

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Portage Lake anchorage to Manistee Municipal Marina, Manistee, MI

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

It rained yesterday, and this morning it was still raining. It will be a cloudy day with 90% humidity.

After I got out of the shower this morning, I found out we are moving. We had reservations at Manistee Municipal Marina for tomorrow. Mark called today and asked if we could come in this afternoon. They said yes, so by 11:29 a.m., he started to weigh anchor and get us ready to cast off for Manistee. The weather was predicted to get worse as the day progressed, however better today than tomorrow's prediction.

Fun Facts:

- In maritime language, "weighing the anchor" refers to the physical act of retrieving the anchor using a winch or other mechanical means. The anchor is lifted from its resting position on the seabed, allowing the vessel to move.
- **Synonyms:**
Synonyms for "weigh anchor" include "lift the anchor," "raise the anchor," "cast off," "loose for sea," "put to sea," and "unmoor"

12:05 – We exited Portage Lake and entered Lake Michigan. The anchor had some weeds and mud, but it came up rather clean when compared to Arcadia Lake.

The waves were predicted at 2 ½ feet today, winds out of the north. It was a following sea, with some swell. We got pushed around a little bit. Enough to encourage us to hold on when walking around the boat.

As we cruised south, we passed Orchard Beach State Park.

Orchard Beach State Park, perched atop a 100-foot bluff overlooking Lake Michigan just three miles north of Manistee, is renowned for its spectacular sunsets and panoramic lake views. Visitors can explore over 3.5 miles of trails winding through old-growth forests and former farmland. Google

Fun Fact:

Movies filmed in Mainstee:

- **The Adventures of Mickey Matson and the Copperhead Treasure (2012):**
A family adventure movie that heavily features downtown Manistee.
- **Silver Bells (2013):** A Christmas holiday film featuring Bruce Boxleitner.
- **Johnny (2011):** A family drama starring Lee Majors

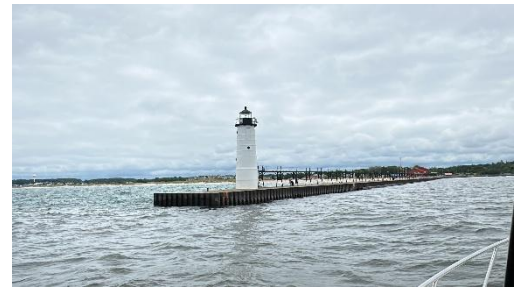
Manistee North Pierhead Light

Latitude: 44.25182, Longitude: -86.3469

Lakeshore Keepers acquired the Manistee North Pierhead Light in January 2025. We manage the operation and restoration of the 38-foot tower, which is owned by the City of Manistee.

With the addition of this light, Lakeshore Keepers' mission covers five lights in four counties along Lake Michigan. The Manistee North Pierhead Lighthouse, which was established in 1927, will be open to the public in 2026.

<https://lakeshorekeepers.org/manistee-north-pierhead/>



CONSTRUCTED: 1927/2005

As early as 1850, residents of Manistee commenced actively seeking a lighthouse to mark the entrance of the harbor to Lake Michigan. Their efforts came to fruition in 1869 when the United States government built a dwelling near the mouth of the Manistee River and placed a light atop a short tower on the roof of the dwelling. It was this light which was lost in the Great Fire in 1871 with replacement the following year. In October of 1875 the light was moved to a small skeletal tower at the end of the south pier. It was at this time that an elevated walkway (commonly called a

catwalk) was built to provide access for the keeper in inclement weather. The present walkway is the evolutionary embodiment of the original having been modernized, extended, and moved several times.

In the 1880s the light atop the dwelling was re-established providing a range system to guide vessels to the harbor entrance (a range is defined as when both lights are seen together from the Lake, indicating a vessel is on the proper course to safely enter the harbor). In 1889 a steam fog signal was placed alongside the light tower at the end of the pier and the lightkeeper's responsibilities were expanded to include the maintenance of this apparatus. Several years later the tower, light, and fog signal were moved to the north pier and by 1927 this steel lighthouse was constructed on the site.

The Coast Guard Station in Manistee began operating in 1879 as the United States Life Saving Service in a building near today's Fifth Avenue Beach.

Since then Manistee's local station has served local residents, visitors and Great Lakes vessels over the years.

In 2005, a new 14,000 square foot structure was constructed for the Coast Guard which is located in the same area as the former structure.

<https://www.visitmanisteecounty.com/discover/manistee-north-pier-lighthouse/>

There was a lot of conversation on our cruise to the marina between Mark and me, because little did I know, the marina was concerned that we would not fit into the assigned slip. Upon arrival, the marina crew welcomed us, assisted with lines, and we glided right in with no issues.

We were able to hook up electricity with ease, although our power cord was extended to its limit.



Our boat neighbor is a looper on board a Hatteras named Cat in the Hat; his name is Todd. They are from New Bern, NC, a destination on our radar. After chatting with him about his itinerary, we were once again reminded

that America's Great Loop is an individual journey and no two loopers follow the same route.

We walked to the UPS Store, and then the USPS via the Riverwalk, and on our way back to Valkyrie, we walked River Street.

Manistee is a popular destination for loopers. The municipal marina is within walking distance of downtown. River Street is the main hub where eclectic shops, restaurants, cafes, breweries, and services such as UPS, the USPS, and more are located. The historic buildings, Riverwalk along Manistee River, and the unique ambiance of this fun and quirky town is fabulous and should be celebrated. I love that few chain stores are clogging up the shopping strip, which allows good ole' fashioned mom and pops to thrive here. The gift shops ranged from your average t-shirt souvenir shop to upscale boutiques. There was an Arcade Café which looked fun, and although we did not dine there, the Blue Fish restaurant was highly recommended.



Yes, Manistee, Michigan, has a vibrant downtown. Centered around River Street, it is a designated national and state historic district famous for its well-preserved 19th-century Victorian architecture, waterfront views, and nearly 150 local shops, restaurants, and galleries. Google

Downtown Manistee's key highlights include:

- **The Riverwalk:** A scenic pedestrian walkway that follows the winding Manistee River directly to the shores of Lake Michigan.
- **Dining & "The Steel" Social District:** You can grab a drink from a local establishment and sip it openly as you stroll along River Street or the Riverwalk. Several eateries offer outdoor decks with waterfront views.
- **Arts & Entertainment:**
Catch a movie at the historic 1927 **Vogue Theatre** or attend a live performance at the **Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts**.
- **Shopping:** A mix of boutique retail, bookstores, and antique shops housed in beautiful historic brick buildings.

Daily Summary:

Departed from Portage Lake @ 11:22 am

Arrived at Manistee Marina @ 1:07 pm

Days cruised: 60 Days on the loop: 84

Hours traveled: 1 hour 44 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 11.16 (1,432.41 total miles)

Average Speed 6.4 knots

Weather: Windy, cloudy, low 70's

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Lake is beautiful, good hold, weedy

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

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Manistee Municipal Marina, Manistee, MI

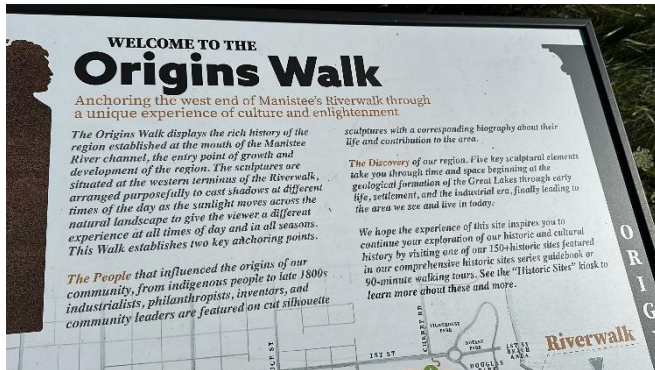
Mark purchased a new drone. Yes, a 2nd new drone. We started the loop with a drone that we have had for years. That drone crashed back in Canada. Maybe you remember this story:

On its way "home," it dropped in elevation and hit a tree. It was recovered. Mark did a test flight to make sure it wasn't damaged. During the test flight, it suddenly stopped working, and it fell into the "drink".

Mark ordered a replacement drone, which was delivered in Frankfort, MI. The 1st replacement drone had connectivity issues with the controller, and it also, without warning, plopped into the water. He returned it and ordered a 2nd replacement drone. This time, a different brand. He has been watching a lot of educational "how-to" videos on this new one so that it is programmed properly for use from onboard a boat. It is all in the unit's GPS settings, and other commands such as "home" and "hover." We have our fingers crossed that this drone lasts!

Mark vacuumed the bilge. There is water coming in from somewhere. He thought maybe the anchor locker, but that is not it. This is the 2nd time we have had mysterious water show up since we left. The first time was early into the trip, and it was determined that it came from a leak in the

freshwater tank. That has since been repaired. For now, Mark will have to play detective to solve this water issue.



The Manistee Riverwalk is a 1.75-mile accessible boardwalk meandering along the Big Manistee River through downtown Manistee to Lake Michigan. It features 25 historic plaques, easy access to River Street shops, fishing piers, and leads directly to the beautiful sands of First Street Beach. The interpretive pathway provides a nice glimpse into Manistee history. Although the winds were only recorded at 16mph I definitely thought it was stronger! The waves, although a little fierce, were fun to watch as they crashed into the pier. Upon arrival to Mainistee, Mark and I pondered the structure along the pier connecting to the lighthouse. We later learned that it is called a bridge.

The "bridge" at the [Manistee North Pierhead Lighthouse](#) is actually an elevated walkway, or catwalk, built to provide lighthouse keepers safe access to the light in inclement weather. This walkway is not a bridge in the traditional sense of spanning a body of water, but rather a structure that connects the lighthouse tower to the shore or pier.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- **Function:**

The primary purpose of the catwalk is to allow lighthouse keepers to reach the light and foghorn during storms and high waves without having to walk directly on the pier or through the water.

- **History:**

The first elevated walkway at the Manistee lighthouse was built in 1873, along with the light tower and fog signal, [according to Pure Michigan](#). It has been modernized and relocated several times over the years, [notes Manistee Tourism](#).

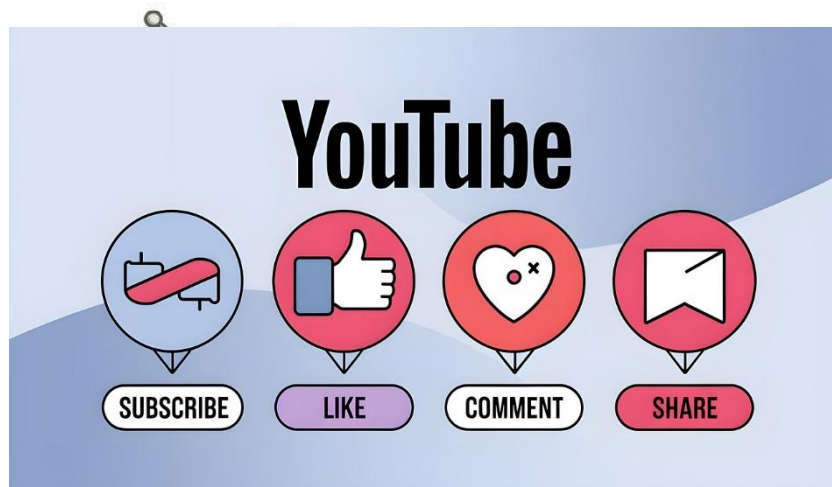
- **Current Structure:**

The present-day catwalk is an iron structure, replacing an earlier wooden one, and is a prominent feature of the lighthouse

Last night's dinner was bean burritos. Tonight we had leftovers for dinner.



<https://youtu.be/fDfM24a0fIA>



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