

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

Somewhere on the Water

January 19, 2022 – Wednesday, Day 42 • McClellanville, SC to Charleston, SC

Burrrr...31 degrees this morning. **But** it is bright & sunny and by the time we started the engines at 10:42 a.m. it has warmed to 46.



Photo of the Office
& bathhouse.

Frost on Valkyrie this
morning @ 7:30 a.m.

Beautiful sunrise.
I can still see the
moon in the sky!



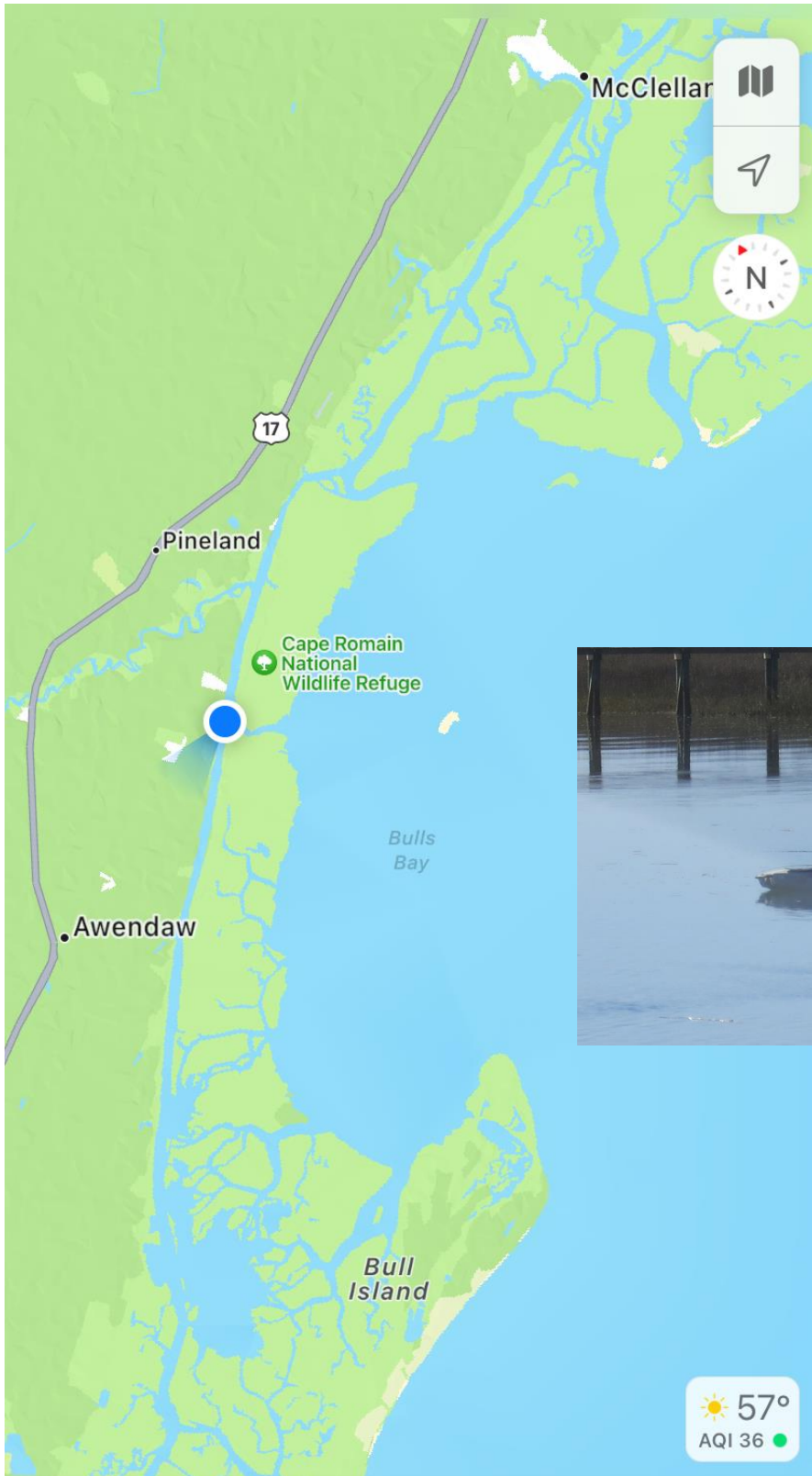


Calm seas are in the forecast for us this morning. We are eager to get to Charleston, SC. Although we only lived there for a short time, we really love this city. We have always joked that if we ever turned up missing, look for us in Charleston, SC first.

We are trying to plan our Charleston arrival around slack tide.

The current at the Maritime Marina can be strong so why not try to make things as easy as we can, right? Right!

What an absolutely beautiful morning to be on the water. We passed by two boats with hunters so far. The tide is high and the visibility is, well, if you can see over the tall golden reeds; endless!



As we travel South, the starboard side is lined with houses, most all with docks, boats, kayaks, jet skis, etc. Several people are out on the water today either fishing, gathering oysters, hunting, or jetskiing. We are not far from the ocean, the water is flat calm and it is just a perfect January day to be out here.



Bull Island is on our port side which is just acre after acre of marshland that is home to over 200 species of birds, including bald eagles (saw one on a sand bar not long ago) dolphins, otters, alligators.



I believe there is a ferry you can take from nearby Awendaw. It is considered a barrier island and is part of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge that I mentioned in a previous blog. Awendaw, SC is thought to mean 'Red Clay.'

Awendaw was settled as Wappetaw by settlers from Salem Massachusetts who fled Salem after the witch trials. – Wikipedia.



Interesting these three boats on this dilapidated dock.

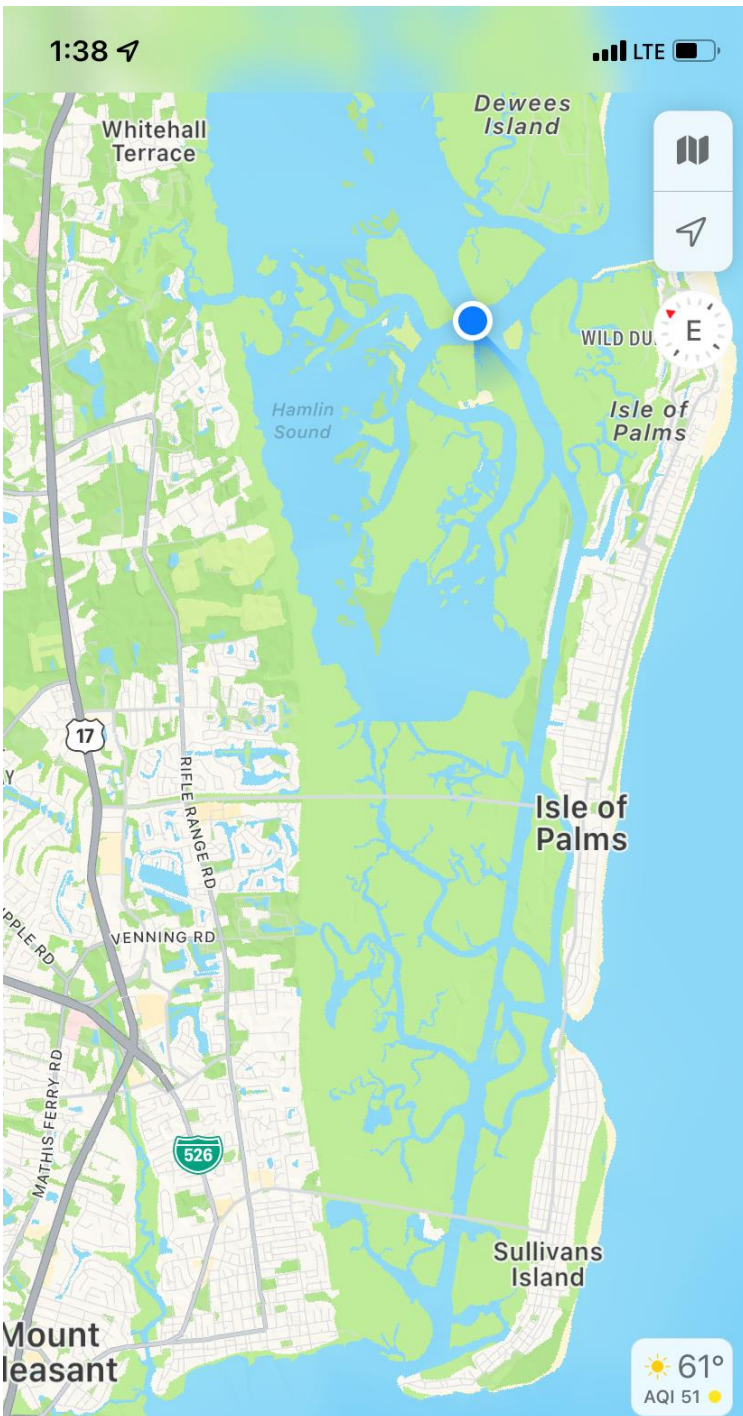
Not sure what to say about this. I am sure there is a story here that should be heard.



1:00 p.m. We are passing by **Capers Island**.

It has warmed up this afternoon to 61! We hope there are more days like this while we are here.

Soon we will be passing Dewees Island, Wild Dunes & Isle of Palms. Then Sullivans Island. When we arrive in Charleston we will be in Folly Island Channel.



Capers Island is a state-owned barrier island and will remain in its natural state.

As you follow along with the map - here is what we are about to see:

Dewees Island is accessible via ferry but you have to know a current landowner to gain access.

Wild Dunes is an oceanside resort on the Isle of Palms.

Isle of Palms is a 7-mile barrier island and popular with visitors due to its pristine beaches, wildlife, and of course resorts, spas and golf.

Sullivan's Island has wonderful beaches and is also home to Fort Moultrie National Historic Park. The fort was built to protect the city. It was at one time named Fort Sullivan and was renamed later after General William Moultrie. -Google & Wikipedia

We had a dolphin swim with us for a minute or two and just passed by a huge flock of white pelicans.

Wild Dunes and The Isle of Palms Connector Bridge is just coming into view

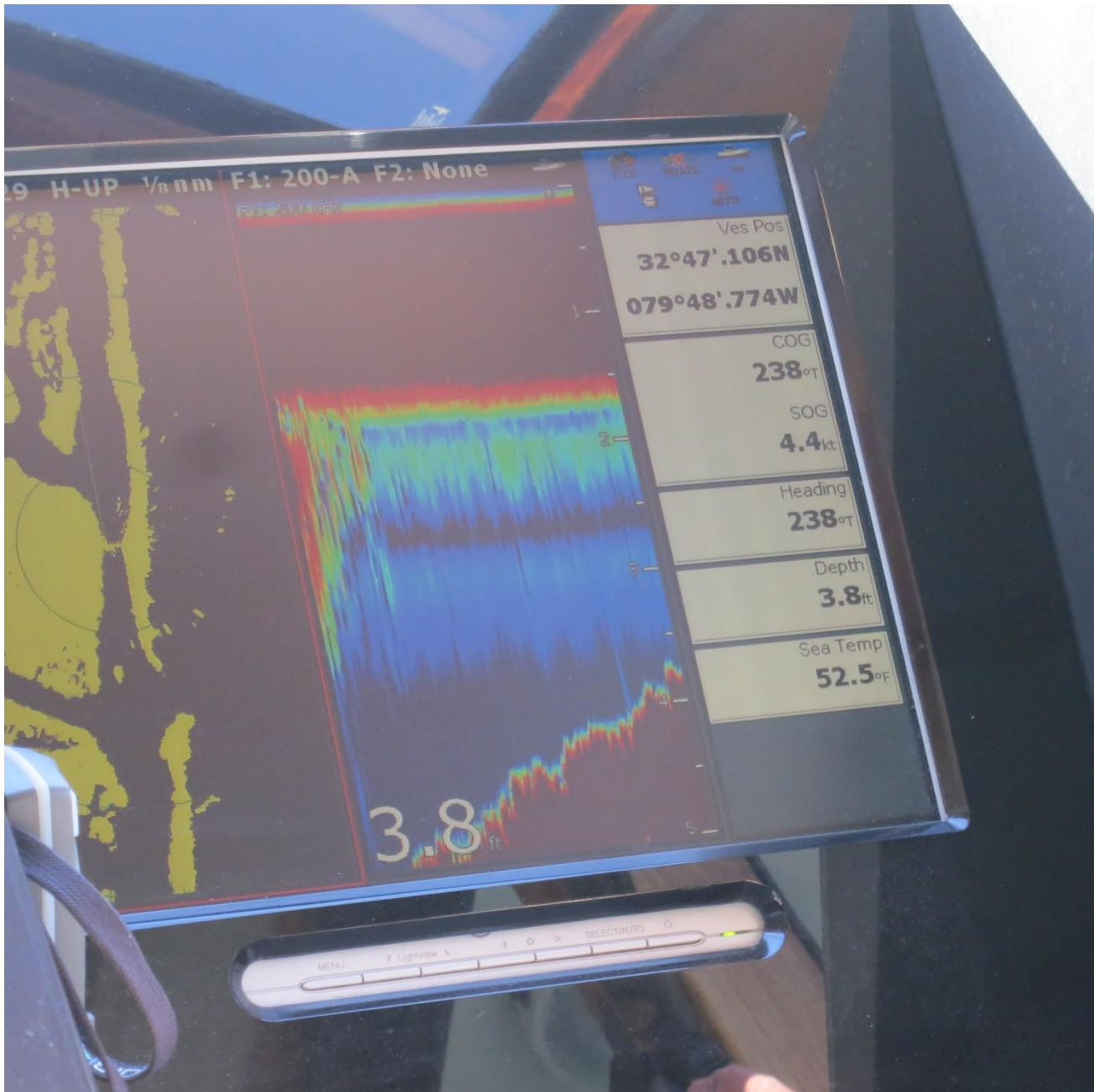
We are in 7' of water, and getting shallower.



We have been at slow/idle no-wake speed for....well, forever....the entire time we that we are cruising the AICW passing in between Wild Dunes & Isle of Palms on our left and Mount Pleasant on our right.

As we approach the Isle of Palm Bridge with the Route 703/**The HL Hunley** Bridge to our left and looking off at Breach Inlet there is **NO** water under us.

It gets as shallow as 3.7'



There are approximately 4 miles between the Isle of Palm Bridge and the Ben Sawyer Bridge. We have nothing but a shallow, touch-and-go situation for all of them.



Fly fishing at the Isle of Palms Bridge.

We lived here in the Low Country in the late 90's early 2000. **The Hunley** was raised from the sea in 2000. I had the privilege of seeing it shortly after it had been recovered from the water.

It is an amazing story and I encourage you to visit <https://www.hunley.org/>

On February 17th, 1864, the *H. L. Hunley* became the first successful combat submarine in world history with the sinking of the USS *Housatonic*. After completing her mission, she mysteriously vanished and remained lost at sea for over a century. For decades, adventurers searched for the legendary submarine.

The disappearance of the *H. L. Hunley* is one of the greatest mysteries in maritime history. Shortly after sinking the USS *Housatonic* on February 17th, 1864, the *Hunley* vanished without a trace. For more than a century, history buffs and adventurers speculated on the legendary submarine's fate while divers searched for the wreck in the waters off Charleston. When the *Hunley* was found in 1995, and then raised in 2000, many hoped the answer would finally be within grasp.

2:29 p.m. I am seeing off in the distance the new (to us anyway, it was built after we moved) Arthur Ravenel JR Bridge. This bridge connects Mount Pleasant and Charleston.



When the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge opened on July 16, 2005, it became the longest cable-stayed bridge of its time in North America and the tallest structure in South Carolina. -hdrinc.com

Once we have passed under the Isle of Palms bridge, Sullivan's Island is on our left.

Ben Sawyer Bridge, is a swing bridge that opens on demand.

2:33 p.m. Mark is calling on the VHF to the bridge.

I just took a pic of the Sullivan's Island Lighthouse. Resembling an air-traffic control tower is the last lighthouse built by the federal government. First activated in 1962, built to withstand winds up to 125 mph. This lighthouse replaced the Sullivan's Island Range Light that was destroyed during the war.

-Hopefully, I summarized with information from lighthousefriends.com accurately. If not, sorry!





With a clearance of 36,' we did not need it to open.
I did stand out on the bow, but only as a precaution.

2:46 p.m. Pitt Street Bridge (to nowhere?)

At one time the Pitt Street Bridge was the only means to get from Mount Pleasant to the beaches of Sullivan's Island and Isle of Palms. Operating as a trolley bridge from 1898 to 1927 it was widened in 1923 to allow for automobiles and was finally closed in 1945 when the Ben Sawyer Bridge opened.-
charlestonmuseum.org

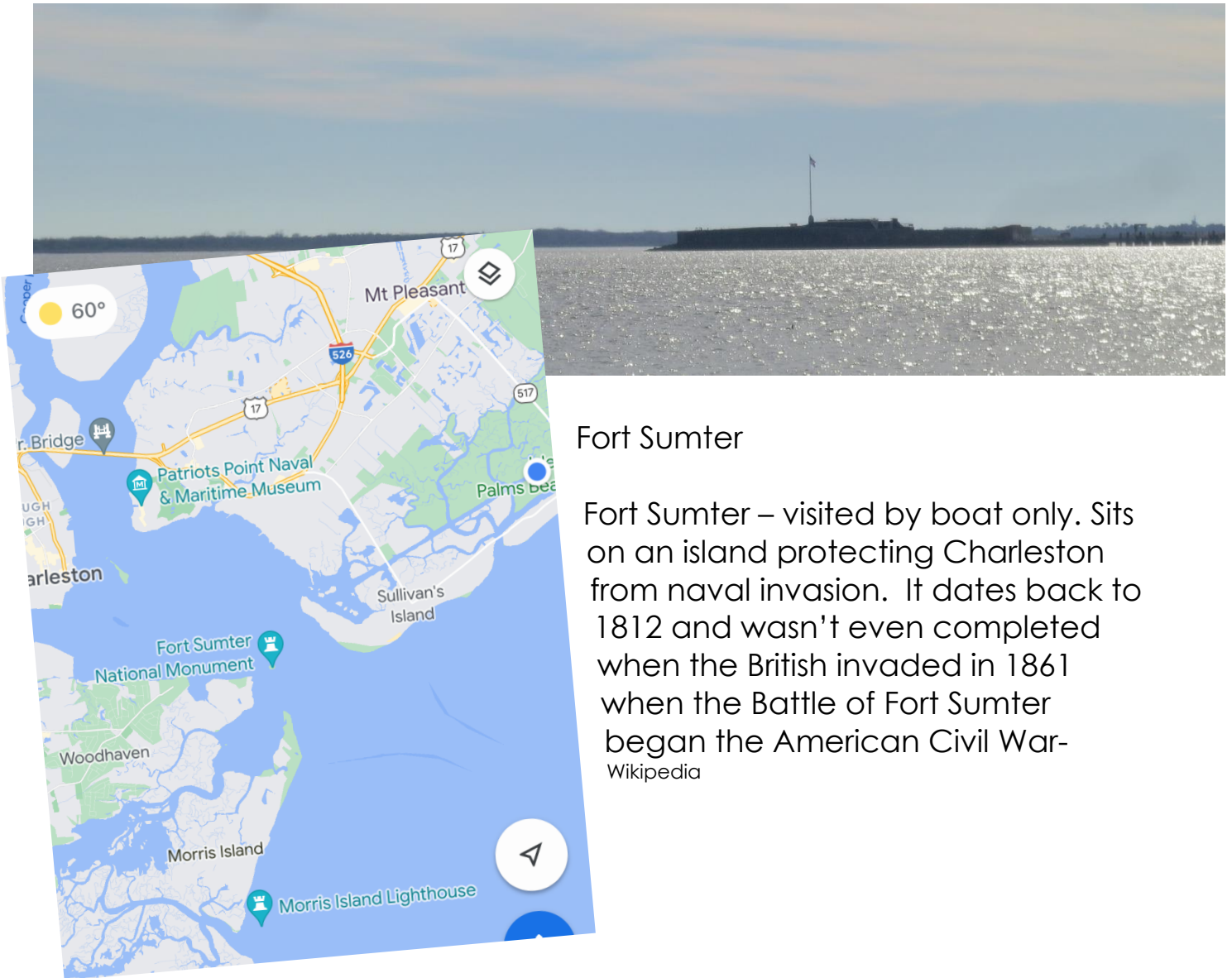


Finally, we come into Charleston Harbor. So much to see. I am excited to be here.

As I am typing this at 3:20 p.m. we are rocking from the waves of the humungous container ship that just went by.

The harbor is busy with container ships, two dredging operations in progress, sailboats, pleasure boats, we can see Fort Sumter, Patriots Point, the Battery, dolphins swimming by, Morris Island Lighthouse way off in the distance out beyond Fort Sumter.

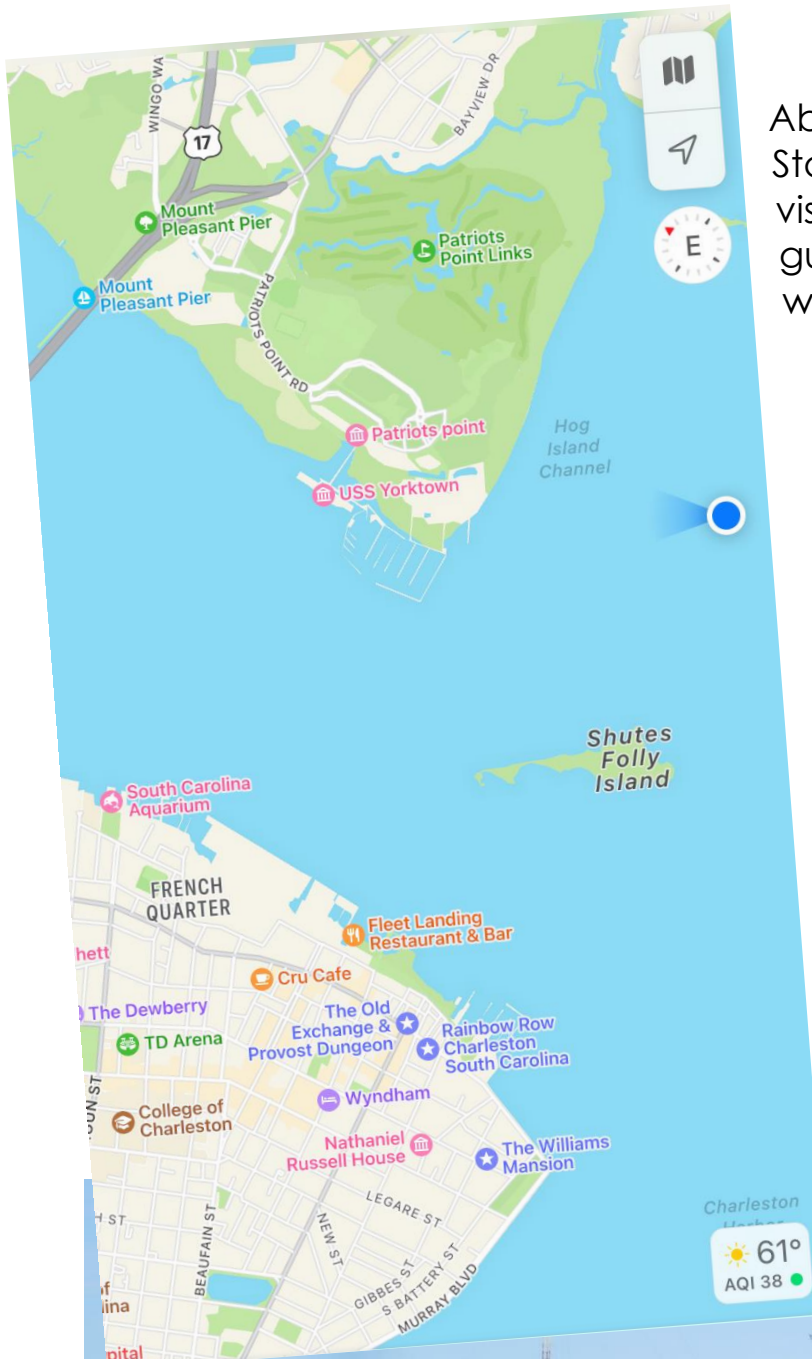
We come into the Charleston Maritime Center with no trouble. Minor worry about a strong current was one reason we tried to plan a slack tide arrival, however, it did us no favors going through the ICW approaching the Ben Sawyer Bridge.



Fort Sumter

Fort Sumter – visited by boat only. Sits on an island protecting Charleston from naval invasion. It dates back to 1812 and wasn't even completed when the British invaded in 1861 when the Battle of Fort Sumter began the American Civil War-
Wikipedia





Above is the SC Aquarium. Stay tuned for more on that...a visit to the aquarium is guaranteed to be on our itinerary while here.

We have visited Patriots Point & toured the USS Yorktown, an aircraft carrier many times. I will fill you in on all the details about it as the week goes by.



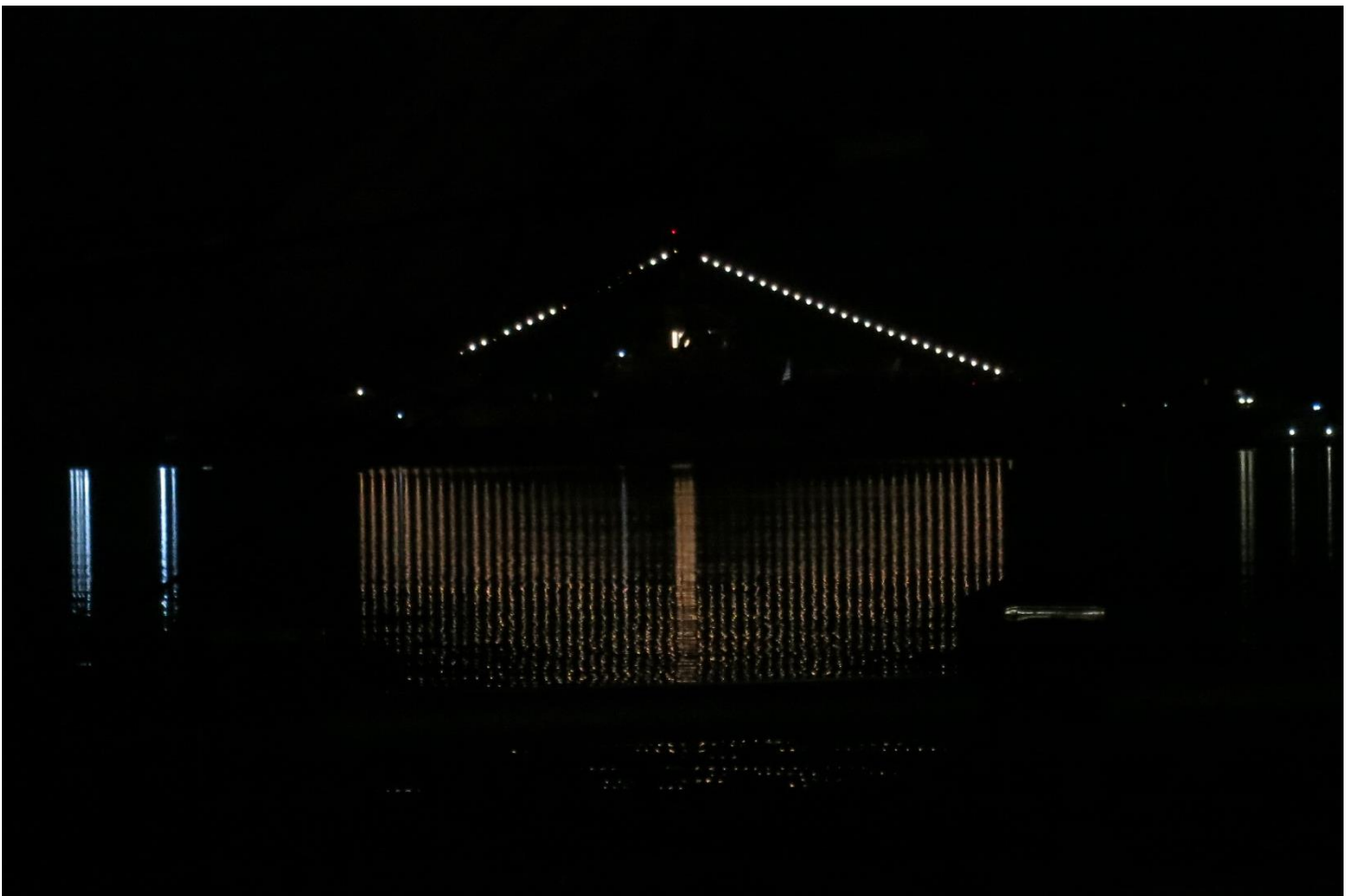
Here is a link to a quick video of Charleston Harbor. I needed to get the lines ready for our arrival at the Charleston Maritime Center Marina so I quickly shot this video showing a few of the highlights.

https://youtu.be/66zNaMa_d-w

Short video of the moon over the USS Yorktown and the Charleston Harbor.

You can see and hear the dredging operation as well. Weather permitting they work 24hours 7days per week.

<https://youtu.be/Df3mi2TDi5k>



We are going to be here for a week. Please stay tuned for information on Charleston, local attractions, history, and more! We are soo excited to be here!