

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

Somewhere on the Water

February 10, 2022

Beaufort, NC to Belhaven, NC via ICW

We left Beaufort this morning around 7:30 a.m.

I heard Mark start the engines around 7:05 a.m. He unhooked us and we were underway by the time I came up to the salon.

We had dolphins swim with us just a couple of miles north of Beaufort. They did not stay long. One or two minutes.





We were the only ones disturbing Mother Nature's glory this morning as we cruised north on Adams Creek. Minus our engine; there was no noise. Calm, quiet, and the water was like glass.



I wonder what the story is behind this?

9:08 a.m.

We met this tug pushing a barge. It is headed south into Adams Creek as we are leaving it and coming into Neuse River. Oriental, NC is straight ahead as we come out of Adams Creek.

Mark stated that he liked Adams creek. There was a lot to look at: Large marinas, large homes, small RV Parks, a lot of wooded areas. Enough to keep it interesting.



This guy was not far behind the tug.



Neuse River is a wide river. Fortunately for us today the wind is calm and the sun is shining. Just makes cruising that much more enjoyable so we decided to keep on cruising.

A rosy horizon and a view as far as the eye could see, and then some.



Water changed as we were coming from the wide Neuse River at where it meets the Pamlico Sound and with Ball Island ahead of us the water is flowing from the Atlantic into the Bay River. We will cross the mouth of the Bay River and follow the ICW through the Pamlico River, and the Pungo River.

<https://youtu.be/-nHwwzELf-g> Watch the video to hear what I mean about *the water changed*.

We are stopping at REO Mayo again. This time hoping to stock up on scallops if available, more shrimp, crab cakes...and let's see what else they have.

I went outside to take pictures. Haleigh is out there soaking up the sun and the 56 degrees that we are blessed with today. She asks, "Are you taking pictures of absolutely nothing?" I answered, yes. I am taking pictures of absolutely nothing. Her reply: "well there are trees." Yes, there are, don't you like how they look across the horizon?

Agreeably looking out towards the Atlantic Ocean beyond the Pamlico Sound, there is nothing.

We are feeling a little lonely this morning.



11:22 a.m. We met S/V Allure, Portsmouth, VA
Did we see Allure in Portsmouth? Maybe?



I drove the boat today. Mark sat back on the mezzanine for a bit, and the sofa a bit. I had the wheel through a portion of the Pamlico River into the Pungo River. I botched the 90-degree turn in the Pungo River to keep on course with the ICW. I oversteered and had us off course by a few degrees. (maybe more than a few 😊)

RE Mayo update: We got 2-bags of shrimp, 2-packages of crab cakes, and one package of crab balls. No scallops this time either.

The weather and water are very favorable today so Mark decided to skip Belhaven and cruise the Alligator River – Pungo River Canal. The goal here is to get through Albemarle Sound with little wind which is the forecast for tomorrow.



Here is a link to the video when we crossed the sound going south.

<https://youtu.be/ZX-eS6nKLkU>

We are trying to avoid that on our return trip north.

The canal is very straight with a few course corrections needed from time to time. It is very quiet. No birds, no houses to look at, an occasional bridge to go under; all in all it looks dead. Not even a cellphone signal could survive out here, Mark says with a chuckle.



It has been a great day to be on the water. A long day. Not much to report as far as scenery, boat traffic, or wildlife sightings. Luckily we are still enjoying each other's company so good conversation broken up by my work, engine room checks, etc. we are happy to be out here.



We are almost at our anchorage. at 5 o'clock and we have been moving since 7:05 a.m. We are tired. Even when there is not a lot going on in the outside world, inside Valkyrie plenty is going on. Keeping a close eye on both iPads, the Radar, water depth, and of course any other vessels on the water. Today they just happen to be few and far between.

Mark revved up the engines as we neared the end of the canal took a few notes on fuel consumption ratios, etc.

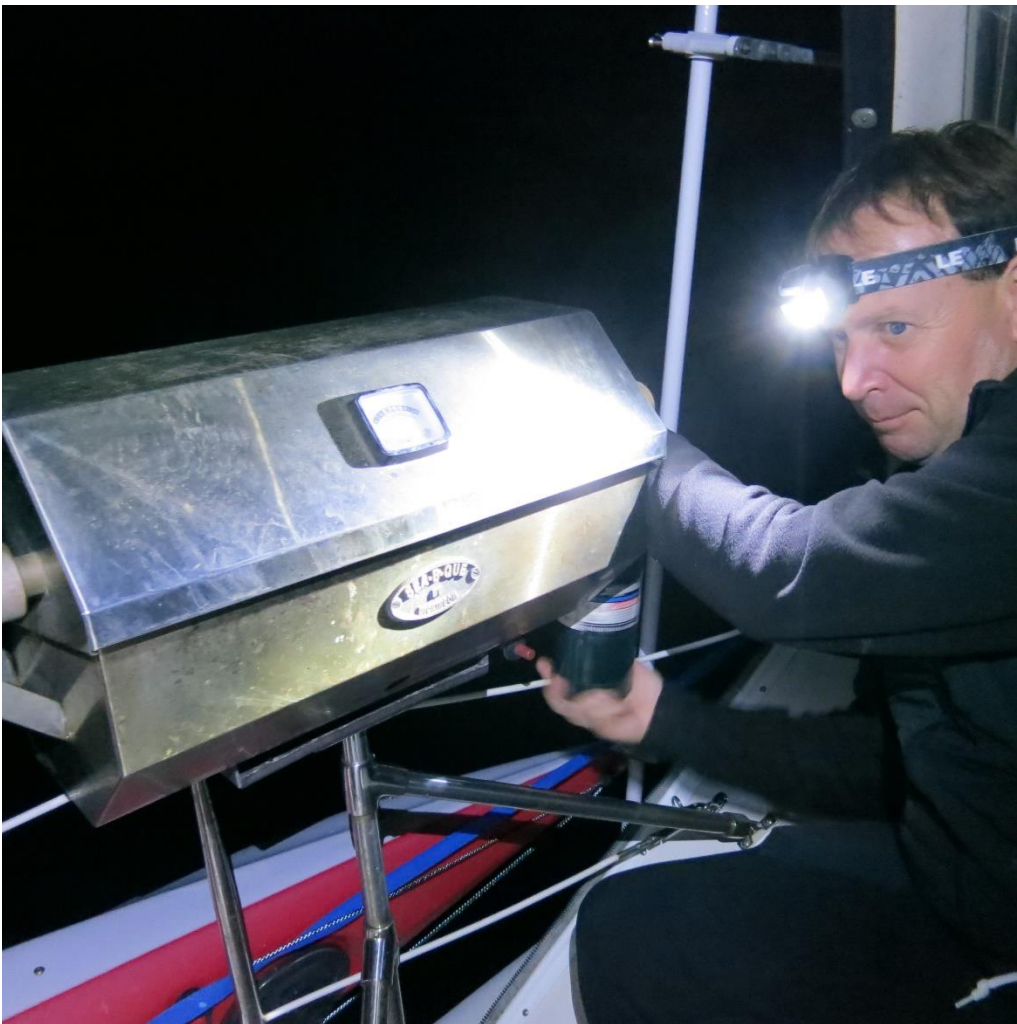


Anchoring was very peaceful. Valkyrie was the only boat in sight. Having no cell phone reception was kind of nice. We were able to be off-grid for the evening.

One bar of service was just enough to text. Jordan knew we were safe and knew our position. Other than that, no Facebook, no Netflix, etc.

We three made dinner together. A joint effort that brought us together for a short while with a few laughs. Living on a 56' boat doesn't exclude a family from separating into a daily routine. Haleigh is either outside or in her room most days. Mark is the full-time Captain. Me, I am writing, working, and filling in at the helm when Mark needs a short break to check the engine room.

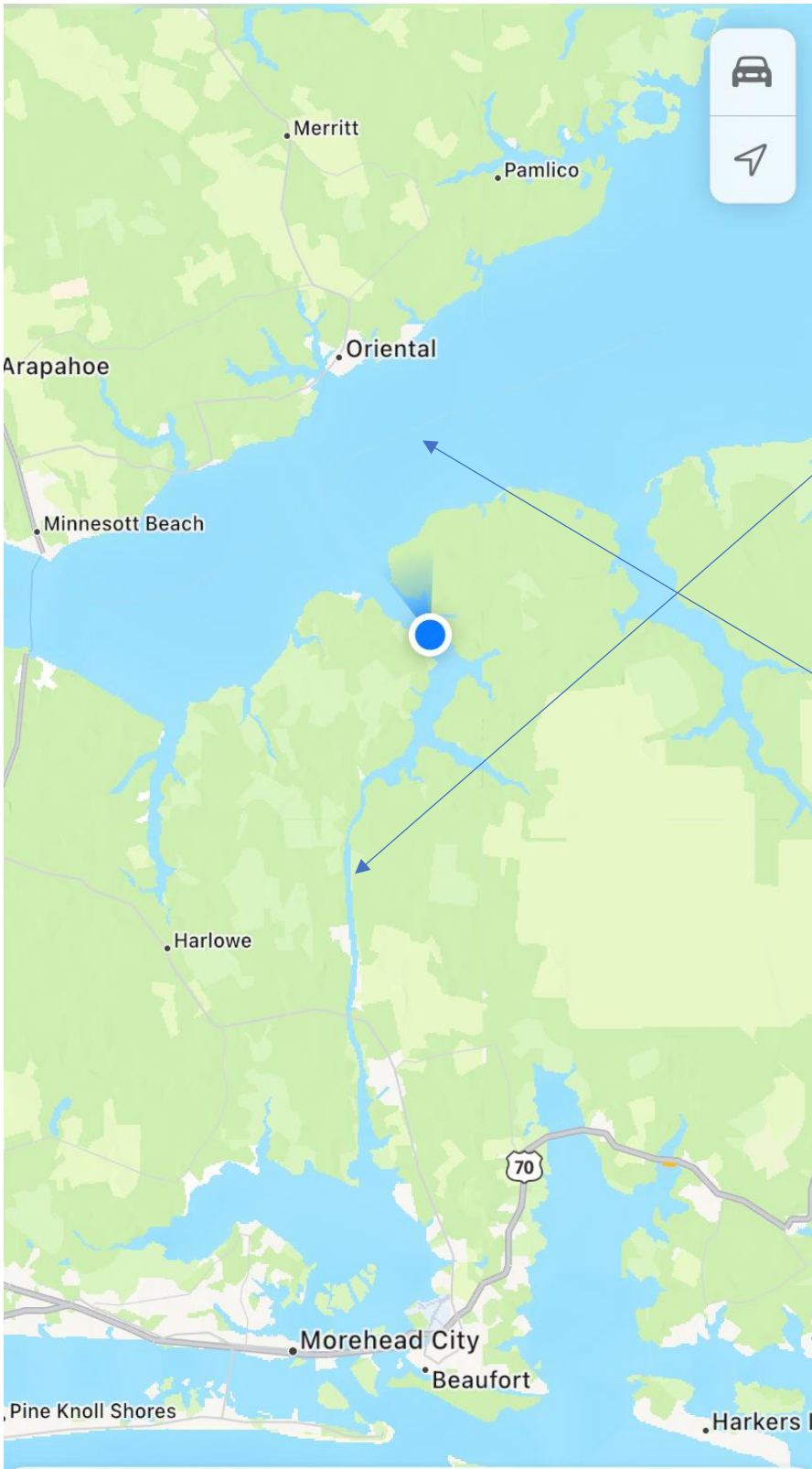
We have time within our days that we do stand side-by-side talking, laughing, and planning. That does differentiate us from many couples and many lifestyles. Soon it will come to an end when we arrive back on Cape Cod for the rest of the Winter, and then to West Island for the Summer. He and Haleigh will go back to their work upon returning.



Mark talked me through the steps of starting the generator so I could start it by myself! Little steps. Baby steps. Slowly learning.

Of course we run out of propane just as the burgers go on the grill! Thanks Mark!



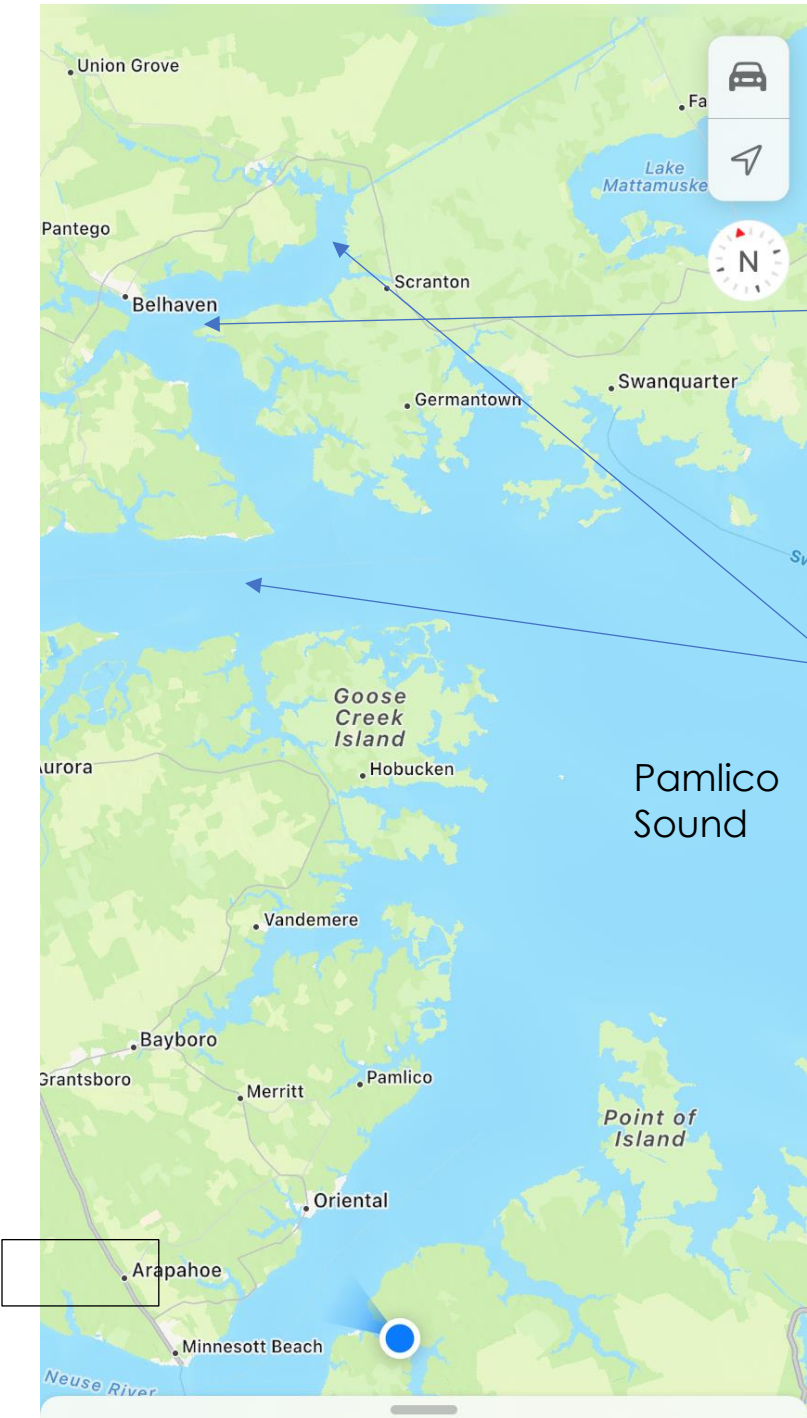


We left Beaufort, NC this morning cruising Adams Creek.
AKA: the Intracoastal

At the end of Adams Creek is the Neuse River.

Keep reading, there's more.

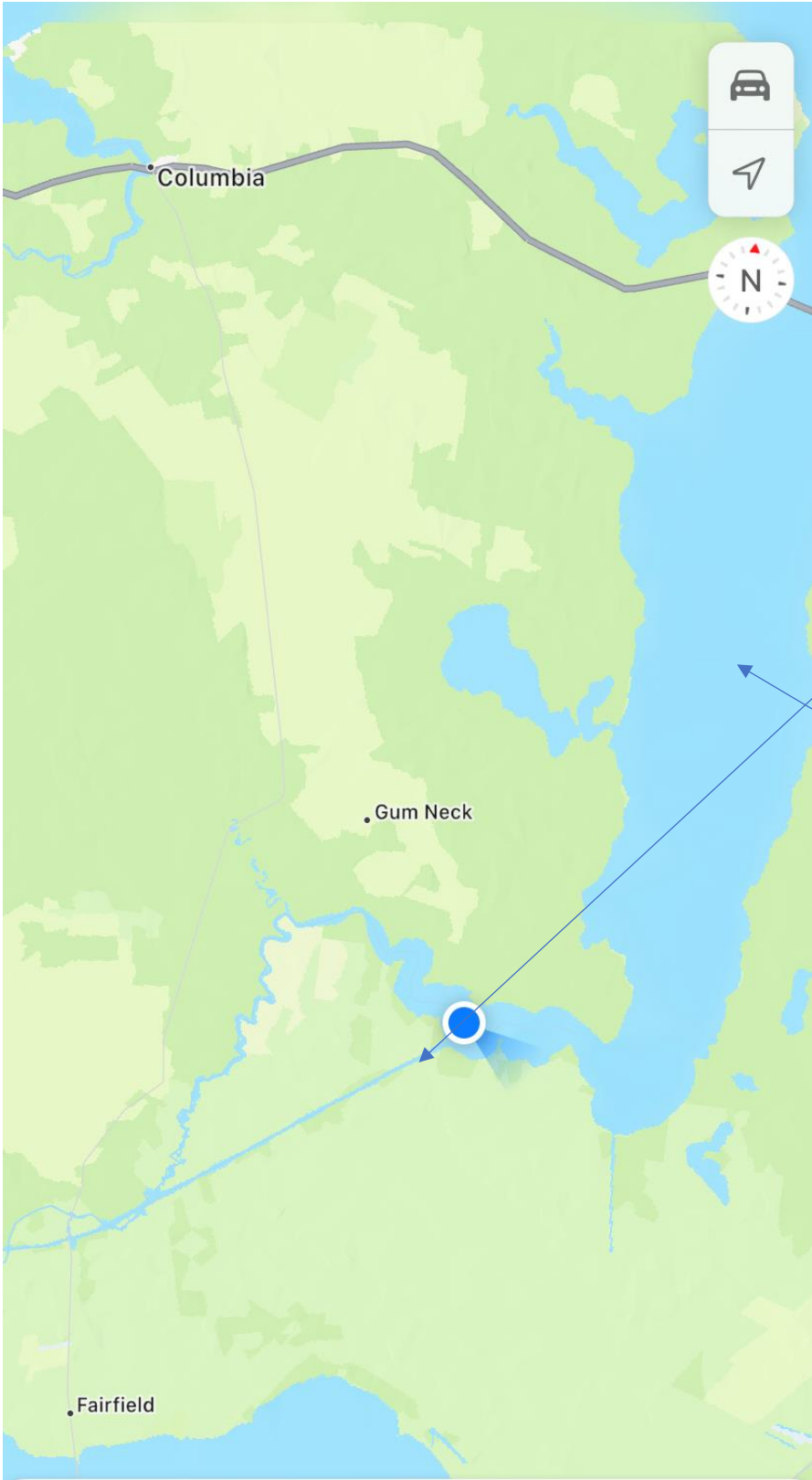




Our original plan was to stop & anchor here at Belhaven, NC

Since the weather was favorable we decided to continue on through the Pamlico Sound into the Pamlico River and then the Pungo River.

One more map 



Anchored here at the end of Alligator River – Pungo River Canal.

Alligator River.