

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

Somewhere on the Water

Friday, August 15, 2025
Frankfort, MI to Arcadia Lake
Welcome! Glad to have you here!

This morning I took a walk, returned to Valkyrie, did a load of laundry, and by 11:00 am we left Frankfort, MI, and cruised to Arcadia.

I thoroughly enjoyed Frankfort, especially walking through the neighborhoods beyond Main Street. The homes were adorable with manicured lawns, unique features, and old-fashioned charm. Many had front porches (I love a front porch), some screeded in, and this morning's weather drew many homeowners out to enjoy their morning coffee on said porches.



As you have probably noticed and heard (read) me mention, Mark, our seasoned Captain, likes to challenge himself by performing most of the Captain's tasks and the Firstmate's tasks. In this video, I wrote that Mark was "slipping the lines.'

When a captain says they are "**slipping the lines**" (or "casting off"), they are releasing the boat's mooring lines from the dock's cleats or pilings so the vessel is free to maneuver and depart. The captain loops a line around a dock cleat and brings both ends back onto the boat. By letting go of one end, the line slides smoothly around the dock cleat and falls into the boat.

Downtown Frankfort, Michigan, feels like one of those classic beach towns that somehow stayed relaxed and unspoiled. It sits right along Betsie Bay with a small, walkable main street full of local shops, cafés, ice cream spots, galleries, and old-school charm.

One of the best things about Frankfort is how close everything is together. From the Municipal Marina, you can walk to:

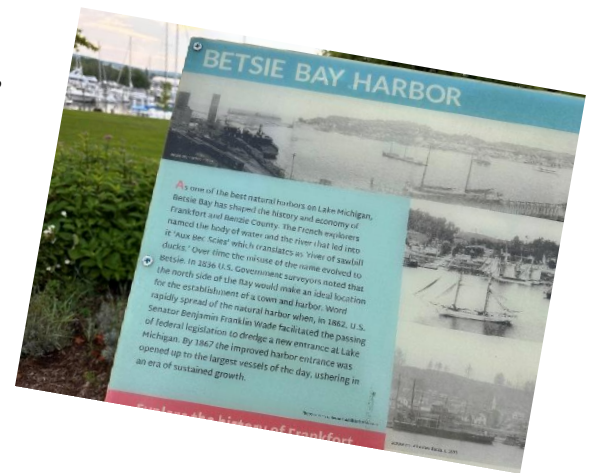
- The beach
- The lighthouse pier
- Betsie Bay Harbor
- Restaurants and breweries
- Small boutiques and souvenir shops
- The movie theater and parks
- Grocery store & Fish Market

You can also jump on the Betsie Valley Trail, a popular hiking and biking trail constructed along abandoned railroad tracks on the bay's southern shores. <https://betsievalleytrail.org/trail-map/>

Betsie Lake is the long, sheltered body of water connected to Betsie Bay and the city of Frankfort in northwestern Michigan. It's part of the Betsie River system and eventually opens into Lake Michigan through the Frankfort channel. Chatgpt

People sometimes casually lump Betsie Lake and Betsie Bay together, but they're slightly different:

- **Betsie Bay** is the harbor area closest to downtown Frankfort and the marinas.
- **Betsie Lake** stretches farther inland and is where fellow loopers & boaters could anchor.



Frankfort lighthouse as we left the harbor and turned south.



Today's cruise was short and sweet. Lake Michigan was on its best behavior, and the shoreline, filled with tall dunes, was magical to stare at. At this point, I have remarked on my shock and awe and newly found admiration of Michigan and Lake Michigan enough that you are probably sick of hearing it. LOL.

Once Valkyrie's anchor was secure, Mark lowered the winch with great anticipation that its cable was going to be long enough. The old winch had 50' of cable. The new one he installed yesterday has half that.

Success! There was enough cable to lower the tender, and the new winch worked great. We tendered over to the nearby beach, took a short stroll, picked through the unique rocks, pocketed a few, and then tendered to the town's marina. The dinghy coral had ample enough space for several tenders. The marina was small but mighty. Grills at the ready, a park with a pavilion to picnic, bikes and kayaks for renting, and the few marina patrons we saw were like most Michiganders we have met, extremely friendly, and very chatty. It was a quick reconnaissance mission. We were quick to get back into the tender to explore what we

could before returning to Valkyrie with plans to do the Marsh Walk tomorrow.



A 1,100-foot dredged channel, with rock rip-rap breakwalls, connects Arcadia Lake to Lake Michigan.

Arcadia Lake in Michigan is a 275-acre lake located in Manistee County, separated from Lake Michigan by a sandbar. It's known as a "drowned rivermouth lake" and is connected to Lake Michigan by a dredged channel. The lake is popular for fishing and boating, with access to Lake Michigan and [Arcadia Marsh](#). It has a maximum depth of approximately 28 feet.

Arcadia Lake is a popular spot for fishing, with species like yellow perch, steelhead, brown trout, crappie, walleye, smallmouth bass, and pike. It's also suitable for boating and offers access to Lake Michigan and Arcadia Marsh.

Dinner this evening was grilled chicken w/brussel sprouts & carrots.

Daily Summary:

Departed from Frankfort, MI Municipal Marina @ 11:07 am

Arrived at Arcadia Lake @ 12:41 pm

Days cruised: 58 Days on the loop: 80

Hours traveled: 1hr 33 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 10.19 for the day (1,410.53 total miles)

Average Speed 6.5 knots

Weather: Sunny and warm

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Frankfort, MI has everything a boater needs, including beautiful beaches!

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

Saturday, August 16, 2025

Arcadia Lake

What a wonderfully leisurely day. I didn't sleep very well overnight and spent a couple of hours tossing and turning between 3:30 and 5:30 a.m., but eventually drifted back to sleep until 9:00.

No chores, no work, no blogging, no video editing... just a slow, peaceful morning aboard Valkyrie.

Later in the afternoon, we headed ashore and explored Arcadia Marsh. The trail is an approx. 2-mile round-trip stroll through the marsh on an impressive, beautifully maintained boardwalk. No bikes or pets are allowed, but it's very accessible for strollers and wheelchairs.

The wildlife did not disappoint. Along the walk, we spotted a deer, swans, turtles, herons, several butterflies, and colorful wildflowers everywhere. Bright oranges, yellows, lilacs, and soft pinks made the marsh feel especially vibrant and alive.

On the way back to the tender, we were treated to even more deer — a momma and her two fawns. One of the babies was prancing around and showing off its maximum level of cuteness. Haha.

Since arriving at Arcadia Lake, we've also spotted an eagle, and at one point a heron dive-bombed Valkyrie. Mark and I both jumped, convinced for a split second it was about to land on board. According to Mark, their squawks sound like pterodactyls... and honestly, he's not wrong.

Arcadia Marsh Preserve, located just south of Arcadia, offers visitors access to a Great Lakes Coastal Marsh, a rare and declining natural community found only in Great Lakes coastal areas. It is estimated that over 80% of all original Great Lakes marshes have been destroyed. These marshes are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world, and Arcadia Marsh is one of only 15 or so remaining coastal marshes along Lake Michigan's Lower Peninsula shoreline. Intensive habitat restoration work completed here by GTRLC and a dedicated team of partners has helped improve this ecosystem tremendously after many decades of decline due to invasive species and man-made impacts. <https://www.gtrlc.org/recreation-events/preserve/arcadia-marsh-nature-preserve/>



An afternoon storm produced a lot of rain and some thunder but no lightning. Although we were the sole boaters on the lake last night and much of today, alas, the Looper we saw in Frankfort came in and dropped their hook. Shortly after the storm came in, they had to reset their anchor, but once that was done, they seemed to be secure.

The sky cleared, and we were witnesses to this amazing sunset!

Dinner was meatballs w/ziti, and we watched Happy Gilmore 2 on Netflix.



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Departed from @

Arrived at @

Days cruised: 58 Days on the loop: 81

Hours traveled:

Nautical Miles Traveled: for the day (1,410.53 total miles)

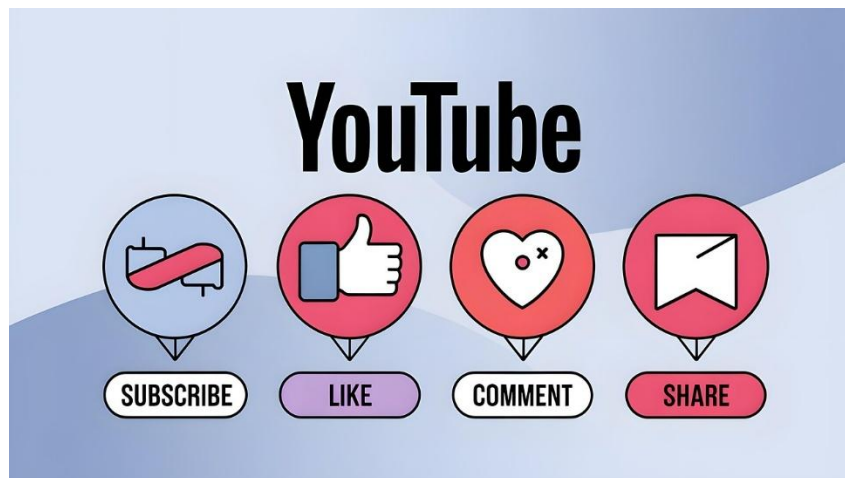
Average Speed knots

Weather: Humid, rain & wind, thunder but no lightning

Anchorage/mooring/marina review:

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

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/3KFEEt7LhfE>



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