

# Chesapeake Bay Cycling Tour

May 5-16, 2010

Starting and ending in Virginia Beach, VA

12 days, 1039 miles (86.6 miles/day average)



- Visit 13 lighthouses
- Take 4 ferries
- Be transported across two huge bridges
- Cross dozens of major rivers
- Camp on the beach on Assateague Island
- Visit countless parks, islands, wildlife refuges, and points



Assateague Island

National Seashore  
Maryland, Virginia



## Lighthouses

- L1 - New Point Lighthouse
- L2 - Jones Point Lighthouse
- L3 - Fort Washington Lighthouse
- L4 - Piney Point Lighthouse
- L5 - Point Lookout Lighthouse
- L6 - Point No Point Lighthouse
- L7 - Drum Point Lighthouse
- L8 - Cove Point Lighthouse
- L9 - Sandy Point Shoals Lighthouse
- L10 - Hooper Strait Lighthouse
- L11 - Assateague Island Lighthouse
- L12 - Old Cape Henry Lighthouse
- L13 - New Cape Henry Lighthouse

## Legend:



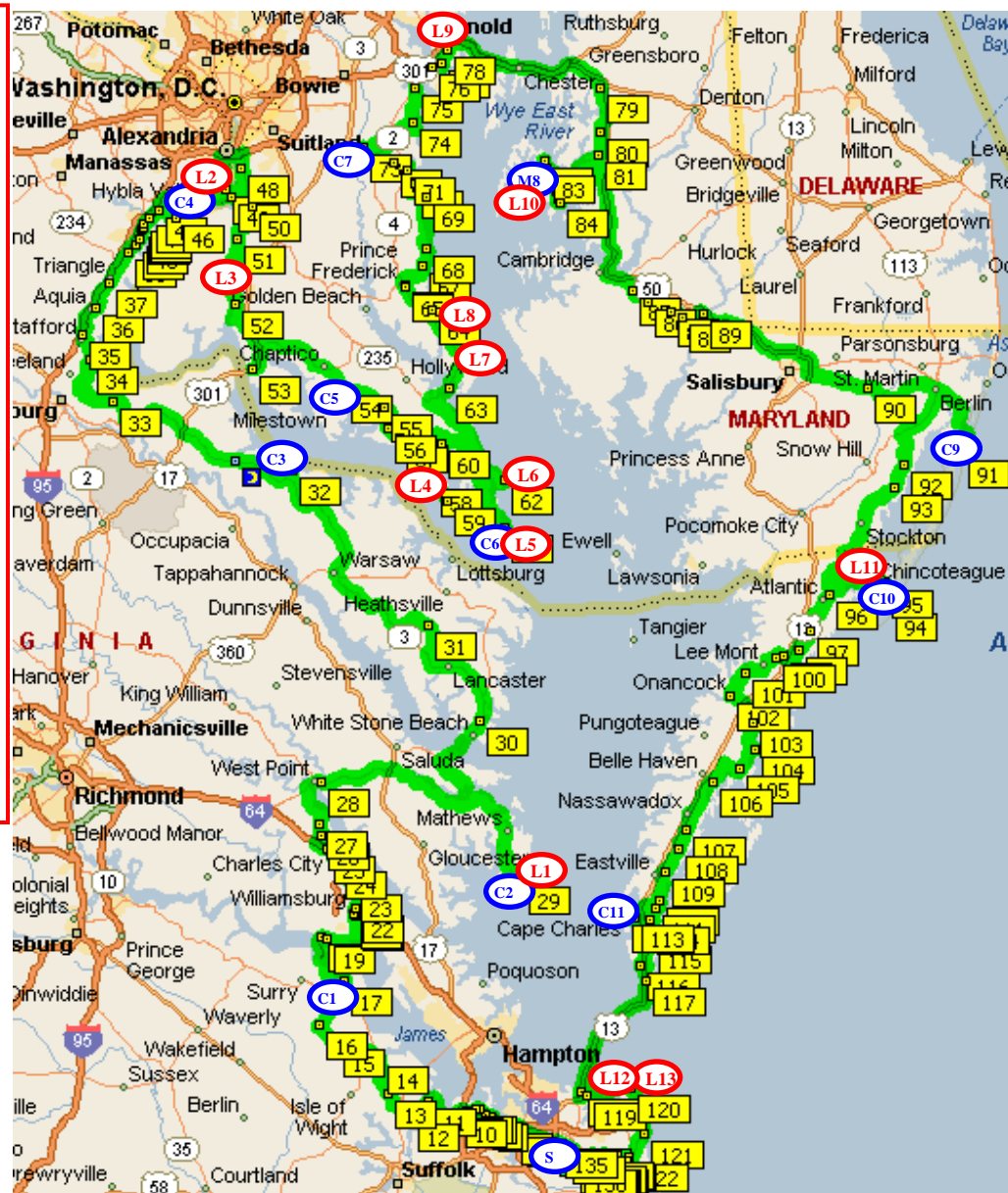
**Lighthouse  
Markers**



**Campground  
Markers**



**Route Markers**  
(ignore these  
for now)



## Overnight Stops

S - Start (Virginia Beach, VA)

C1 - Camp Day 1 (W, May 5)  
Chippokes Plantation State Park

C2 - Camp Day 2 (Th, May 6)  
New Point Campground

C3 - Camp Day 3 (F, May 7)  
Westmoreland State Park

C4 - Camp Day 4 (Sat, May 8)  
Pohick Bay Regional Park

C5 - Camp Day 5 (Sun, May 9)  
AquaLand on the Potomac

C6 - Camp Day 6 (M, May 10)  
Point Lookout State Park

C7 - Camp Day 7 (T, May 11)  
Duncan Family Campground

M8 - Motel Day 8 (W, May 12)  
Best Western - St. Michaels

C9 - Camp Day 9 (Th, May 13)  
Assateague Island National Seashore  
Campground

C10 - Camp Day 10 (F, May 14)  
Pine Grove Camping on Chincoteague  
Island

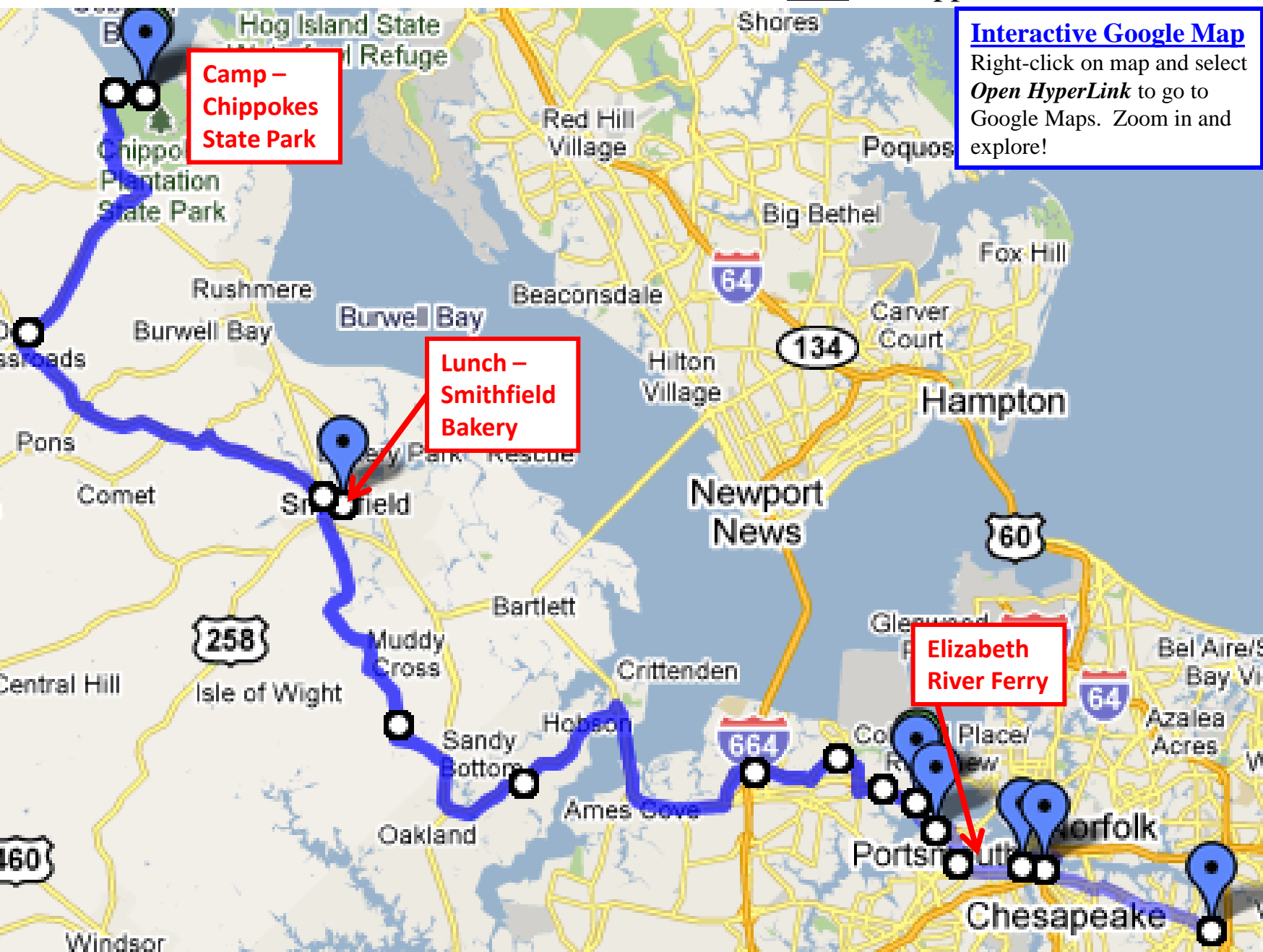
C11 - Camp Day 11 (Sat, May 11)  
Kiptopeake State Park  
Camp in a "yurt"

S - Stop (Virginia Beach, VA)



**Day 1 – Wednesday, May 5 (80.0 miles)**

**Start** – Paul’s house (Virginia Beach)  
**End** – Chippokes Plantation State Park



**Interactive Google Map**

Right-click on map and select *Open HyperLink* to go to Google Maps. Zoom in and explore!



Day 1 – Paul's house in Virginia Beach. Pictured are John (Boone, NC), Tom (Chattanooga, TN), Paul (Virginia Beach), and Dean (Bar Harbor, ME).

Chris (Norfolk) joined us a Waterside and Mike (Virginia Beach) join us in camp at the end of Day 1. Three more cyclists joined us on Day 4.





Day 1 – We cycled along the Norfolk waterfront before taking the ferry to Portsmouth





Day 1 – Boarding the [Elizabeth River Ferry](#) from Waterside to Portside





Day 1 – A very nice display of a Fresnel lens from the Hog Island Lighthouse at Portside





Day 1 – Lunch at the Smithfield Bakery. One of my favorites any time of the year! Tom Lilley (yellow jersey) joined us for half of Day 1 and camped with us that night.





Day 1 – Bacon's Castle Grocery is Isle of Wight County





Day 1 – Campground at Chippokes State Park





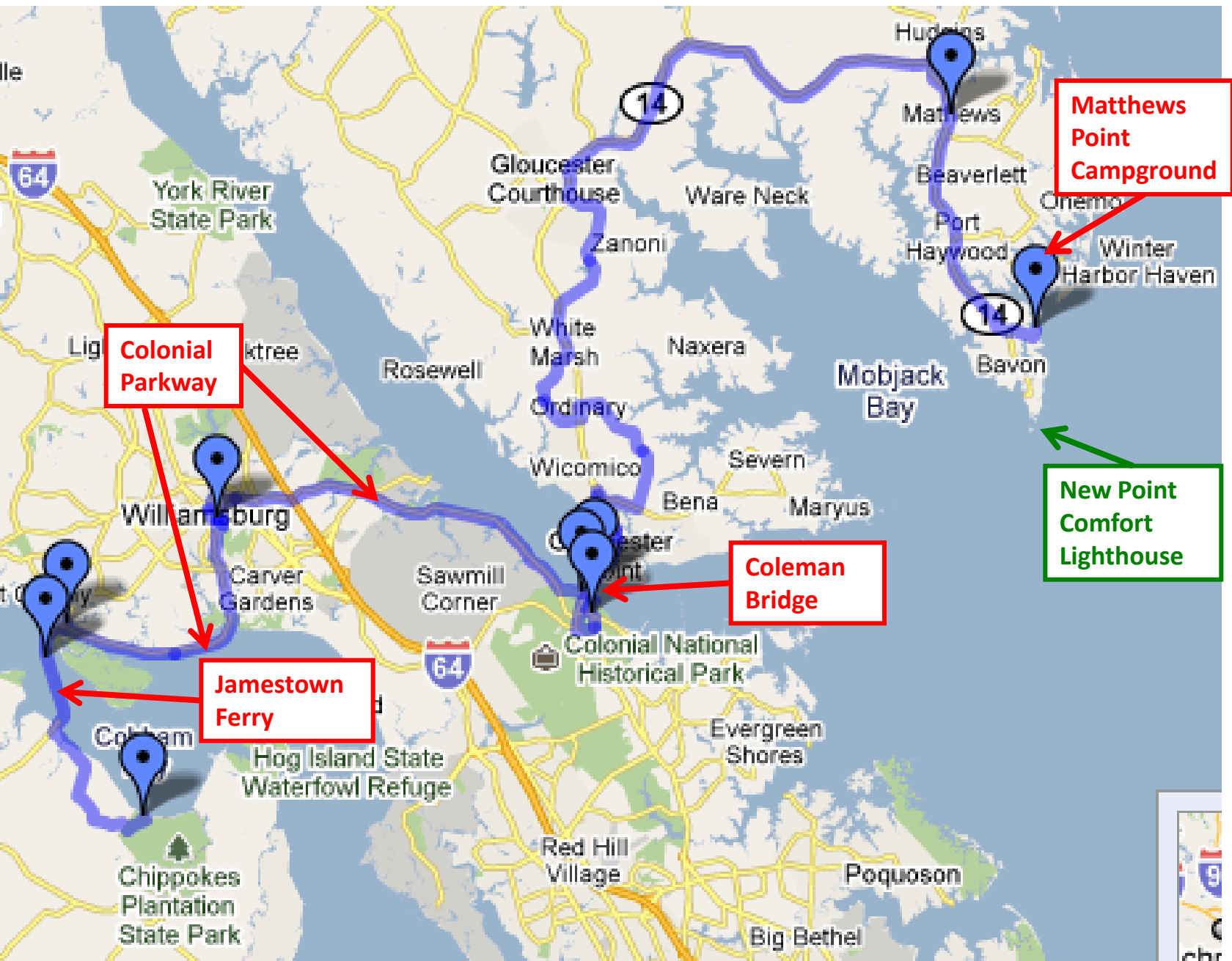
Day 1 – Chippokes State Park. After setting up camp, we cycled to the Visitor's Center to enjoy the view of the James River.



**Day 2 – Thursday, May 6 (84.0 miles)**

**Start** – Chippokes Plantation State Park

**End** – Matthews Point Campground





Day 2 – Mike enjoys the ride to Surrey for breakfast before taking the Jamestown Ferry





Day 2 – Boarding the [Jamestown Ferry](#)





Day 2 – Cycling through Colonial Williamsburg. We wished for more time to explore!





Day 2 – We stopped for a snack at The Cheese Shop in Colonial Williamsburg





Day 2 – The Colonial Parkway is ideal for touring with little traffic and great scenery.





Day 2 – We ate lunch in a waterfront pub in Yorktown. The Coleman Bridge looms in the background – to be crossed after lunch!





Day 2 – Chris nears the top of the Coleman Bridge from Yorktown to Gloucester.





Day 2 – A beautiful view of the Bay from the Matthews Point Campground

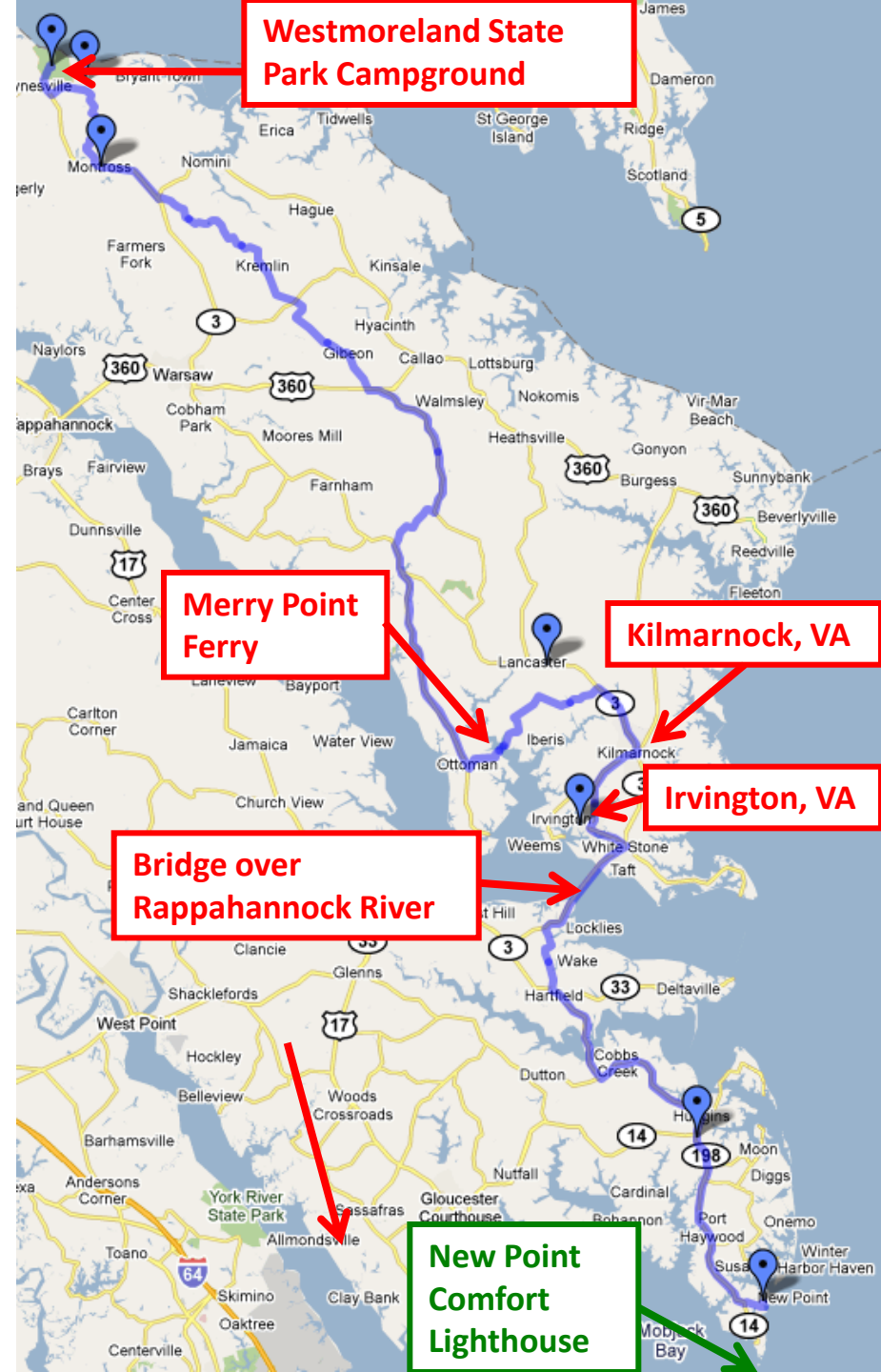


## Day 3 – Friday, May 7 (112.4 miles)

**Start** – Matthews Point Campground  
**End** – Westmoreland State Park Campground



Taking a break in Kilmarnock, VA







Day 3 – [New Point Comfort Lighthouse](#). We cycled 2 miles from camp to the wildlife refuge at the end of Matthews Point. Our first lighthouse was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile offshore.





Day 3 – We stopped for breakfast in Matthews, VA. I liked the hand-written community calendar in front of the store!



# Community Calendar

## MAY



May 1-29

Unsung: Tactility of Textiles  
Bay School

Thurs. 6

Chapter 6 - Concerts by the Bay  
7:30 Matthews High School

Sat. 8

Spring Clean-Up 9-1pm  
Meet on Sibley's Porch

Fri. 14

Bike Rodeo 5-7pm  
Boys & Girls Club Parking lot  
Pig Roast - 5:30-7pm  
Bay School

Sat. 15

Tour de Chesapeake!

Environmental Fair 1-4pm  
Central United Methodist  
Sausage & Beer Fest 2-7pm behind Library  
Wine Tasting 4-7pm White Dog Inn  
Bluegrass Concert 5-8pm Court Green

FREE May 14th  
Bike Rodeo  
for Kids  
FREE Helmets  
Inquire inside!

\* Used Book Sale  
1st Sat. of month  
9a.m. → 1 p.m.  
ORRELL Bldg (behind library)

\* BREAKFAST - 1st SUN  
of month 8-11a.m.  
American Legion

\* YOGA classes at  
Halcyon Bldg. - Weds. + Fri.  
call 854-1769

\* Tompkins Cottage open  
Fri. + Sat. 10-1pm (for  
Apr. 2 → September)

\* FARMERS MKT.  
every Sat. 9am → 1pm  
Matthews High School

Day 3 – Some folks in town thought that we were a week early for the Tour de Chesapeake! Perhaps the name fit our trip better than their event 😊





Day 3 – We were a little concerned about crossing the 2-mile, narrow bridge over the Rappahannock River, but traffic was light and we had no trouble.





Day 3 – Just before lunch we stopped at the Steamboat Era Museum in Irvington, VA. Two ladies in the museum were delighted that we visited and took this picture.





Day 3 – An elegant lunch at the Lancaster Bed & Breakfast/Tavern in Lancaster, VA





Day 3 – We went a bit out of our way to take the [Merry Point Ferry](#). It was cable-drawn, very fast, and only held two cars (or 6 bicycles on this trip).





Day 3 – The sun is setting and we were still on the way to Westmoreland State Park. We cycled over 100 miles and had to set up camp in the dark. Tough day!

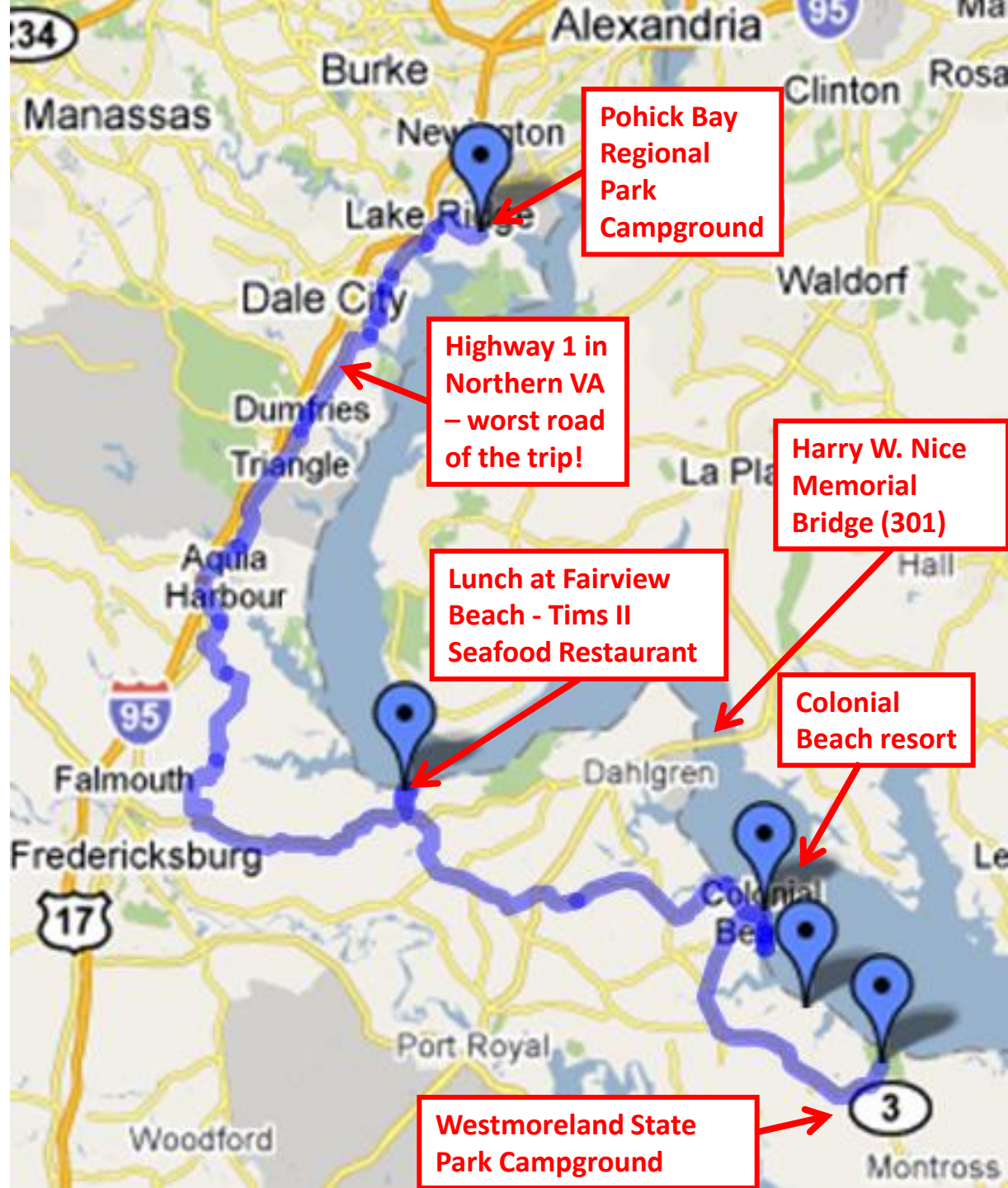


**Day 4 – Saturday, May 8**  
**(96.9 miles)**

**Start** – Westmoreland State  
Park Campground

**End** – Pohick Bay Regional  
Park Campground

**Cyclists aren't  
allowed on Harry  
W. Nice Memorial  
Bridge (301), so  
we cycled to  
Alexandria to cross  
the Potomac**







Day 4 – We started the day with a short hike to see the Horse Head Cliffs in Westmoreland State Park on the Potomac. What a set of stairs to the beach!





Day 4 – The Potomac is about 5 miles wide here at Westmoreland State Park and 30 miles wide where it enters the Bay near Reedville, VA.





Day 4 – We enjoyed talking to some fisherman on a pier in Colonial Beach





Day 4 – Cycling along Colonial Beach





Day 4 – Lunch at Tim's II Seafood Restaurant in Fairview Beach. We often needed to fill water bottles and our friendly waitress was very helpful!





Day 4 – Tim's II Seafood Restaurant – a popular destination for boaters





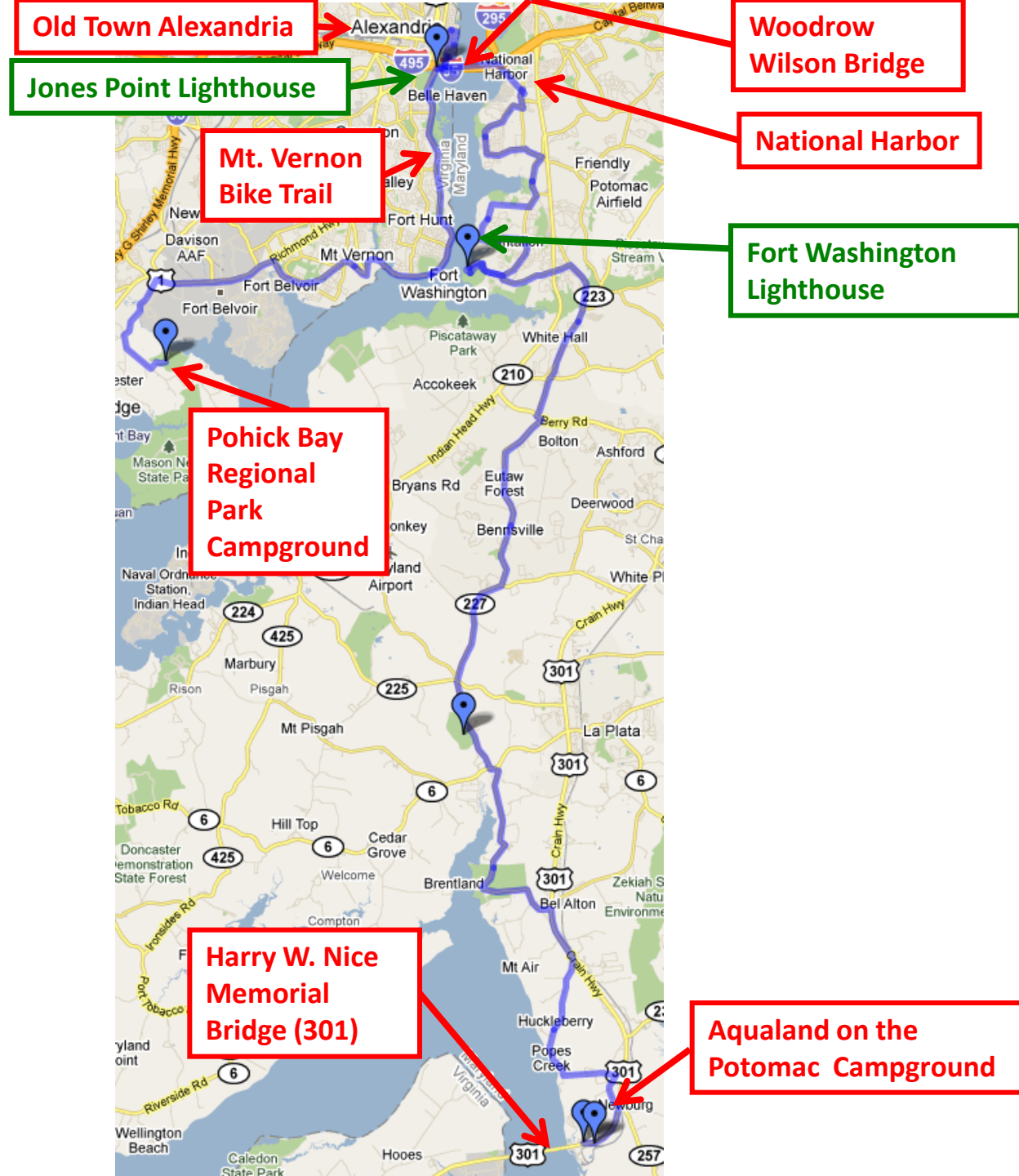
Day 4 – Paul goes under an old bridge just before camp



**Day 5 – Sunday, May 9**  
**(94.5 miles)**

**Start** – Pohick Bay  
Regional Park Campground

**End** – Aqualand on the  
Potomac Campground







Day 5 – The Mt. Vernon Bike Trail offers beautiful views of the Potomac





Day 5 – Dennis and Peter lead us through a lush marsh on the Mt. Vernon Bike Trail





Day 5 – Mt. Vernon Trail. We were joined today by Peter, Dennis, and Sandy. Pictured are Mike, Peter, Dennis, Tom, John, Paul, Dean, and Sandy (L to R)





Day 5 – The [Jones Point Lighthouse](#) is just off the Mt. Vernon Trail at the foot of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Lighthouses along rivers don't need to be as tall as lighthouses along the ocean so many look like houses with a light on top.





Day 5 – We crossed the Potomac on the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge





Day 5 – John and Peter near the top of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge





Day 5 – The top of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (Sandy cycled ahead)





Day 5 – We stopped for lunch at National Harbor after crossing into Maryland





Day 5 – Fort Washington and the [Fort Washington Lighthouse](#). We were able to cycle inside the fort. We had a great view of the Potomac from the walls of the fort.





Day 5 – Sunset on the Potomac as we approached camp



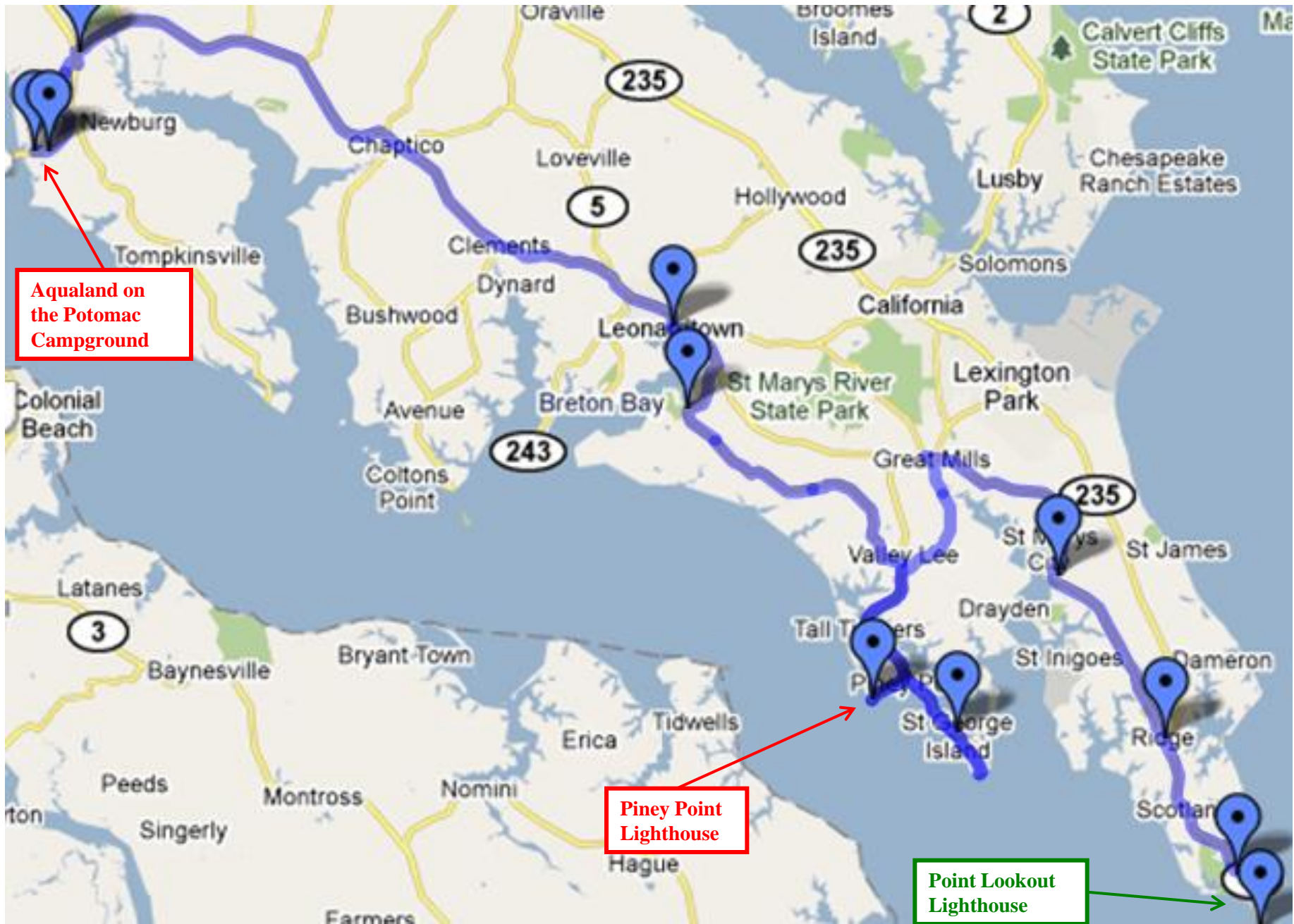


Day 5 – Setting up camp at Aqualand on the Potomac (not a great campsite!)



**Day 6 – Monday, May 10 (79.7 miles)**

**Start** – Aqualand on the Potomac Campground  
**End** – Point Lookout State Park Campground



Aqualand on the Potomac Campground

Piney Point Lighthouse

Point Lookout Lighthouse





Day 6 – Roads in southern MD typically had wide shoulders.





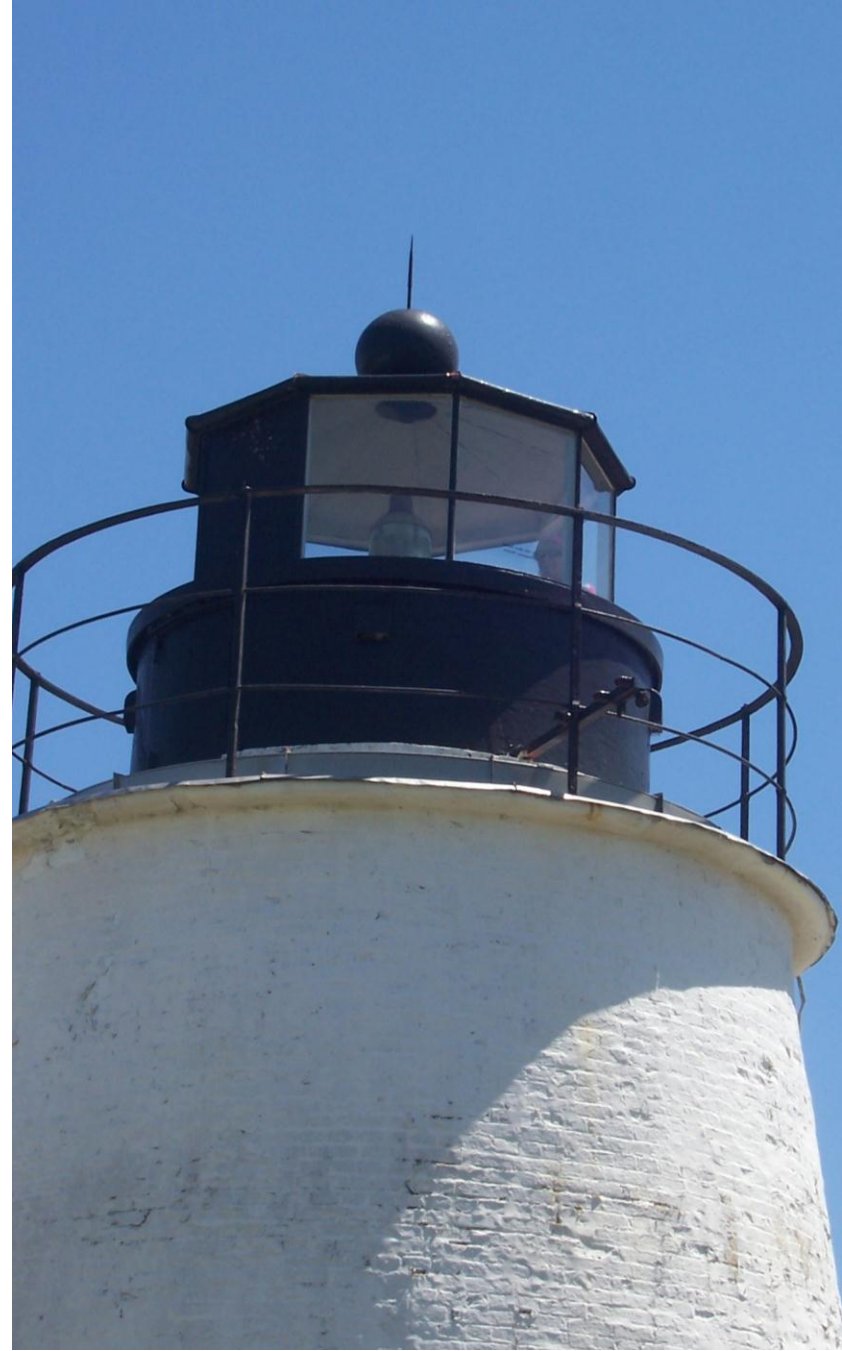
Day 6 – We teased Sandy about this dangerous place to park her bike!





Day 6 – The southern MD peninsula is very scenic and has many lighthouses





Day 6 – The [Piney Point Lighthouse](#) on the Potomac





Day 6 – We received a personal tour of the lighthouse and museum





Day 6 – Our guide didn't think that all 8 of us could fit at the top of the lighthouse, but we managed!





Day 6 – Peter rings the bell near the [Piney Point Lighthouse](#)





Day 6 – Sandy and her husband, Daryl, joined us on the last two tours, but Daryl couldn't make it this year.





Day 6 – The [Point No Point Lighthouse](#) could just be seen from the Point Lookout





Day 6 – Paul is joined by his brother-in-law, Frank, and his nephew, Frank, at the [Point Lookout Lighthouse](#) where the Potomac enters the Chesapeake Bay.



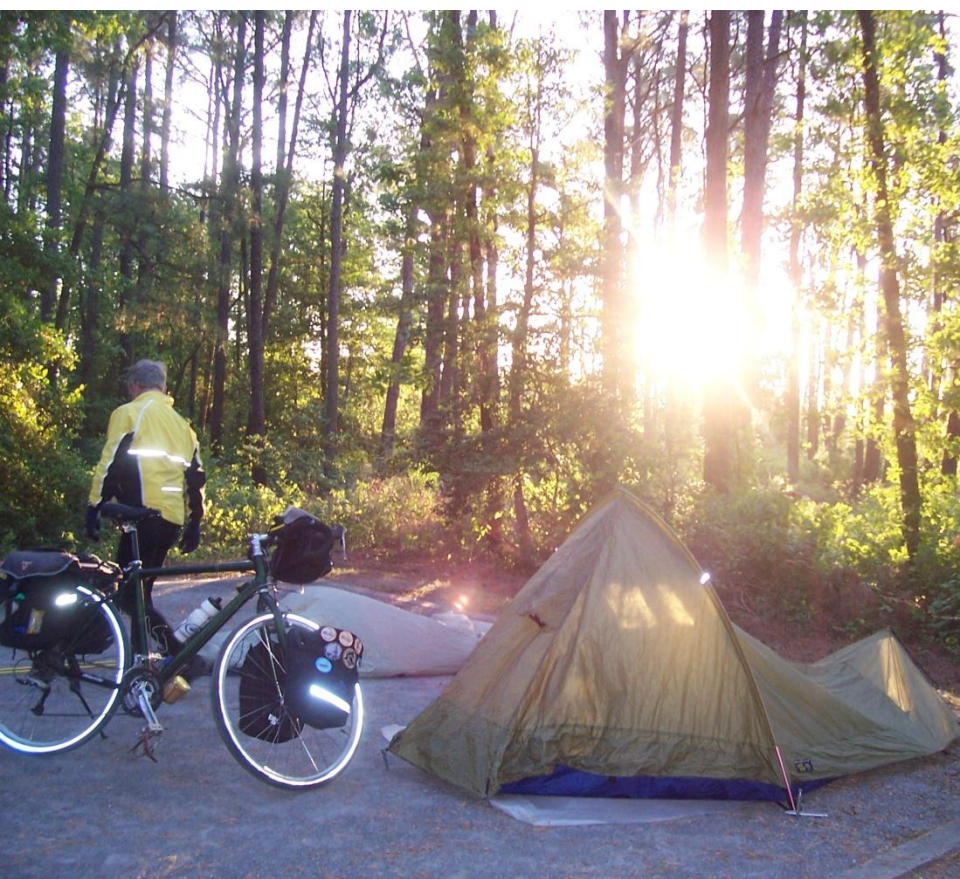


Day 6 – Setting up camp in Point Lookout State Park

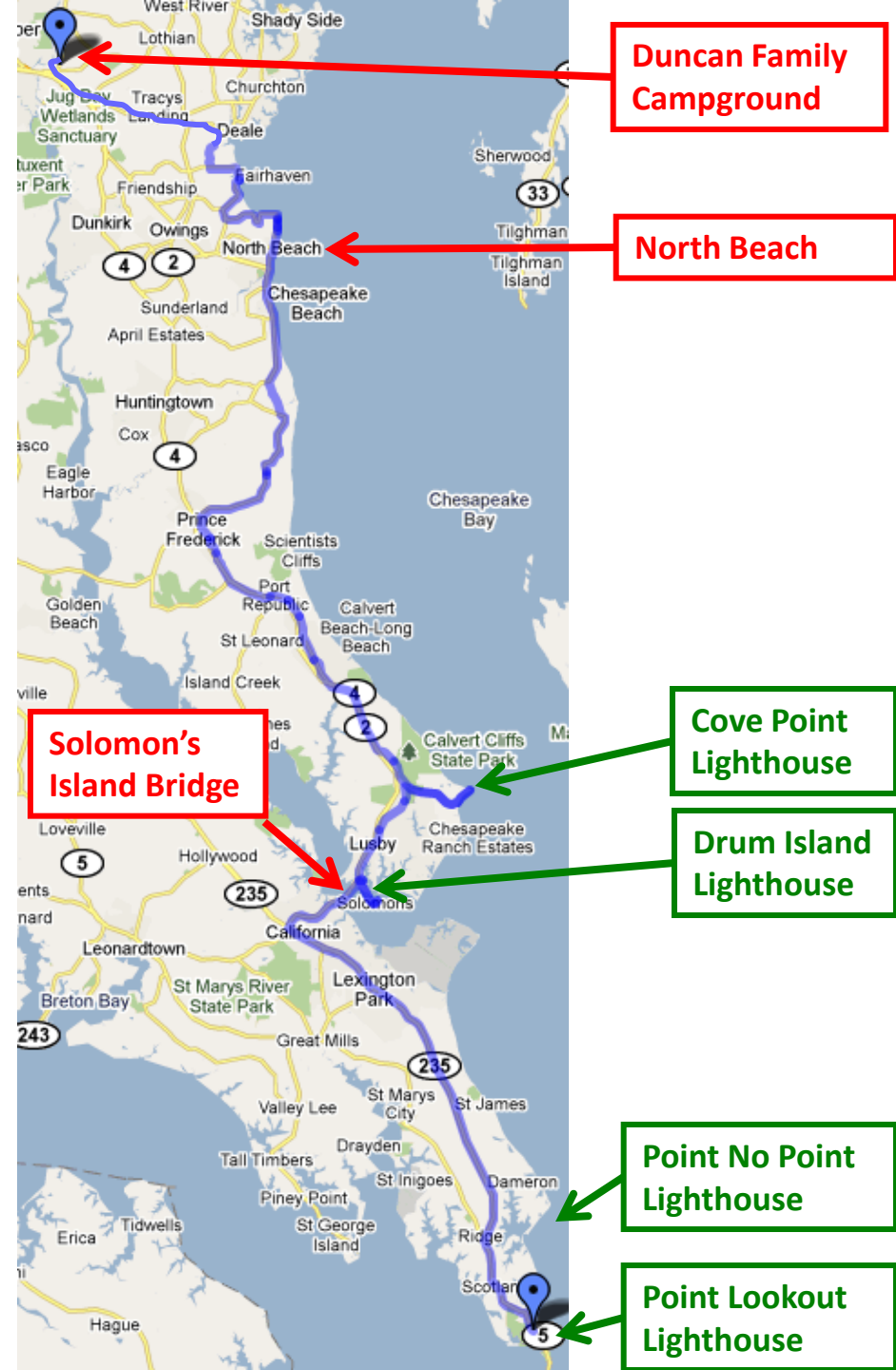


**Day 7 – Tuesday, May 11 (88.6 miles)**

**Start** – Point Lookout State Park Campground  
**End** – Duncan Family Campground



The sun is up. Time to hit the road!







Day 6 –Paul’s brother-in-law, Frank, escorted us across the Solomon’s Island Bridge





Day 6 – Taking a break after crossing the Solomon’s Island Bridge  
Paul emailed a local bike shop before the ride about crossing the bridge.  
They said “It’s legal to cross the bridge, but we don’t advise it.”





Day 7 – Solomon's Island Bridge





Day 7 – The [Drum Island Lighthouse](#) at Solomon's Island





Day 6 – The [Cove Point Lighthouse](#) is just a few miles north of Solomon's Island





Day 7 – We only had rain for one afternoon on the trip. We cycled along a number of nice beachfront communities, including Chesapeake Beach and North Beach.

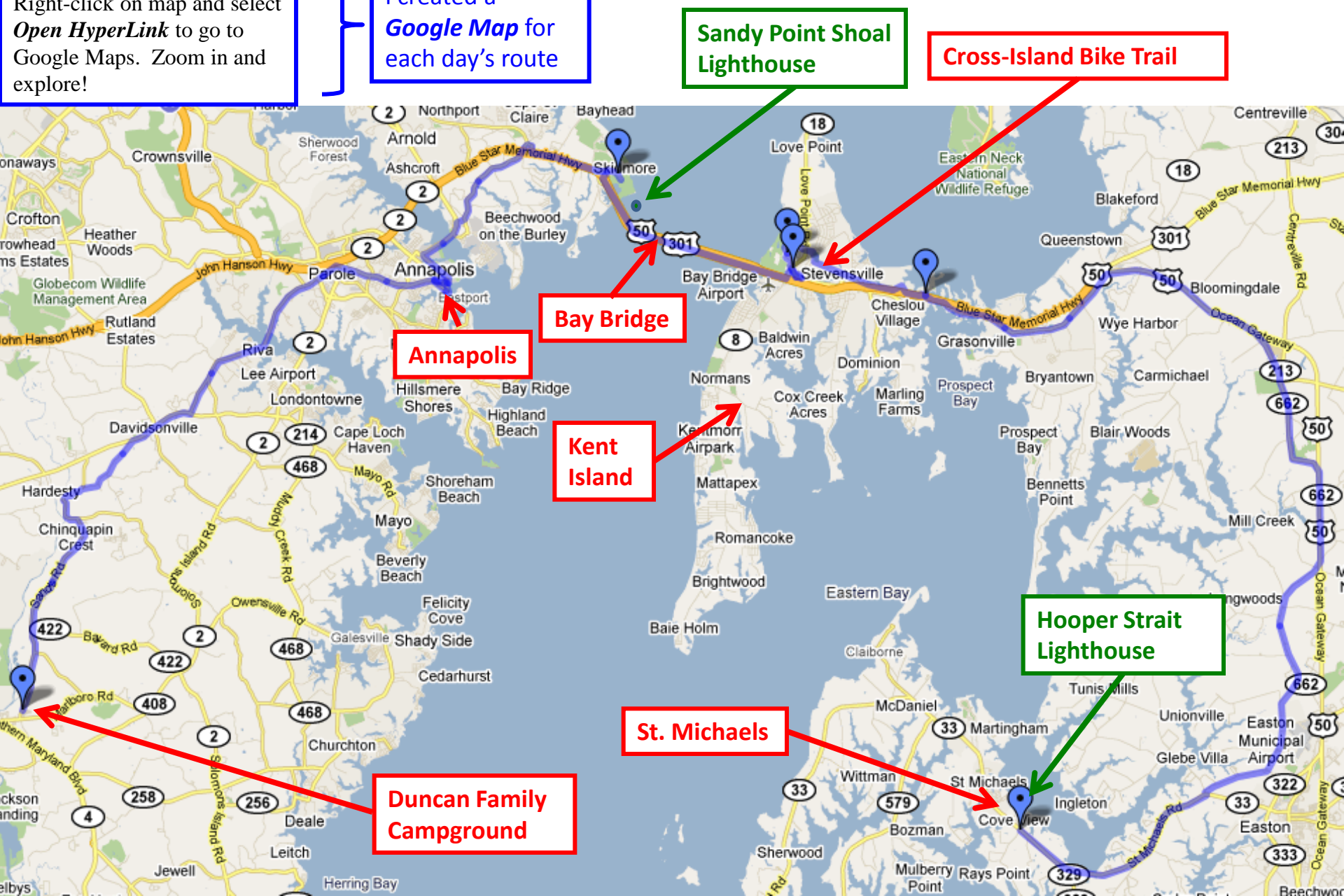


# Day 8 – Wednesday, May 12 (71.9 miles)

**[Interactive Google Map](#)**  
Right-click on map and select *Open HyperLink* to go to Google Maps. Zoom in and explore!

I created a *Google Map* for each day's route

**Start** – Duncan Family Campground  
**End** – Best Western – St. Michaels







Day 8 – Annapolis, MD. Sandy grew up here and strongly recommended Chick & Ruth's Delly. We had a great brunch here!





Day 8 – We really enjoyed cycling through Annapolis.





Day 8 – The Bay Bridge from Annapolis to Kent Island. Cyclists are not allowed to cross. Kent Island Express took our group of 8 cyclists across (4 at a time) for \$10.00 each.





Day 8 – Loading up the first 4 bikes for the trip across the Bay Bridge





Day 8 – Unloading the bikes at Love Point Deli on Kent Island





Day 8 – Looking back on the Bay Bridge from Kent Island. We needed to change our route to find a bike shop and had to skip Sandy Point Park where we would have seen the [Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse](#) just offshore.





Day 8 – St. Michaels, MD. A charming little town with a beautiful waterfront and many Bed & Breakfasts. We stayed in a Best Western – our only night not camping!





Day 8 – St. Michaels, MD. The old drawbridge from Tilghman Island (about 15 miles away) creates a dramatic entrance to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.





Day 8 – St. Michaels, MD. Dennis and Peter have some fun in front of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum!





Day 8 – St. Michaels, MD. [Hooper Strait Lighthouse](#)

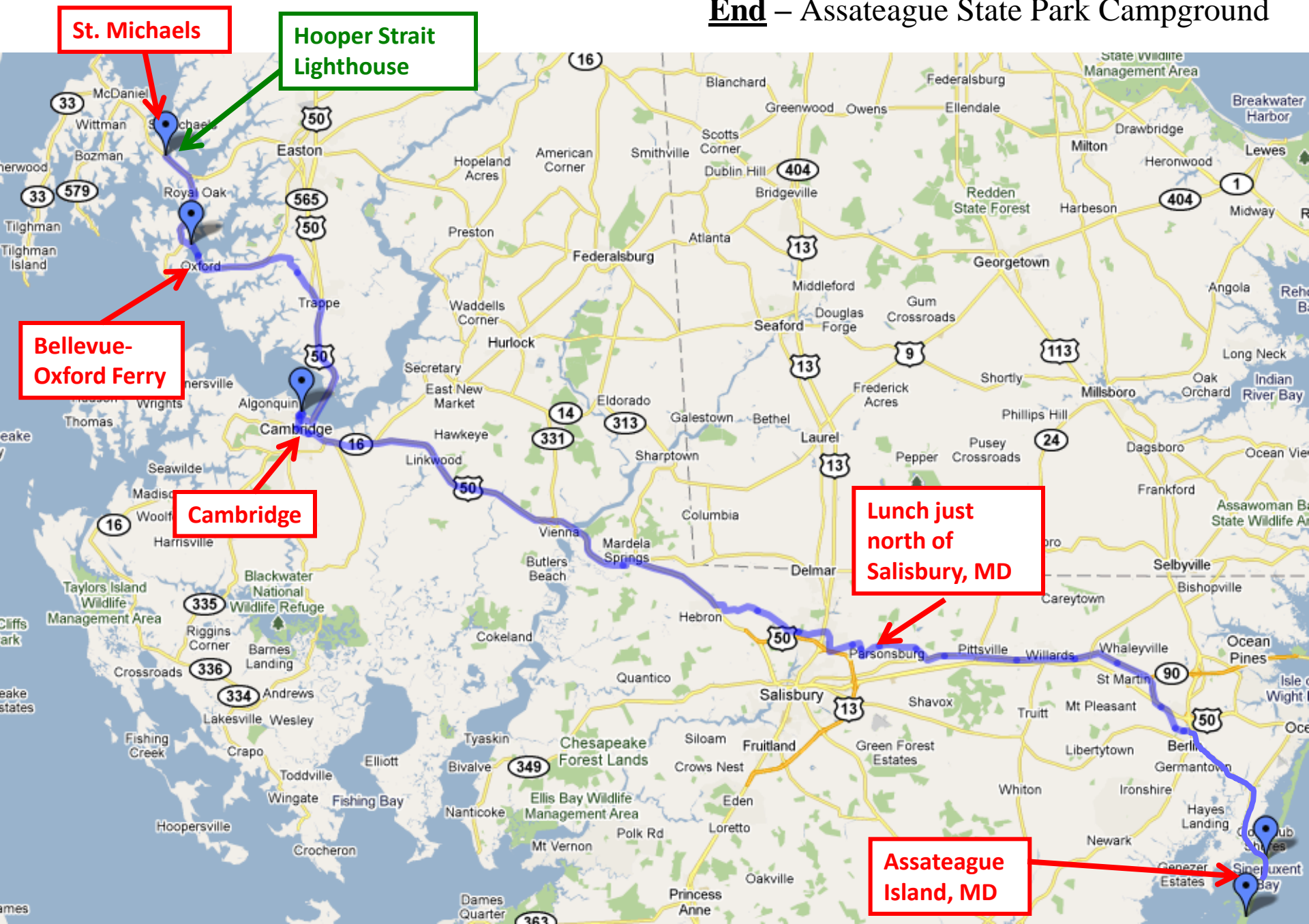




Day 8: 10-layer Smith Island Cake – an Eastern Shore specialty (dinner in St. Michaels)



**Start** – Best Western – St. Michaels  
**End** – Assateague State Park Campground







Day 9 – Peter raises the signal flag in Bellevue. About 15 minutes later the ferry arrived and we boarded for the trip to Oxford.





Day 9 – Exiting the Bellevue-Cambridge Ferry





Day 9 – The Verrazano Bridge to Assateague includes a separate bridge for cyclists.





Day 9 – Camping on the beach on Assateague. Strong winds kept the mosquitoes away and sleeping with the sound of crashing waves nearby made this a great night.





Day 9 – We cycled the 4-mile road and bike path through Assateague. Beyond this point only Over Sand Vehicles with permits are allowed.





Day 9 – Assateague Island National Park features a 4-mile bike trail. We saw dozens of wild horses and enjoyed views of the ocean as well as inland marshes and islands.





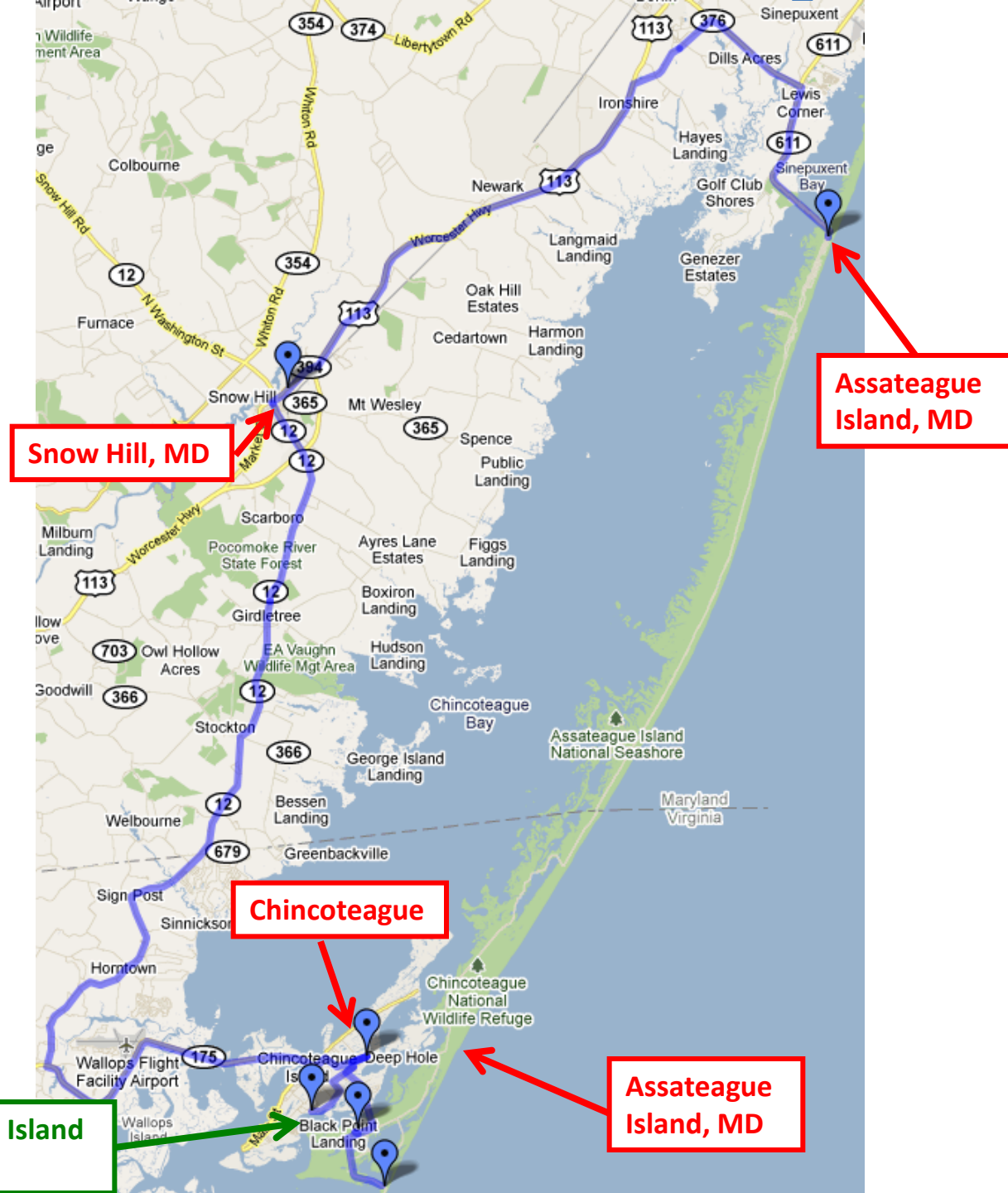
Day 9 – Sunset on Assateague Island



**Day 10 – Friday, May 14**  
**(80.0 miles)**

**Start** – Assateague State Park  
Campground

**End** – Pine Grove Campground  
(Chincoteague)







Day 10 – Assateague, VA. Trail to the lighthouse.





Day 10 – Assateague, VA. [Assateague Island Lighthouse](#).





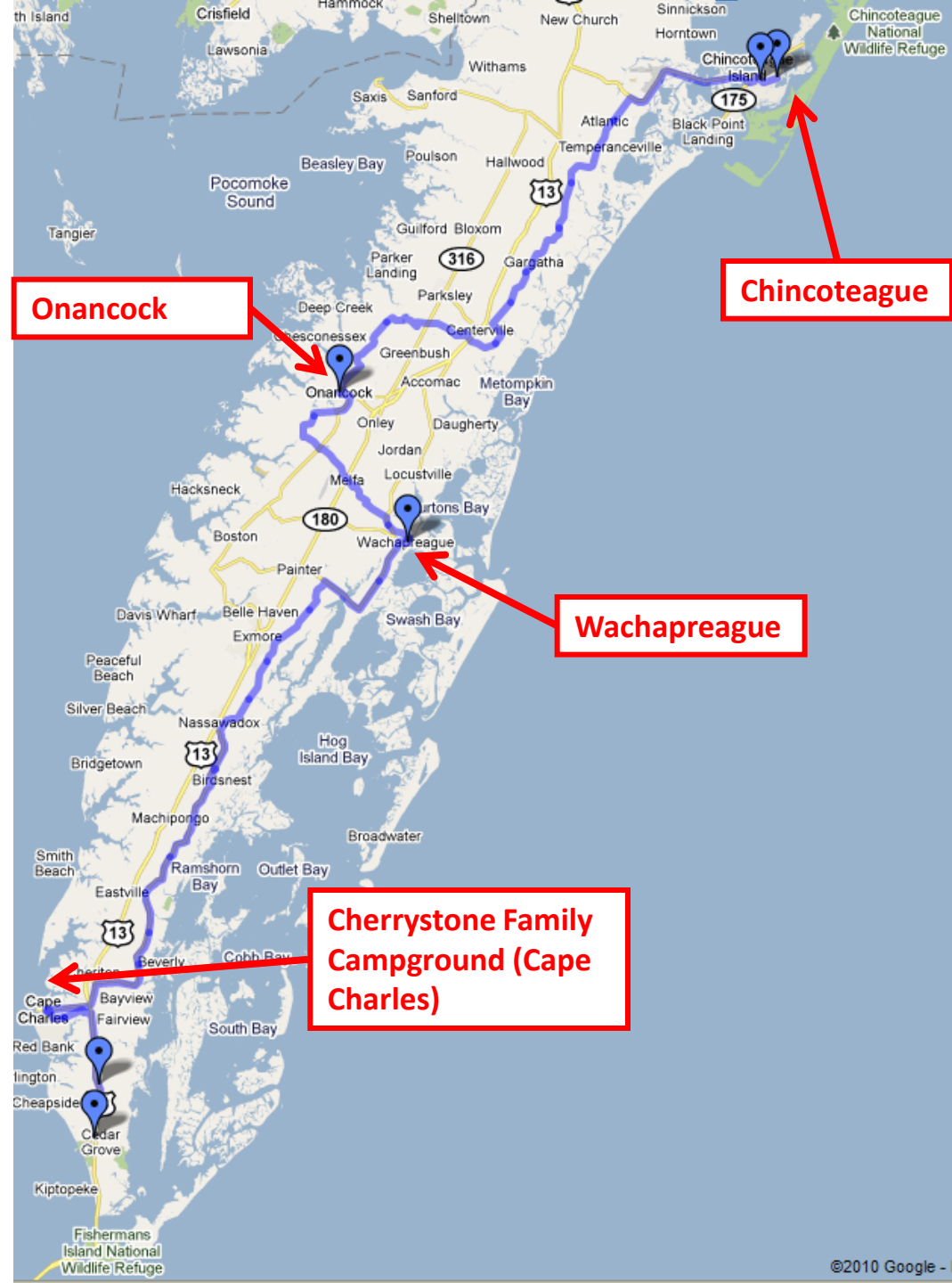
Day 10 – Chincoteague, VA. Dinner at Etta's Channelside Restaurant. We could see the Assateague Island Lighthouse from our table.



**Day 11 – Saturday, May 15**  
**(85.7 miles)**

**Start** – Pine Grove Campground  
(Chincoteague)

**End** – Cherrystone Family  
Campground







Day 11 – Peter and Tom help Dean patch a flat tire. We had quite a few flats on this trip. Paul, John, and Dean each bought a new tire on the trip.





Day 11 – A view from the Island House Restaurant (lunch stop) in Wachapreague

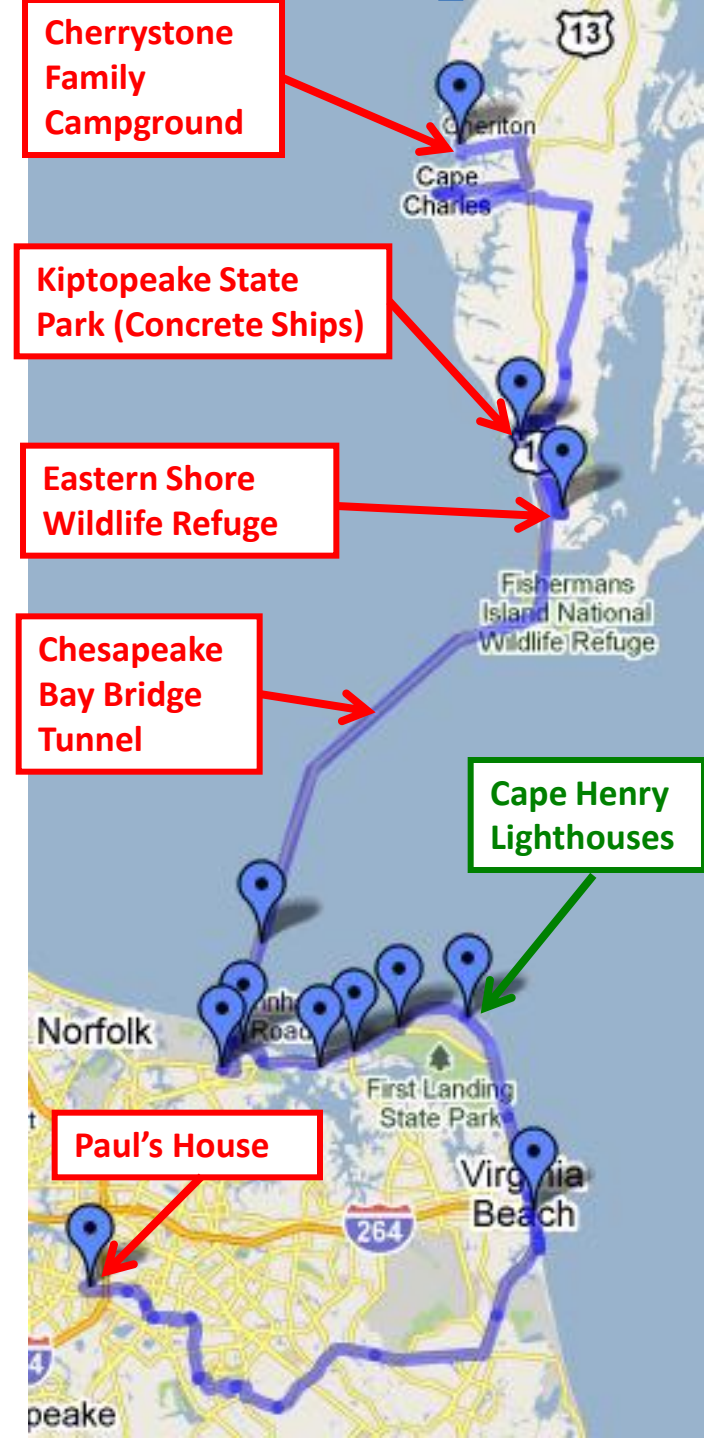


**Day 12 – Sunday, May 16**  
**(63.0 miles)**

**Start** – Cherrystone Family Campground  
**End** – Paul's house (Virginia Beach)



About to hit 1000 miles – my longest bike trip







Day 12 – Paul's daughter (Karen), granddaughters (Beth and Zoey) and wife (Alice – not pictured) picked us up at the Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge for the trip across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.





Day 12 – Loading the bikes on a trailer at the Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge for the trip across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.





Day 12 – Dennis and Peter on the fishing pier on the 1<sup>st</sup> Island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.





Day 12 – The group is dropped off at Wawa (Shore Drive & Pleasure House Rd) to continue their journey to the last two lighthouses.





Bruce & Debbie Drees and Paul's family join the group for lunch at Chick's Oyster Bar in Virginia Beach. Bruce made arrangements for our group to have access to Fort Story.





Day 12 – The [Old Cape Henry Lighthouse](#) and the [New Cape Henry Lighthouse](#)





Day 12 – New Cape Henry Lighthouse – end of the trip!