

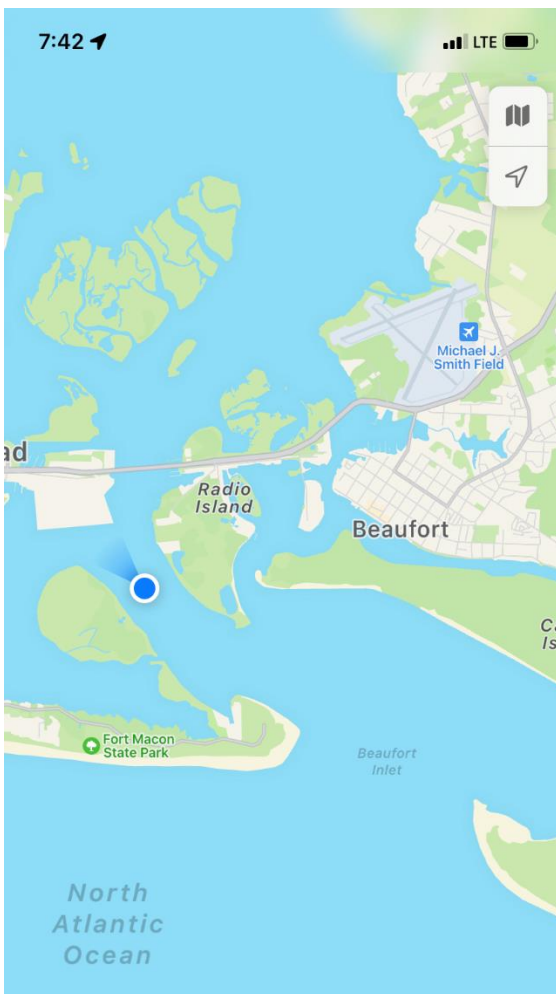
Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our  
56' Ocean Yacht.

# Somewhere on the Water

January 13, 2022 – We are leaving Beaufort, NC for Hampstead, NC - Harbor Village Marina.

Day 36

7:10 a.m. The engines are running. Outside temp is 41°  
Mark has switched to generator power and we are off...



We spotted a few dolphins!!! Watch this! <https://youtu.be/UkP79xD-ED4>



We had another amazing sunrise this morning. We left Town Creek Marina and went around the south side of Radio Island through Moorehead City Channel, under Atlantic Beach Bridge into Bogue Sound.

We passed by NOAA's Beaufort Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries, and Duke University's Marine Lab, all located on Pivers Island. (On the above map, Pivers Island is the small-white island to the right of Radio Island).

The Port of Morehead City, **a breakbulk and bulk facility**, is one of the deepest on the United States East Coast, and it's just four miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

<https://ncports.com/port-facilities/port-of-morehead-city/>

When passing the Moorehead Port, we saw this ship filled with windmill turbine blades. It is on its way to Brownsville, TX.

(If you type in a vessel name on google you can find different websites that let you track it).



We also cruised by the Fort Macon State Park. (also labeled on the map)

The original Fort Macon was washed away by a hurricane in 1825. It had been constructed in 1756. Beaufort at the time was known as Old Topsail Inlet. New construction started in 1834 for the fort that stands now. In 1923 the State of NC bought Fort Macon for \$1 making it the second state park in 1924. – summarized by info from [ncparks.gov](http://ncparks.gov)

*Having suffered damage from Hurricane Florence, I am not sure if the exhibit rooms are open for visitors. This area offers opportunities for exploring salt marshes, estuaries, and dune fields. No camping, but yes to swimming.*

8:41 a.m. We have shallow water all around us. Mark is using Bob423 and Aquamaps and maneuvering the channel to avoid the shallow water and shoals. In some places just outside the channel is 3.2' and we are at some points cruising with 6' of water under us.

There are some really pretty houses off our starboard side, condo complexes with docks (maybe a retirement area for us?? 😊)

Off to the left, Pine Knolls looks to cater to the tourists with highrise hotels taking over the skyline.

Still seeing dolphins on occasion through this area and pelicans.



I love to watch the pelicans fly. They are big birds with a wide wingspan and when they glide over the water they are just skimming the surface with the slightest clearance between them and the water; not touching it, not touching it, but sooo close.

The sun is bright and we have escaped any clouds that are hovering over Beaufort this morning. The water is calm, not smooth as glass because there is a slight breeze blowing causing a slight ripple.

We do have bad weather in the forecast for the next few days so Mark will be working out a plan to try and place us in the right spot.





Mark's workstation!

Mark has had a challenging morning navigating through this tight channel with shallow waters and not a lot of markers, but me- **I can't get enough of the scenery.** I am snapping pictures and soaking up this calm, warm sunny day. The islands, the dunes, the wildlife the houses lining the shore on our starboard side are amazing. **It is** what you would imagine the Barrier Islands to be. Untouched beauty here out our port side after passing Emerald Isle.



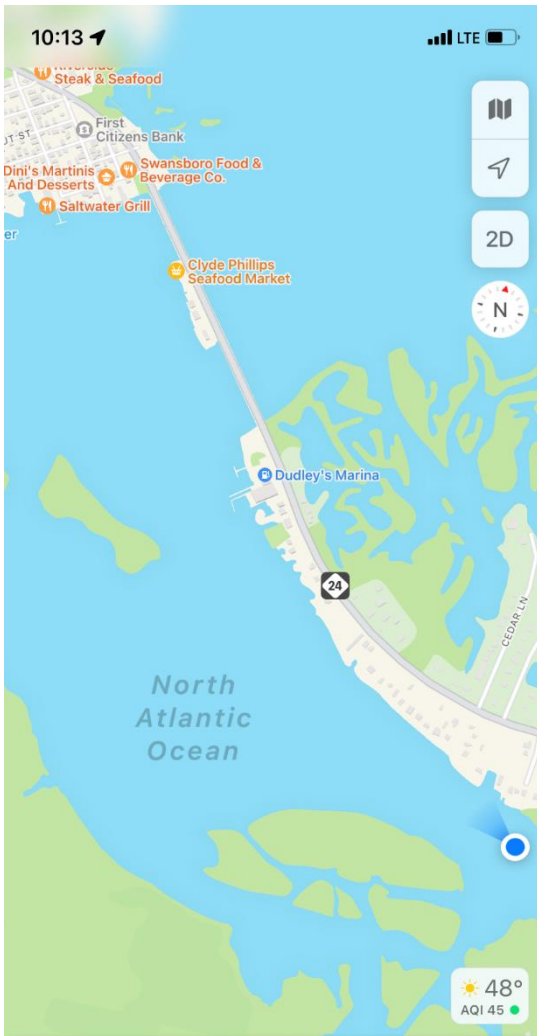
We just passed Swansboro and Finns Island will soon be on our port side as we cruise through the 'main channel'

We are by Brown Island/Brown Swamp we saw a military helicopter flying several miles ahead and a small pod of dolphins. I tried to get a video. One crossed our bow-I was waiting to hear a thud! Yikes! So amazing!

[https://youtu.be/3Aqgpl4UD\\_4](https://youtu.be/3Aqgpl4UD_4)

Great day to be on the water.

We saw 3-more military helicopters flying the skies as we were passing Permuda Island. They were probably coming from Marine Corps Outlying Field Camp Davis, near Holly Ridge.



We have Cedar Point, NC on our starboard side and Huggins Island, SC on our port side. We are surmising where the smoke is coming from and what the helicopters are doing...hear and see for yourself...

<https://youtu.be/E9PxqP9kn4c>

12:03 p.m. We are passing Mile Hammock. This is a great anchorage according to the *Looper's Companion Guide*. It is like we entered white egret migration area there are more here than I have ever seen in one setting.

I have taken so many photos today I have had to charge my camera battery twice and now I am charging my low battery phone.



We looked through the news to find out if there was any mention of a fire in this general area and there was no mention of a fire. There very well could be nothing wrong, it may be that there is a perfectly good explanation for what we saw. We just do not know what it is.



Ooops...

We are entering Trapps Bay, and New River with Sneads Ferry coming up. Back to civilization after an hour or so of just pure beauty, dunes, birds, dolphins, and oh yeah, the military gun range.







That boat in front of us at the bridge, you see it in the video - we had followed him since Beaufort-  
He radioed Mark.  
Big Willy is from Canada and just radioed that he hit bottom at 4' of water at marker 12A  
He is going faster than us. Going by Raisin Rock with Long Rock on our right was tight and shallow with lots of shoaling.



12:56 p.m. we are going under the Trooper Larry Walton Memorial Bridge with North Top Sail Beach on our Left. We just passed through Alligator Bay where several boats were filled with fishermen and a few kayakers exploring one of the many little islands that are in the bay. Soon we will be entering Everett Bay, passing Ashe Island, and eventually, we will pass by Surf City. Hamstead, tonight's stop is a 2:30 p.m. expected arrival.

So far today's adventure has far exceeded any expectation of what I could expect cruising the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway with North Carolina's Barrier Islands off our port side. Leaving Beaufort via Radio Island and Morehead City Channel we have traveled by Moorehead City, Atlantic Beach, Pine Knoll Shores, Indian Beach, Emerald Isle, through Main Channel filled with little no named islands,(maybe they have names but I don't know what they are 😊 Swansboro, Finns Island, Bear Creek, Sanders Island, Browns Island through some of the most gorgeous untouched beaches, marshland, dunes, and now just passing North Topsail.



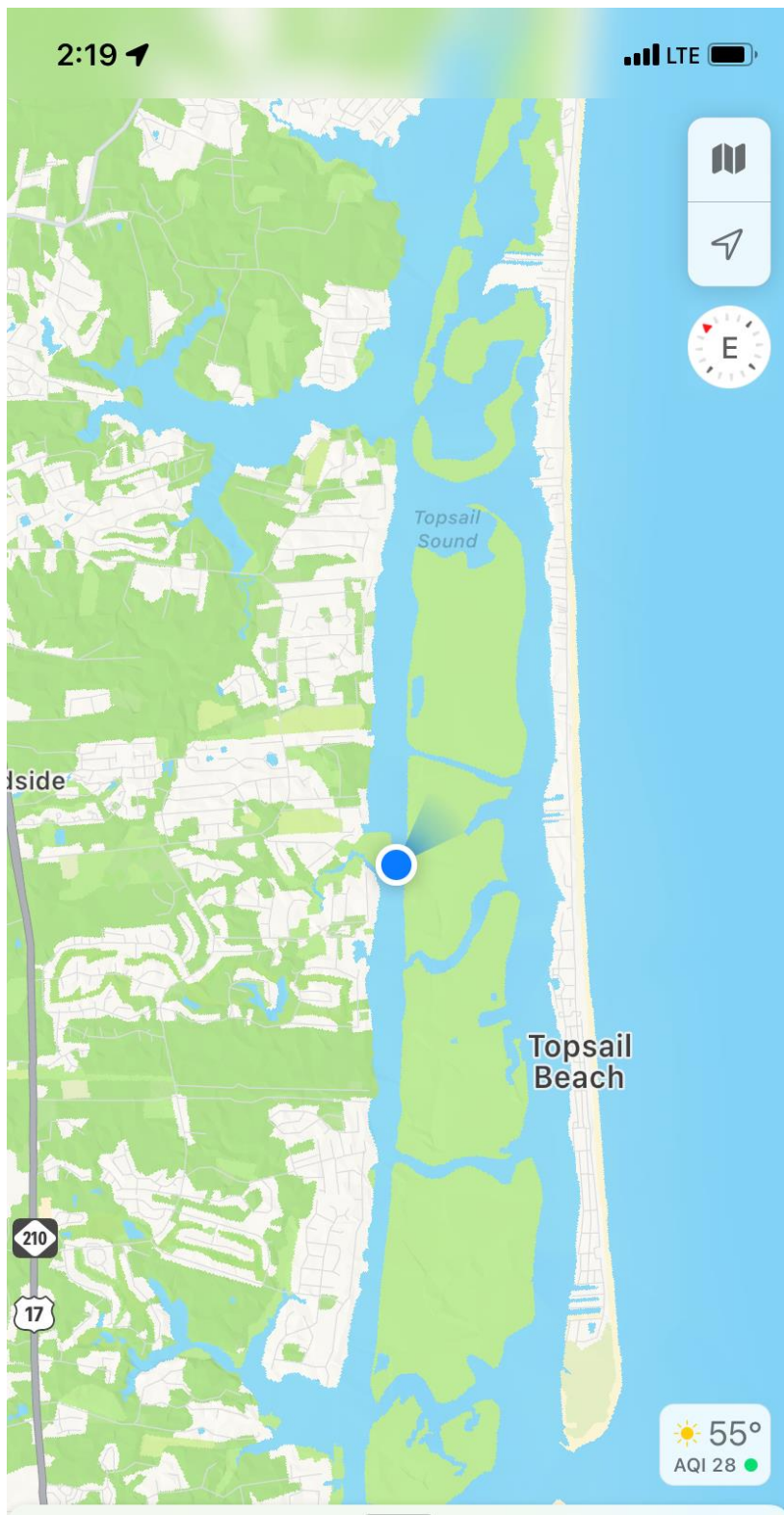
Mark has had one of the most challenging navigational days so far in our 36 days of this adventure. Minding buoys, other boaters, narrow passages, going through a swing bridge, multiple no-wake zones, sharp curves, all the while keeping Valkyrie in the deepest waters available; at some points only 6 feet, and all done with precision and expertise.

My head is spinning trying to take in and process all that we have seen. Beautiful water-side communities with amazing homes, compact tourist-driven towns with highrise hotels, and miles and miles of earth that someone with poetic flare could describe much better than me. I will let some of my photos speak for themselves and hope that they captured some of it. Of course, having the dolphins swim with us and play with us was a highlight! I have heard of boaters experiencing it and have seen some videos of it but for it to be happening to you evokes so much excitement and sharing the pure joy that the dolphins were having right alongside us was amazing. I know I teared up, just a little bit.

[https://youtu.be/WvuP\\_-9\\_OW8](https://youtu.be/WvuP_-9_OW8)







1:48 p.m. Surf City looks like fun Mark said, I am working so I missed it. I will take his word for it 😊

2:18 p.m. my first eagle sighting of the day.

It is 55 degrees outside and the sun kept us warm inside with 72degrees in the salon.

Make that two eagles!

2:40 p.m. we arrived and are settling in. Harbour Village Marina, Hampstead, NC

\$2.50 per foot, no tax, no extra electric charge. Floating dock with 3-4' tide maybe. Bathhouse, yes, no water hook up.

Haleigh and I went for a 2-mile walk around the neighborhood and saw Annie M. We saw this boat back at the Atlantic Yacht Basin.

We had baked potatoes topped with pulled pork and a side salad for dinner. Mark is napping while Haleigh is watching Good Omens on Amazon Prime.

Tomorrow we cruise again.





Thanks for hanging in with us throughout the trip!  
Watch the videos today I have them loaded and labeled 1<sup>st</sup> of the day,  
2<sup>nd</sup> of the day 3<sup>rd</sup> of the day, and 4<sup>th</sup> of the day on our youtube page  
The videos make more sense if you watch them in order.

A reminder – these videos are unedited, in the moment, and true  
reactions to what we are experiencing.

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCRoO6w8JLnITrWcZdPDJY0Q/featured>

