

## ***Oriental and Morehead City (August 4 to 8, 2023)***



**Oriental:** three boaters: Joy Ride II (Rampy), Beyond Blue Waters (Thompson), and Lagniappe (Johnson) venture to Oriental and Morehead City, North Carolina the weekend of August 4 to August 7th. A number of other members drove to the festivities.

Our first stop was Oriental at one of the Club's favorite spots - Oriental Marina and Inn. Oriental is a beautiful little fishing village in a very historic location and totally relaxing. The marina has a great set of services: a restaurant, Tiki Bar, pool, big covered patio for events and gatherings, and rooms to stay in. Everything in one small central location.... it's a backyard "all inclusive" playground.

Joining the boats were a good size group who drove up and joined the festivities ~ 22 people. Those included:

- Pennell
- Lawler
- Parsons
- Leeds
- Boyer
- Board
- Massa
- Dickinson

The boats (and many cars) arrived Friday driving thru some torrential rain.... in fact, “buckets of rain”. Once all arrived, we all settled in and had a nice dinner. The occasion also marked **Mark & Marcia Leeds 49th wedding anniversary** (Congratulations!). The crowd was rather exhausted, so it was an early night. Saturday am was a cool morning and the Rampys and Thompsons put on a nice cooked Brunch with all the fixins: Eggs, Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage, Fruit, Muffins, Mimosas, Man-mosasa, etc.....

After brunch, it was relaxation, shopping or pool time.... with some adult beverages. Pool shenanigans were of course part of the afternoon events. After a nice dinner at a local restaurant (the towns’ so small, it only has three restaurants-😊😊), we proceeded back to the boats for a few “Scoops” (British term for drinks) with friends.

The local grocery store in Oriental has a neat feature for boaters. They have a Piggly Wiggly mobile that will pick up and deliver folks to get their shopping done. Check out the picture below.

**Morehead City:** Sunday morning the boats departed for Morehead City Marina ~ a short 25-mile ride back towards St James) while those that drove went on to explore a number of the areas local towns which are rich in history. Later that day, several of them joined the crew in Morehead City. As it turns out, there is not that much to do in Morehead City. It had a great marina and a very nice hotel – but no shopping for the ladies or pool to hang out and cool off in!

It’s a nice town but not much for group entertainment besides eating and bars. A few of us had the opportunity to see the **Pennell Estate** (actually their hotel room – which was huge ...

could have entertained 14 people 😊). Several of the folks who drove went and visited other areas or local beaches.

The group decided the following morning that we would depart Morehead City and head back to St James. The weather was beautiful for either the car ride or boat ride back ... and the four-mile section of the ICW which is the military artillery gun range was not in use – so no delays!

All arrived safely back at St James.

We look forward to another visit to that area, next year perhaps going to New Bern instead of Moorhead City.

Enjoy the below photos

***The Crew:***



**The View:**



**The Ride:**



**The Brunch:**





**The Shenanigans:**



*Morehead City:*









*Hmmmmmm.....*



*Prepared by Craig Thompson*