

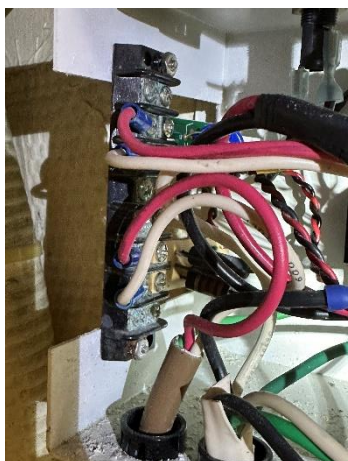
**Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our
56' Ocean Yacht.**

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 65 – Saturday, February 3, 2024 Ocracoke, NC

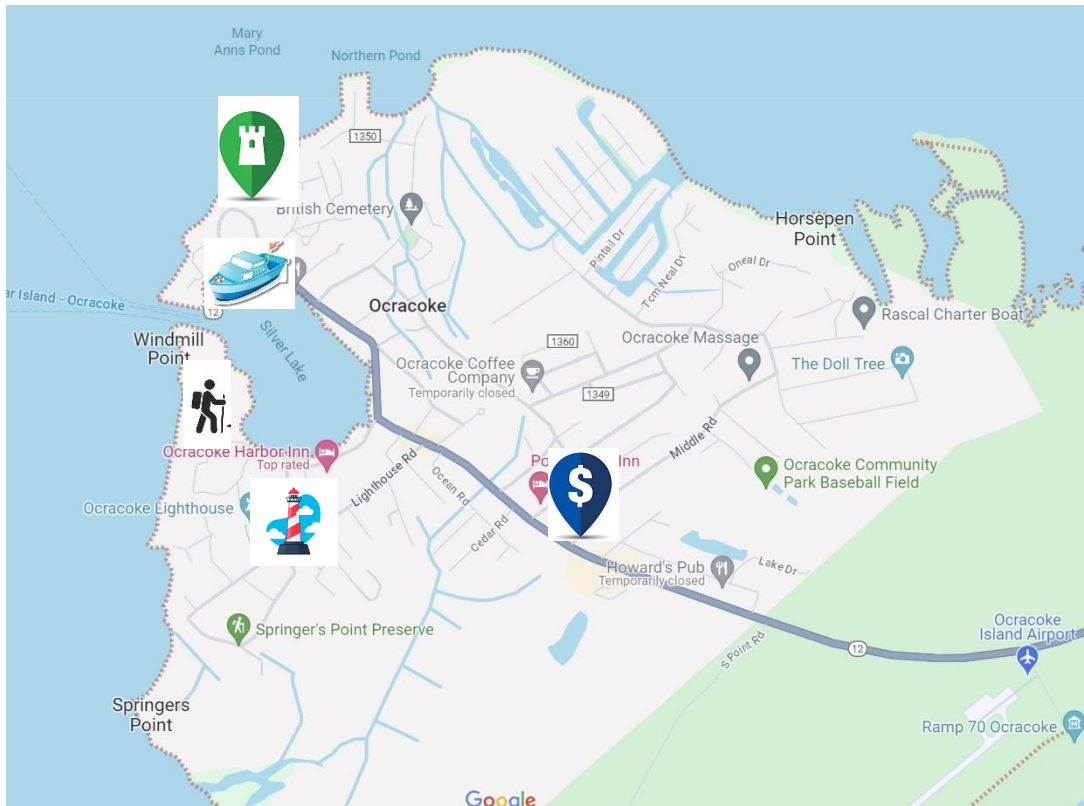
This morning Mark had to visit the issue of the forward cabins heat pump. It turned out that the relay trigger needed to be replaced. Thankfully Mark had a spare onboard. A relay trigger acts as a switch and manages the flow of the power supply to the compressor and the clutch.




Today we explored parts of Ocracoke on our bikes. It was windy, 54 degrees with a 'feels like' temp in the low 30's.

Our first stop was at the ferry terminal. We got a map, talked with the attendant who informed us there is only one restaurant open this time of year. Jason's. The best way to get around the island is by bicycle, golf cart, or this time of the year a car however in the height of the tourist season, you will be better off with the golf cart or bike, and of course walking is an option. If you want to explore the beaches via 4WD you can do that but if you do not have one you can join a tour. There are plenty of places to kayak if you want to bring one or rent one. As you know, we

have bikes so that is our mode of transportation this week. The only downside to not having a car is that we could not get to the Hatteras Ferry Terminal on the other side of the island which we would have liked to have gone and spent a day on Hatteras. We were not going to bike the 12 miles one-way to the terminal.



 After leaving the ferry terminal we stopped at the Fort Ocracoke Memorial which is located on the same grounds as the ferry terminal.

 For more information:
<https://www.ocracokenavigator.com/fort-ocracoke/>

Construction of Fort Ocracoke began in May 1861 but was destroyed by Union troops in September of that same year. The fort remained visible until it was completely submerged by a hurricane in 1933.





Also located right there at the harbor is the Preservation Society Museum. Unfortunately closed for the season.

We continued towards the main part of town along Back Road which reconnects with Route 12 (the main road through the Island) across the street from the Variety Store. The

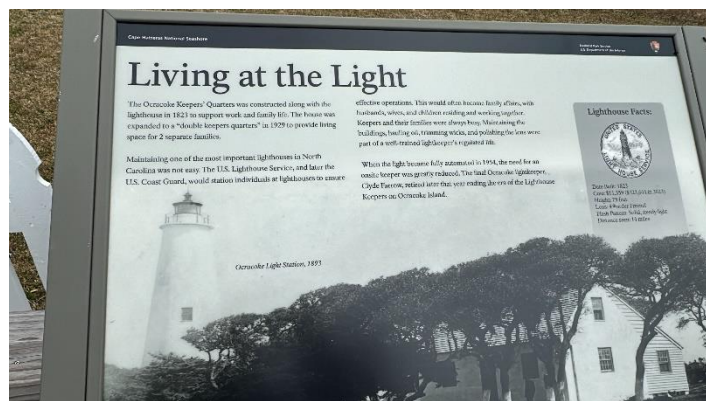
Variety Store is a combo grocery store, hardware store and in the same building with a separate entrance is the ABC store. All three stores were well stocked providing residents and tourists anything they could need.



Across the street from the Variety store is The Pirate's Chest Gift Shop and it was open!! Woohoo. A large 2-story souvenir shop that had household decorative items tshirts, towels, every kind of knick knack and chotchke you could imagine.



Next: the Ocracoke Lighthouse. Celebrating its 200th birthday in 2023 it is the oldest continuing operating lighthouse in North Carolina and second oldest in the nation.




No, the tower is not open to the public but you can walk the grounds.

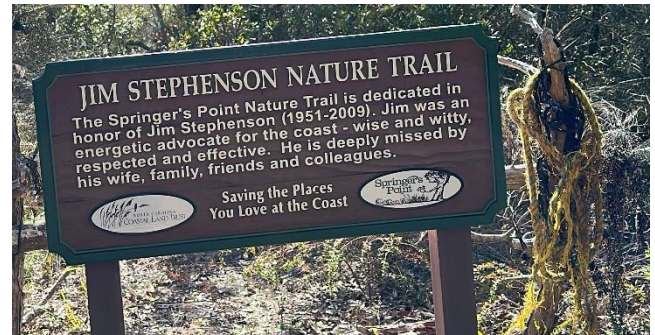
The lighthouse stands 75 feet tall. Its diameter narrows from 25 feet at the base to 12 feet at its peak. The walls are solid brick - 5 feet thick at the bottom tapering to 2 feet at the top. An octagonal lantern crowns the tower and houses the light beacon.
<https://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/ols.htm>

Continuing on Loop Road we went to Springer Point Preserve and walked the nature trail.

This 122-acre nature preserve is open to the public and includes a 0.8-mile nature trail that winds through a maritime forest, salt marsh, and wet grasslands before ending at a sound-side beach overlooking Teach's Hole—the place where Blackbeard the pirate was killed in 1718. <https://www.visitocracokenc.com/springers-point-nature-preserve-3/>



 The last stop of the day was the Library Story Walk at Robbie's Way. There is no car park so you have to walk or bike here. This tiny trail to the water's edge is perfect for kids. With a changing story displayed in wooden cases.



2 ½ hours later we were back on Valkyrie. We walked 2 miles Biked 2.76 miles.

We enjoyed the afternoon sun with cocktails.





Our view out towards Pamlico Sound and across the harbor of the lighthouse



Stay
tuned



<https://youtu.be/SVvsnWMOvTk>

Time is unrenewable and tomorrow is never promised so do it before you can't!