

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

# *Somewhere on the Water*

January 11, 2022 – Today is Tuesday. We are leaving Alligator River Marina heading South

Day 35

7:11 a.m. Untied and heading out.

7:29 a.m. The sun is up over the clouds and casting beautiful light over the water. We crossed through the Lindsay C Warren Bridge, a swing bridge.



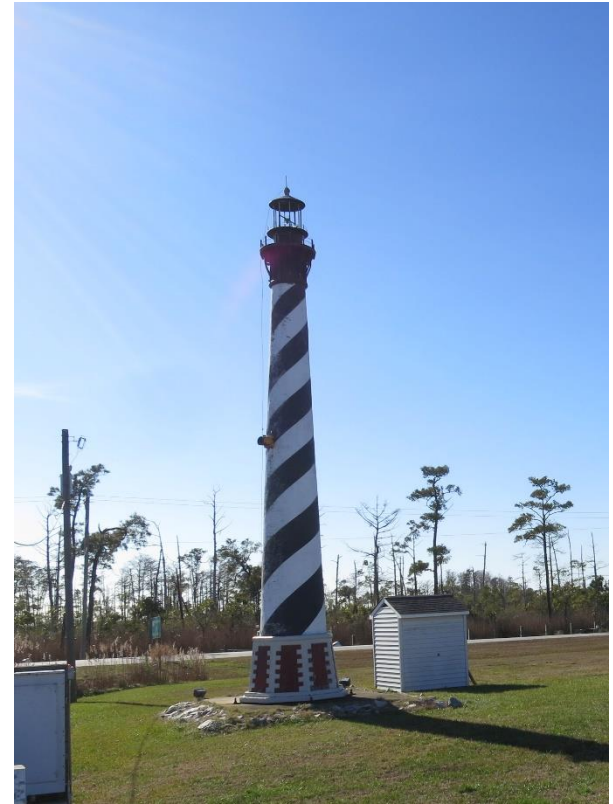
Several pelicans and other waterfowl were not happy to have their morning slumber disturbed.



We are in Alligator River, named for its shape, not the fact that there are alligators in it.

We will follow Alligator River into Winn Bay and then into Pungo River-Alligator River Canal.

The marina we stayed at last night, the Alligator River Marina has been open since 1976. More of a truck-stop feel, there was a small restaurant grill that boasts great burgers, their convenience store offers t-shirts and other tourist souvenirs and they have on the property a replica of the Hatteras Lighthouse. The wifi was impressively fast. I was able to upload 3-days worth of blogs.



It is 30° this morning with predicted 9mph winds from the north.

Much better than the gusts from yesterday that pushed us around.



9:10 a.m. We see the first boat since we left Coinjock. It is a sailboat at anchor. It is from Philadelphia PA but could not see the name of it.

We have no cell service out here at the moment.

We are leaving Winn Bay and entering the Pungo River Alligator River Canal.

9:26 a.m. We are in the canal, Mark says he saw wild pigs on the riverbank and we have seen one bald eagle. Maybe two but one of them did not have a very white head.



We are going to gamble that this next marina is going to be able to provide us with fresh water so I am going to do a much-needed load of laundry. Mark is running the generator today because it is so cold.

We passed by several decoys and a couple of hunting blinds at the mouth of Carters Canal and soon we will be going under a bridge at the mouth of Fairfield Canal under Route 94.

Lake Mattamuskeet is off to our left. I cannot see it through the marshland between us and it. It is the largest natural lake in North Carolina. It is shallow with only an average of 2'-3' depths.



The canal will empty us into the Pungo River.

10:25 a.m. There is some civilization along this canal. A few houses. One which has a flock of turkey vultures sunning themselves to get warm on this 31° day.



We are at mile 120 of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. We are also far enough South that apparently there are people still comfortable flying the Confederate flag. I am not going to comment other than the fact that we saw one and it probably won't be our last sighting as we continue to travel South.



10:58 a.m. We pass mile marker 125. 33 minutes to go 5 miles.

We went under the Route 294 bridge. Ever so slowly we are catching up to a tug boat pushing a barge that has been in our sites for over an hour.

We are leaving the canal into Pungo River to tonight's destination; the River Forest Manor and Marina. Finally looks like we have some cell service as we pass by Leechville.

The Pungo River forks here to the right, it flows into Back Landing Bay and we will follow it along to the left (south).

11:56 a.m. Mark said that we are now far enough South that the nautical markers have switched.



So instead of our usual red right return, it is red on the left and green on the right.

Busy busy busy, we arrive at River Forest Marina with just enough wind to make docking interesting.

We had a flock of pelicans greeting us upon arrival. The marina manager said it is unusual to see the pelicans this time of year. They are here in the Autumn and not as many.



Since we have a small window of opportunity to get water we immediately started laundry, the dishwasher, and filled the humidifiers. Mark is busy with the electricity, securing the lines, and getting a layout of the marina and services. We went from the last marina with a 3" tide to this marina having no tide. We are tied to pilings on a hard dock so lines need to be tied accordingly.

Haleigh is making matcha brownies. She let me lick the spoon. They should be good.

She is also getting a jump start on dinner; macaroni salad, tossed salad, and either burgers or sloppy joes.

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The River Forest Marina, in Belhaven, NC has been operating for 70 years. It is just inside the break wall on Pantego Creek.

There should not be a tide here. The tide would only be wind-driven.

We got fuel here 286 gallons at \$3.26 per gallon. We did fill our water tank as I mentioned earlier. Our next stop is the Oriental Marina in Oriental, NC and then Beaufort, NC.

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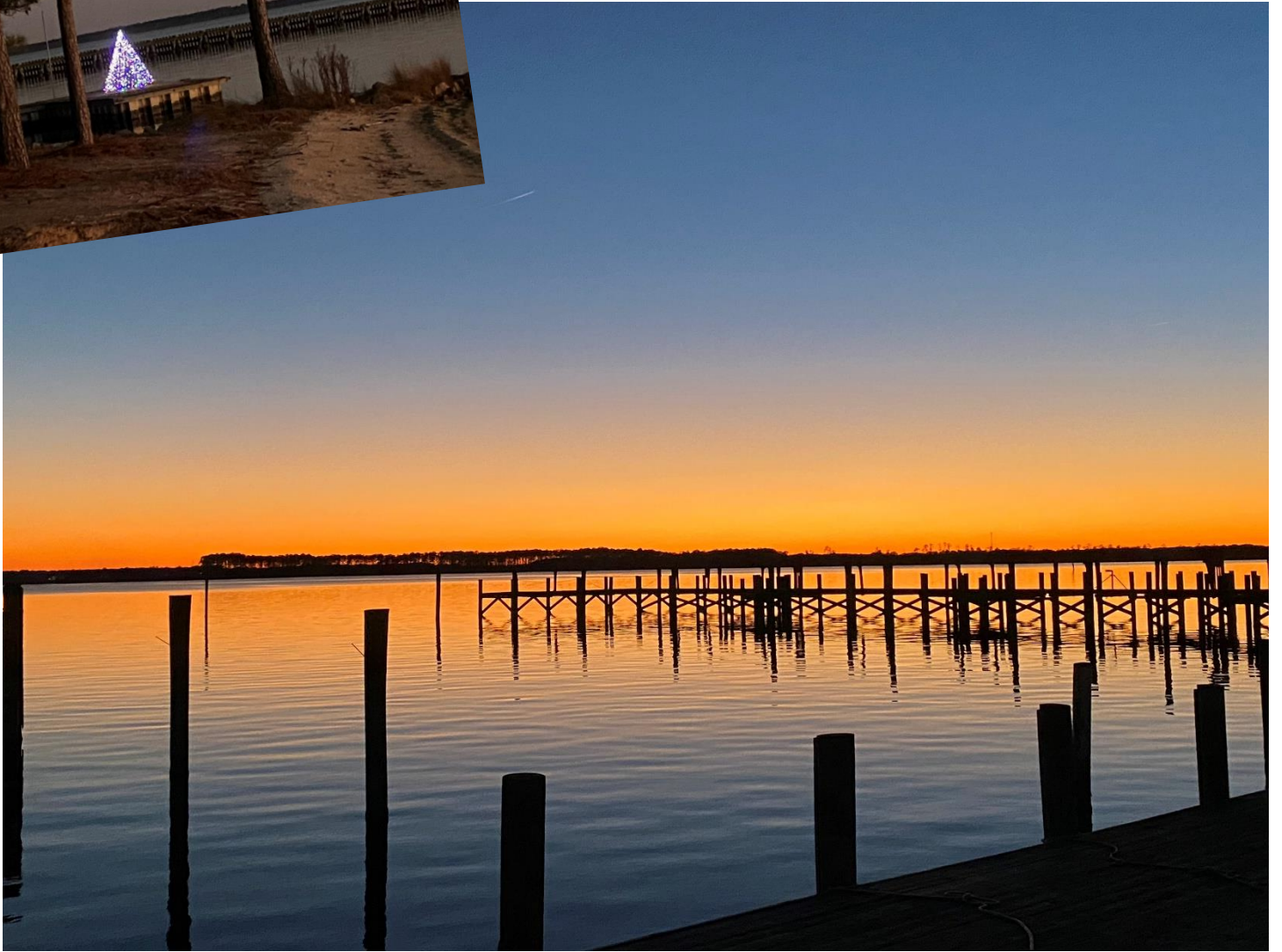
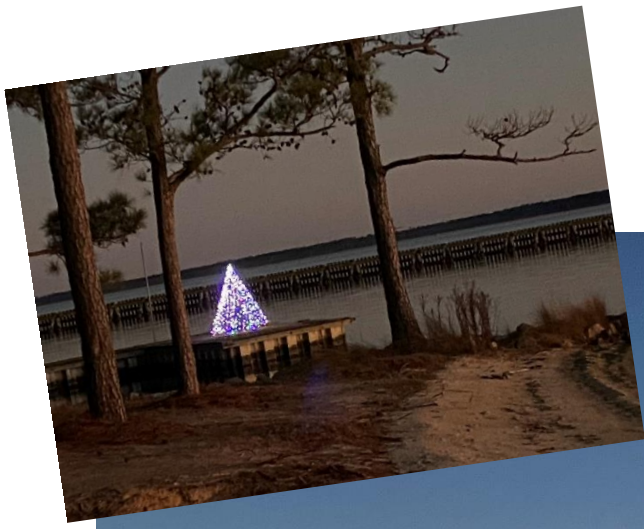
Mark vacuumed the intake for Haleigh's heat, it seems to be working. We will have to make an appointment to have the install company look at it when we return to the Cape just to make sure everything is ok.

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I took a sunset walk. Leaving the Marina to go walk around the Manor to Main Street. The manor is beautiful. It is no wonder that it is a popular wedding venue.

My walk took me into the center of town. A sleepy one traffic light Main Street. At 5:00 p.m. all stores were already shut down. The only open store was a small chocolatier. The clerk waved to me as I walked by as she waited on her solo customer. It may be that I only saw 3 cars on my 2-mile walk. Once I walked through town I took Water Street back towards the marina pausing to take pictures. I go by the marina because a small beach/play park area caught my eye as did this still-lit Christmas tree. Returning to the boat in time for dinner.





The bathhouse at Bellhaven was amazing. So clean, modern, private, and spacious.

The stars were amazing tonight. Minimal light pollution, with no clouds, gave way for us to see a night sky filled with constellations. Gorgeous.