

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 66 – Sunday, February 4, 2024 NPS Dock, Ocracoke Island, NC

About Last Night:

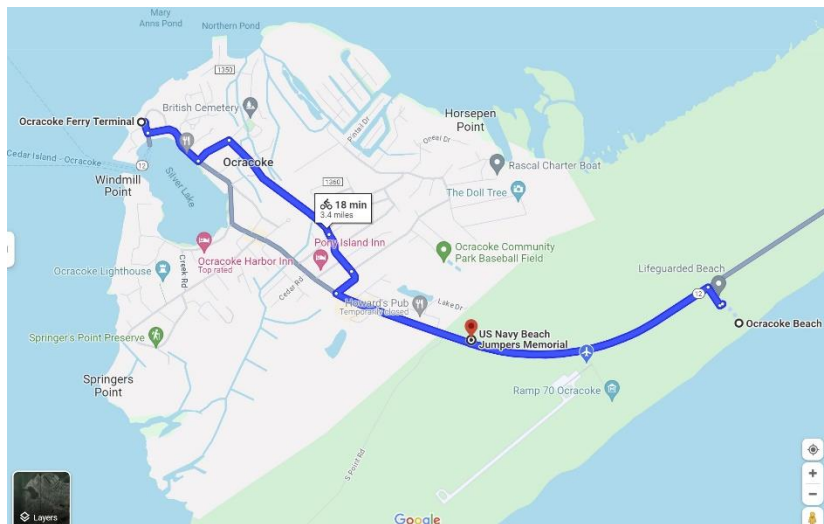
Last night we had ourselves a dance party onboard after leftover veggies & rice dinner. It is nice not to have neighbors so you can crank up the tunes whenever you want.

We were in no rush to get up and out this morning. It was a nother breezy cold day. Mark did his laundry, I texted with our daughter, Haleigh. Mark flew the drone and captured some beautiful footage. As the early afternoon arrived we bundled up went out for a bike ride. Today's goal was to get to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Most of the island is designated as part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and is federally protected and is the first national seashore in the country.

Visitors to Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands will simultaneously be visiting the gorgeous Cape Hatteras National Seashore. One of the largest preserved parcels of the Outer Banks, the National Seashore stretches across 70 miles of

shoreline, encompassing seven villages on Hatteras Island, and providing visitors with miles of undisturbed, scenic beaches as well as some of the prettiest natural drives on the East Coast. The Cape Hatteras National Seashore was officially established by Congress on August 11, 1937, and three years later, the park was renamed the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area to emphasize its intended purpose as a public seashore that everyone could enjoy.

<https://www.outerbanks.com/cape-hatteras-national-seashore.html#>





Northern Beaches

- [1. Carova](#)
- [2. Corolla](#)
- [3. Duck](#)
- [4. Southern Shores](#)
- [5. Kitty Hawk](#)
- [6. Kill Devil Hills](#)
- [7. Nags Head](#)

Roanoke Island

- [8. Manteo](#)
- [9. Wanchese](#)

Hatteras Island

- [10. Rodanthe](#)
- [11. Waves](#)
- [12. Salvo](#)
- [13. Avon](#)
- [14. Buxton](#)
- [15. Frisco](#)
- [16. Hatteras](#)

Ocracoke Island

[17. Ocracoke](#)

We were biking against the wind. Although flat, the ride was not easy. The wind had a brisk bite to it that made me thankful for wearing gloves, a hat, and a winter coat. Mark called it a “laborious bike ride directly into a headwind.” It was worth it though. The views were breathtaking. The most spectacular beauty imaginable. Exactly what I envisioned the Outer Banks seashore would be. Just when I thought it could not get any better, it did. We saw a pod of dolphins and a couple of whales. The whales were further offshore and we only could see them spout and their wet bodies glisten in the sunlight as they came to the surface. The dolphins were very active and surfed the waves and I was completely overwhelmed that we were able to be a witness to their playful antics. We did not find any seashells worth collecting even though the literature that we read stated that this area is loaded with beautiful seashells. Mark said it was because the wind blew the sand with such force it was like the Sahara Desert and buried all the good shells.



After an amazing walk along the beach, we went to the US Navy Jumpers Memorial where we were able to wonder amongst the remains of the training base.

U.S. NAVY BEACH JUMPERS MEMORIAL

In the years leading up to, during, and after World War II, Ocracoke Island was home to a top secret, advanced amphibious training base for a highly classified U.S. Navy division named the Beach Jumpers. Here, in our remote location accessible only by boat or plane, Navy personnel were trained in tactical deception and psychological warfare. Using “new secret equipment,” Beach Jumpers could simulate a very large amphibious landing using very few men. Their ability to distract and confuse the enemy was put to use in the battlefronts of the Mediterranean and Pacific during World War II. They were later reactivated to serve in the Vietnam War and later focused their efforts almost solely on PSYOPS during the Cold War. Today, Beach Jumpers are widely considered the precursors of the Navy Seals. <https://www.visitocracokenc.com/u-s-navy-beach-jumpers-memorial/>





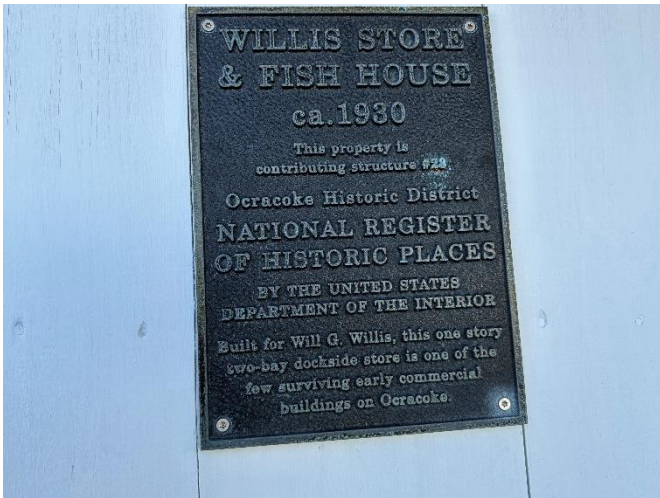
While we were at the Navy Jumpers memorial we walked a short trail where we saw a lot of animal tracks. Not dog, not beaver, not woodchuck... Curious Mark took a photo of the tracks and discovered that they were prints of River Otter. On the way back to our bikes we saw a dead animal on the roadside and thought perhaps that was the owner of the tracks. Turns out no, it was not. We were not even sure what we were looking at but with some research, Mark found out that it was really it was a Nutria. I had never heard of such an animal.

Little bit of trivia

From <https://www.britannica.com/animal/nutria>

Nutria, (*Myocastor coypus*), is a large amphibious South American [rodent](#) with webbed hind feet. The nutria has a [robust](#) body, short limbs, small eyes and ears, long whiskers, and a cylindrical, scaly tail. It can weigh up to 17 kg (37.5 pounds), although 5 to 10 kg is usual; the body measures up to 70 cm (27.6 inches) long and the tail up to 45 cm. The yellowish or reddish brown coat contains coarse guard hairs overlying soft, dense underfur. The nutria is agile on land but is also a superb swimmer that can remain submerged for up to five minutes. It can close its mouth behind the incisor teeth, which allows it to cut submerged vegetation without swallowing water. Because of the [fur](#) trade's demand for the nutria's plush underfur, persistent hunting in the 19th and early 20th centuries caused populations to decline. Breeding farms were started in [North America](#) and Europe, and some animals escaped or were intentionally introduced into the wild. As a result, feral populations have become established in Canada and at least 15 U.S. states, and substantial populations of nutria in the south-central [United States](#) compete aggressively and successfully with the native [muskrats](#). Nutrias are also now widespread in aquatic habitats from England to [Central Asia](#), Japan, and [East Africa](#).

We had to pass the Variety Store on our way back to the boat so we picked up a few items, only what we can carry on our bikes. Along the bike ride back, we swung into the Community Square Dock. We saw this Fish House which is on the Register of Historic Places.



The Community Square Dock is also where you can jump on the trolley (in-season). It is one of 8 stops it makes. You can also get fishing charter boats from here, ice cream, and a kite store among other things.

It was too chilly with the wind today to sit on the mezzanine of Valkyrie when we returned. We had an early dinner; steak, air fryer zucchini, and salad. We started season 3 of *Fargo* on Hulu. We do not have wifi here at this dock in Ocracoke so Mark hooks his phone up to the tv. We have 3 over-the-air TV channels which do not provide very exciting options for programs.

This beauty was hanging around Valkyrie's bow upon our return.



Stay
tuned



<https://youtu.be/S1-QQDxTerA>

https://youtu.be/c6GVzGwd_PU drone footage

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