

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop

Anchorage Houghtailing Island, in Schodack Creek, Schodack, NY to
Waterford, NY

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Day 9

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

Mark flew the drone today. Typically the drone can fly up to 400' but today it would not go over 75' there may be a flight restriction in this area or maybe he did something wrong. Either way, practice makes perfect. So we will see how the next attempt goes.

Mark spoke to the Waterford, NY dock attendant. Right now he thinks we can fit. It is a first come first serve so we are going to make a mad dash to the free dock in Waterford, NY.

8:00 am We hauled the anchor and left Houghtailing Island, in Schodack Creek.

We went through the Troy lock by 11:15 am.

It is 83 degrees outside 84 inside the salon. There was no breeze inside the lock and we both started sweating from the heat.

The Troy lock is the first lock we have been through since Chesapeake City, VA. In theory, locks are the same, however manoeuvring them as a boater, they are not. Our first mistake with the Troy lock was not radioing ahead of time to alert the lock operator that we were looking to go through. Second, we did not have headsets. Thirdly, even though the description of the lock that Mark had read stated that pipes were spread out 75' apart, it did not register that we would not be able to tie up in the front and back. We had to secure Valkyrie midship and we don't have a mid cleat because we are a full-width salon so our closest cleat is further

forward than the center. The turbulence inside the lock rotated us so the boat pivoted and the stern came off the wall and the bow went into the wall there was not a fender far enough forward so the rub rail scrapped the wall inside the lock a little bit. The rub rail did its job, it is not a big deal.

The Troy lock is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It is known as both the "Federal Dam" and "Troy Lock & Dam."

Fun Fact:

The Troy Lock is located at mile 153 of the Hudson River. It opened in 1916, has a single chamber and is 520 feet long, 45 feet wide, 17 feet deep, and has a lift of approximately 14 feet. Although it is the first lock encountered by vessels passing from the Hudson River into the Great Lakes by way of the New York State Canal System, and it is sometimes referred to as lock "E-1," it is not part of the Erie Canal (which officially has no "Lock 1"), nor maintained by the New York State Canal Corporation.

Click the link for more information:

<https://www.usace.army.mil/About/History/Historical-Vignettes/Civil-Engineering/166-Troy-Lock-and-Dam/>

11:40 am engines off – we are in Waterford, NY Phew! We made it. All that excitement this morning...I don't know if it was worth the anxiety or not but boy are we happy!! The anxiety comes from not knowing if there would be room for Valkyrie at the free wall/docks. We had a backup of where to dock if there wasn't but ideally, Waterford was where we wanted to be. Also, knowing there was only 1 space left and seeing on Nebo that there were other boats heading in that direction left us to question where were those boats going and whether or not there would be space once we arrived.

(If you are in the area, a good backup for docking could be the Troy Boat Club.)

Mark is talking with Bryan (who I mistakenly called Jim previously), Captain of RingUL8r...the boat we met in Cocksackie. He is giving Mark the 411 about checking in and what Waterford has to offer. I will run through that later.

1:08 pm – **we moved!** After walking the full length of the dock we saw an open space that would fit us. The new space is on the west end of the floating docks which means – electricity. The first space we slipped into did not which was on the east end. The east end is a fixed wall and does not have electric. The west end has floating docks with electric and water. (Valkyrie is 50 amp electric).

Here is the low down of checking in:

Upon arrival, boaters need to check in at the welcome center. The welcome center provides a welcome packet with a lock map and guide and an informational handout that details the locks, services found along the way, and basically, everything you would want..phone numbers, marina listings, etc.

Electricity is \$10 per night

Water is free

Free dumpster for trash

Key to the showers & bathroom is a one-time \$5 charge

Cash or checks only, no credit cards

No Wifi

We were gifted an Erie Canal 200th anniversary Burgee. All boats that check in will receive one, until supplies last.

There are T-shirts and other small items for sale at the welcome center.

Nearby in walking distance, there are restaurants, a Hannaford Grocery Store, USPS, and walking trails on Peebles Island. If you go to Hannaford, they will let you bring the cart back to the welcome center if you ask permission.

We met Rick and Amy, they were sitting in lawn chairs in the shade along the wall. They have been here in Waterford for 4 weeks. They have had a diesel mechanic doing service work on their boat and waiting for the locks to open but they are not loopers. They just bought the boat in Florida. Congrats to them.

Many of the boaters we met today are loopers that have been stuck here for 4 weeks while locks E16 & E17 are repaired. Some loopers are just getting started on their trip, like us, and some are on the last leg of theirs.

Daily Summary:

Departed from Schodack, NY @: 8:16 am

Arrived at Waterford, NY @ 11:55 am

Hours traveled: 3 hrs 36 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 24.32 total for the day (316.05 total miles)

Average Speed: 6.7 knots (waited at lock for 25 mins)

Weather: Warm in the 80's

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Great unless you had a strong SW wind would not recommend it. Safe, secure, near train tracks.

#of locks we went through: 1

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/BCN6cH1XUBA>

That is a wrap for this update!

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



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