

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

Somewhere on the Water

Sunday, August 17, 2025
Arcadia Lake to Portage Lake

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

The anchor held us great during the storm yesterday and last night, even though Valkyrie spun around several times since dropping anchor Friday.



Raising the anchor turned out to be a lengthy process since the chain was covered in grass, and the anchor itself had a huge clump of mud (maybe clay) on it. It was heavy on the anchor windlass motor. Mark took his time and raised it inch by inch.

We left Arcadia Lake, cruising through its 1,100' channel back into Lake Michigan for a 2-hour-long cruise south to Portage Lake. There was a swell, but overall not bad. The cruise was very pleasant. The sun was shining, and there were a lot of boats on the water.

We passed Arcadia Bluffs Golf Course. From a far-off distance seemed impressive.

We are a true seaside links course on 245 acres overlooking 3,100 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. We are a par 72 (36-36) course, measuring 7,404 yards from the championship tees, and provides a real test for most players from the middle tees at 6,535 yards. The forward tees measure a playable 5,529 yards. We are a daily-fee golf club open to the public seven days a week from mid-April to mid-November each year, weather permitting. We are a certified member of the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program.

<https://www.michigan.org/property/arcadia-bluffs-golf-club>

Portage Lake is long. We cruised 20 minutes after entering the lake to our chosen anchorage. We were going no-wake speed, also by choice. The anchorage we chose was close to Onekama.

It is one of the premier fishing and boating lakes in the area. Northern pike, walleye, smallmouth bass, perch, crappie, sturgeon and punkinseed lure fisherman. Portage Lake is 2,110 acres in size and up to 60 feet deep. Google

The Lake was first identified as Portage Lake in 1837, when Joseph Stronach named the natural stream at [Portage Point](#) that flowed into [Lake Michigan](#) as Portage Creek. In that same year, the U.S. Government survey identified the lake as "O-nek-a-ma-engk or Portage Lake".

The lake was first formed during the Wisconsinian glacial age (10,000 to 75,000 years ago) as an arm of Lake Michigan that later closed. It has a 15,808-acre (6,397 ha) watershed with a number of ground-fed small streams.^[2]

In more recent times and up until May 14, 1871, the lake was a landlocked body of water with a water level about 12 to 14 feet (3.7 to 4.3 m) above the level of Lake Michigan. On that date in 1871, homesteaders around the lake, who had objected to the practices of the saw mill owner at [Portage](#) in raising the lake level to power their saw mill, dug a channel through the narrow isthmus about a mile south of the natural outlet at Portage Creek.

This new man-made channel lowered the level of Portage Lake to that of Lake Michigan and dried out Portage Creek. As a result of this, the small community at Portage relocated to the previously submerged far northeastern corner of Portage Lake under its official new post office name, [Onekama](#), in 1871. Wikipedia

The anchor was deployed, and the engines were off by 11:30 am, and the water temp was 78 degrees. Was there swimming in our future here in Portage Lake?

The bug saga continued. We have been very vocal regarding the bugs, insects, etc., that we have been encountering on this voyage. Mark swept more bugs off the cockpit and flybridge. Although it was an unusual occurrence, I was on-call this particular weekend for work. Thankfully, the phones were quiet.

Did we swim? No. Did we float? Yes! We floated on our floats for a couple of hours in the afternoon. We saw a rather large turtle, which, for me, signaled that it was time to get out of the water.



Dinner was teriyaki shrimp & veggies on the grill.



I asked Mark if he wanted to play a game. He threw out a yes, let's play Operation, thinking that there was no way we would have that on board! Aha! It was on board, and we played! I won.

We were in hysterics laughing during the Operation game. The batteries had been left in from who knows when the last play occurred, and then the buzzer that is supposed to go off when you hit the sides didn't work, so Mark was making the buzzer noise for us, and we totally ignored all the rules. Did I really win then?

Next up was Connect Four. I kicked his butt! Games are not Mark's thing, although we did play Rummy on a different occasion, and he championed!



Daily Summary:

Departed from Arcadia Lake @ 9:38 am

Arrived at Portage Lake @ 11:30 am

Days cruised: 59 Days on the loop: 82

Hours traveled: 1 hr 52 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 10.72 for the day (1,421.25 total miles)

Average Speed 5.7 knots

Weather: Sunny, windy and in the mid 70's

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Arcadia Lake has a weedy bottom, but good hold. Quiet, easy access to beach.

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

Monday, August 18, 2025

Portage Lake anchorage

Day 83 – no cruising

Last night, the anchor alarm went off twice. It was very windy, and I could hear waves slapping the hull and the tender banging up against the swim platform. Mark put the bridle on, let out some scope, and finally Valkyrie stopped dragging.

The morning was cool, cloudy, and windy. I did some light chores: vacuuming the throw rugs and mopping the salon floor, etc. Mark watched a movie on his iPad. No cruising today.

Mark booked us a slip at a marina in Manistee, MI, for Wednesday night. We also had to make an Amazon order for delivery at said marina. Can you guess what we purchased? A replacement drone!

Oh, the drama! As you may know, there was a drone crash in Canada. Two actually. The same drone crashed, was recovered, and then plopped itself in the water, where to this day it stays. The replacement drone arrived in Frankfort, MI. Mark had a successful inaugural flight in Frankfort, but the second flight in Arcadia was not successful. Mark kept losing signal with the drone, he saw it returning from its flight back "home" only to gently glide into the water two arm's length away. Mark was pissed. He was so mad. After much encouragement, he jumped into the lake to recover it. It sat on the counter with fans blowing and with silica packets to try to dry it out. This drone will be returned for a malfunction. We hope to get a refund.



The rain and cold weather stuck around most of the day, although it cleared, and once again, we were blessed with a rainbow.



Dinner was a skillet meal w/sausage, pepper, onion, garlic, orzo, tomatoes, broth with basil & oregano. It was tasty. It really hit the spot on a damp raining, cool evening.



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

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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