

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 81 – Monday, February 19, 2024 Chincoteague, VA to Cape May, NJ

7:00 am – Departed Robert Reed Waterfront Park Dock

Mark wasted no time getting us off the dock this morning and headed out the Chincoteague Channel. We had an estimated 9 ½ hour cruise north today.

Leaving Chincoteague, VA the channel takes us south passing Wallops Island before making the turn north into the atlantic.

We are still in Chincoteague Inlet, not yet heading north and I saw a truck driving on the beach. (7:38 am) and shortly after making the turn north into the Atlantic I saw a dolphin (7:52 am)



It was 31 degrees outside and 53 degrees in our salon. Our bedroom was above 60 degrees. We had the space heater in our room overnight. The generator had not been started yet at the time of departure. The plan was to get out of the chanel and into the ocean before starting the

generator so we could get heat and start the water maker although Mark discovered a leak in the high-pressure pump so he will have to attend to that sooner or later.

It was a busy ½ hour from 8 – 8:30 am. Mark thought he heard something flapping through the water and perhaps something was caught around the propellor. He slowed us down put Valkyrie in reverse and switched between forward and reverse a few times to see if whatever it was would clear. Once that was done he went to the engine room for his normal check, started the generator, and the water maker, turned all the heat on and while I was at the helm I saw a pod of dolphins (about 5) right at our bow and along our starboard side. That got my heart jumping with nerves and excitement.

The predicted waves today are 1 – 2 footers and we are already seeing a few 3-4 footers.

Mark did engine checks every ½ hour today while the generator and water maker were running. I took the helm during that time and in between answered work calls. After 5 hours Mark shut down both and resumed his hourly engine room checks.



Ocean City, MD

The wind coming from the north this morning did kick up some big waves for a couple of hours. As it started to shift west, southwest we smoothed out.



2:30 pm – Mark yelled “whale.” I jumped up but did not see anything. He saw one spout and after several minutes neither of us saw anything.

We have to cross the mouth of Delaware Bay. In December when we crossed this same area going south we had a bumpy ride. Luckily this time it wasn't so bad.

Mark has his airpods in and is listening to a Cape Cod talk radio station. He called Captain Bill's to let them know we were arriving tomorrow and wanted to get fuel and spend the night at a dock. They are closed for the season but the manager will meet us upon arrival and let us buy fuel.

Mark increased our speed and ran the engines at 18 rpm and 13 knots for the last half hour of our cruise.

4:24 pm We were anchored in Cape May, NJ next to the Coast Guard Training Center. Mark dumped 75 – 90 feet of anchor chain out and we sat in 13 feet of water.

It was 47 degrees with a 13 mph wind gusting at 20 mph for much of the day.

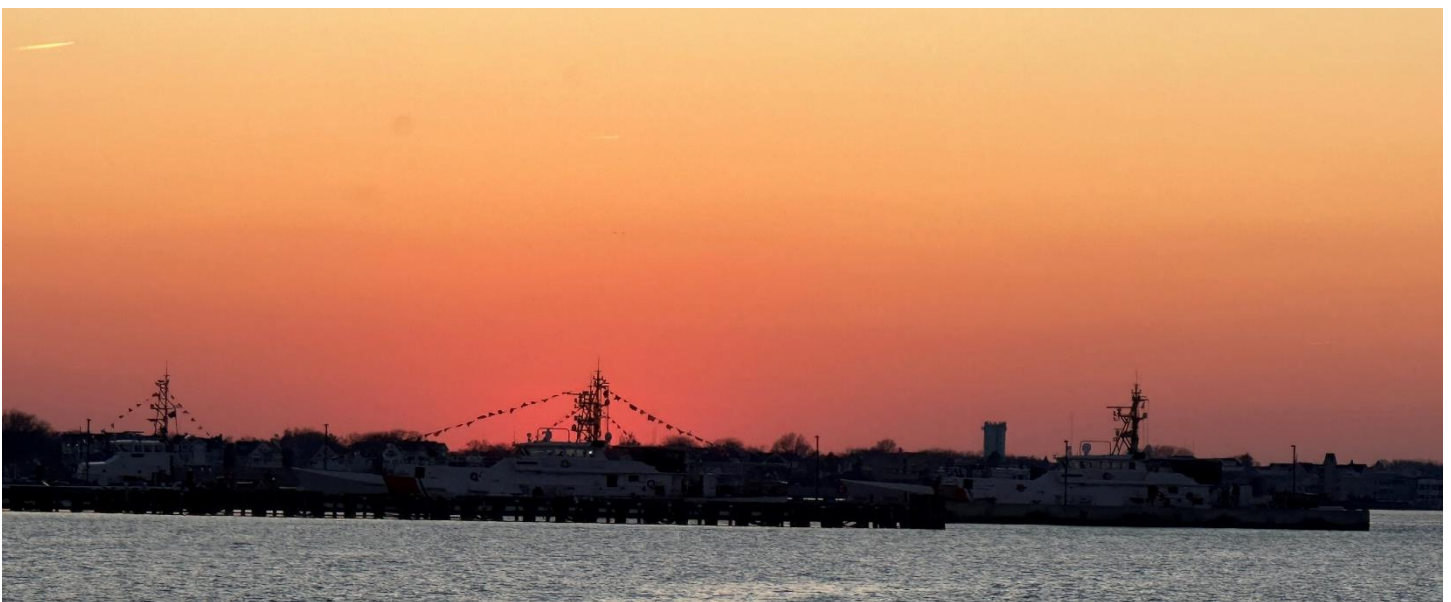
We averaged 8 knots of speed today and cruised for approximately 9.5 hours.

The forward cabin got soaked with water. There are closets on each side of the room. The port side closet is wet all along the back wall, front wall, and floor.

When the sea sprays over the bow of Valkyrie, water seeps passed where the railing meets the deck and unfortunately, soaks the forward cabin.



We witnessed another amazing sunset here in Cape May, NJ. Tomorrow we cruise north towards Pleasant Point Beach, NJ.



Stay
tuned



https://youtu.be/V_raESH_7nA

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