

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop
Waterford, NY,

Friday, June 6, 2025 *Happy Birthday Mom!*
Day 10 (2nd day in Waterford, NY)

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

This morning we woke up in Waterford, NY. Waterford is considered the gateway to New York's Canals. It is where the Hudson River and Mohawk Rivers merge with the Erie Canal and Champlain Canals.



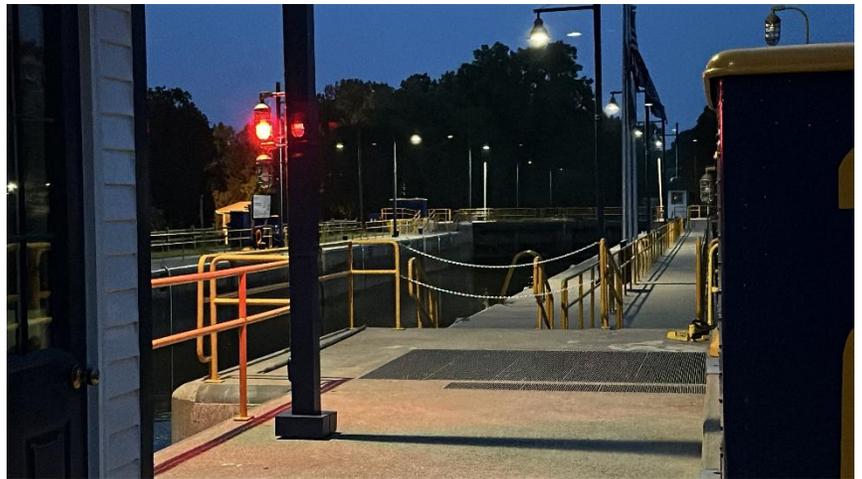
Yesterday upon arrival we checked into the visitors center. Although tie-up to the wall is free, if you happen to secure space on the floating docks on the west end and want electricity, it is \$10 per day payable in cash at the visitor center.

When we arrived we tied up at the first spot we saw that would fit us on the wall, but afterwards realized there was space enough to fit us on the floating docks so we moved shortly after arriving. Having electricity and water is right up there on the top of the “yes please” list!



Yesterday Mark flew the drone and we went for a walk up around the lock. Just like the last time he was limited to 75' at some point, he will figure out why.

Walking around the lock is perfectly fine, there are few restricted areas. It was very cool.



The Erie Canal typically opens in mid-May. So far the entirety of the canal has not opened. There are repairs being made between locks E16 & E17. Many boaters have stayed here in Waterford waiting for the canal to open. Some, have cruised as far as they could through the canal. We also know that several boaters coming up through the east coast into the Hudson have postponed their departures, or are slowing down, or optionally, taking the Champlain Canals. There are bridge height constraints on the Champlain route so unless necessary, we will wait it out for the Erie Canal. (We have lowered our radar arch to fit the low bridges of the Erie Canal).

This year the Erie Canal is celebrating its 200th anniversary.



What is the Erie Canal?

The Erie Canal is a historic canal in upstate New York that runs east-west between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. Completed in 1825, the canal was the first navigable waterway connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, vastly reducing the costs of transporting people and goods across the Appalachians.

There are 34 locks on the Erie Canal.

What is a lock?

A lock essentially acts as an elevator for vessels that traverse the canal to raise or lower them through elevation changes.

Eventually, we will reach the Oswego Canal which has 7 locks.

Along the canal, there is free docking which includes terminal walls, canal park docks, and other designated areas near locks. 48-hour tie-up is permitted. Some of these will offer amenities at no charge, and others will have no services.

It is free to navigate the NY Canals.

Today is chore day.

In between work calls, I did laundry, and general tidying up, Mark washed the boat and vacuumed the bilge. He is not sure why there is water in it, it has been dry for months. Something to watch for as we continue to cruise.

Mark also moved fenders and lines in preparation for the Erie Canal Locks. Learning a lesson from the Troy Lock, the fenders were placed 2 big balls in the back on each side of the stern 4 tall fenders, and 2 short fenders towards the bow. A total of 8 fenders, 4 on each side.

There was an afternoon thunderstorm which provided some entertainment. We sat on the mezzanine which stayed dry and watched the rain fall.

Tonight we went to the Troy Boat Club. We were given their number when we were looking for possible options when we were unsure that we would fit in at Waterford. It was a fun night. We spent our time there on the outside deck. The band inside was very good and very loud.

Saturday, June 7, 2025
Day 11 (3rd day in Waterford)

Errand day!

My cousin and his son generously spent their Saturday carting us around to run errands. We got the propane tank for our grill filled, spent money at Walmart, Price Chopper, and the Liquor store, went to dinner at McGrievy's restaurant (within walking distance of our boat), and then returned to Valkyrie for a tour, and cocktails. Great day.



After the rain



The day we arrived



Between the rain storm Friday afternoon, and all the rain from today, the water level rose, a lot!

This dock was level to the wall by day's end.

Within walking distance to Waterford free docks is Hannaford (grocery store),

the post office, and a few restaurants. We went to McGrievy's Restaurant (a nice Irish pub where many boaters rave about the shepherd's pie) I had the rice bowl, very good, and my cousin had the fish tacos, Mark had a pasta special and my cousin's son Ben had a burger. All good!

You can rent a kayak at the vendor at the east end of the canal.

Many locals mentioned a large Farmers Market in Troy that takes place on Saturdays which should be a good place to get fresh produce.

After an early dinner, we had cocktails onboard Valkyrie and enjoyed a lively evening with my cousin Dave, Ben, and his girlfriend.



Sunday, June 8, 2025
Day 12 (4th day in Waterford, NY)

This morning there was a small Farmers Market right outside our window. Several vendors were selling a variety of items such as breakfast sandwiches, honey, homemade crafts, beef, maple syrup, and homemade jams, to name a few. There was also live music.



Because of the significant amount of rain that soaked the area yesterday locks E6 & E7 have been closed. We are also still waiting for news on E16 & E17.

Party time!!!

My mom's 80th birthday party was today. Once again relying on my cousin, we left Waterford and drove 2 hours to Vermont to celebrate my mom's birthday. Thankfully it was a beautiful day with no rain. Lots of family, lots of food, and laughs. It was wonderful to see her with her friends, and best of all we pulled off the "surprise."

Being in a position to travel to the party was our only deadline for this trip, except for those that Mother Nature bestows upon us and the one-year timeframe we gave each other to accomplish this loop.

Monday, June 9, 2025
Day 13 (5th day in Waterford, NY)

It is raining, again. Upper New York and northern Vermont have had precipitation every weekend since November 2024. It should stop by the end of the day and have a good week however, it is predicted that we will get rain this weekend.

We are patiently waiting to hear news on the locks. Mark is setting up our new gimble/mic/camera setup that we received yesterday. We realized that ours was broken but not in time to replace it before departure, but we have it now. This should improve the video audio.

Tonight's plan is dinner with my cousin and his wife who has not seen the boat yet so we are looking forward to seeing her, giving her a tour, and spending one last night with them in hopes of departing tomorrow. That might only mean going through a few locks until we get to the next free wall, however, we take a chance that there is no space at that next free wall for us because of the backlog of boats waiting for the canal to open.

Taking things day by day.

Tuesday, June 10, 2025
Day 14 (6th day in Waterford, NY)

Rained on and off all day.

We are still in Waterford, NY. A couple of boats left today since E6 & E7 are open but E16 & E17 are still closed.

After spending all day on the computer Mark and I attempted to take a walk in between the rain showers but we only got as far as the picnic tables at the visitor center where the other boaters have been communing. They said that if the repair for the lock doesn't work it could be another 4-5 weeks before it could open. It started to rain while chatting with our boat neighbors so we went back to Valkyrie.

Dinner was salmon and macaroni salad.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025
Day 15 (7th day in Waterford, NY)

Rained on and off all day.
We are still in Waterford, NY.
Still waiting for an update on the E16 & E17 locks.

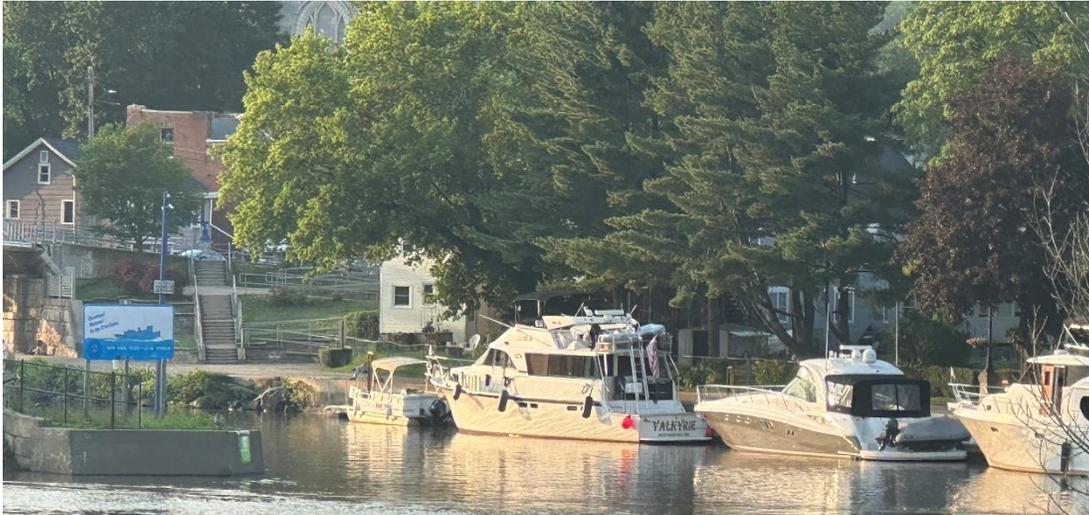
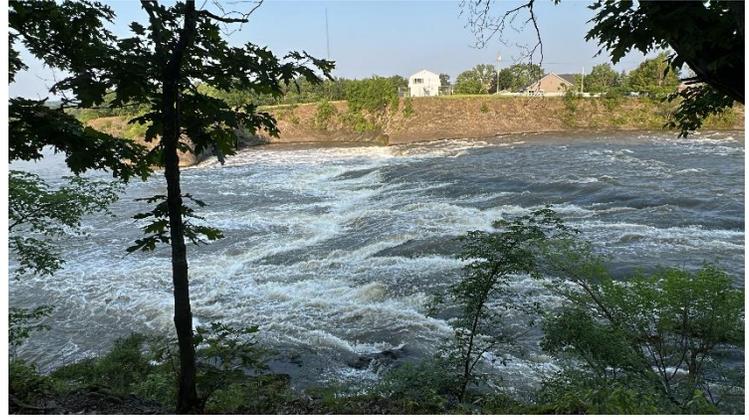
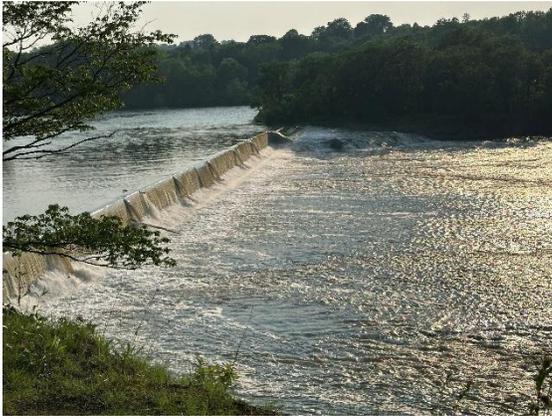
Mark cleaned out the cleaning locker and otherwise spent most of the day sitting around being bored. He really wants to do the Erie Canal, he really does not want to sit around and not move, and he really wants to stay patient and has reminded himself that the loop is challenging and this is just one challenge.

Some boats have left Waterford, and some new ones have come. Since we are on Nebo other captains have reached out to Mark to see if there is room for them if they come up. Mark is happy to be helpful, and it is nice to meet new people. The main question these days to these other boaters is - What are your plans?

What is Nebo?

The Nebo app is a free mobile application designed to help boaters log their trips, connect with other boaters, and share their boating experiences. It automates voyage logging, tracks weather, speed, and location, and allows users to share photos and points of interest. The app also facilitates communication between boaters through chat and messaging features. Google

Dinner was leftovers and we watched a movie on Netflix after taking a 3-mile walk around Peebles Island. The walk was beautiful. There are a couple of trails that you can choose from. We chose the perimeter trail. We walked along the river's edge, saw some dams, and a couple of kayakers, and met several other people along our way. Highly recommended if you are in the area to spend time on Peebles Island, just please do not forget to bring bug spray like we did.



Peebles Island is a park that boasts magnificent views. It is located across the river at the junction of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers.

Fun Fact

Peebles Island is also the headquarters of the Bureau of Historic Sites and Bureau of Historic Preservation Field Services. The staff provide technical services, such as record maintenance, analysis of artifacts, and preparation of publications, exhibits and audio visual programs for the 35 historic sites maintained by State Parks. <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/peeblesisland>

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Day 16 (8th day in Waterford, NY)

Gorgeous day today

I am not feeling well which is fine because we had no plans to go anywhere. **We got word that all locks are now open**, not without some consequences, the high water levels are still to be traversed cautiously and there is still debris cleanup that needs to be done.

In preparation for the locks, we tested our headsets, updated the navigation apps, sorta kinda talked about where we might want to land tomorrow afternoon, talked with boat neighbors about their plans, and asked for any updates they have heard from boaters they know that are ahead of us.

Dinner is chicken teriyaki w/veggies

On our way to drop \$ off in the drop box for our last night's electricity, we stopped to talk with some boaters who were also leaving tomorrow. We stayed for a while had a drink and met some other boaters that were opting to do the Champlain route and were ending their loop in about a month.

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

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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