

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 to Muskegon, MI
Days 87-90

In the previous blog update, we had just cruised from Ludington, MI to Muskegon, MI. Once we exited the breakwater channel and entered Muskegon Lake, we banged a left and anchored Valkyrie. Here, we had shelter from the wind, which was predicted to increase. The plan was to stay at anchor until Tuesday. One trick that Mark uses when setting the anchor is to use a point on land to assess if the anchor is holding or dragging. This is known as taking a **transit** or **bearing**. By lining up a stationary point on land with a fixed object on your boat, you can easily tell if your position is changing.

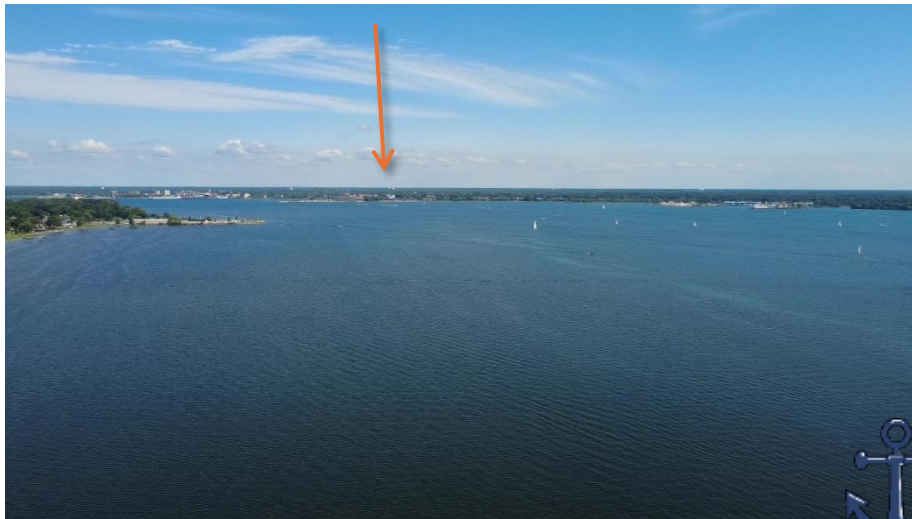
Once Mark decided that the anchor was secure, he flew the drone and then got busy on a boat project. He had noticed that the spill pipe was loosening. He removed the existing screws, cleaned up the area, added some 3M silicone & sealant, and some Boaters Life-Calk Sealant to create a waterproof seal along the wood that is in between the fiberglass. He throughbolted everything back together. It is all in the video. 😊

We had chicken, grilled veggies, and broccoli coleslaw for dinner.

Saturday, August 23, 2025
Muskegon, MI

It is important to know that today was windy. 23mph winds. We wanted to take advantage of the weekend, so despite the choppy waters, we took off on a tender ride. Muskegon Lake is approximately 5.5 miles long and 2.5 miles wide, which on a windy day allows plenty of space for a lot

of fetch, giving us a very bumpy ride on our 10' tender. Needless to say, there was no video of that ride because the videographer, that's me, was too busy holding on as we sped around the lake.

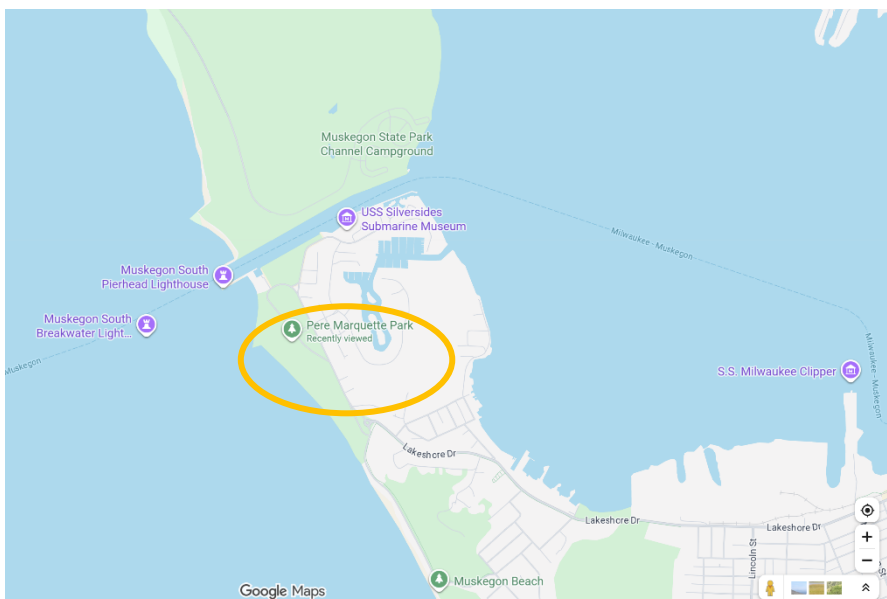


Snapshot of the lake from the drone footage Mark took.

We took the tender from our anchorage (bottom right of the photo) all the way to where you see the orange arrow, which is downtown Muskegon.



As we circled back around the lake, we explored Harbour Towne Marina and found a place to dock the tender.



We walked over to Pere Marquette Beach to investigate what was up with all the tents that had been set up on the beach.

Here on Pere Marquette Beach, we found the Burning Foot Beer Festival. Still in setup phase. We walked around and looked at the different booths set up and at the same time discovered an amazing bar called The Deck. Not wanting to leave Valkyrie at anchor unattended for too long, we limited ourselves to just exploring the area and not stopping for a cocktail. We walked along the breakwater channel, passing by the lighthouse, the submarine museum, NOAA's research facility (to name a few of the sites), and tendered back to Valkyrie.

We entertained the notion of attending the festival, but the high price tag put that out of our budget. Although we did plan to return to The Deck.

Annual Burning Foot Beer Festival on the lakeshore — with craft beer at the heart of it all, plus live music, local art, food, and weekend camping

Burning Foot Beer Festival is produced by the Lakeshore Brewers Guild, a nonprofit collective of West Michigan craft breweries dedicated to championing local beer and the people who make it. Every pint poured at Burning Foot helps support the Guild's mission: promoting Michigan craft beer, building community across the lakeshore, and giving back to the region we call home. When you drink with us, you're drinking local — and helping keep an independent Michigan tradition alive for years to come.

<https://burningfoot.beer/about/>



The Muskegon South Pierhead Light, a historic Lake Michigan lighthouse built in 1903, offers a memorable experience for visitors from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Located at the end of the south pier in Muskegon, Michigan, this lighthouse invites guests to climb 54 steps to the lantern room for scenic views of Lake Michigan and the Muskegon Channel.

<https://www.visitmuskegon.org/listing/muskegon-south-pierhead-light/280/>



Our museum comprises of the two-story museum building housing temporary and permanent exhibits, and the USS Silversides Gato-class submarine. Outside the museum, we offer a wide variety of ways to engage with WWII and submarine history through lectures, classes, immersive events and community fundraisers.

<https://silversidesmuseum.org/about/>

Since entering Michigan, I have struggled to pronounce town names, lakes, etc. I pronounced Mackinac Island wrong over 30 times, I swear, lol! I recently stumbled upon this resource (a year later as I type up these blogs), which has become very helpful.

<https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/bureau-of-services-for-blind-persons/btbl/pronunciation-guide-you-say-it-how-in-michigan#P>

Pronunciation Guide - 'You Say it How in Michigan?'

Get the names right with online guide developed by the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, Braille and Talking Book Library

This pronunciation guide was initially developed by BTBL as a guide for narrators across the country during audio book production to get Michigan name and place pronunciations right. In addition, whether you've lived here all your life, just moved here, or happen to be visiting or planning a vacation to this great state, the below directory can help you with the correct pronunciation of Michigan's many unique cities and places. This is a live document that is updated as new information becomes available. For suggestions, comments, or corrections, please contact the library at btbl@michigan.gov.

[Pronunciation Key]

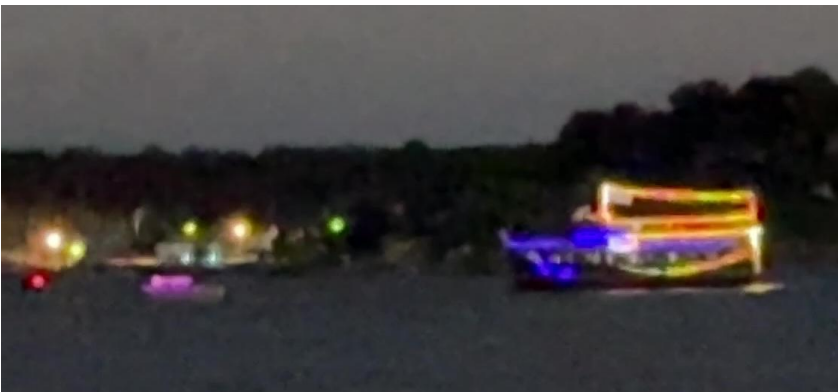
A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z



We spent the remainder of the afternoon on the flybridge of Valkyrie. It was a cold 74degrees. I wrapped myself in a blanket and enjoyed listening to the music that was blaring from the speakers of the boats that were at anchor at the beach.



The evening was beautiful. We had cheddar dogs and salad for dinner. We were pleasantly surprised by a boat parade which, although short, added a bit of unexpected fun to the evening.



Muskegon, Michigan hosts a nighttime illuminated boat parade during the summer. The event is known as the **Light the Night Boat Parade** (part of Muskegon's Water Week), where local boaters decorate their vessels with bright, colorful lights and cruise across Muskegon Lake. Google

Other resources: <https://aquastarcruises.com/1395-2/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MKGWaterWeek/>

Sunday, August 24, 2025
Muskegon, MI

We enjoyed a leisurely morning onboard. It was much cooler this morning than yesterday. I watched the people on the beach who were using their water rings as sleds to slide down the dune. The wind carried their laughter to my ears, and it was fun. I have never tried to slide down a sand dune on a boat float or any other type of sled.

I was excited to return to Pere Marquette Beach and to the beach bar, The Deck, this afternoon. This place was amazing. There were swings set up around the dining tables meant to be your seats; it's right next to the beach, so the flooring is beach sand. There is a restaurant, plus you can order takeout food at the bars. The drink menu was fun with multiple options of summer & frozen themed drinks that you could have served to you in these adorable buckets. Three bands were scheduled to play today. We stayed for two. One played reggae and Caribbean music, the other was a rock band playing all of our favorites from Foreigner, Journey, Chicago, Def Leppard, Van Halen, to name a few. Our afternoon was cut short with a weather alert that came across our phones indicating a squall with possible waterspout. We had a good distance to our docked tender plus the tender ride back to Valkyrie. We left The Deck, cocktail buckets in hand, and rushed back to Valkyrie. The wind definitely picked up, and rain came, hard. At the end of the storm was a beautiful rainbow.





Monday, August 25, 2025
Muskegon, MI

Happy Birthday Mark!

Nothing too exciting to report. Poor Mark did not have an overly exciting birthday. It was a workday for me, and I had some much-needed computer maintenance that needed attention.

We had a nice dinner of steak tips w/roasted cauliflower & sweet potatoes.

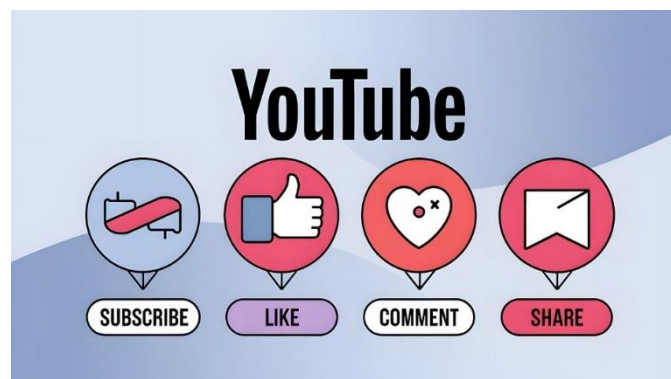
This anchorage is nice. The fisherman buzzed by us in the early morning hours on their way to hopefully land a big one, and then again at dusk they are back at it. The channel was their destination. It was crowded every day with fishermen. There are a lot of swans that make Muskegon Lake their home. I have seen many swans swim nearby in the mornings.

The next update includes our stay at Hartshorn Marina, where we stayed for two nights.



<https://youtu.be/dcSCHD0FJ78>

That is a wrap for this update!



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