

Gary C Worrell

From: Worrell, Gary C. [Gary.Worrell@jhuapl.edu]
Sent: 24 February, 2006 10:12
To: gcw@igx.net
Subject: Postcard
Attachments: BorderFieldStateParkMap.gif; BorderFieldStateParkSatellite.gif;
BorderMonumentWithLightHouse.jpg

Hello from the corner of the continental US.

Now you may be thinking "which corner?"

Well, there is really only one "corner."

In the Northeast, you've got Maine, but it has such a funny shape there really isn't any distinguishable corner.

In the Southeast is Florida with it's rounded islands of Keys (or Quays if you prefer) so it doesn't qualify.

In the Northwest, you might be inclined to call the area of land to the south of the Strait of Juan deFuca Inlet a corner, but that doesn't take into account the whole Point Roberts thing (don't know about Point Roberts? Look it up here

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0408/feature7/index.html?fs=www7.nationalgeographic.com>

- I've been there also).

So that leaves the Southwest. At the corner where the US meets Mexico at the Pacific is Border Field State Park.

It wasn't easy to get to. During the week you have to park nearly 2 miles away and walk to it (see map). There was hardly anyone around (on the US side) except the occasional Border Patrol vehicle. The Border Patrol was actually dragging the dirt (like they do to prepare a baseball diamond) to erase any footprints so they could see the new ones.

In the park is the official Border Monument (see picture). It's made of Italian Marble, and was placed in 1851 (under military escort), three years after the US-Mexican War. The border fence is cut so it goes around the monument. The official survey to mark the US-Mexico Border started at this point. The inscription on the monument says "Boundary of the United States. The Destruction or displacement of this monument is a misdemeanor punishable by the United States or Mexico." Very

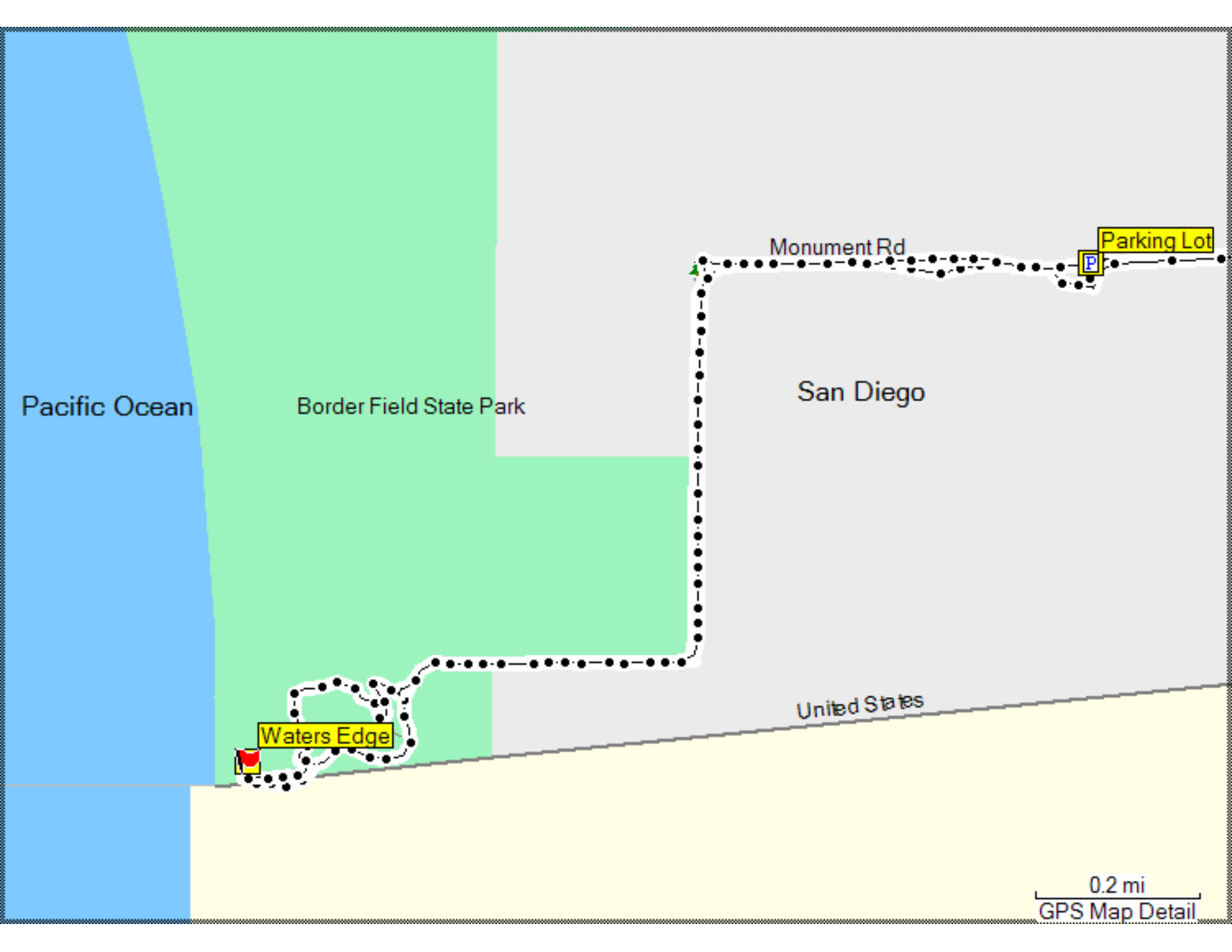
prophetic.

On the Mexico side is a fairly new looking lighthouse. There was lots of activity on the Mexico side, people on the beach, businesses, etc. Someone on the other side of the fence was trying to have a conversation with me, but I had two border patrol vehicles pointing in my direction and I wasn't interested in experiencing a "Border Patrol Shakedown." I still had a 2 mile walk back to my vehicle.

In the satellite image (with my GPS track overlay), you can make out the fence and see it goes right into the water. The fence also cuts right through the center of a circular concrete pad. The Border Monument is in the center of the pad. You can also see the shadow from the lighthouse. The round stadium thingy on the Mexico side of the satellite image is a Bull Fighting Ring.

G.

Gary C Worrell
The Johns Hopkins University
Applied Physics Laboratory



Pacific Ocean

Border Field State Park

San Diego

United States

Monument Rd

Parking Lot

Waters Edge

0.2 mi
GPS Map Detail



