

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop
Sylvan Beach, NY to Oneida Lake, NY

Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Day 21 (no cruising today)

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

We arrived in Sylvan Beach yesterday. We enjoyed an evening of cocktails around a fire pit (pellet stove) and shared stories with other boaters. Some were also doing the loop, and others were not.

Sylvan Beach is nestled on the eastern shore of Oneida Lake. Sylvan Beach is a resort community offering a full array of fun activities for every season. The lake is a popular location for walleye & bass fishing, boating, and swimming in the warmer months. Sylvan Beach is packed with fabulous restaurants, gift shops, rental cottages & an exciting amusement park. <https://sylvanbeachny.com/>

Today is a day of rest. No Cruising.

Mark changed the oil on the engines, and alas, he discovered where the water in the bilge is coming from!!! WooHoo! Our bilge has been dry for months, and we had no idea why all of a sudden there was water in it.

It is coming from the freshwater tank. It leaks. This is not the first time we have had a leak from the freshwater tank. A repair will have to be made, just not today.

My work phone was very busy this morning. Early this afternoon, I cleaned the interior of the boat, worked some more, and tried to get some editing done on the next video.

Mark's chore list today included:

- ✓ Changed the engine oil
- ✓ Replaced the engine oil filters
Our engines like an oil change every 100 hours. After arriving yesterday afternoon, they were at 102 hours.
- ✓ While he is at it, he might as well change the Racor filters.
We have 2 Racor fuel filters per engine. The primary filter is a 30 micron, the secondary racor filter is a 10 micron.
It has been a year since the last filter change.
We have vacuum gauges and have never had a high vacuum, so we probably could have used them longer, but since it has been a year, and we have plenty, he decided to change them.
- ✓ Well, if he is going to do that, he might as well change the engine fuel filter, which is a whole separate 5-micron filter.
Unfortunately, the engine fuel filters are a real pain in Mark's ass. There is no good way to change these filters without spilling diesel Fuel everywhere, which then has to be cleaned up.
- ✓ Then he said, while he has gone this far, he might as well change the air filters. Before you know it, both engines have had a complete service.

We went to dinner at Cinco De Mayo Restaurant. We split a *nachos grande* and a *frozen margarita*. Of course, we were full, but that did not stop us from going next door to get ice cream at What's the Scoop. Mark had a *peanut butter recesses sundae*, and I had a scoop of *dark chocolate w/mint and white chocolate swirl*.

We were hoping to walk it off on our way back to the boat, but the town is small. We took a few detours on our way back, but in truth, you can walk this whole area in no time.

We walked along the harbor from where we were docked over to the beach, went through the small casino, up and down main street, and through the amusement park.



Ben, an AGLCA Harbor Host, stopped by and asked if we needed anything. A benefit of being an America's Great Loop Association member is that throughout the loop, there are Harbor Hosts who make themselves available to loopers to answer questions and offer assistance for various things that pop up when boating.

Our Great Loop
Sylvan Beach, Oneida Lake, NY to Phoenix, NY

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
Day 22 (12th cruising day)

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

Mark started the generator this morning around 6:15 am.

He has been having trouble with Navionics. (The navigation app) It was not auto-planning his routes. Our buddy boat suggested that maybe it was in the boat settings. Taaadaa...yes, it was. He reset the boat from 29' high to 19' high, and this morning it worked. (We dropped the radar arch, which changed the height of our boat)

We departed Sylvan Beach by 8:15 am and cruised across Oneida Lake towards Phoenix.

Fun Facts:

Oneida Lake is the largest lake entirely within New York state, with a surface area of 79.8 square miles. The lake is located northeast of Syracuse and near the Great Lakes. It feeds the Oneida River, a tributary of the Oswego River, which flows into Lake Ontario. [Wikipedia](#)

Oneida Lake is a relatively shallow natural lake with an average depth of 22 feet. It is a remnant of Lake Iroquois, a huge body of water that formed nearly 12,000 years ago when, as the ice age ended, a glacier dammed the St. Lawrence River flooding much of Central New York.

Physical Features: Elevation: 370 feet Area: 50,894 acres Shoreline Length: 77.2 miles Length: 21 miles Maximum Width: 5.5 miles
<https://www.madisontourism.com/listing/oneida-lake/1056/>

The lake was beautiful. It was smooth like silk, and we could not have asked for a better day to cross the lake. Unfortunately, we were encountering several biting flies, which quickly became a nuisance.

Winter Harbor Marina, Brewerton, NY, is known to have the least expensive fuel in the area, so we are stopping there. This marina is the Northeast's largest warm storage marina and refit center. It offers a full range of services, including painting, repairs, storage, transient services, and more.

Mark spotted a bald eagle just after leaving the fuel dock.



We went through our 1 and only lock for today around 11:20 am
We dropped 6'. Another guillotine door.





The "3 river junction" near Oneida Lake is known as Three Rivers Point.

This is where the Oneida River, flowing from Oneida Lake, meets the Seneca River. This confluence forms the Oswego River, which then flows north to Lake Ontario.

Key points about Three Rivers Point:

- It's a historical and important waterway junction, used by Indigenous peoples for travel and later by settlers for commerce and the Erie Canal system.
- It marks a significant point for boaters on the Erie Canal, where they can choose to continue on the Seneca River (part of the Erie Canal route to Buffalo and Lake Erie) or take the Oswego Canal north to Lake Ontario.

At 1:00 pm, we arrive in Phoenix, NY, at a free wall right next to Oswego Canal Lock 1.

We were lucky enough to score the only spot with electricity. I have no idea how that happened, but lucky us.

There is water here and a 15-amp outlet available along this free wall.

We had sausage jambalaya for dinner and then went for a walk.

Daily Summary:

Departed from Sylvan Beach, NY @ 8:15 am

Arrived in Phoenix @ 1:00 pm

Hours traveled: 4 hours 45 minutes

Nautical Miles Traveled: 29.35 total for the day (461.5 total miles)

Average Speed 6.1 knots

Weather: Sunny, warm 80's

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: see yesterday for the Sylvan Beach review

#of locks we went through: 1 (23 total locks)

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/4jfEX1TNL4o>

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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