

## October 21, 016, Alligator River

High winds overnight in Elizabeth City resulted in a lot of trees and debris in the bay when we left, coupled with a lot of fog.



Thankfully the fog cleared immediately as we left the bay and the water was like glass all the way across the Albermarle Sound. We saw a lot of boats heading south, about 20 in our sight.

Alligator Bridge (clearance 14 ft., we are 16 ft. 2 in.) So about a 20 minute wait.





I saw a small deer come down to the river for a drink and watched him swim halfway across the canal and then back again, what a beautiful sight. And we saw a huge yellow bellied turtle sunning himself on a log, had to be a foot long.

We anchored for the night in a small ditch just ahead of the Fairfield Canal Bridge. Originally we tied off to a tree, but with a switch in wind direction we were blown into it and feared it would damage the canvas or puncture the dinghy so we moved up the ditch a bit.



A couple of young lads went by in a fishing boat and came back the proud owners of a small alligator. Me: So, alligators can jump right, can they jump onto the boat? Wallace: No, they can't get on the boat. I'm personally glad we moved away from the tree, it seemed to me that it would act just like a highway to the cockpit for any critter that cared to visit.



This was our backyard:



Stunning



And our front yard, with the obligatory crab pot.



The water was so still, and the reflections were the mirror image of the greenery.





We heard some animal snuffling around on shore, Wallace was thinking they were wild pigs as he had seen them before here. I made him leave the cabin lights on so we could be seen, just in case the kids came by early to catch another gator and hey perhaps the animals would be dissuaded too.

Left in the morning into the Pungo River. It was very choppy, so a real rolly polly ride.





## Bellhaven

Arrived in Bellhaven where we ran into Sylvia and Robert, our new friends from Chesapeake City. Had a beer and explored the town with them. It was a cold night and a really cold morning (clearly we are not far enough south yet) so I baked, Portuguese rolls. They were better than the bread I made, but not by much.

Left our anchorage early and off across the Pamlico River Sound, another big choppy ride. We were towing the dinghy and lost an oar, should have known better.

Shrimp boats along the way







## October 23, Oriental

Arrived at the free dock in Oriental, it was full, but Sylvia and Robert were there and we were able to raft off their boat for the first night. We put the Dingy back on board, enough of that.

**The free dock has room for 4 boats, 5 if you go on the end of the finger. The marina has fuel, there is laundry within walking distance and a small West Marine 5 minutes on a bike. Coffee shop across the street and access to their free wifi.**

Baked my mom's banana bread, one for us and one for Sylvia and Robert, as we would be traipsing across their boat every time we wanted to go to shore. Good lord, I'm baking, sewing and growing herbs, how old school am I.

Had a breakfast bagel and a good coffee at the shop right across the street from the dock and as luck would have it they also had a book exchange.



Wallace cooked a really tasty sausage and rice dinner for Sylvia, Robert and I. We had such a nice evening with these two sampling some old English beer and fireball whisky. Sylvia arrived with a shrimp appetizer and we still had banana bread left for dessert, accompanied by chocolate brownie ice cream. Can it get any better than this?



Cheers to our new friends, hope to run into you again along the waterway.



We were able to get a spot on the dock for the second night in Oriental.





Around Oriental:



For our collection! We have deviated from swinging benches, to any bench, to pretty much anything you can sit on.





Another mermaid for Wallace.

## Beaufort, NC, October 25th, 2016

Left Oriental early(ish) at 7:40 a.m. It was a choppy ride for us as the waves were on the beam, but we lucked out and rode a tug's wake through the bay and down Adam's creek. We were doing 7 knots at 1000 rpm (generally we would be at 1800 rpm to reach that).

Arrived in Beaufort Harbour at 10:50 and found a place to anchor amongst the mooring balls.

Our backyard: Carrot Island, reportedly famous for shell collectors and wild horses. We will visit there tomorrow for both.





The marina has diesel and sometimes gas (apparently the chap only shows up for work if the mood strikes him)



Around Beaufort:

Palm trees!! They are not indigenous to the area, but I take it as a sign that we are heading in the right direction.





So while I'm here updating the blog, Wallace is in the basement trying to clean all the spilled fuel from the bilge and trying to retrieve a screw driver we lost in there a few weeks ago with a sticky, tapey, hosey contraption that he Macgyver'd .





Back to Beaufort, where it's almost All Hallows Eve





Cool little bar that Wallace likes, where they have live bands on the weekend. Nothing going on right now, but the bar keep let us have a look around.





We visited the North Carolina Maritime Museum, a really nice display with two floors of history including Blackbeard the pirate and his ship Queen Anne's Reserve. And if you go with Wallace he will get you up to the "staff only" third floor look-out tower.



Black Grouper is reportedly the best eating fish on the planet according to Wallace seconded by Dolphin Fish (Mahi Mahi) below. I will let you know, once he snags one.





A sperm whale skeleton and heart. Oh by the way, I read here that there are 50 species of sharks in the North Carolina waters, so I won't be swimming here no matter how nice of a day it is.





Aside:

We have a potential safety inspection survey job in the Canary Islands, which means we would leave the boat for a week and hop a plane to the other side of the pond. We will see if it pans out, you just never know.







A model of Blackbeard's ship "Queen Anne's Revenge" built in 2001. The model is based on dimensional information, and wreck site data on structure, fittings and equipment.

Wonder if this comes in the Spiced version?





If you like you can take a tour around town on one of these:



In the evening, we had our friend, Chris Stoyan, aboard for dinner 'TRUMP THAT'.

There is a also visitor's centre in town with small displays to see. They will give you a map of Beaufort and direct you wherever you want to go.



One display shows the punishments for crimes that were in effect from 1829 to 1954.

### What Are You in For?

Some of the crimes that are listed belong are still ones we worry about today. Those are trespass, assault, petty larceny, burglary, murder, manslaughter, and forgery, to name a few. Others were more specific to the time such as dueling, swearing, and opening a store on Sunday. Below are a sampling of the crime and punishment.

#### Colonial style punishments

Playing games on Sunday	10s
Drunk in court	2s
Quarreling or fighting in Beaufort	A fine, or 24 hours jail, or two hours in public stocks
Perjury	1 hour in pillory, and have ears nailed to pillory, then both ears cut off and left

Burning a lime kiln in town	\$5
Killing dogs without a collar	\$0.30/dog
Opening shops or stores on Sundays	\$10
Commissioner not attending meetings	20s
Entering Beaufort within 10 days after leaving a place where smallpox is evident	\$100
Unlawfully bathing in the waters of the town between sunrise and sunset	\$10
Shooting marbles, spin tops, and playing hopscotch on the streets of Beaufort	\$10
Robbing catbirds and mocking bird nests	\$10

#### Murder

On pillory until sunset.

Burned to death, or half of each ear cut off, branded with a M on cheek, and whipped

#### Accessory to murder

Drawing and quartering and hanging

#### Vagrant and vagabond

Whipping and ordered to leave precinct (1836, women)

#### Firing a gun in town on weekdays

10s

#### Firing a gun in town on Sundays

40s

#### Failure to bury fish offal and culls along the shores of the town

10s

#### Congregating in front of Churches or in their vestibules

\$10

In 1943, due to shortage of meat, Beaufort commissioners suspended the town's ordinance of May 1942 that prohibited citizens from raising pigs within town limits.



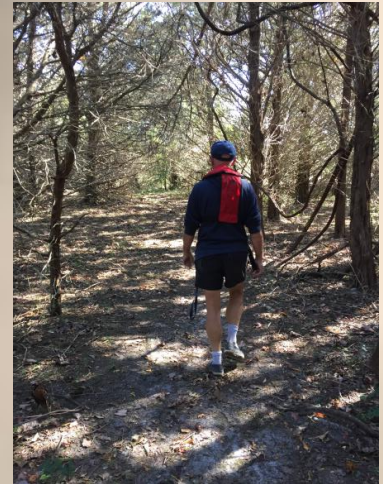
## Beaufort, NC, Oct. 26, 2016 (Day 2)

Took the dingy to Carrot Island, plenty of Ibis and Cranes to see, but we looking for the feral horses that live here.





We saw signs that they are here and hoped we were heading in the right direction



We were told that the horses like to stay out of the wind so we headed for the other side of the island. They travel in groups, one male and his harem, and were warned not to get closer than about 50 ft. in case they are in close quarters with another tribe, where the males will try to steal a female to increase their harem. We saw evidence on the beach of something big happening, lots of trampled grasses and large holes in the sand along with deep hoof prints.



Wallace's definition of 50 yds. is somewhat different from mine, especially when there is a foal in the mix.





Then we took the dinghy to the other end of the island and had to traipse through the mud to get her ashore. We were covered from the knees down, especially me as my shoe got stuck and I went down on my hands and knees (every so gracefully though, arghh). I was just thankful I didn't wear my new runners.





Wallace and I collected our favourite shells.

My collection, for making jewelry and Christmas decorations.



Wallace's collection for making lunch



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I had burgers.



Crab tracks to a crab hole.



October 27<sup>th</sup>

We rented a car, pretty reasonable we thought at \$47 for the day and unlike Canada we could both drive it and we did a provisioning to last us for quite some time.

This plus beer (4 cases) and a propane tank unbelievably fit with the pair of us in one dinghy ride back to the boat.







### Our wheels

So what do you do when you have a full pantry, eat out of course. Ruby Tuesday's was excellent.

Took the car back but had to wait for a train, and I mean wait, Wallace had plenty of time for a smoke.





## Camp Le Juene, October 28th

We left our anchor neighbours behind and headed for Mile Hammock Bay in Camp Le Juene.





The pelicans were out in full force following the fishermen.

Lots of tragedy along the way today.

I'll have mine on the rocks please!



This looked recent, a cooler was still onboard and he is still attached to a part of the dock that went with him.

Red 58, Higher Porpoise went aground. He radioed everyone following thankfully to stick to the starboard side. The markers said the same thing although looking at them you would swear that they were wrong and must have dragged in the flooding





Marker Green 61a, Watanga went aground.



We only draw 3 feet, but it was even too shallow for us in places.  
Once through we anchored in Mile Hammock Bay in Camp Le Juene for the night.

For those who are planning a trip like this, I am trying to put relevant information about amenities in red. One question I always asked was how much is this going to cost? So for anyone who is interested we have been gone 72 days and just hit the \$5000 mark. We are hitting a lot of free docks and anchorages but we have not denied ourselves any luxuries either. We both smoke, so you can deduct about \$300 for that. Just in case you are interested.



Camp LeJuene is a United States Marine Corp. Camp and military base. Mile Hammock Bay is within the camp and they often have live fire exercises there. We did not see any live fire, okay with me.



Plenty of pelicans flying around the bay fishing. My pictures just don't do them justice so I will wait for a better shot.



Lovely sunset here



Our Backyard



Mile Hammock was a lovely and quiet anchorage. Not too many neighbours and only two Canadians here.



## Wrightsville Beach, Sat. Oct 29

Departed at 8:30 a.m. for Wrightsville Beach

**The Seapath Yacht Club has fuel, water, washrooms, ice, oil and snacks. There is a dingy dock and a small grocery store (really small) in town.**

Yes, yes, yes...saw my first dolphin this morning.

It was another tough day on the water for some, Easy Living a trawler got grounded between G121 and R122. He managed to somehow reverse himself free, although there was a lot of smoke coming from him. He got lucky.

There are some gorgeous homes along this way (if you are into living on the dirt that is).



Went to the Wallace Salon again and got a much needed hair cut. How great is it that I don't have to find a salon or try and cut the mop myself. My husband rocks.





Another lovely sunset



### Southport, Sunday Oct. 30th

Left Wrightsville Beach at 8:30 a.m. Fueled up and topped up the water tanks. Again today I saw two dolphins. If they would make a pair of binoculars with a built in camera I could get some awesome shots.

Look at the length of this chaps dock (don't forget anything back at the house)





Passed Snow's cut, Snow's marsh and docked free (if you eat at the restaurant) at the Provision Co. in Southport.

## Southport (Cape Fear River)

Free dock as I said if you eat at the restaurant, no power, water or showers. Room for two boats only but room to anchor as well. There were free town docks but they didn't make it through the flooding.





Best crab cakes I have had yet and steamed shrimp. A great meal in a small little place. You grab a beer, give them your name, order your food and have a seat until it arrives. Quite the orchestrated system they have here and the staff are hustling and upbeat.



I'm having that feeling again; what a magnificent life we are having, and hey I've got me a funky haircut too.





A walk around Southport:

That is us in front of the red roof (Provision Co.)





Met this guy along the way:



## Barefoot Landing October 31, 2016.

Happy Halloween

Left Southport at 8:00 am heading for Barefoot Landing. Two sunken shrimpers along the way before Shallot Inlet, it looks like they have been there for a while.

Barefoot Landing has free wifi (not very good wifi, but free), power, water and it \$1.50 per foot/night. Plenty of restaurants, including Greg Norman restaurant right at the dock.

This is a tourist town, Myrtle Beach is full of T Shirt stores, ice cream parlours, fudge shops and believe it or not a store dedicated to selling only tumblers (lids and straws are over and above the 16.99 for a tumbler).



Saw turtles and alligator.



## Georgetown

Enroute to Georgetown in the Maccamaw River you can see the waterlines on the homes that is 4 to 5 feet up the walls. There is a bit more debris in the water but not too much. It was a strange day, we didn't see one bird. The tree line also shows the level the water was.





Another abandoned boat



Our backyard (a boat from Hamilton, ON is here too)







Sorry I got distracted.

Around Georgetown:







Georgetown homes with decking straight up to the boardwalk



Have you seen my goat



Dirtfree at anchor





## Price Creek, November 2

Saw two sets of dolphins today, both a baby with an adult. We anchored for the night in Price Creek which runs into the ocean.

Our Backyard





Heard the krill running all night. Wallace caught some in the fishing net and they glowed when they were disturbed. He says that they make your toilet glow. So at about 3 in the morning we wake up and start flushing the toilet to see them (draws water from the lake/ocean). And it worked!!

### Charleston, SC, November 3

Left bright and early headed for Charleston.







Arrived at Charleston Marina

The Marina has it all; fuel, laundry, showers, boat repair, travel lift up to 75 tones, boat parts, wifi and complimentary wine, beer and food for happy hour every evening except Wednesdays.

They were pretty full but squeezed us in (literally) on the Mega Dock.





We fit right under the bow sprit of this 200 plus foot long schooner.



We look like a toy boat.



Rode the bikes into town and visited the Museum and the market followed by BBQ lunch.





Charleston to be continued...  
End of this Post

