

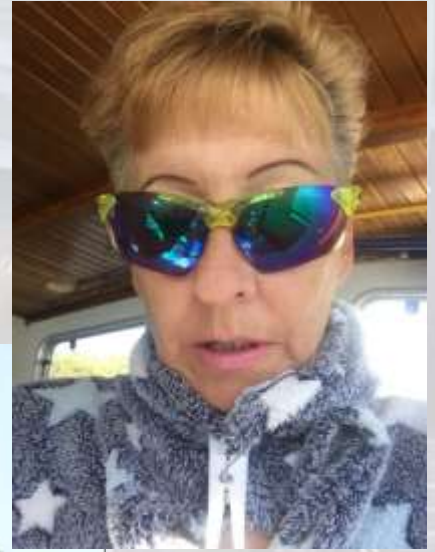


April 29, 2018

Southport. NC

Colder days now, I need to invest in a scarf.

Along the way:





We were lucky to spend the night on the free dock at the Provision Co. in Southport. They had the best crab cakes last time we were here and they didn't disappoint this year.



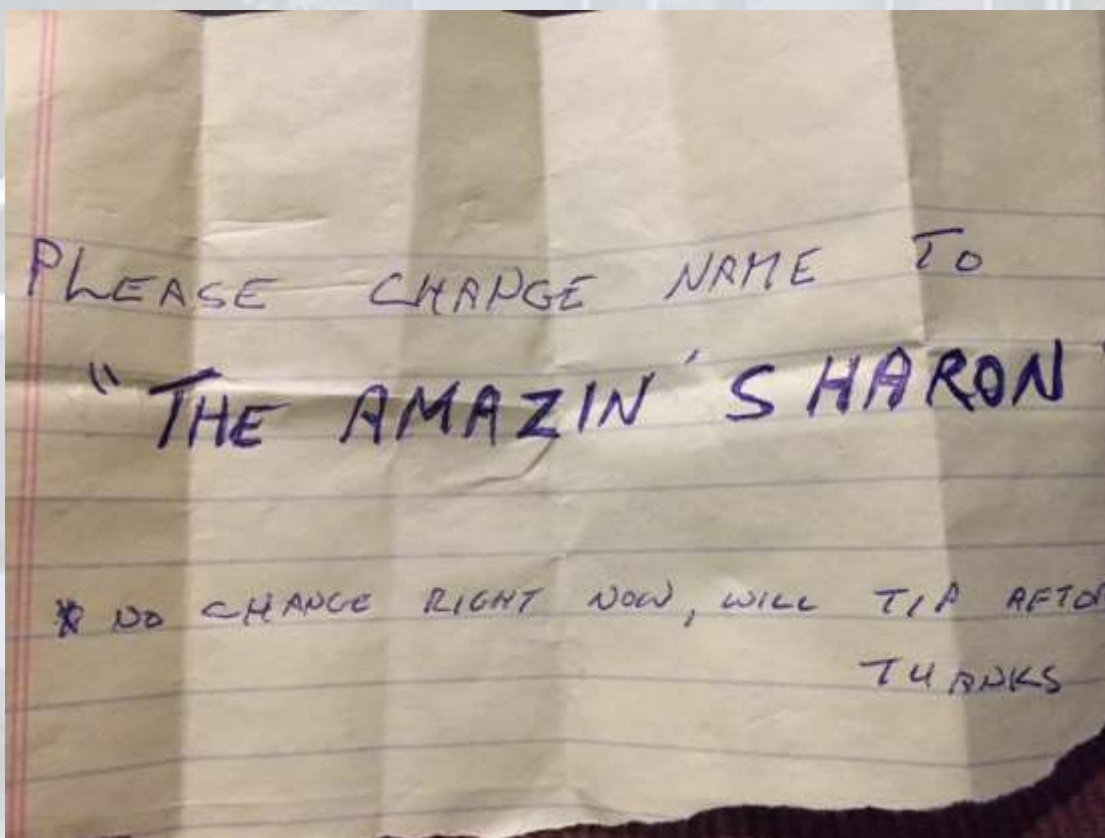
Wallace says this is the best seafood chowder he has ever eaten in his life. That's the look of pure ecstasy.





This restaurant takes your order and your name and when the food is ready they come into the restaurant and yell out your name so they can find you. I put the food in Wallace's name so they wouldn't call out mine.

Does your husband embarrass you like mine does.



Around Southport I admired this rose garden. The roses were immense and the colours were beautiful.







May 1st, 2018

Wrightsville Beach Anchorage

Along the way: Pelicans looking for a meal



The anchorage and our really big Canadian Flag.





May 2nd, 2018

Mile Hammock Bay

The anchorage is within the U.S. Marine Base Camp Lejeune, but you can use the waterway and anchorage if they are not doing any exercises.



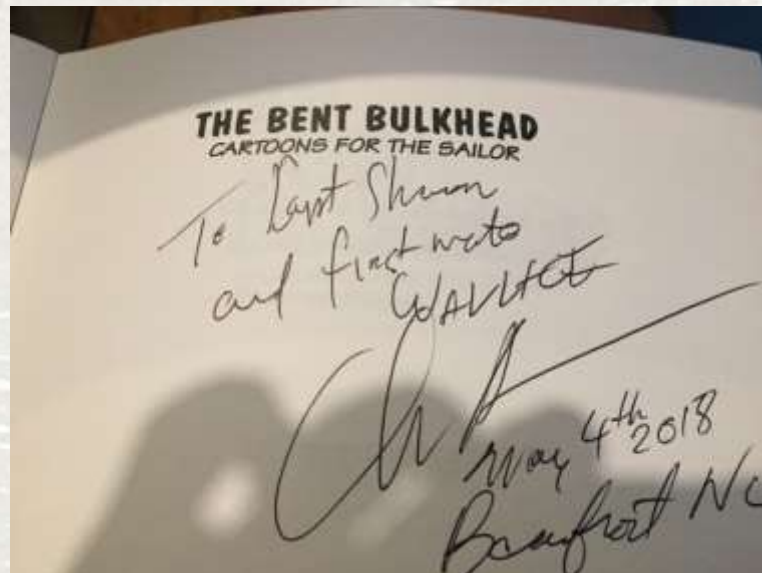
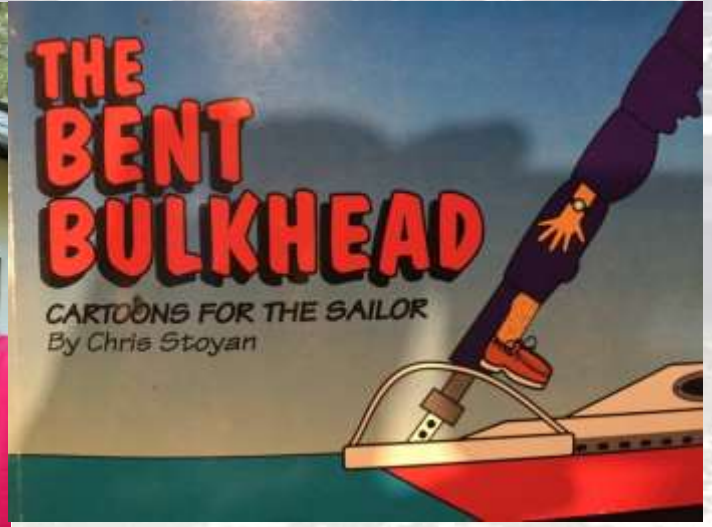


May 3, 2018

Beaufort, North Carolina

Pulled into the Beaufort Town Dock and two gentlemen took the lines for us and tied us up. We said we would be into the office in a minute to check in. Upon check-in they surprised us with two free beer tokens. Great place, free wifi, showers, and a boaters car. Again when we used the boaters car nobody even asked us for our license.

Well what to do, got the restaurant next door for lunch and to redeem our tokens...check. Ran into Redina and Mike from Au Contraire here again. Our friend Chris came for dinner and then we went back to his place for his band's jam night. He gave me an autographed copy of his book. It was so great to catch up with him again and finally hear his band play. Their lead singer sounds a lot like Gord Downie and they do a few Hip songs. A great night.





Visited the farmers market in the morning before departing for our next stop.

May 5th, 2018

Gum Tree Thicket Anchorage

Arrived at 2:00 p.m. and it rained all day and all night long. It was so miserable even the GPS revolted. It went "beep" and then took us to Morocco. Wet and cold day.

May 6th, 2018

Bellehaven Marina, N.C

Love this little town and the marina is lovely. Talk about customer service. The showers are stocked with fresh towels, soap, shampoo, lotion and a hair dryer.



They offer a valet service, free and GOOD wifi.

Just help yourself if it rains... Lots of cozy places to curl up with a book.





Free laundry, detergent supplied as well.



Around Bellehaven



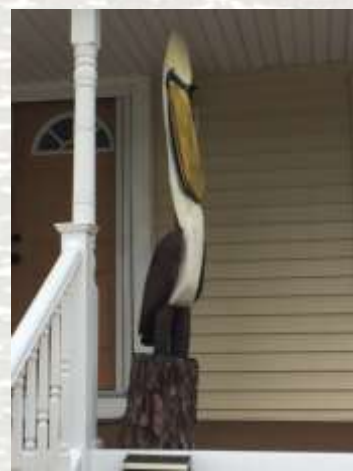
The obligatory Municipal Building.

I asked Wallace to sit in the chair for this shot, that didn't work out quite as planned.





Some beautiful homes!





The new town dock. \$1 per foot and \$10 for hydro.



We stayed here for two nights waiting for parts to arrive. By the third day they were to arrive after check out time, but Gregg graciously let us stay at the dock to wait.





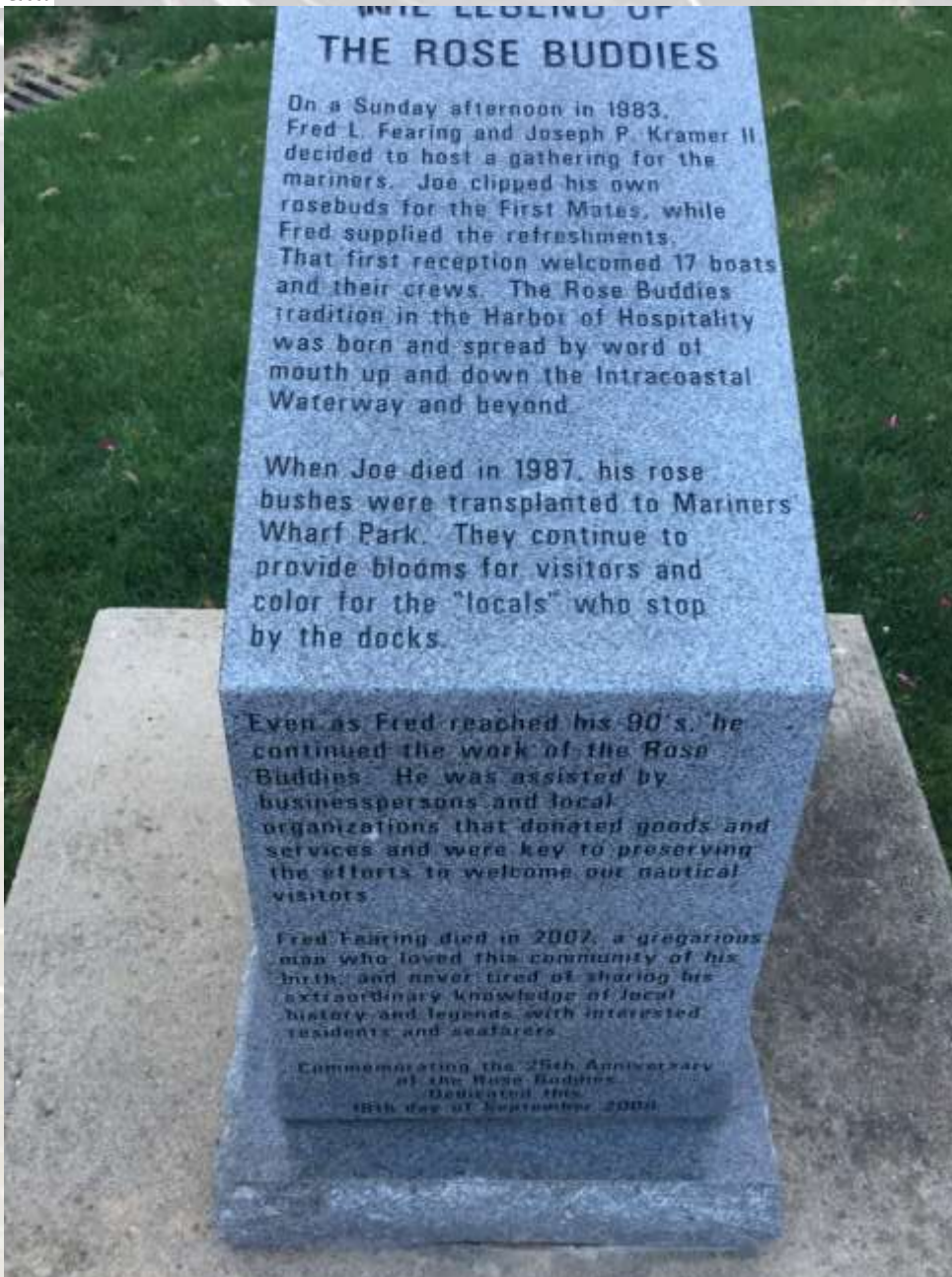
May 10, 2018

Alligator River Bridge Anchorage for the night before heading to...

May 11, 2018

Elizabeth City

This is another lovely town where cruisers are made to feel welcome. This memorial says it all.



THE LEGEND OF THE ROSE BUDDIES

On a Sunday afternoon in 1883, Fred L. Fearing and Joseph P. Kramer II decided to host a gathering for the mariners. Joe clipped his own rosebuds for the First Mates, while Fred supplied the refreshments. That first reception welcomed 17 boats and their crews. The Rose Buddies tradition in the Harbor of Hospitality was born and spread by word of mouth up and down the Intracoastal Waterway and beyond.

When Joe died in 1987, his rose bushes were transplanted to Mariners Wharf Park. They continue to provide blooms for visitors and color for the "locals" who stop by the docks.

Even as Fred reached his 90's, he continued the work of the Rose Buddies. He was assisted by businesspersons and local organizations that donated goods and services and were key to preserving the efforts to welcome our nautical visitors.

Fred Fearing died in 2007, a gregarious man who loved this community of his birth, and never tired of sharing his extraordinary knowledge of local history and legends with interested residents and seafarers.

Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Rose Buddies
Dedicated this
18th day of September, 2008



Dirt Free at the Free Dock.





Of course we went to the famous Quality Seafood. Witness below the demise of a soft shelled crab.





If you don't know already, Wallace's favourite food is not from the sea, it's potatoes (he's an odd duck but I love him). If we could only stay for a week....but as it is we are running behind and need to pay attention, stop dawdling and get back to Toronto.

We are also stocking up on cigarettes, especially menthol for Wallace as Ontario has stopped selling them altogether. We paid \$10.84 per carton, you can't even buy a single package for that price in Toronto.

Because we can't have a real pet, we have Gordon.





Next up straight from my bucket list, THE DISMAL SWAMP...
the waiting is over.

