise.

We had amazing sunsets while here.



Tomorrow we cruise north!

Stay  
tuned



<https://youtu.be/JwO6YtonRa4>

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