

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Manistee Municipal Marina, MI to Ludington, MI anchorage

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

This morning I went for a walk around town. I wanted to get out and explore the neighborhood. I had been enjoying my morning walks around the different towns that we have visited here in Michigan, and I was curious how Manistee would compare. The sidewalks, if there were any, were lumpy and bumpy, and the tree branches hung low, which made for a difficult walk. The houses were moderate, nice, but not as charming and quaint as Charlevoix or Frankfurt. For a Thursday morning, all was quiet, which I thought was odd.

Manistee was a good stop. The marina provided good protection from the winds and the waves that brewed in the Lake. We will find out later that not all of these breakwaters were designed appropriately to keep mariners from feeling the wrath of Lake Michigan when she is truly furious. (You will witness in a future blog/video.)

We enjoyed the riverwalk, and it is apparent that Manistee is proud of its history. River Street, which was the main street with shops and restaurants, etc., had a rustic, 'old school' historic feel. It was not as lively as some of the other towns, but for boaters, it is a good stop. Everything is close by and conveniently located. There were a few restaurants that were recommended to us, so obviously the quality of the dining establishments is not in question. Clearly, we are not foodies and do not dine off the boat often, and did not dine here either. We looked at a couple of menus posted, thinking we would have a cocktail after our 2-hour walk last night, but the prices were high (in our opinion),

This is the first municipality where we noticed a "Social District."

Businesses that are granted a Social District Permit may sell alcoholic liquor (beer, wine, mixed spirits, or mixed drinks) on their licensed premises to customers who may then consume the alcoholic liquor within the common area of the Social District. (as of July 1, 2020). Over 140 municipalities in Michigan have approved Social Districts.

On our way out of the Manistee River on our way back into Lake Michigan, we encountered several fishing boats. It was like rush hour on an expressway. Thankfully, Lake Michigan was calm. The sun was shining, and there was little wind. Truly a great day to cruise.



Ludington State Park, situated between the 5,000-acre Hamlin Lake and 7 miles of sandy Lake Michigan shoreline, features scenic sand dunes, three campgrounds, the iconic Big Sable Point Lighthouse, 21 miles of marked trails, and more. A 1-mile stretch of the Big Sable River runs

through the park and provides excellent opportunities for fishing, paddling, and tubing. <https://www.michigan.gov/recsearch/parks/ludington>

The views of the dunes and the amazing, pristine turquoise water again did not fail, and we remain in awe of the beauty of Lake Michigan. Every cruise has been picturesque.

Once we turned into Ludington, we arrived at and anchored in Pere Marquette Lake.

Pere Marquette Lake is a drowned river mouth lake located in Mason County, Michigan, where the Pere Marquette River empties into Lake Michigan. This relatively shallow lake serves as an important transitional habitat between the river and the Great Lakes system. Known for its clear waters and diverse fish population, <https://www.onwaterapp.com/us/michigan/water/pere-marquette-lake-w1>

A drowned river mouth is a coastal inlet or lake formed when rising sea or lake levels flood the lower portion of a river valley. This creates a transition zone where freshwater and larger bodies of water mix, frequently supporting highly diverse aquatic ecosystems. google

Work was not busy today. I was able to enjoy much of the ride from the flybridge with Mark. I imagined we would have spent most of our summer driving from the flybridge. According to the captain, it has to be the perfect conditions for him to drive from the flybridge. Apparently, today was perfect.

We are anchored next to a sailboat, and soon we were accompanied by another loopier whom we have been seeing on and off since Charlevoix.

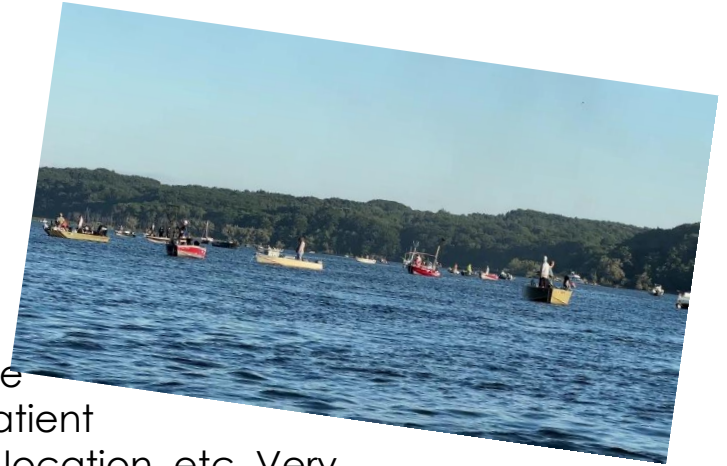
We had salmon burgers, broccoli coleslaw, and asparagus for dinner. After dinner, we drove the tender to town. We walked James Street and Ludington Avenue. Ludington was bustling. It is bigger than many of the towns we have visited so far. Modern meets historic. There is nothing you cannot find here. Restaurants, unique shops, multiple tattoo parlors, farmers market (on Fridays), and tonight there was free live music in the square at the intersection of James Street and W. Ludington Ave, you know...right next to Cluck Bucket! 😊





Jamesport Brewing Company, recommended in the guidebooks, was very crowded and had a live band out back.

After sprinting our way through downtown Ludington, we reboarded the tender and crossed the harbor back to Valkyrie. The site we beheld in front of us was remarkable. There were dozens of boats, packed like sardines in Pere Marquette Lake, all hoping to reel in a big one. They provided a great source of entertainment right up until dusk. It was like watching an artist. These fishermen are patient and thoughtful of every cast, bait choice, location, etc. Very impressive.



The center of the harbor is the SS Badger and the SS Spartan. Impressive vessels that deserve all the attention that comes their way!

SS Badger is a passenger and vehicle ferry in the United States that has been in service on Lake Michigan since 1953. Currently, the ship shuttles between Ludington, Michigan, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, a distance of 62 miles, connecting U.S. Highway 10 between those two cities.



SS *Spartan*, one of the last of the true railroad-car ferries remaining. Due to the rarity of her coal-burning [Skinner Unaflo](#) steam engines that she and the *Badger* share, the *Spartan* has been used frequently as a parts ship to keep her twin running.

The SS Badger remains the last coal-fired steamship in the United States. While the ship's owners have explored converting to other fuel sources in response to environmental mandates from the 2012 EPA deadline, the ship continues to operate on coal power. The current owners, Interlake Maritime Services, are studying a potential conversion to a clean energy future, with a goal to have a blueprint by 2026.

You can find more info here: <https://ssbadger.com/history/>

Daily Summary:

Departed from Manistee Municipal Marina @ 10:50 am

Arrived at Ludington anchorage @ 1:40 pm

Days cruised: 61 Days on the loop: 86

Hours traveled: 2 hrs 50 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 22.76 (1,455.17 total miles)

Average Speed: 8 knots

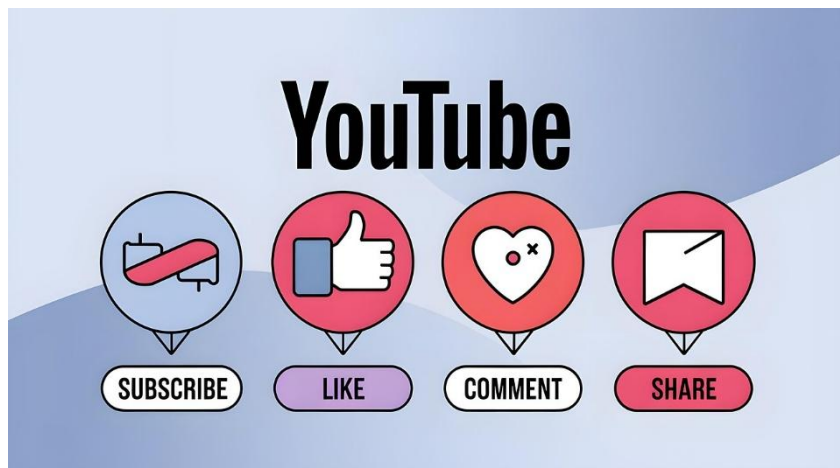
Weather: Sunny, light breeze, cool in the low 70's

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Had all the amenities needed, close to downtown and the must-do Riverwalk

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



<https://youtu.be/asp2-PfElbU>



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