

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

# *Somewhere on the Water*

Our Great Loop  
Saturday, August 9, 2025  
Mackinac Island, MI to Charlevoix Harbor, MI

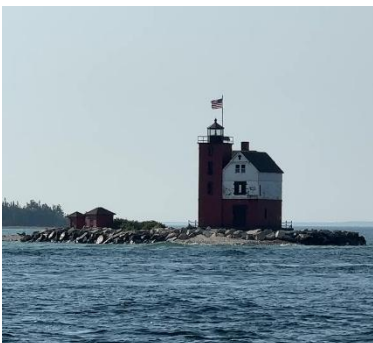
This morning, after a walk up to the Grand Hotel, through downtown, circling back to the marina where Valkyrie is docked, we departed with Charlevoix Harbor, MI as our planned destination.

I thoroughly enjoyed my walk. I left early enough to avoid the crowds on the streets and was able to really soak in the atmosphere and the quaint and charming vibe of the island. I purchased a few souvenirs, a rare occasion for me.

When we left the marina, we entered the Straits of Mackinac, which is where Lake Huron and Lake Michigan join and is known for its strong currents. We passed by Round Island Lighthouse, Round Island Passage Light and crossed under the Mackinac Bridge, aka Mighty-Mac.

## *Fun Facts:*

- 5-miles long (26,372feet)
- Connects Michigan's peninsulas
- Completed in 1957
- Longest suspension bridge in the western hemisphere by total length
- Has enough cable wire to circle the earth twice



Round Island is a 378-acre uninhabited island with a lighthouse that was built in 1895, restored in the 1990's, and is famous for its appearance in the movie "Somewhere in Time" starring Christopher Reeve and Jayne Seymour.

Lake Michigan has had more than a dozen lighthouses along its shoreline, and many remain active today, including the Round Island Passage Lighthouse.



The Waugoshance Shoals Lighthouse, a deteriorating and neglected lighthouse, only visible by boat, will possibly be restored by the Lighthouse Preservation Society. Check out more info on the lighthouses here: <https://stignace.com/lighthouses/>

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Lake Michigan welcomed us with waves. Big waves and a swell to go along with them. It made the several-hour ride a wee bit bumpy.

Lake Michigan took us by surprise. Pleasant surprise. While cruising in the deeper waters, it appears clear with a dark blue hue. Near the shore, the sandy bottom gives the water a lighter, almost Caribbean color. Of course, the lake is massive in size. It is the last of the Great Lakes we will encounter on the loop.

### *Fun Facts:*

Lake Michigan is the second-largest Great Lake by volume and the only one located entirely within the United States, spanning Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. It holds 1,180 cubic miles of water, featuring the world's largest freshwater dunes, 1,600+ miles of shoreline, and an average depth of 279 feet. Google.

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The view of the lighthouse at the edge of the channel leading into Charlevoix harbor will become a new normal sight for us, but little did we know then what we know now. I love lighthouses. They give me, as a boater, a sense of security. Their sole purpose is to shine a beacon of light and show the way for mariners to safety. (Even though many are decommissioned). This was our first of many channels that we



will navigate along Lake Michigan without really knowing what we will find on the other side. It added a new level of excitement to the journey.

We made the 4 o'clock bridge opening, and we entered Round Lake, home to Charlevoix Harbor. We had a rather large t-head dock, which made for an easy layup for Captain Mark. It was a hot summer day, and the sun warmed the salon up to 89 degrees.

Downtown is steps away from the marina. The park is filled with the hustle and bustle of patrons visiting a local art show. The park is situated between the marina and Main Street.

We were warned of a storm that was coming across Lake Michigan and due to hit Charlevoix. It rained hard for a bit with some thunder. We decided to postpone exploring until tomorrow.

Dinner was burgers with roasted brussel sprouts & carrots.

### *Daily Summary:*

Departed from Mackinack Island @ 9:32 am

Arrived at Charlevoix @ 4:12 pm

Days cruised: 53      Days on the loop: 74

Hours traveled: 6 hrs 40mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 51.22 for the day (1,274.96 total miles)

Average Speed 7.7 knots

Weather: sunny, hot winds 11mph gusting 25

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Great location, boats were in constant motion from the wind, and ferry traffic

#of locks we went through: (73 total locks)



<https://youtu.be/MTOhDT7JemY>

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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