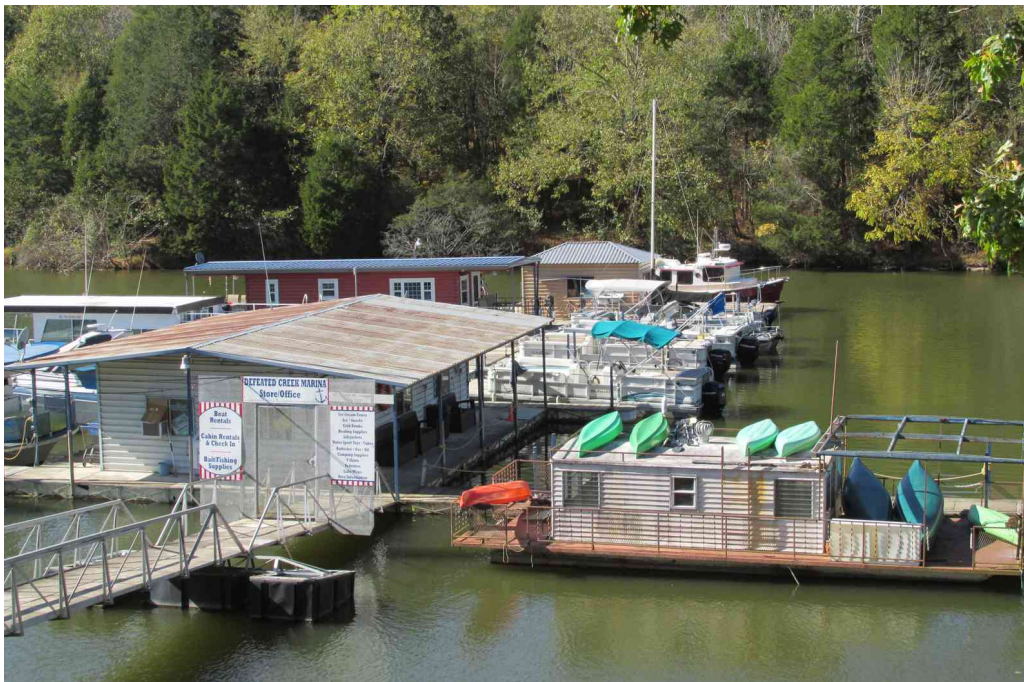


## Roaming along the Cumberland River Rich and Cheryl Odendahl – 2017



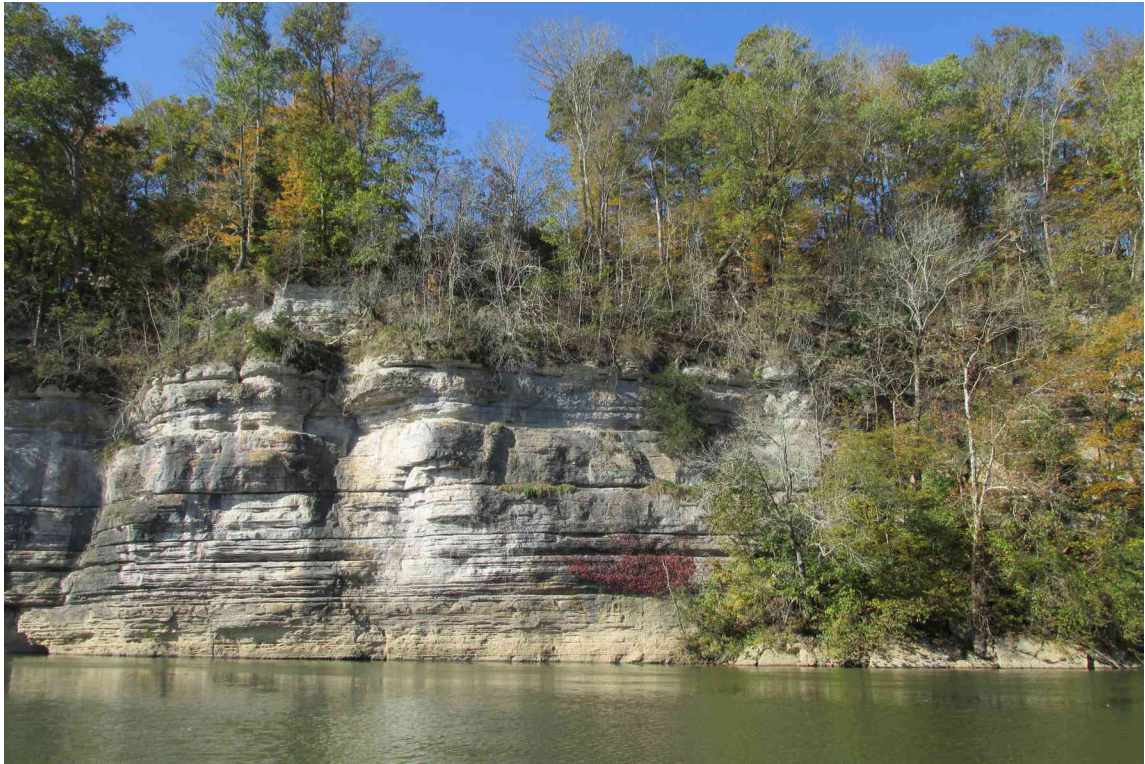
This cruise was planned to break up our annual southern migration from our home in Michigan to Florida. We departed Michigan, with Roam in tow, just prior to the fall closing of our condominium's marina. The following day, we provisioned the boat and launched her at the rather sad Defeated Creek Marina, near Carthage, Tennessee. The marina is set in a gorgeous, remote valley, but it hasn't seen much TLC in recent years. In any case, the launch ramp worked and we were able to store the truck and trailer here until we retrieved it eleven days later.





The modern Cumberland River is, in fact, a series of man-made lakes, divided by locks and dams. The Cordell Hull Lock and Dam is the first of three that we would transit. It's operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, but no lock operator is kept on station. We had to make an advanced reservation for our passage. An operator drove 63 miles from the next lock to allow us through. When we arrived at the appointed time, the lock doors were obstructed by floating debris that we had to pick our way through. It was obvious that no one had been through here for some time. The operator was very apologetic.





The upper portion of the river is very remote. The marinas and anchorages are few and far between. But the scenery more than compensates for the lack of facilities. Roam easily handled the 297 mile cruise using only 45 gallons from her 75 gallon tank of diesel.





River traffic started to increase as we neared Nashville. Here we passed a tug pushing six barges and the General Jackson tour boat tied up at Opryland. Then the scenery really changed as we approached downtown.



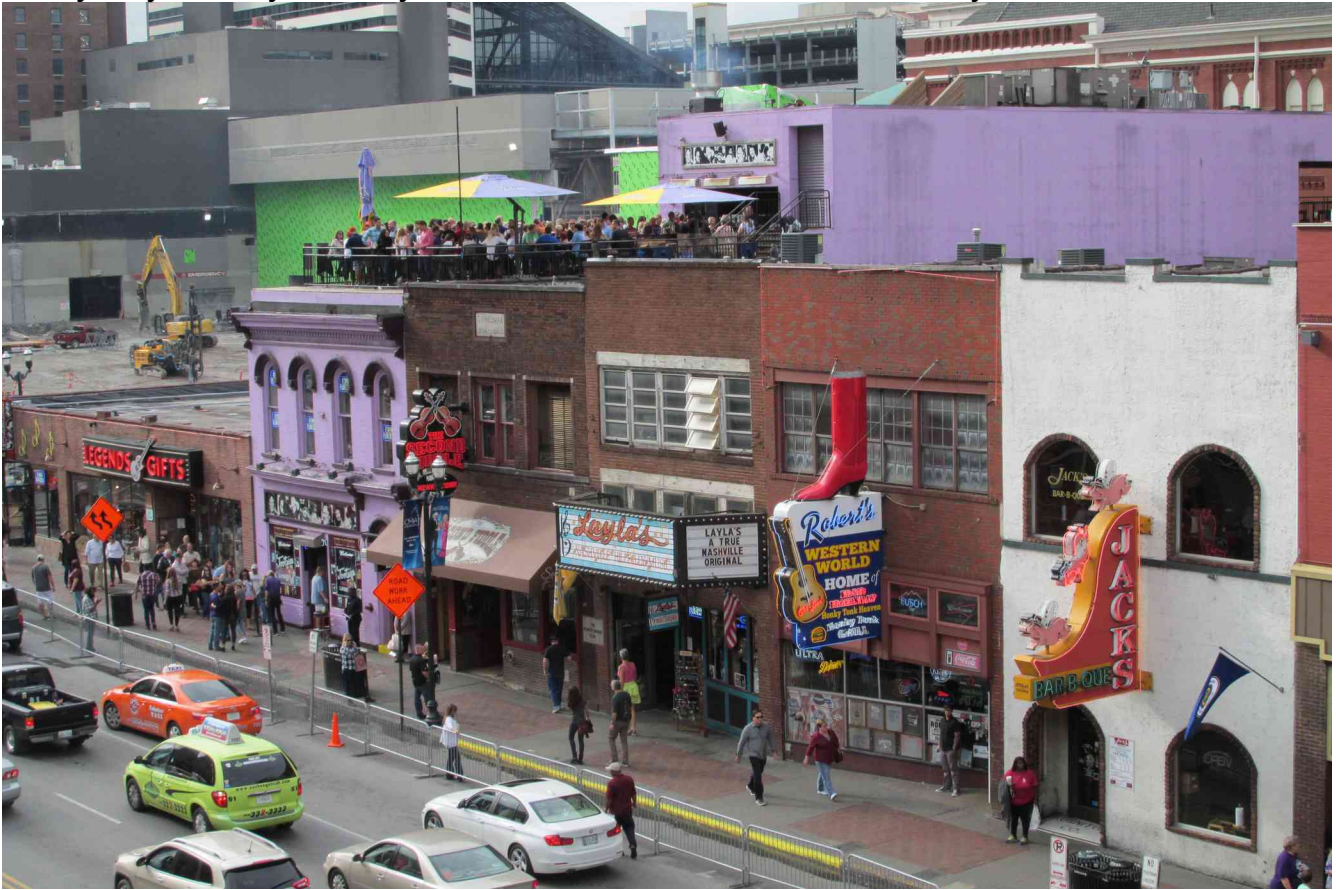


Roam was the only guest at the downtown Nashville city dock during our three-day visit. The dock does fill up when the Tennessee Titans are playing at the adjacent stadium.



The downtown dock is definitely not in a "No-Wake" area.

The most popular attraction in Nashville is the dozens of Honkey-Tonks that line Broadway Street. The live bands start before 11:00 AM and play until 3:00 AM, every day. And yes, they have both kinds of music, Country and Western.



We also enjoyed a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame. It's a very well done museum with many artifacts including Minnie Pearl's hat.



We departed for Clarksville in the fog. Fortunately for us, all the tugs and barges were pushed off to the side of the river, waiting for the fog to lift.



Clarksville is a nice city, with the best marina on the river, several shops, restaurants and this historical courthouse. Rich used an extra day here to catch up on Roam's maintenance.



We crossed the border from Tennessee to Kentucky and spent the night at Lake Barkley State Park. It has a large marina and a very nice lodge and restaurant. The season was over, and we never did find anyone to pay for our dockage.



Kentucky's maximum security prisoners have a fine view of the river from this intimidating fortress.





Brenda and Marty own one of Roam's sister ships as well as Lighthouse Landing Marina where we ended our trip.



The marina is known for great sunsets.



We had dinner with fellow Tugnutters Brenda, Marty, Libby and Ron.



At nearby Patti's 1880's Settlement, Cheryll and Libby just had to sit on Santa's lap. Unbeknownst to them, Mrs. Claus and Santa had radios. Ron was able to relay information about Cheryll and Libby to Santa's hidden earpiece. Santa played his all-knowing role with aplomb. Cheryll and Libby had consumed way too many margaritas to figure out the trick.



Ron most generously drove Rich 170 miles back to Defeated Creek to collect our truck and trailer. The following day he drove it to the launch ramp and backed it in. All we had to do was drive the boat onto the trailer, secure it and drop them back at the marina. This kind of help makes the logistics of a trip like this painless.



Roam is now stored at Rich's dad's place in Leesburg, Florida. Stay tuned for more stories of our continuing adventures.

<http://odendahls.com/roam/>

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*