

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop
Little Falls, NY to Sylvan Beach, NY

Monday, June 16, 2025
Day 20 (11th cruising day)

Welcome! Glad to have you here!



Mark flew the drone last night. That footage will be on today's video link.

We got up bright and early this morning to go for a walk. We intended to walk along the distinctive paved bike path, but ended up walking through the

local neighborhood. If we stuck to the path and crossed the Mohawk River via the bridge located near the marina, it would have brought us downtown. Located downtown are a UPS Store, Price Chopper, and McDonald's, a pizza place, and more, all within a decent walking distance and an easy bike ride.

Fun Facts:

"A Quiet Place," starring John Krasinski and Emily Blunt, was filmed in Little Falls, NY.

There is a waterfall near Little Falls which is smaller than the waterfall in Cohoes and was named as such as a distinction from the big falls in Cohoes, also on the Mohawk River, near Waterford, NY.

The City of Little Falls and the New York State Canal Corporation operate Canal Harbor and Rotary Park. The facility offers kayak and canoe rentals, as well as overnight docking, electricity, water, showers, bathrooms, and pumpout. <https://thisislittlefalls.com/parks-recreation/>

The building at Rotary Park in Little Falls, NY (also the marina office) is a repurposed 1833 bank that now houses the Little Falls Historical Society Museum. The museum showcases a collection of artifacts, family records, and relics from the past.....The building itself was restored to accommodate the museum's exhibits. Google

8:15 am engines started, and off we go west on the Erie Canal towards lock E18.

9:00 am – We are just about to exit lock E18, it is Monday, so I turned my phone on for work, took a few minutes to respond to comments on YouTube, and had some cold pizza for breakfast.

At 10:15 am, we arrived at the next lock, E19. There are boats in the lock coming east, so we have a short wait until we are cleared to enter. The bridge just before the lock is listed at 21'. I went to the fly bridge to make sure we are good to clear it. Valkyrie, with the radar arch down, is 19'.



Lock E19



We went under several low bridges today, had some very shallow stretches between locks E19 & E20, passed a dredging operation, and cruised by Utica around noon.

When we exited lock E19, there was a sailboat (which also stayed at the same marina last night) that had run aground and was in the middle of the channel. We tied two lines from their vessel to ours and tried to pull them out, but got nowhere. They were stuck! I would not suggest doing what we did, insurance-wise, or safety-wise, for the passengers on both boats, but Mark insisted. Eventually, we understand that Towboat showed up. Leave it to the professionals, in my mind anyway.

Our buddy boat, unfortunately, hit a submerged log with its propeller. They seem to think that there was not much damage. Their boat draws more than we do, and being the lead boat, Mark has tried to communicate as much as possible to them regarding everything we are encountering, but we cannot see underwater.

12:30 pm – We arrived at lock 20

There were boats inside the lock, so we had to wait for our turn.

By 1:00 pm, we left lock 20 and had 19 miles to the next lock.

Time to empty the camera cards and recharge the batteries

We passed a boat from South Boston, unfortunately, he is having engine trouble and is cruising at almost idle speed. Mark called him on the radio and advised of the intent to pass. Upon confirmation, we passed slowly, no wake on his port side. Good luck to him

1:50 pm – Mark moved to the fly bridge to drive. All these low bridges and gates had him up and down the stairs, so he decided to just stay up.

3:10 pm, we just went through lock 21. We went down this time. We had an easy time of it with a portside tie-up up but one boat behind us with a starboard tie-up had some trouble.

It is a short distance to lock 22, and all the boats are travelling together at this point, which happens with locking. We caught up with the sailboats that were overnighing at the same marina last night and left much earlier than we did this morning. There are 5 of us together.

3:35 That was a hot couple of minutes. We came out of lock 22, we went down in elevation...we were coming out of the lock and the sailboat behind us yelled that we had a log stuck starboard side and we were dragging it. The sailboat passed port side, our buddy boat passed port side, and Mark backed down (put it in reverse) to get it free. It must have been caught on our stabilizer fins. Not the kind of excitement we need.

4:10 pm engines off

We are in Sylvan Beach at the mouth of the Erie Canal and Oneida Lake. It is a busy summer community. People gathering on picnic tables, pontoon boats, kayakers, there are no services at this free wall, so we will run our generator tonight to charge batteries, as needed, etc.

Dinner is hamburgers and veggies.

Mark flew the drone. He figured out why he was being restricted to 75 feet...it was on beginner mode. 🚫

After dinner, we were invited for cocktails. We sat around a campfire, which was provided by a small pellet stove. It was a fun night.

Tip of the day: If you can't keep your pellet stove lit, just use a blower!



Daily Summary:

Departed from Little Falls Canal Harbor, NY @ 8:15 am

Arrived at Sylvan Beach, Oneida Lake, NY @ 4:15 pm

Hours traveled: 8 hours.

Nautical Miles Traveled: 43.34 total for the day (432.15 total miles)

Average Speed 5.4 knots

Weather: started cold & clammy, sunny & warm by the end of the day

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Marina was great. Easy walking or biking to nearby services like UPS, grocery, and a restaurant. Had electricity for the night and water. Nature walking/biking trails are easy for all abilities.

#of locks we went through: 5

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/sjqNI62sN9E>

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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