

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

Somewhere on the Water

February 8, 2022, Day 63

Tuesday, Leaving anchorage at Pleasure Island, Carolina Beach, NC

Cloudy morning. I heard the generator at 7:11 a.m. and the engines shortly after that. Mark is pulling the anchor by the time I get upstairs from our aft cabin at 7:35 a.m.

It's muddy – the anchor chain that is.

The wind has subsided which will make cruising today smoother. We are headed to another anchorage.

Some mornings, when it is cloudy and cold, burying your head under the warm blankets sounds more appealing than the cold air that is about to awaken the senses that you want to keep dormant for a few more minutes.

Coffee awaits, thanks to Mark!

This stretch of the AICW (Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway) was an area that while traveling south, I listed a lot of towns, island names, etc. to give everyone reading this a chance to visualize where we were. In case you wanted to look on a map. It probably is not necessary to list all of that information. It can be rather confusing to read and follow; maybe more so than me trying to keep up with writing it all. The Intracoastal Waterway consists of natural inlets, saltwater rivers, bays, sounds, and man-made canals.

Valkyrie is traveling the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way, the AICW shares its name with a canal, channel, river, bay, cove, etc. Some days I pay closer attention to those names than other days. Plus, I am following along with Mark's itinerary with my google maps & iPhone



map app. Excellent for roadway travel, but not so much for navigational purposes.

Today is a great example: We left Carolina Beach, NC this morning and entered into the ICW. On my iPhone map, it lists the body of water that we are in while at anchor the Atlantic Ocean, google maps is not listing a name at all, and the cove that we were in on Mark's map is listed: Carolina Beach Harbor.

The first thing we pass this morning is the entrance to Snow's Cut. While we travel north, the first island on our starboard side is Masonboro Island.

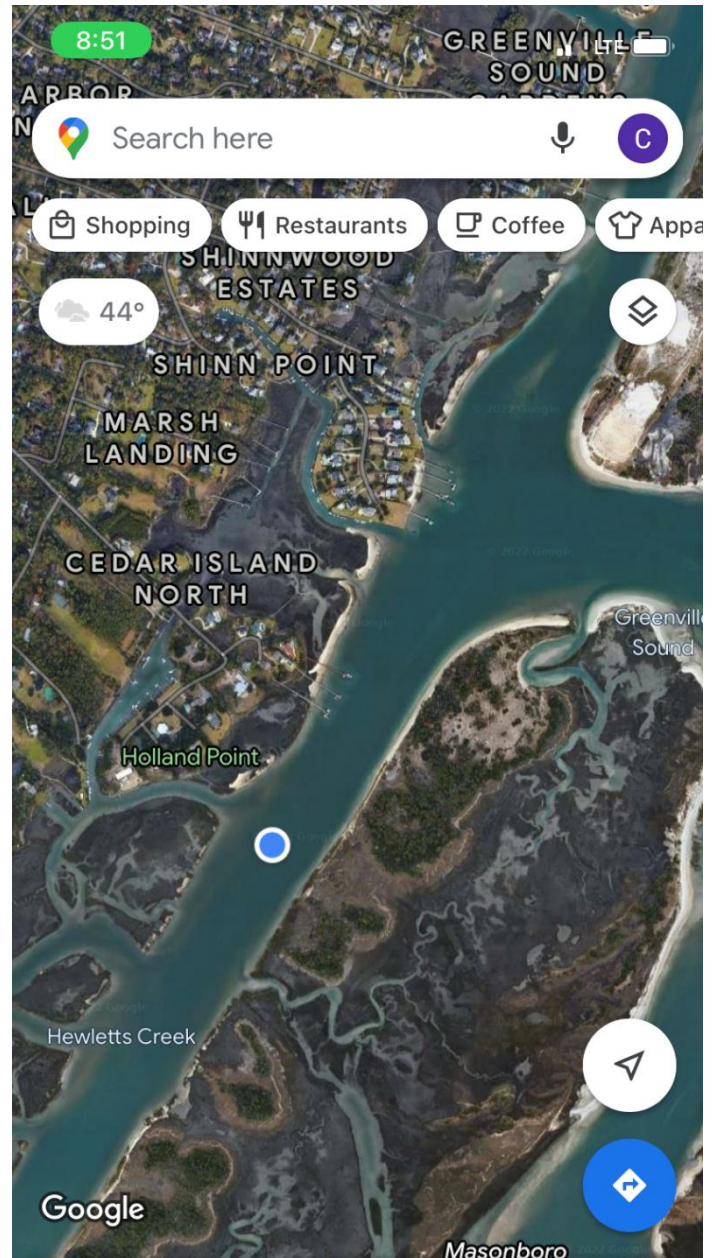
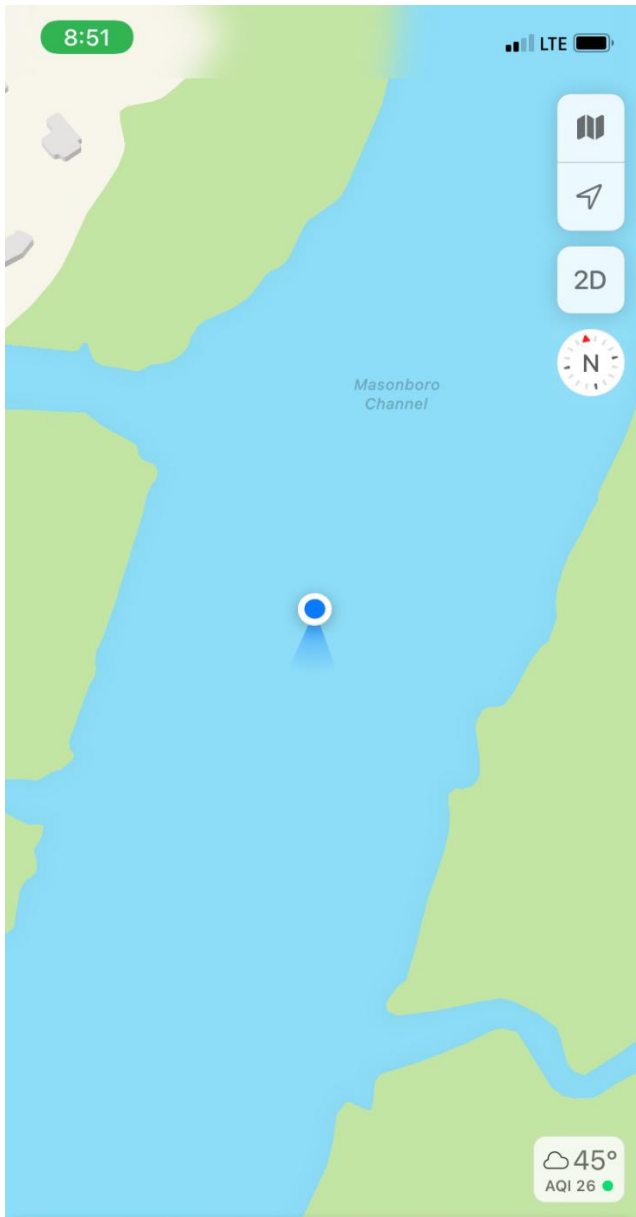
At 8.4 miles in length, Masonboro Island Reserve is the longest undisturbed barrier island ecosystem in southern North Carolina. The Reserve protects coastal habitats for long-term research, education, and stewardship. You will see pristine examples of barrier island, salt marsh, and tidal creek ecosystems. Birds, fish, invertebrates, and sea turtles use Masonboro Island for habitat and foraging. The Masonboro Island site can only be reached by boat, kayak or canoe. There are public and private boat ramps in and near Wrightsville Beach and Carolina Beach. There are also private fee ferry services to the Reserve property.

<https://www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/listing/masonboro-island-reserve/823/>

The iPhone map app is telling me that I am in Myrtle Grove Sound. Google map is not telling me what body of water I am in but based on my default settings it is giving me points of interest, store names, historical sites, etc. The fun thing about google maps is I can switch it to google satellite view for a whole different perspective.

So while Mark is dealing with low water alarms this morning I am searching my map apps for geographic locations so I know where we are, where we are going, and reporting it here, and to Jordan who wants me to tell her when we are leaving and when we arrive safely at our destination.

As we approach the 9 o'clock hour google map thinks I am in Hewletts Creek and iPhone map says I am in Masonboro Channel.



When I say we are Somewhere on the Water...do you understand why sometimes I have no idea where on the water I am? Lol...



Of course, I am writing this all in good fun. We do know where we are. We just went through the Wrightsville Beach Drawbridge.

9:10 a.m. Mark was doing an engine check and I had the wheel and when he came back he is surprised to see that we are at a no-wake zone and hey, there's a bridge.

He called to the bridge and being just past the hour the bridge operator went ahead and let us through. The Wrightsville Beach Drawbridge is the bridge we had to wait for when we were cruising south, and it is where we met M/V August 15th. Remember them?

The bridge is supposed to open at the hour. When the bridge is about to open, 'arms' lower across the roadway and a very loud alarm sounds before opening and closing. We saw a pedestrian on the sidewalk waiting for us to cruise through the opening.





Around 9:50 a.m. We arrive at the swing bridge.
Check out this video. <https://youtu.be/HOqpnj5uCZo>

There are many different types of drawbridges. I have mentioned the bascule, swing, and floating.

Swing Bridges pivot or turn on a center **pivot** bearing. These bridges are simple in design and generally operate with very few problems. They can be either symmetrical (balanced exactly in the center of the span) or asymmetrical (balanced off-center) and offer the advantage of allowing for two separate navigation channels if desired. Once open, they offer unlimited vertical clearance to vessels. They are susceptible to higher winds and are most often installed across relatively narrow channels.

Bascule Bridges operate on the principle of the **lever**. The word “bascule” originates from the French word for a lever device which raises one end while lowering the other. Bascule Bridges can have either one or two spans depending on their design. Bascule Bridges are fairly straight forward in design and once open offer unlimited vertical clearance. They can also be susceptible to wind forces and are most often installed across narrow to medium sized channels.

Vertical Lift Bridges are constructed with two or more towers on either side of a long, movable span. Wire ropes are connected to the span and pass over huge sheaves or **pulleys** attached to or inside the towers. The other end of these wire ropes support a counterweight which lowers as the bridge span lifts and raises as the bridge span lowers.

These bridges are more complex in design but are less susceptible to wind forces and can span a fairly wide navigation channel. However, they also restrict vertical clearance to some degree even when fully open.

<https://www.drawbridgespecific.com/2019/03/31/types-of-drawbridges/>

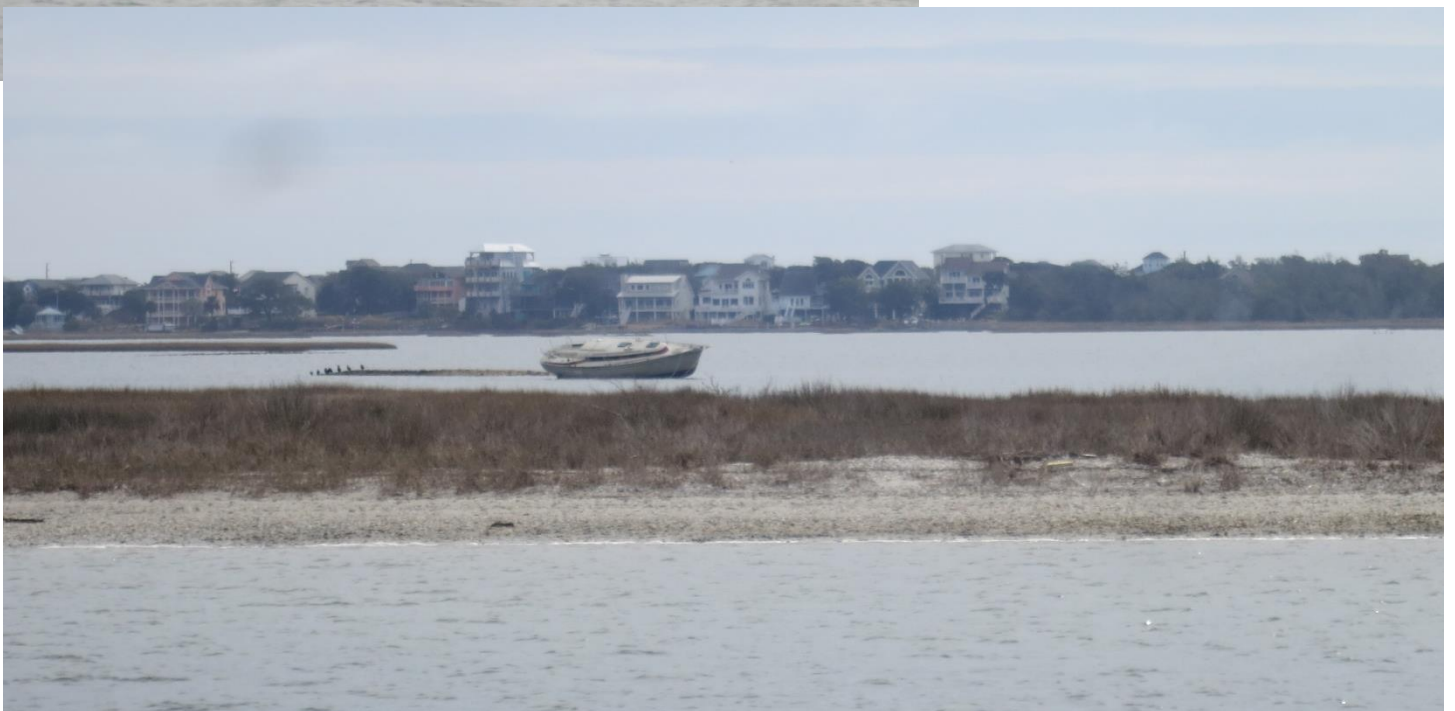
Just when the dolphin starts swimming with us we meet a sailboat have to slow down as to not cause issues with our wake...



Then, when we have dolphins start swimming with us a bit later we have to slow down for these fishermen fishing off a ladder that they put on their tiny little boat.



The finest little mistake can have big consequences.





We arrived at our anchorage for the night between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. We are anchoring at Campe LeJeune, Jacksonville, NC.

Camp LeJeune is a training facility for the US Marine Corps. There was a lot of activity this afternoon on the base. We are not allowed to go onto the property so all the activity we saw and heard was from the safety and comfort of our boat.

According to their website:

The II Marine Expeditionary Force and the other units that call Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the coastal North Carolina region home, train hard to be ready at a moment's notice to answer our nation's call. Sometimes this fast-paced training results in loud artillery, low-flying aircraft, weapons or demolition noise.

Yes, it does sometimes result in noise; I took a video of the helicopters & planes. The noise was not bothersome to us, but it did go on all day, into the early evening until about 9 or 10 p.m.

We were entertained by the training exercises we got to witness. These helicopters and planes that you see in the photos are the same ones in my video.





A cloudy day did not dampen the sunset. The brilliance of colors and sky tonight was amazing. I watched the sunset and took pictures while on the phone with a dear friend. We spent a good 1 – 1 ½ hour catching up on each other's lives and made me feel a little closer to home.

The photo of the moon is actually the moon's reflection as it bounced off the water back at the camera. Black as the night sky, too was the water.

We shared this anchorage with one other boat, a sailboat. The Intracoastal waterway was quiet today with just one or two boats passing by after we arrived at the anchorage.

<https://youtu.be/db8PT8yMKxk> - video of the black, night sky and the sounds of...well, go ahead; watch and listen...

