

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

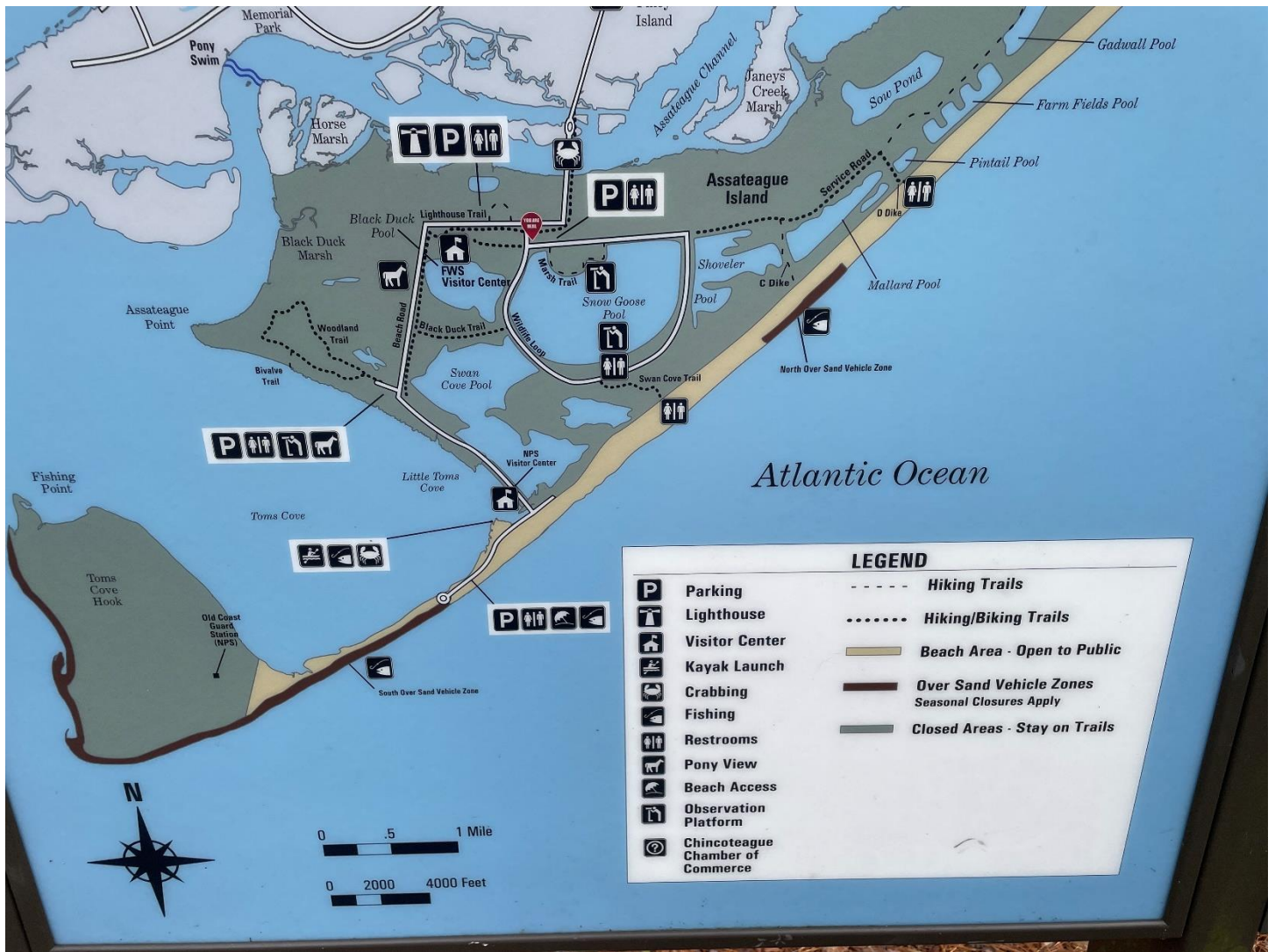
Somewhere on the Water

February 26, 2022 – Making the most of being stuck in Chincoteague, VA
Day 81 of our trip.- Saturday

We went rollerblading on the bike trails in the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. But first – we have to walk the 2.8 miles to get there with our rollerblades in a backpack.



This photo is from the beach access road looking out over Janey's Creek.



The Wildlife Loop Access parking lot had bathrooms open! Phew!



We did not walk up to the Assateague Lighthouse but did see it from a distance.

The Assateague Lighthouse is located just a short distance from the main gated park entrance. The original lighthouse was built in 1833. In 1869 there was a taller more powerful lighthouse constructed and with a delay due to the Civil War, it was finalized in 1867. The lighthouse has twin rotating lights that flash one after the other. The lighthouse is 142 feet high. It is still an active lighthouse under the operation of the US Coast Guard but preservation is the responsibility of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Once we arrive at the Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge we changed out of our sneakers, into our 1995 Roces BCN Barcelona inline skates. These were the top-of-the-line bomb go-to inline skates back in the day!!!

[AYE YAI YAI](#)

We did the woodland trail. 1.9 miles
Black duck marsh trail 1 mile
Part of the 3 ¼ mile wildlife loop

Then we walked the 2.8 miles back to the boat.

The Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge is open this time of year at no cost. The gates were open with no attendants. There are daily, weekly, and yearly pass options-in season. The yearly pass option is \$45.00.

We came mostly because of me! Ever since I read the *Misty* book series with the girls I have wanted to come here. Now I am here. Although it is obvious that it is not the summer when they do the round-up which this July 2022 will be its 97th year, I am here now and I am going to make the most of it!

https://www.chincoteague.com/pony_swim_guide.htm - this is a link to learn about this upcoming summer round-up.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is one of the most visited refuges in the United States, providing visitors with outstanding opportunities to learn about and enjoy wildlands and wildlife. Chincoteague Refuge includes more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh, and maritime forest. Established in 1943 to provide habitat for migratory birds (with an emphasis on conserving greater snow geese), the refuge today provides habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and song birds as well as other species of wildlife and plants. The refuge also provides wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, wildlife photography and observation, interpretation, and environmental education.
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Chincoteague/about.html>

Have you ever wondered how the ponies came to Assateague Island? There are several theories. One draws from the many

historically documented shipwrecks that have occurred off of the coast of Assateague Island. The legend states that one of these shipwrecks involved a Spanish galleon carrying horses. The galleon is believed to have wrecked off of Assateague in the 1700's and some of the horses were able to swim to shore. A theory with more historical evidence, is that the "Chincoteague Ponies" are descendants of colonial horses brought to Assateague Island in the 17th century by Eastern Shore planters when crop damage caused by free roaming animals led colonial legislatures to enact laws requiring fencing and taxes on livestock. Over time, the modern-day descendants of those domestic horses have adapted to their environment. We may never solve the mystery behind how the ponies got to Assateague Island, but no one can deny that it was Marguerite Henry who made these ponies famous with her book *Misty of Chincoteague*.

Prior to the refuge's establishment in 1943, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company purchased the ponies and continues ownership to this day. The Firemen are allowed to graze up to 150 ponies on refuge land through a Special Use Permit from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

A fence along the Virginia/Maryland State line (the northern refuge boundary) separates the island's ponies into two herds. The Maryland herd is owned by the National Park Service. The Virginia herd is owned by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company and is grazed in two designated compartments on the refuge.

Following tradition, the Fire Company rounds up the entire herd for the Annual Pony Penning and Auction held on the last Wednesday and Thursday of July. Some foals and yearlings are sold at auction to benefit the town's ambulance and fire services. For more information about the ponies or Pony Penning Events please visit: <http://www.chincoteaguechamber.com/pony-events/ev-pony.html>



These are what we saw!





Not all the paths looked like this. We did have very smooth, clear paths to rollerblade. This however was not the easiest stuff to roll over but we managed.

Quick video: <https://youtu.be/oJKqz3t63AE>

Back home in the late afternoon, I was ready to curl up on the couch and nap. We were going to go to Don's Restaurant since they were nice enough to let us use the water but they were closed.

Instead, we had leftover night and watched Night of the Museum 1 & 2 and National Treasure.