

Manhasset Bay, Long Island  
30 August 2019

Hi Family,  
Hope all's well with you all.

We have spent the last few days coming down the Long Island sound from Newport. Our first stop was Block Island, another historic weekend and summer getaway place for New Yorkers.

We had quite an eventful night in the anchorage as a big thunderstorm came through and lots of boats dragged, including us! We ended up on the guy behind, but were quick enough (thanks to the anchor alarm) and managed to disengage ourselves from his chain and bow before any damage was done. Then what to do?! With boats dragging all over the place, boats stuck together, pouring rain and pitch black.... we need to re-anchor. Help!! I'm keeping us away from everyone else with the engine but it's touch & go and we can't do this all night.

Once our eyes got used to the black, we decided to up anchor & give it a try. 2 boats were totally stuck together so that left a bit of space. It took us 3 times to get it right. It's very difficult to anchor at night as distances are easily misjudged.

The 2 boats stuck together only got separated in the morning by a diver, then the British boat, whose anchor had held 2 boats all night, decided to leave. As they passed us, I said 'Hey, what's up? Didn't you like the neighbours?'. Helen and Steve laughed and replied 'They were a bit too close for comfort!'

They decided to stay so we could meet & have a chat. They've given us some good information on anchorages further south and we've given them tips on Newport.

Block island is very pretty if rather touristy- well, it was a Saturday...



We went for a walk to Mohegan Bluffs and down Payne's Stairway to Vail beach. The beach has streams with clay which must have healing properties because everyone was covering themselves with it and once dry, jumping in the (not very warm) sea to clean it off.

After establishing that we could carry on walking along the rocks to the next beach where a steep path leads back up to the road, we carried on to Barlow's Point and Snake hole road, our hiking route.



Snake hole road has some cute houses with fabulous views



We soon found our path, which led us through the woods to Rodman's Hollow and past Fresh Pond back onto the road to town.



Next stop, Montauk, Fort pond bay, where we didn't get to sample the famous lobster roll at Duryeas restaurant. They wouldn't let us tie up the dinghy unless we eat there. We beached it and walked into Montauk where the lobster roll was nearly as expensive in the takeaway place, so we passed on that too...



Some unusual inhabitants in the Fort pond anchorage



and a beautiful sunset behind the only other boat in the anchorage



We left at 1 a.m. to motor on a flat sea, the current with us, down to the quirky Thimble Islands on the Connecticut side of the sound, where it rained all day so we can didn't get to explore..



Anchoring in between the private mooring buoys was a bit tricky, so when a local guy came later in the afternoon and offered us his mooring buoy for the night, we were very happy & relieved and took him up on it immediately! People are so nice and thoughtful here.

Luckily the sun came out next morning, you'd hardly believe it's the same place!





We are now nearing New York-



and we have anchored in Manhasset bay which is on the N.Y. end of Long Island. We'll stay a few days, next stop Liberty Island!  
But we have to negotiate Hells Gate before that, with currents up to 4 knots, so we have to time our passage down the east river to have the current with us.

Monday 2 September

We are actually extending our stay here in Manhasset bay because Dorian has become a full on category 5 hurricane, one of the worst ever. It is currently thrashing Grand Bahama, having already devastated the Abacos yesterday. It is likely to head to Florida tomorrow and up the east coast in the next few days so we have to keep a close watch.