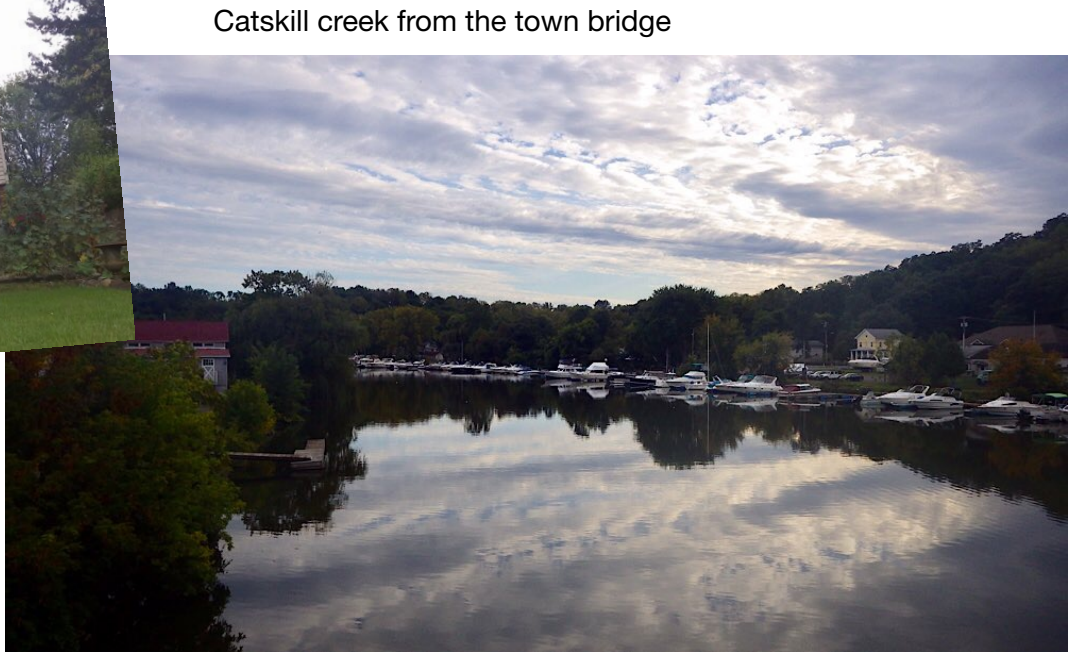
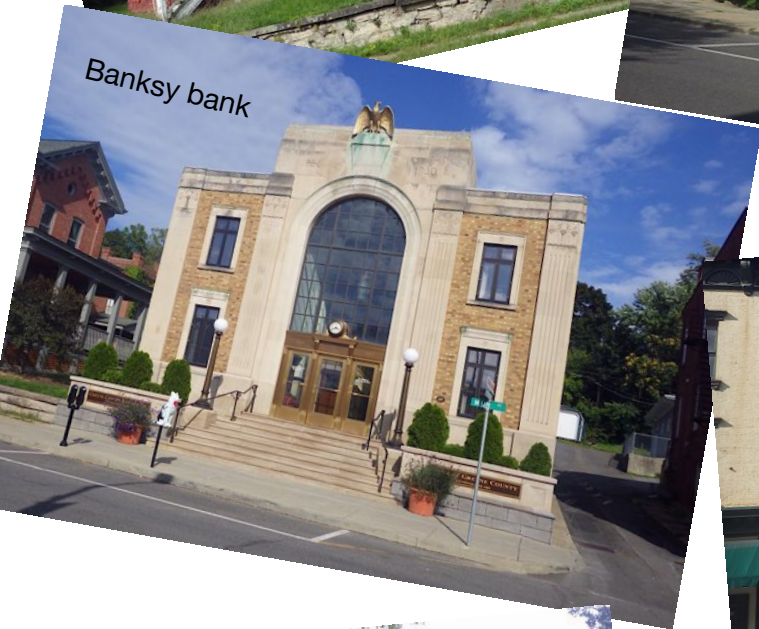


Catskill town has a lot of cats...

The bank has a Banksy-cat-



Catskill town also has some interesting buildings



The mast is down and we thank Avae Reva (and Kid'O) for the ready-made cradles which work perfectly for us!
Olivier and Camille were pleased we managed to make use of them.



We're all ready for the 30 locks. Troy lock is the first one & the only one we're passing on the Hudson. 16 feet or so & we're going uphill. Then we turn west onto the Erie Canal & the next 5 locks will take us up 150 ft to the Mohawk River. The highest lift is lock 17 and that's 40ft.

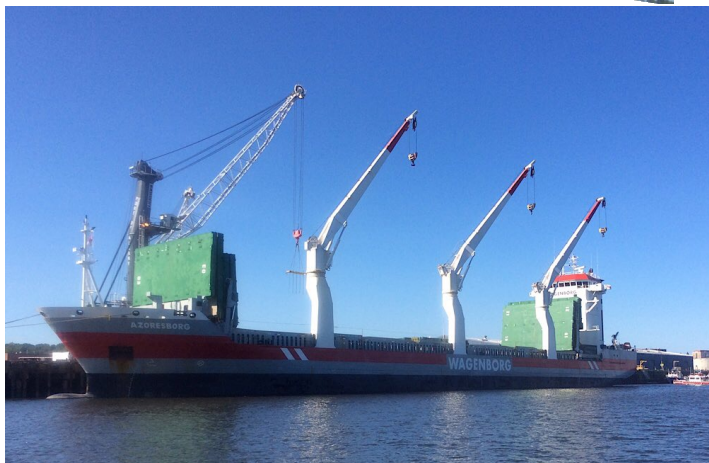
So, under the Rip Van Winkle bridge, nicely visible on this beautiful morning.



The weather is glorious today, yet again. We consider ourselves very lucky.



Yet again!

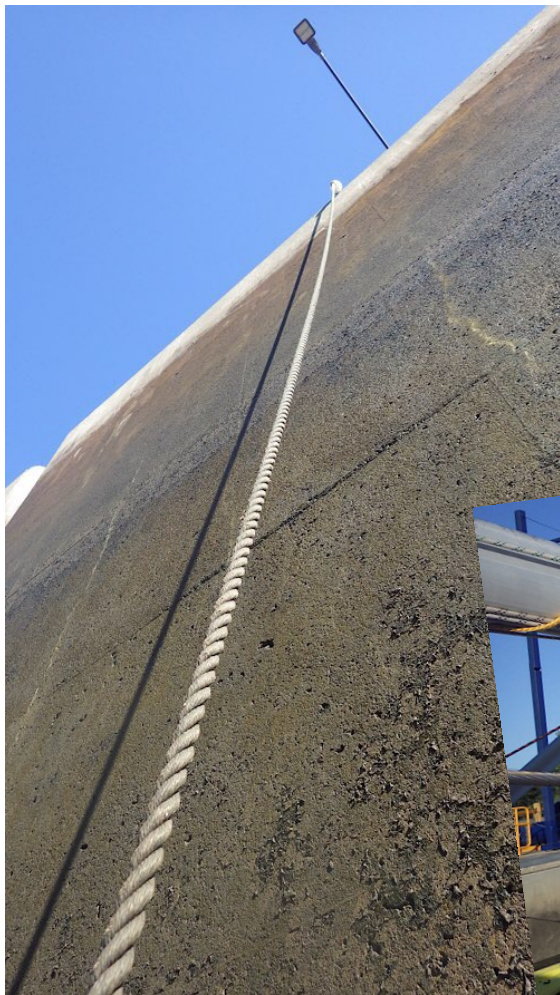


Well, for sure we won't be seeing Azoresborg again as the locks are too small...

After a very noisy night anchored north of Albany it's another beautiful day. Troy lock here we come -



It's a long way up!



We're up!



Rotterdam (next town is Amsterdam- did we take a wrong turn somewhere?)



A very peaceful night



That's a Volkswagen Beetle up there on the chimney!



Canajoharie town was a nice calm stop, except for the omnipresent train which whistles very loudly and mostly follows the canal all the way. The lock master advised us that this was the 'quiet' option. He was right because the other available wall was next to the level crossing!



These delicious 'ground cherries' we bought in someone's front garden where you leave the money in a box. They remind us of physalis from Colombia.

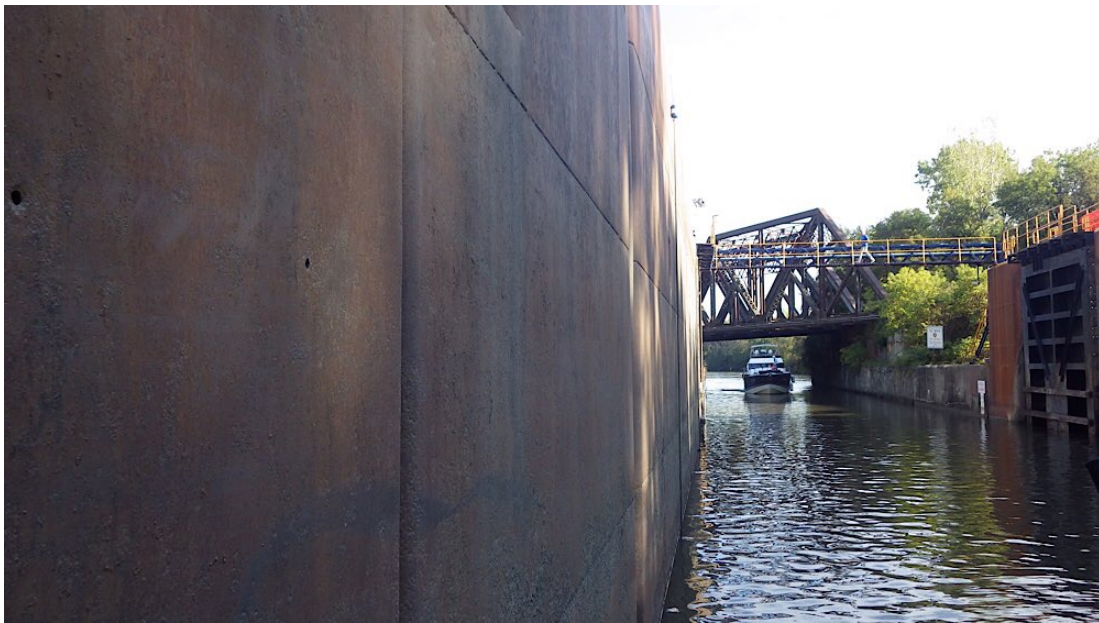


Lock 17 was the biggest lift at 40+ feet and we'd been expecting it to be tricky as it was a left hand tie up and reportedly turbulent. We actually managed it fine. Lock 19 turned out to be the tricky one, with bad turbulence pushing the boat away from the wall. We managed okay but the big motor boat behind us got swept away from the wall and nearly lost the front rope. The guy was still hanging onto the back rope but he needed to get to the controls to back up as they were getting dangerously close to our masthead which sticks out 2 metres at the stern. Luckily the Lock Master saw what was happening and shut down some of the pumps. It was a close shave which shook up the couple on the motor boat, who took it out on the poor Lock Master.

There's lots of renovation work going on currently on lock 19 and it's having some problems.

Later we met the couple on the motor boat 'Time Out' who are both in their 80's and are taking the boat to Buffalo for their son. They are amazing. They picked it up in Florida where their son bought it, having never even seen it. They then headed north with hurricane Dorian hot on their tail all the way up. Now they're in a rush to get to Buffalo because the canal closes on October 10.

Time Out coming into the (in)famous lock 19



Next morning in the fog-



Time Out didn't take long to overtake us!



We keep getting lost...Rome?



The Caribbean cruise liner got lost too..



We found another idyllic spot for the night west of Lock 22. It's our last stop before crossing the Oneida lake where we have to beware crazy 'cigar speedboat' drivers.

Some German sailors just warned us that the cigars churn up the water making huge waves and seem to totally ignore sail boats like us. Already we don't like the idea of motoring across a lake with no sails & the mast precariously on deck. We've decided to make an early start to get across the lake before they're up.

