

2023 Labor Day Weekend Trip to Hampton

[Click here](#) to see more sailing adventures from the Shumakers

My friends Jon and Sarah came down for a weekend on the boat. Jon teaches sailing with me Lake Manawa and has some big boat sailing experience in the Great Lakes. Sarah has experience on dinghies but it was her first time on cruising boat. Due to work schedule, Corrie wasn't able to join for this trip. Jon and Sarah drove down from Washington DC on Friday night and we stayed on the boat at our home marina and then we sailed around in the bay for a bit until the wind died and we motored over towards downtown Norfolk for a bit before going up to the town docks in downtown Hampton. Once we pulled out of the slip I could tell that I had noticeably less propulsion and there was some vibration while motoring. Once we were out in the bay, we stopped motoring, furled the sails and I dove in to take a look while we were drifting. Since I cleaned the boat in early July, the propeller had become entirely covered in barnacles. It was going to take a bit to scrape off the barnacles so I got out the Hookah system so I didn't have to come up for air. After that, the boat handled as expected.

The other adventure was docking. The docks at Hampton have very short finger piers and it is necessary to back in. There's also some current to contend with. On the second attempt, and a multi point turn (a lot of forward/backward maneuvering), I was able to get the boat backed in without any drama. Fortunately the crew and dockhand were patient. We walked around downtown Hampton and out to eat that evening. On Sunday morning we headed back home. We had enough wind to sail for a bit on Sunday morning before turning on the motor for the final stretch. We are looking forward to doing a trip together on the Potomac in the future!









