

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

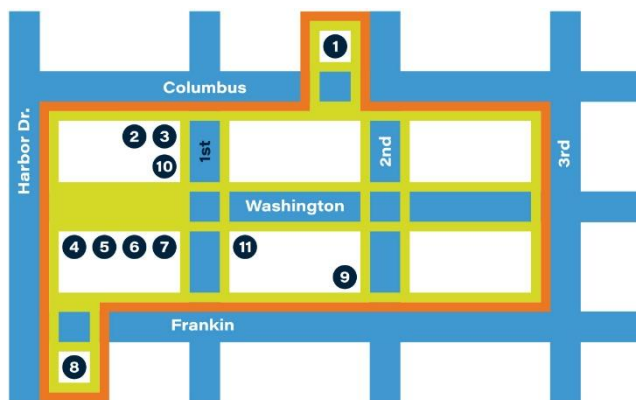
# Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop

Saturday, August 30, 2025  
Grand Haven, MI

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

We arrived yesterday after a short cruise from Muskegon. After settling in and watching a little bit of the volleyball tournament taking place next to us, we walked across the street to Washington Street, which is Grand Haven's main strip, and explored the Social District. Another wonderful Michigan stop. Grand Haven was bustling with people and activities, and had so much to offer.



• **1** Lucy's

• **2** Porto Bello

• **3** Odd Side Ales

• **4** Kirby House

• **5** Long Road Distillers

• **6** New Holland Distilling

**8** Tip-A-Few

**7** Anna's House

**8** Tip-A-Few

**9** Grand Armory Brewing

**10** Corners Winery

**11** Smokey Jose's



The Grand Armory Brewing celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and had live entertainment, which we enjoyed for a bit before moving on to explore other options. New Holland Distilling also had live music. That was also entertaining. I probably should have gotten out of my seat to take a better photo rather than capturing the backside of this lady in white. LOL. Lucy's had advertised live music; however, this popular spot had a long wait, which was not appealing to us, but by the long line of people who were, one could assume it was a good place to try if you are in the area.

Grand Haven is the first-ever designated Coast Guard City in Nov. 1998

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The very nature of the Coast Guard's mission creates a need for understanding between the Coast Guard and the local community. Coast Guard commands everywhere are urged to develop the kinds of relationships that enable unit commanders to sense public attitudes and interests.

In turn, many cities have made special efforts to acknowledge the professional work of the Coast Guard men and women assigned to their area. Making Coast Guard men and women and their families feel at home in their home away from home is an invaluable contribution to morale and service excellence. The Coast Guard is pleased to recognize Coast Guard Cities -- those cities that have extended so many considerations to the Coast Guard family and their dependents. <https://www.uscg.mil/Community/cities/>

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This morning, we headed over to the farmers market, and I have to say... this one was my favorite so far!

It was exactly what we had been hoping to find on this trip—a great selection of fresh produce, local goodies, and all the fun little treasures you hope to stumble across at a farmers market.

After a couple of disappointments, we finally hit the jackpot here in Grand Haven! This was the farmers market we had been waiting for all along.

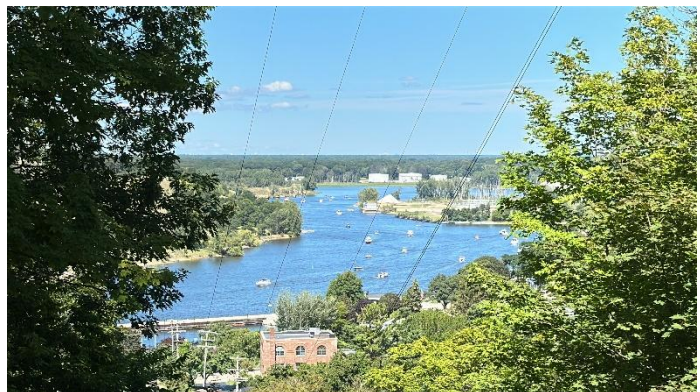
Once we had decided to stay another night, we moved Valkyrie from the municipal marina to the day dock, where, for \$30, you can stay overnight. Payment is via a kiosk. (Prices may vary depending on date of stay.)

A bike ride along the boardwalk to the pier to view the lighthouses was next on the itinerary. Mark decided that it was my turn to map out our adventure. That turned out to be a mistake because I had led us on a dirt path that essentially was a sand dune that we had to walk and push our bikes uphill. We came out at Mulligan's Hollow. Thinking it was an old abandoned ski hill was incorrect. It is actually an active ski area. What an amazing view from the top. I would suggest walking the trail or dirt bike.

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Mulligan's Hollow offers 7 acres of skiable terrain, 8 slopes with adjoining trails, and 6 classic rope tows. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced skier, you'll find a place here. All our slopes are lit for night skiing, providing a magical experience under the stars. <https://www.mulliganshollow.org/the-hill>

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We noticed a long line at a stand called Pronto Pups. Our curiosity was strong enough to break out the wallet and give them a try.

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Pronto Pups were invented first in Oregon in the early 1940s by George and Vera Boyington. Traditional corn dogs were popularized soon after, famously introduced as "Corny Dogs" at the Texas State Fair by the Fletcher brothers.

Uses a **flour-based** or pancake-like batter blend (often including wheat, rice, and corn flour) with very little sugar, resulting in a smoother, more savory taste than corn dogs. Google

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That bike (walk) ride kicked my butt. Mark spent some time fixing my computer, which was misbehaving, and then we watched the boats & people go by while having cocktails on the bow.

Dinner was keilbaska w/cauliflower & zucchini on the grill. The veggies were from the farmers market. Yum!



In between dinner and the nightly music and light show, we decided to treat ourselves to some frozen custard. Neither of us had ever had it before, but our friend—who apparently loves frozen custard even more than ice cream—convinced us that we absolutely had to give it a try.

So, of course, we did!

I went with mango, and Mark played it safe with vanilla. My mango was definitely on the sweet side, while Mark's vanilla was absolutely amazing. Another "first time" for both of us: the hot dog and the custard. (Gelato in Kingston, Ont., as well as Walleye in Parry Sound, Canada, are some others that made our "first time" list while cruising the loop.)

After enjoying our little frozen-custard dessert, it was time for Grand Haven's nightly music and light show. Each night offers a different music theme. Once

the show was over, we wandered over to the downtown social area to see what was happening.

It was actually pretty quiet, with not too many people out and about. Then we spotted the Kirby House and noticed they had a band playing, so naturally, we had to check it out.

And here's the funny part—we actually got carded at the door! I guess we'll take that as a compliment!

The band was great—five guys who looked like they were all in their twenties—and they really knew how to entertain. We ended up having such a fun time listening to the music and enjoying the evening. Would you expect anything different than a sports bar showing a Michigan football game?

It turned out to be a pretty perfect way to end the night!

### *Fun Fact:*

The main difference between frozen custard and ice cream is that frozen custard must contain at least 1.4% egg yolk solids by weight alongside milk and cream, whereas traditional ice cream does not require eggs. Google.

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Sunday, August 31, 2025  
Grand Haven, MI

It was a fun night out at Kirby's. Fun enough that I slept in late. Another amazing weather day led us back onto our bikes and into a new adventure. This time we followed the boardwalk to Harbor Island, a manmade island that was mainly used for industrial purposes. It does not have the most romantic history, but there has been much effort to clean it up. The bike ride provided us with nice views of the Grand River, and after crossing over the bridge, we biked a very small portion of the Grand River Greenway (a paved recreation path) in Spring Hill.

To know Mark is to know that he does not like to sit on the beach. He prefers to sit on his boat and stare at the beach. I very much wanted to enjoy a sandy Michigan beach, and instead of having me go alone, he joined me. This time we walked the boardwalk with our backpack chairs

and a few cold drinks. It was so beautiful. The water was too cold for us to swim; however, there were plenty of others who braved what we would describe as frigid water.

Salad and quesadillas were on tonight's dinner menu. Once we returned from the beach, I prepped dinner, and we sat on the bow of Valkyrie and watched the boats and people go by. We heard a lot of funny comments about our vessel being from Massachusetts, having a kitchen-a "galley" onboard, and questions like: how did we get here, on a trailer?

Two couples stopped by, one that is starting the loop next week and one who is starting next year. Also, another had stopped by and said he was following us on YouTube (thank you!) and was also planning to loop very soon. All call Grand Haven their homeport. We love Michiganders! Safe travels to our fellow loopers!

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The historic Grand Trunk Depot in Grand Haven, Michigan, was built in 1870

- The depot sat right on the Grand Haven waterfront where the harbor met the street, serving as the point where the train tracks ended and Lake Michigan steamships began. [1]

At its peak, up to eight trains a day arrived at the station. Passenger service between Detroit and Grand Haven ended in the 1950s (with the final passenger train leaving around 1958. google



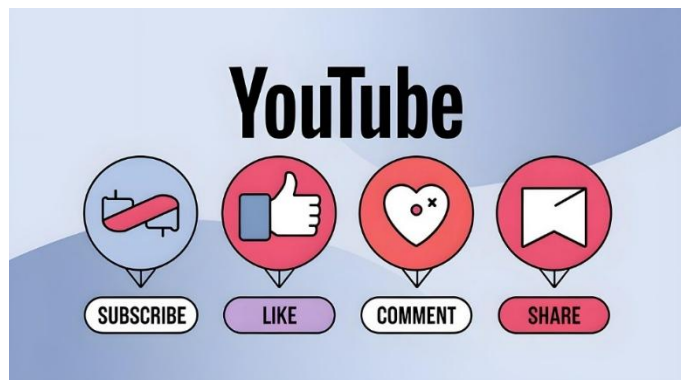


Several people recommended Temptations Ice Cream, so of course we had to check it out. Mark ordered a peanut butter sundae, and I ordered a cup of moosetracks. Thank you for the suggestions! What another yummy Grand Haven treat!

This evening was our last light show. Tomorrow we leave Grand Haven with the anticipation of some ugly weather coming our way.

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/jFsbAs571GM>

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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