

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop

Friday, August 22, 2025

Ludington, MI anchorage to Muskegon, MI anchorage

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

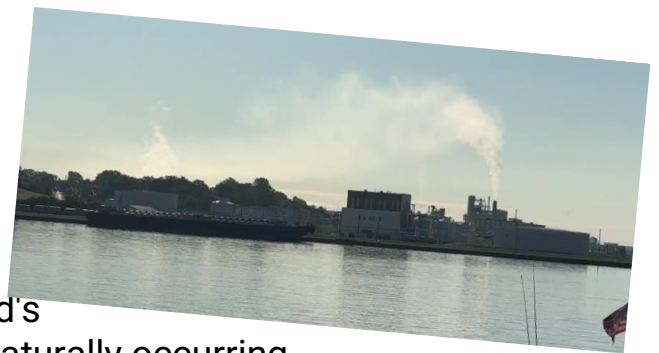
Mark brought up a muddy anchor. Black mud, as black as ink. We weaved our way through scads of fishing boats this morning. They were out in full force last night and this morning. We saw one fisherman catch a large trout last night not far away from where we were anchored. I googled to find out if there is a fishing tournament in Ludington, and there is not. Apparently this is the norm this time of year. There is excellent fishing with trout and salmon being the two most abundant fish in Pere Marquette Lake, fed by Pere Marquette River, which is a 63-mile river nationally known for its large population of trout, steelhead, and salmon.

Fun Facts:

The major chemical plant located in Ludington, Michigan, is the **OxyChem** (Occidental Chemical Company) manufacturing facility. Located at 1600 S Madison Avenue, it is the world's largest producer of calcium chloride, extracting naturally occurring brine from the ground to manufacture products like *PELADOW* and *DowFlake* used for ice melting and dust control. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

Details of the Facility

- **Ownership Shift:** Originally a Dow Chemical plant built around World War II, it was acquired by OxyChem in 2009. In a recent 2026 corporate acquisition, OxyChem's parent company (Occidental Petroleum) was acquired by Berkshire Hathaway, shifting ultimate ownership. [[1](#), [2](#)]
- **Operations:** It operates the largest facility of its type in the world, having built a massively expanded plant in 1982 to meet global demands. [[1](#)]



- **Safety & Environment:** The plant has a long-standing history of workplace safety, notably becoming the first chemical manufacturing plant in Michigan to earn the highest Safety Through Accountability and Recognition (STAR) status from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA). Google

Now ranked the #1 lighthouse to visit in Michigan, plus The Weather Channel voted it one of the top 10 lighthouses to see in the United States!

The North Breakwater Light is Ludington's focal point, and a great place to watch the **sunset** or wave at the **S.S. Badger carferry** as it cruises out onto Lake Michigan. The breakwall leading out to the light is a popular venue for fishermen and those who enjoy walking the mile-long round trip.



The Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association maintains the North Breakwater Light. There are 53 steps to climb to the top. The first Ludington light was constructed on the outer end of the south pier, and lit in 1871. Standing only 25 feet, the upper section housed a service room, which the light keeper could use during inclement weather.

The Army Corps of Engineers recommended in 1906 that a pair of timber breakwaters be constructed in an arrowhead formation to protect the entrance to the harbor. Work was completed on this project in 1914, and it became clear that the present light was not adequate for the number of carferries entering the harbor. Five years later, the timber breakwaters began to decay, and concrete structures were approved as a replacement. In 1923, it was decided that a new light should be built at the end of the North Breakwater, rather than the south side. So in 1924, the present tower began to take shape, fabricated of steel plates over a steel skeleton. This four-sided, white pyramidal tower was built with four porthole windows on each of the three decks. The unusual shape was designed to deflect the strong waves of Lake Michigan. A fourth-order Fresnel lens, manufactured in the United States rather than France, was installed in the new station's lantern.

The North Breakwater Light was automated in 1972, and the Fresnel lens (now on display at the **Port of Ludington Maritime Museum**) was replaced in 1995 by a Tidelands Signal 300 mm acrylic optic. <https://visitludington.com/north-breakwater-lighthouse-ludington>

The lake was smooth as honey, smooth as silk, smooth as velvet. There are many ways to describe it, so go ahead and pick your favorite. Like glass, or like a mirror. Picture-perfect cruising conditions, although the air was cool. Temperatures hovered in the low 70's, but cruising for 6-hours today was a piece of cake. It was beautiful.

Mark drove from the flybridge today. I was surprised he wasn't wearing a winter hat. He does joke that he is delicate about cold weather.

Fun Facts:



The wind farm south of Ludington, MI viewable from Lake Michigan is the [Lake Winds Energy Park](#). This 101-megawatt onshore wind farm is located in southern Mason County (Riverton and Summit townships) and features 56 Vestas wind turbines.]

Quick Facts & Viewing Tips:

- **Location:** The turbines are situated inland in rural farmland but are distinctly visible from the Lake Michigan shoreline and passing boats.
- **Nearby Landmarks:** The wind farm is located near the massive [Ludington Pumped Storage Plant](#) (a giant hydroelectric "water battery
- **Height & Size:** Each tower reaches up to 312 feet to the hub, with blades reaching a total diameter of 328 feet, making them easily identifiable along the horizon. Google



Amidst the famous sand dunes of Silver Lake State Park stands the spectacular Little Sable Point Lighthouse at 115 feet tall. It's a mighty presence with its brick exterior. The 1874 tower overlooks Lake Michigan and still harbors its original 3rd-order Fresnel lens. Throughout the summer, Lakeshore Keepers hosts a concert series at the base of Little Sable's tower. It's free to attend. Bring a chair or blanket for an evening of music on the beach with Lake Michigan and the lighthouse as the backdrop.<https://lakeshorekeepers.org/little-sable-point/>

Although I did not really want the day to end, these types of days are few and far between; we did arrive in Muskegon and dropped anchor just inside the inlet on the left. The plan was to use the dunes to block the wind coming off the lake as the weather changes while here.

Coming into Muskegon was busy. This inlet was like a freeway for boats, and dodging and merging into the flow of traffic was tricky business for the Captain. Boaters were definitely taking advantage of the gorgeous day. In addition to boat traffic, there was a dredge operation at the entrance. Mark radioed for direction on safe passing.

This navigational channel is lined with a variety of businesses on the south side as noted below.

The outer, Lake Michigan breakwater arms are approximately 1.3 miles from the channel wall entrance to Muskegon Lake. The south side of the channel is home to the the City of Muskegon Pere Marquette Park, swimming beach, watercraft rentals, the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory Lake Michigan Field Station, U.S. Coast Guard, USS Silversides Submarine Museum, Dockers Restaurant and the Harbortowne Marina. The north side of the channel is Muskegon State Park's Channel Campground, hiking trails and beach.

<https://www.michiganwatertrails.org/location.asp?ait=av&aid=1061>

Once the anchor was set, Mark flew the drone and worked on a project on the bow. The next several days will be spent at this anchorage, so stay tuned for more information and details.



My new favorite picture of Valkyrie. Taken from the drone footage this morning in Ludington, MI.

Daily Summary:

Departed from Ludington, MI, anchorage @ 8:26 am

Arrived at Muskegon, MI anchorage @ 2:31 pm

Days cruised: 62 Days on the loop: 87

Hours traveled: 6 hours 4 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 48.85 (1,504.02 total miles)

Average Speed: 8 knots

Weather: Sunny, breezy, cool in the low 70's

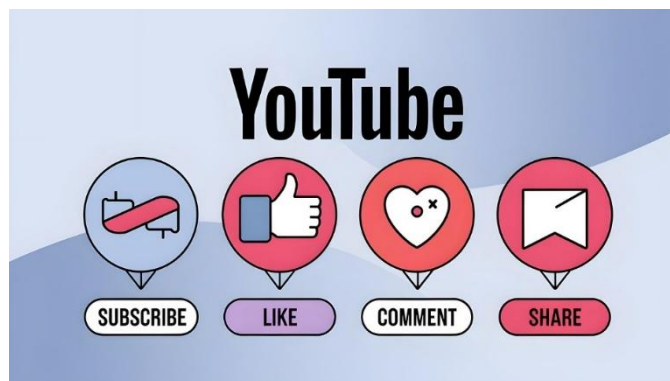
Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Good hold, quiet, easy tender ride into town. If you fish, here is where you should do it.

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



<https://youtu.be/VHrViSVrl3c>

That is a wrap for this update!



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