

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

Somewhere on the Water

January 14, 2022 – Friday - Day 37

We are leaving Hampstead, NC -Harbor Village Marina.

8:18 a.m. Enjoying the sunshine and hot coffee this morning in the salon with Mark. We have not left yet. Today should be a short cruise to Southport Marina, Southport, NC

8:45 a.m. Engines are running and we are headed out.

Annie M. The boat we saw back at Atlantic Yacht Basin that was docked next to us last night is headed out at the same time and told Mark he is going to Southport as well. His hailing port is Ida, MI.

It is Friday. I did not get all of my movies uploaded last night so hopefully, tonight's wifi is good so I can finish uploading movies off my phone and camera onto our **OneDrive** so that I can then get them to our youtube channel.

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

The videos that we load onto youtube are linked in the written blog. If you like them please hit the like and subscribe buttons.

What is OneDrive? Mark and I use it to back up all our files, photos, etc., and synchronize them so we both have access.

Microsoft OneDrive is a file hosting service. It enables registered users to share and synchronize their files. OneDrive also works as the storage back-end of the web version of Microsoft Office.-Wikipedia.

When we dumped the trash this morning before leaving the marina Mark told me he saw a cockroach in the men's bathroom so this is now his least favorite stop.

8:55 a.m. we are leaving the marina and headed back out into the Intracoastal waterway.

We pulled out into the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway heading south. There are two boats out here, one turned into the marina we just left and one is about a mile back and gaining, fast.

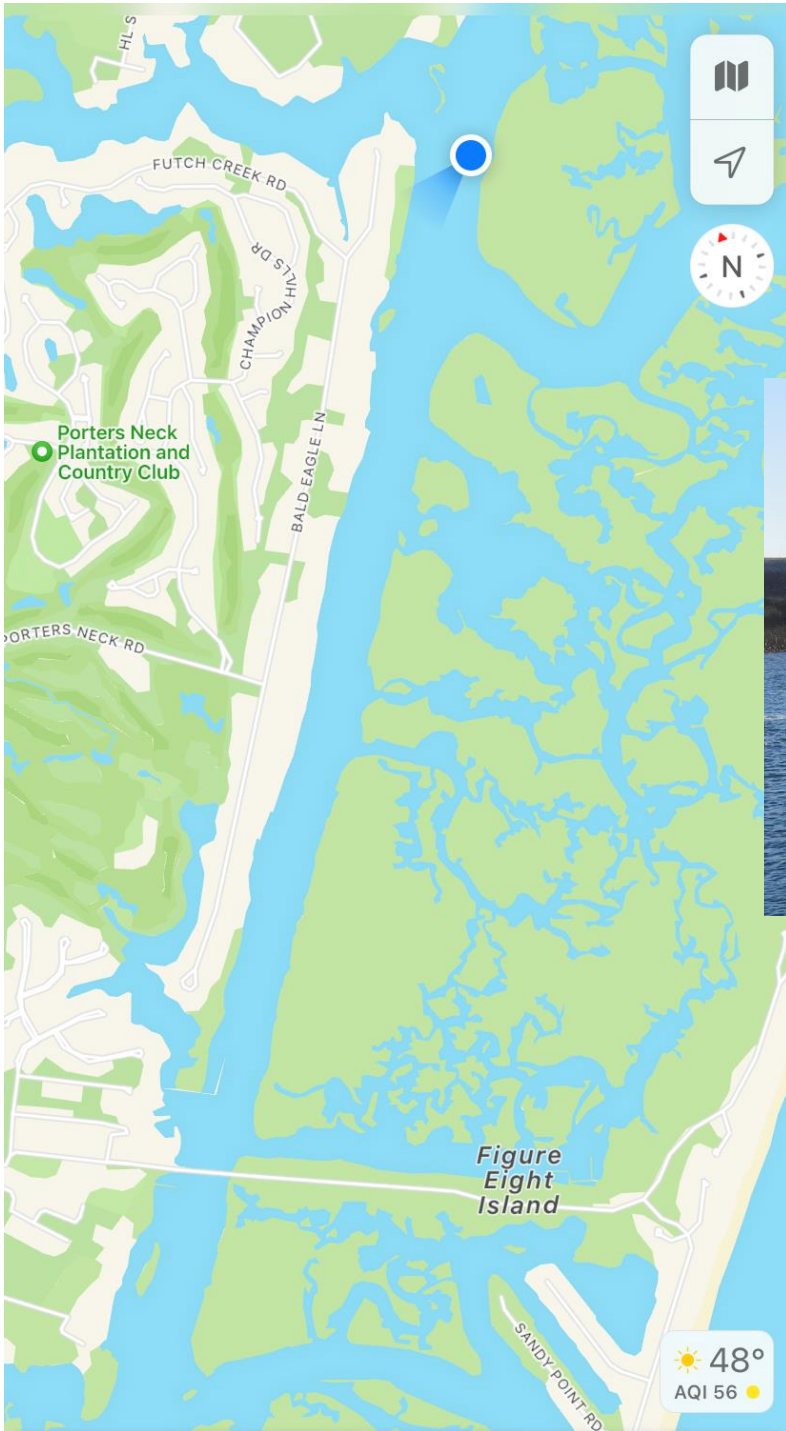


We saw that it did slow for a fishing boat and Mark tried to call him on the VHF. We are hoping he doesn't roll us. I would not like my computer station to be at risk.

Mark did make contact with that Captain. Mark told him we would slow our speed and allow portside passage. *Relentless* from Miami FL passed us at 9:09 a.m.



9:13 a.m. The no-named islands on our port side are uninhabited so why are all these pipes installed?
Are they drainage pipes?
Anyone who knows and would like to share some info that would be great!





9:16 a.m. I took a photo looking portside out towards Banks Channel and the end of (what I think is) Topsail Beach. Mark laughs and says bust out another thousand pictures?

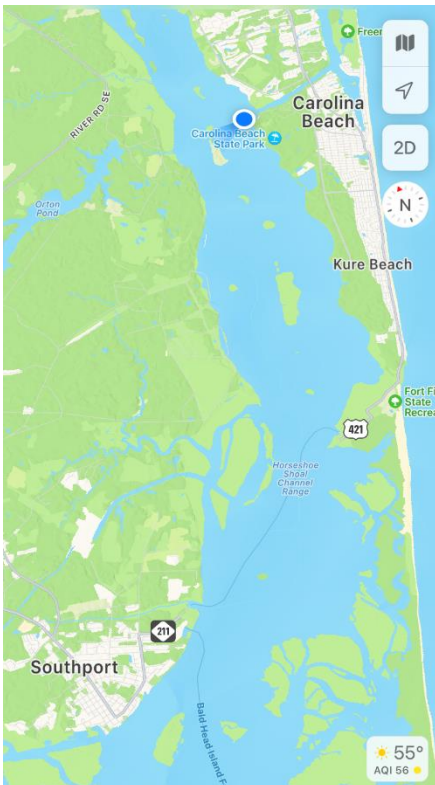
Maybe, haha.

I took a lot of pictures yesterday.

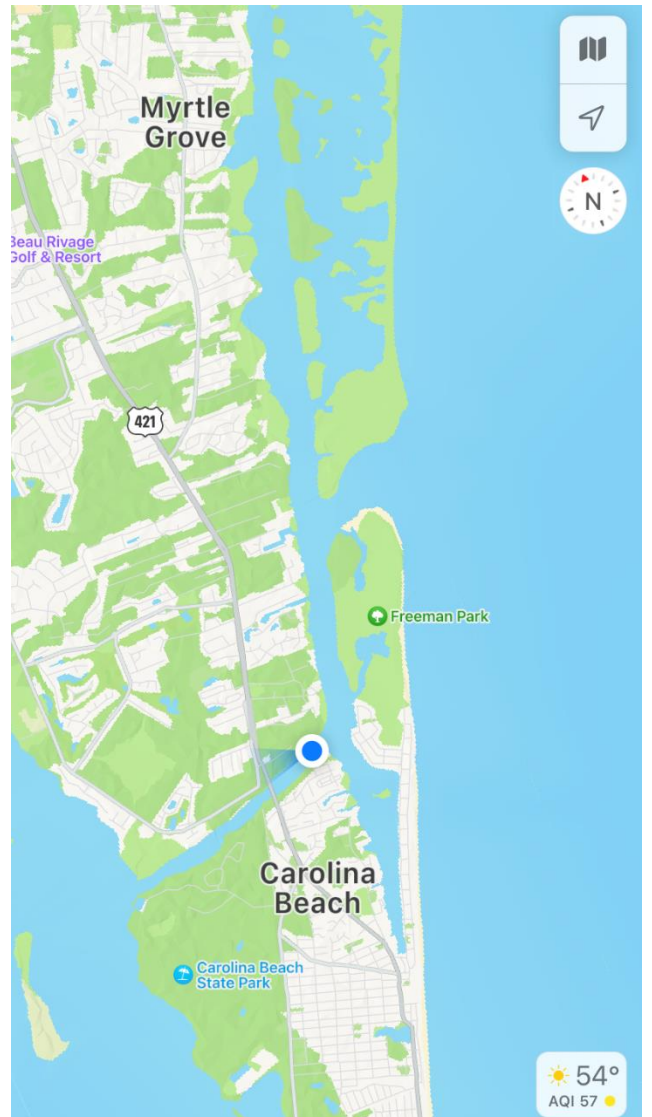


It is 46° according to my phone.

We left Hampstead, NC heading south. We will pass by; Figure Eight Island, Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach, and Kure Beach on our port side and Scotts Hill, Ogden, through Myrtle Grove Sound with Myrtle Grove on our starboard side.



Just before Carolina Beach, we will cut through a canal and end at Southport which is on the land-side of the Intracoastal. Oceanside is Bald Head Island and Cape Fear!



I spied a sole loon this morning as Mark is keeping his eye on the water. There are a lot of buoys.

Mark heard over the VHF that there is an unmanned sailboat anchored 30 miles off Wrightsville Beach, NC proceed with caution in that area.

-We won't be in that area, but it is always hard to hear announcements like this and can only pray everyone is ok.

9:40 a.m.

S/V Bails Calls from Miami Florida is a sailboat that we met in passing.

Mark was avoiding shoals and zig zagging within the channel and we chuckled as it probably appeared to this sailboater that we are on a collision course with him.

He probably wasn't chuckling.

This sailboater looked cold. He was bundled in a winter hat, mittens, and heavy coat at his helm.



9:48 a.m. Mark is calling the Figure Eight Island Bridge for an opening on the hour.

10:07 a.m. We are through the bridge. <https://youtu.be/l9q7qCaGvMU>

Figure Eight Island is a barrier island just north of Wrightsville Beach, widely known as an affluent summer colony and vacation destination.^[2] Figure Eight can only be reached by boat or via a guarded causeway swing bridge—the only private bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway in the Southeast.^{[3][4]}

Nicknamed "The Hamptons of the South",^[5] the island has been a destination for celebrities and politicians—including former U.S. Vice President Al Gore^[1] and Senator John Edwards^[6]-Wikipedia

This bridge is the 'new' bridge and dates to 1980. From what I understand, there is a guarded gate for Figure Eight Island which is only accessible for homeowners and guests.



10:11 a.m. Mark radios to the next bridge, Wrightsville Beach Bridge for an opening. They open on the hour. We will be approaching on the ½ hour so Mark is going to slow us down from 9.5 knots to 8 and possibly even slower depending on the eta.

10:35 a.m. and we have arrived at the bridge that doesn't open until 11 a.m. Mark is passing the time by playing with Valkyrie and trying to get her to **walk**.

What does it mean to **walk** a boat?

It means one engine is in reverse, one is in forward and he is trying to get her to go sideways using just propellers and steering. Some boats have this ability but not Valkyrie.

While waiting for the bridge, just trying to stay out of the shallow water the boat behind us who is also waiting just drifted right up onto the sand bar. He was able to back off it ok. https://youtu.be/N8cU_0bVaw





For about 25 minutes we were drifting and waiting and as needed engaging the engines just enough to stay in the deep water.

11:11 a.m. and we are finally on the other side of that bridge (C Heide Trask Bridge) keeping an eye out on the boat behind us in case he wants to pass. <https://youtu.be/8f0o3uvYQUo> check out the video, like & subscribe ☺

The Trask Memorial Bridge carries US 74/US 76 over the Intracoastal Waterway between Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach. It was built to replace a much shorter bascule span located just to its south. (That span's old approach roadways are still visible.) The erection of the bridge in 1957-1958 was prompted by the efforts of local State Highway Commission member C. Heide Trask (1902-1957), for whom it was named.

It is a simple trunnion, double leaf, bascule bridge. The system allowed for the pre-assembly of high-speed components in the shop and simplified erection and alignment in the field. <https://historicbridges.org/bridges/browser/?bridgebrowser=northcarolina/intracoastalbasculebridge/>

Money Island on our right and a no-named island on our left. Also with a big drain pipe. – I hope someone who reads this can send me a FaceBook comment on what they are for. Please.

Big Willie, who we were behind all day yesterday hailed Mark on the radio just now. Talked about where we were headed and what his plans are. I am sure we will meet again.

11:19 a.m. dolphin sighting!
Our first of the day I think?

August 15th, Deal NJ hailing port – the boat that drifted into the sandbar- just drove over a shoal to pass us while we were letting a barge come out into the channel.



Approximately 20- minutes after passing us - August 15th called Mark on the radio. They had a lengthy conversation starting with, I just hit bottom, be careful, it is shallow here.

This boat, recently purchased is on its way to Stuart FL.

He has about 15-year-old navigational equipment on board. Since our navigational equipment is more updated Mark decided that it would give August 15th a safer option if he offered to let him follow us.

We are going to speed up to about 8.5 knots as we have been going slower than that since before the bridge.



We came upon this dredging operation. It was cool. We have met many tugs pulling/pushing dredging equipment but have not been able to witness the process. Today we did.

<https://youtu.be/Ncmo8RnmVMs>

- watch the video





This afternoon's cruising got pretty interesting. After we cruised by the dredging and turned into a small canal - Snow's Cut, keeping on the Intracoastal just before Carolina Beach, there were a lot of shoals to zigzag around, August 15th at this point had been following us for some time, and making the turn into Cape Fear River had a lot of obstacles.

Snow's Cut is a manmade canal that over the year's has

been the center of controversy for locals. The cost of the constant dredging is significant due to the erosion, natural and from boats. It is 100' wide and only 12' deep.

At the same time Mark is navigating this tight canal and avoiding shoals my computer went black...just black. I tried turning it on, unplugging it, resetting the surge protector, Mark said google it.







The birds are enjoying the sunshine. A huge gathering of cormorants, pelicans, seagulls, and more.



I ended up doing a BIOS update after bothering Mark with a couple of more questions, all at the wrong times - while he is trying to avoid shallow water, a boat passing us causing us to roll in its wake; we are now exposed to wind and a large channel with range light markers, ferry's, barges, etc.

3:00 p.m. we are here at Southport Marina, Southport, NC. We have been docked and hooked up for an hour. It was windy and a little shallow but Mark did a great job and we had two dock hands helping out.

Mark went to check us in and ran into Relentless (they passed us this morning at 9:07 a.m.), Annie M who we have seen twice now, and August 15th who has been following all day changed their overnight plans to stay here.

It is 55 out but the sun has warmed us inside to 80. Doors are open for now to cool it off.





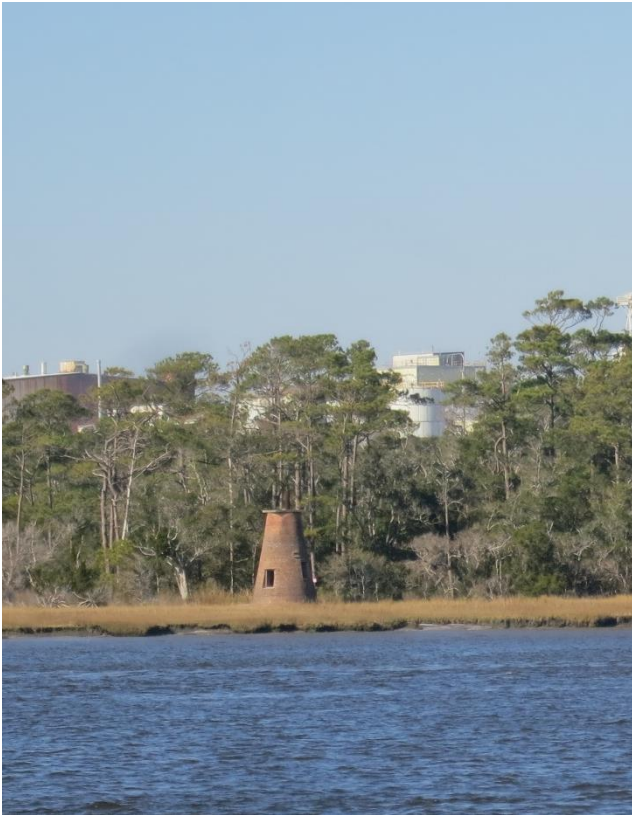
This marina is wonderful. It has a great layout. We ordered pizza for delivery from Papa John's. It was good. We enjoyed a very nice sunset. Mark was tired from a long day. Today was a day that required a lot of focus.



My computer came back to life, thank goodness!!

A little bit of trivia; the movie "Safe Haven" was filmed here in Southport, NC.

Two points of interest we saw here in Cape Fear River:



This is Price Creek Lighthouse. Built back in the 1850s. It is currently privately owned but was originally built as a range light in a series of two lights to guide ships from Cape Fear to Wilmington, NC.

The Oak Island Lighthouse is located in the Town of Caswell Beach near the mouth of the Cape Fear River



I will leave you with this picture of our sunset.



FYI – the maps you see are screenshots from my phone using the map app that came with the iPhone. The clip art images, the emojis, etc. are copied and pasted using free images from Google, Pinterest, and others. If I can find an artist to give direct photo credit I place it next to the image. I also try to credit any other information and link the website through all the blogs. -thank you!