

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Saugatuck, MI anchorage to South Haven Municipal Marina, MI

It is 8:35 a.m., and we are underway. We are leaving Saugatuck after a quiet night at anchor. No anchor alarms, no wakes, no fishermen buzzing by us at 5 a.m. The anchor bridle came up muddy due to the shallow water we were anchored in; the bridle lay on the bottom. Valkyrie was covered in bugs again this morning. Mark rinsed the boat last night and then again this morning to get them off.

As I mentioned in the previous blog, Mark doesn't like to walk around these smaller towns and window shop and gawk. Coral Gables Marina is mentioned in several of the loop resources we have onboard as a great place to stay. It seemed rather run down and in need of some TLC, as well as a few other buildings along the river boardwalk. Overall, after exploring several downtown streets, we agreed that Saugatuck is a beautiful, vibrant city, and it was worth stopping by,

By 9:10 a.m., we had made our way through the Kalamazoo River channel back into Lake Michigan. The sky was gray, and the waves were big. Immediately upon leaving the channel, we were made aware that this ride was going to be bumpy. I had to secure items in the interior that had not been secured so far this trip. The coffee table slid across the floor. I removed the tablecloth from the salon table where my workstation was because it was sliding off the table. The fan that is stationed in the bow to keep the camera from overheating fell. Everything in the cabinets was clanging and clattering, and poor Mark was not feeling well. We tried to leave the sliding doors in the galley and at the helm closed to keep the rain and water out, but it quickly got hot and sticky inside, which forced us to open the port door for fresh air.

Valkyrie was getting pushed around way too much to try to steady my hands to work on video editing, typing a new blog, or even work on a puzzle book. My work phone was not too busy, which was a relief. Today was too chaotic, and the environment was too loud to be productive with work.



Coming into the channel was very hairy. The force of the water coming out of the lake into the channel was massive and was having its way with Valkyrie. Mark did an amazing job. Once we were secured on the marina face dock, he situated the lines and fenders the way he thought he wanted them, then we checked in at the marina office. Once that was all done, he could relax. Even an expert captain can get tense in these boating conditions and deserve a moment to unwind even after a short 3-hour tour.

11:25 a.m. – we arrived at the South Haven municipal marina. There was another boat on the same marina face dock as us.



Getting the lines ready to dock.

Coffee table slid across the floor.



As far as the interior, the coffee table slid across the floor, the books in our room toppled off the shelf, several items inside the food cabinet fell over, the vacuum came out of its holder, which is located inside the mid-cabin closet, and a 3-tiered wicker basket full of rag towels fell over. Our master bathroom had minor casualties,

such as the shampoo and face wash falling out of the shower organizer, and thankfully I was able to place a few countertop items (like our toothbrushes) inside the sink during the cruise so that they did not end up on the floor. I kept my butt in my seat at my workstation most of the ride. It wasn't safe to walk around the boat. I only took the one walk around early into the trip as we came out of the Saugatuck Channel into the lake when Mark suggested I secure my desk.

It rained on and off all afternoon, and it turned cool. No a/c needed today! The South Haven Marina is within walking distance to downtown. The marina offers Laundry and shower amenities on-site and complimentary beach bikes but does not have fuel or pump-out services.

Dinner was Zatarain's dirty rice & salad with an appetizer of air-fried zucchini.

Mark was very unsettled with the fenders and attempted several times to rearrange them so we were not hitting the dock. We thought we were going to luck out; as the evening progressed, it felt like the wind died and changed direction. The captain from a nearby sailboat that we spoke with also contemplated moving tomorrow. He said he has never experienced getting pushed around so much at a marina. This was the topic of conversation all afternoon and into the night between Mark and me. Should we stay or should we go?

Daily Summary:

Departed from Saugatuck, MI @ 8:13 am

Arrived at South Haven Municipal Marina @ 11:25 am

Days cruised: 68 Days on the loop: 99

Hours traveled: 3 hrs 12 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 20.39 (1,570.57 total miles)

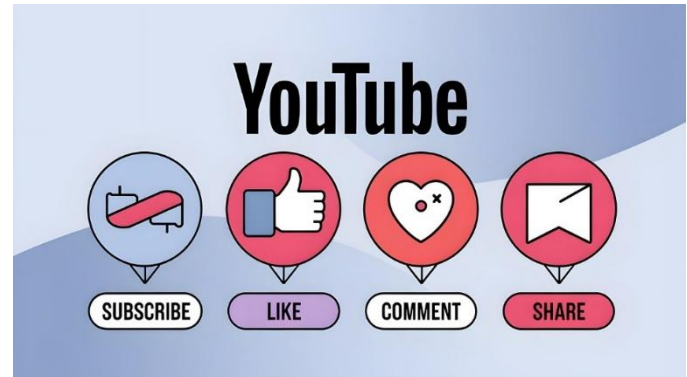
Average Speed: 5.4 knots

Weather: cloudy, rainy 74 degrees, high winds

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Saugatuck anchorage was small, shallow, thankfully not a lot of boat traffic to create wakes to roll us

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

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/3QkZftlkDw4>



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