

Hello from No Rush....

June 19th Update:

Week 5 we added 63 miles to our adventure for a total of 1335 miles.

We started the week having the Dismal Swamp to ourselves and then popped out of the swamp just a few miles from one of the busiest ports in the world, Norfolk, VA. We went from watching bald eagles to watching out for large ships.

We had two beautiful days on the Dismal Swamp Canal that was hand dug in the late 1700's. We could have done without the deer flies, but the reflections on the water, birds including Bald Eagles and fireflies were totally a pleasure.

We ended up at the town docks in Portsmouth, VA as a result of threatening weather and had a very nice time seeing the sites including walking around the historic district.

June 9th Update:

We added 331 miles this week for a total of 1272.

Twice this week we had challenging weather. We thought a thunderstorm was going to pass to the north of us, but it didn't. Previous practice with the radar and GPS got us through the low visibility and we were able to get to a good anchorage before the second storm hit.

The second challenge was in the Neuse River & Pamlico Sound from Oriental to Belhaven, NC. We had previously travelled in winds of the strength we saw, but with the fetch being so much longer the waves were that much bigger. It was a long uncomfortable ride and we learned about more options in our weather apps, so we were prepared for Albemarle Sound and had a good weather and wave window to cross.

We did much better with anchorages this week. With two of them being calm, quiet, and close to nature. They were peaceful and we slept well.

We have also enjoyed learning about the history of many small towns along the way. Elizabeth City has a great museum.

We expected to run into a thunderstorm at some point and that we would have some rougher seas, but we never expected the heartbreak when we were notified of the death of the son of our life-long friends. No Rush will have an extended stay in Elizabeth City without us.

June 2nd Update:

We have travelled another 262 miles for a total of 941.

This week we actually took some time to sightsee in Beaufort and Charleston and are taking a break from travelling for a day near Myrtle Beach to catch our breath (and do some laundry). I really enjoyed Beaufort and the docent at the history museum was great.

We have used our first mooring ball and have finally used the dinghy TWICE. All went well.

There are these pretty big fish (3 feet?) that jump straight up out of the water, then fall back in on their tails. It is difficult to Google for more information with that description.

We have had challenging anchor spots, but two nights ago the spot we picked was perfect. There was only a 2-foot tide swing, little breeze, few boats, and you only heard the tree frogs in the background.

Our bird watching has changed from pelicans to terns diving for fish and the number of Osprey are amazing.

The world seems small at times. We have met another couple doing the loop and they have a place on Lake Winnepesaukee, NH where he has been going since he was a child, just like I have. Also, a bartender we met in Charleston was from NY State and he used to wrestle against Hilton High School where Lianne and Ray went to school.

May 27 Update

This week we again travelled 340 miles for a total of 680. We have left Florida behind and have made it to Georgia.

This past week we were 20 miles from the space center for our second rocket launch of the trip, again there were clouds, but this time we were close enough to hear the rumble of the engines which we started hearing about 4 minutes after the launch. So cool!

As we passed the space center, we not only got to see the VAB on the east side, but an airshow entertained us on the west side of the ICW ... parachute jumpers with trails of red smoke, a plane doing aerobatics and two jets that even gave us a fly-by!

We have visited with our first family along the route. Thank you to Mitch's cousin, Kaleigha, for changing her plans on short notice to see us in Jacksonville. It was great to see Kaleigh and meet her son Zander.

We have met some fellow loopers!

Docking has been challenging with tides, wind, currents, and placement of other boats, but Mitch has handled it all with calm whereas I still get a bit crazy.

We are doing well with the mechanics of anchoring, but we need to work on the site selection and our choosing what weather app to believe. We have also gotten through our first storm at anchor. I was glued to my anchor alert app which one day I hope to remember to turn off before we pull up the anchor and leave. We leave to the anchor dragging alarm sounding each time.

Okay, so this was news to me; at night in some sub-tropical areas, you can hear clicking of shrimp beneath the hull. The first night I only heard it in the engine area and thought the engine had gotten over heated and was now cooling down. After a couple of days of worrying and a dockage where you could even hear the crackling from the dock, an internet search resulted in describing how this particular type of shrimp close their claws so quickly that an air bubble forms then bursts and sounds like a pop or crackle. It is the strangest sound....

Ann & Mitch