

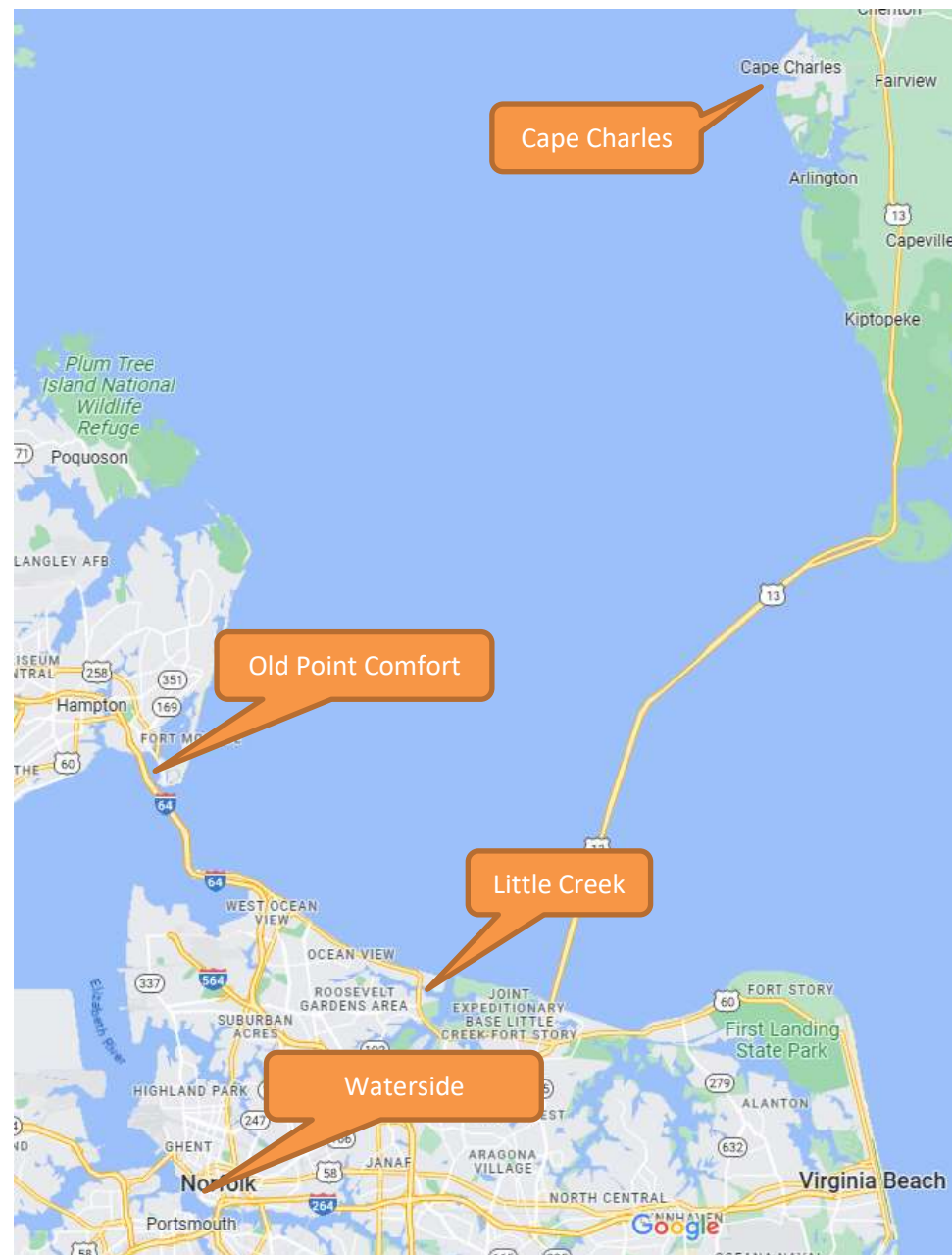
2023 October Trip

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This was the last sail of the season for Corrie and I. We were in town for a week before leaving for sailing and we adjusted our plans due to the weather since it was overcast and strong north winds for the first week. The weekend before we departed for sailing, we rented a car for the weekend. On Saturday, we drove up to Colonial Williamsburg and walked around there for a while. On Sunday, we visited the botanical gardens in Norfolk, which covers quite a bit of area. We also got to meet up with Mark and Sue, who have owned the same kind of boat that we have (Island Packet 380) for 20 years.

They really know the boat well and have taken it on a lot of adventures. Right before we left, we bought a used whisker pole and mounted that on the track that the rigger had put on the mast. After a cloudy week, we were glad to see the sun out for our sailing trip. Wind was generally pretty mild. We got to check a few more boxes on the list of firsts for our sailing. Next year we plan to explore further up the bay.

On the right, you can see Corrie going up the mast for the first time. She was rigging the topping lift line for the whisker pole.



A few photos from Colonial Williamsburg.



On Monday, we left Little Creek around 9:30am. As we were leaving the channel and putting up the sails, we had a large pod of dolphins that came to visit briefly. They were really active and jumping out of the water. We had winds of NNE, with apparent winds of 15-20. Our paddle wheel had clogged with marine growth so we couldn't tell what the true winds were exactly. We had the full main and genoa out, and were moving over 7 knots SOG on close reach. When we eased over to a beam reach we got over 8 knots SOG for awhile. We were running with the flood current so that helped too, but Zephyr really excelled in these conditions. It was a quick trip west and then we motoring south down the Elizabeth River. This route took us by many Navy ships and commercial ships as well. It was a busy day on this stretch of water with war ships out doing exercises and container ships arriving and departing. We stayed at Waterside marina, which is just north of Mile 0 of the Intracoastal Waterway. We walked around downtown, following the Cannonball Trail that takes you by some historical sites, and had dinner at a restaurant overlooking the marina. We were the smallest boat in the marina, dwarfed by some huge powerboats and a massive 80' catamaran. There was also a big schooner moored there, and they take people out for day trips. While there, I took out the paddlewheel for cleaning and put in the plug. It's an exciting few moments with water gushing in the boat until the plug is seated, but the paddle wheel worked the next day so it was worth it.



Scenes from Waterside Marina



On Tuesday, we had a short motor up the river to Old Point Comfort. We saw Norfolk Southern switching cuts of railcars on a reverse hump that extends over the water (that's lingo that any railroaders reading this would understand). We walked around Fort Monroe and had some ice cream at the coffee shop housed in an old repurposed fire station from 1881. We had dinner with Brady, who also owns an Island Packet and got to hear about his adventures.

On Wednesday, we departed for Cape Charles. We sailed for a while, but winds were mild and directly out of the NE which is the direction we were headed, so we motor sailed and then motored to get there. We walked north through Cape Charles to checkout the marina on that side, which looks nice, but it's a shallow narrow channel to get in. We found a cool coffee shop to hang out in for a bit after while walking around for awhile. When we were back at the dock for the evening, Corrie spotted another Island Packet coming in, and I recognized that as Navigator, the boat that I took a class on a bit over a year ago. We said hello and chatted for a bit. We keep seeing them at different locations.

On Thursday, it was more of a downwind sail, so we put up the whisker pole for the first time to go wing on wing. Winds were light so it was a good time to try this out and fortunately the new setup works well. However, we didn't leave it up for long, since I wanted to put up the asymmetric spinnaker for the first time as well. It takes a bit of time to get the spinnaker rigged (but less time than the whisker pole) but it is well worth it. The spinnaker kept the boat moving along well, and it is a beautiful sail. Apparently, it had never been used by the prior owner, but they must have paid some extra to have the cloud blowing air onto the sail to go along with the boat name of Zephyr. Our friend, Jesse Broome, was on his way back from Mobjack Bay and we realized that our paths would converge, so he managed to get some great photos of Zephyr with the spinnaker up. After fueling up and pumping out, we backed into the slip for the

first time, with the help of several of our friends. That evening, I removed the davits since are going to be putting on an arch later this fall. The davits were bought by our friends Matt and Taylor that have a Morgan 38 on the same dock and we got a bite to eat with them at the local marina restaurant after that.

Before we left on Saturday, we started prepping the boat for winter by getting the sails down. It was a successful end to our first season on the Chesapeake and we are looking forward to next year!





