

8 August 2019

Hi Family,

We finally made it to Newport this morning, after a gruelling sail from Shinnecock bay. We almost turned back immediately on seeing the state of the Shinnecock inlet. The current was not at its strongest and was with us, but the wind was against us making the inlet a swirl of rushing current versus huge breakers seemingly all across the inlet. (They were!) Strangely there weren't any other boats exiting or entering...! I closed the central and galley hatches just in time. Tranquila rode the huge rollers like riding a bucking bronco, we were totally under some of them, whereas others we were on top- only to come down with a crashing bang before the next one hit. I've never seen anything like it before and the wind wasn't even very strong! It's got to be impossible to enter or exit with more than 20 knots of wind. We had about 14 knots. Now I know why they all have such huge engines here! Once out the waves settled down & we were doing a reasonable if rather rolly 5 knots with reduced sails to constrain the roll. That was until the thunderstorm. It's always on Jean-Luc's watch! At midnight all hell broke loose as the wind hit us- involuntary jibes galore, broken mainsail pulley & backstay come loose. Ah, the joys of sailing. It was even cold, the first time we've been cold in ages. The wind totally dropped and it poured down for 10 minutes or so, that was it. After that we had to motor it for 10 hours to get here. It was not our best passage, to say the least.

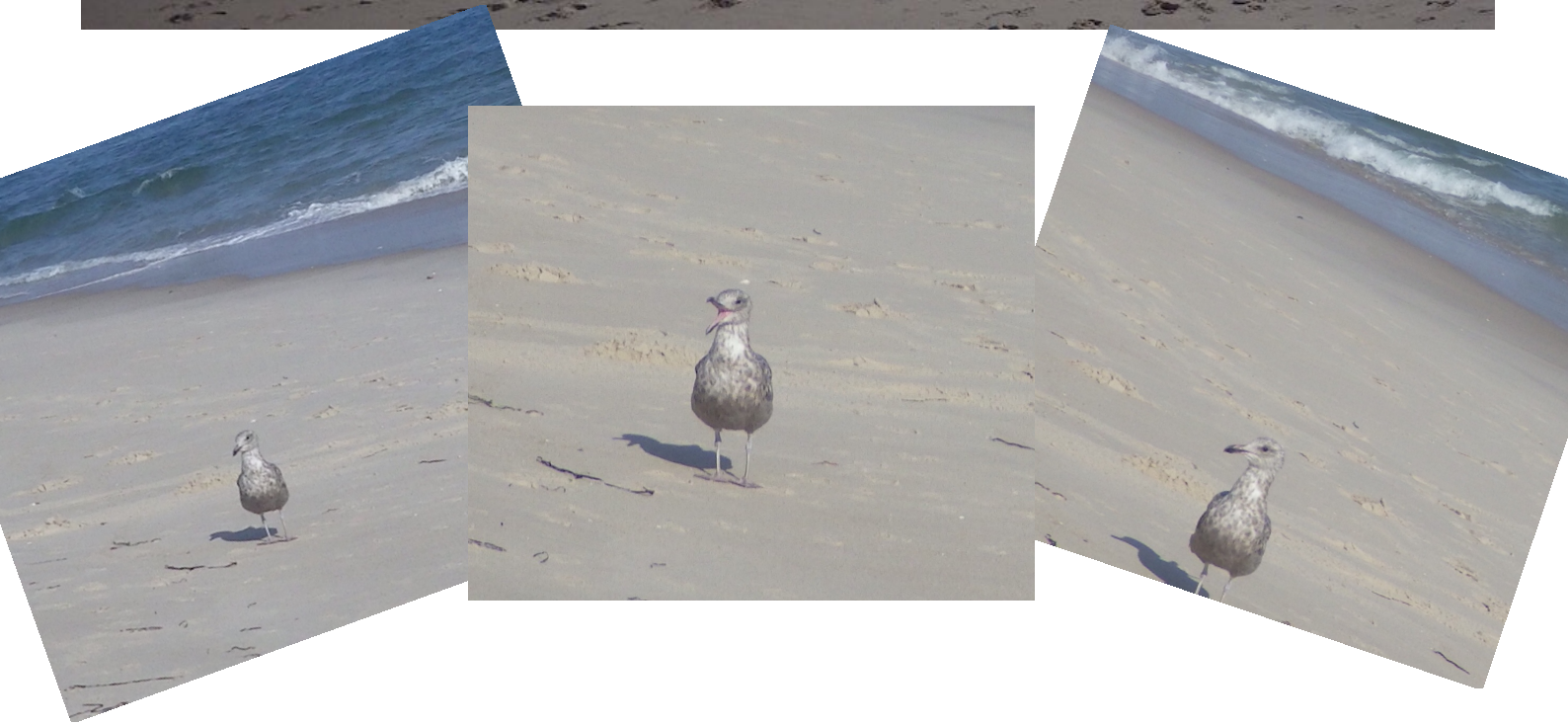
The Shinnecock inlet on a calm day...



& the nearby beach, Tiana beach



Surfer's paradise



We're resting today.

Newport promises to be an interesting place. It is the original base of the Americas Cup competition, initiated more than 100 years ago. There are many beautifully maintained ex-competition boats , especially 12 G's sailing around us all day long. There are also a huge number of mega sailing yachts, some of them weaving spectacularly around the huge bay.

There are many mansions to visit & I always have to visit the Art museums. There's a famous beautiful cliff walk, so, lots to do & see.

