

Gary Worrell

From: Gary Worrell [gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 29 November, 2012 14:30
To: 'Gary Worrell'
Subject: Postcard
Attachments: Map.GIF; Satellite.GIF; RitaWreck01.jpg; RitaWreck03.jpg; GulfPetroleum01.jpg; SabineLakePetroleumRig.jpg; FieldCattle.jpg; CameronPrairieWildlifeRefuge02.jpg; Gator.jpg; DuckMooning.jpg; ReallyLargreGantryCrane.jpg

Hello again (no "hello" picture this time, it was cloudy all day). More new members on the Postcard List, Welcome. As always, you can catch up on the previous postcards at <http://igx.net/Postcards>

So I went to Lake Charles, Louisiana to do some work last Monday, expecting to get started Monday evening.

When I arrived, I found that I was going to have to wait until Tuesday evening before I could start. "No problem," I thought. "I have some work on my laptop that can keep me busy for a day."

Who was I kidding? By the time I awoke on Tuesday morning, it was banging in my head – Road Trip.

Lake Charles is in Southwest Louisiana, about 30 miles North (as the crow flies) of the Gulf of Mexico. So I headed off to Cameron, a small town on the edge of the Gulf, on the East side of the Calcasieu Ship Channel. The channel is the entrance to a maze of inland waterways, eventually leading to the Port of Lake Charles (see map and satellite images).

Southwest Louisiana was devastated in 2005 by Hurricane Rita (which if you remember, struck shortly after Hurricane Katrina), and was the most intense tropical cyclone ever recorded in the Gulf of Mexico. As I drove along, there were still scars from the blast. Destroyed buildings, vehicle carcasses in fields, boats among the trees. But there were just as many signs of recovery. New homes, fresh paint jobs, new tractors in the fields.

In Cameron, I took the \$1 ferry (and you only pay going West, Eastbound is free) to the west side and continued driving along the coast into Texas. Lots of petroleum platforms out on the Gulf. While there I travelled the length of Pleasure Island, then turned around and came back. When I got back to the ferry, I parked and pointed LouisianaCAM ® towards the incoming boat traffic, here is a short clip:

<http://igx.net/Video/121127CameronFerry2HZ30FPS.wmv>

While on my travels, I snapped pictures of ships to add to my collection. I didn't know I had a collection until I came across an interesting web site that shows vessel locations around the world, including pictures of the vessels. Once I found that I could upload my photos to the site, I began scouring all my pictures and uploaded as many as I could identify to the site. If you go to:

<http://MarineTraffic.com>

and enter my name in the search field in the upper right (all you need to enter is "gary wo" to find me) you can see all the images I've submitted. Many of my images are the only images available of some vessels.

On the way back to my hotel, I took a quick detour into the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge and observed some critters. I actually saw an alligator (kind of late in the year to see them), which is good because what would a trip to Louisiana be without seeing a gator? And as the picture shows, the ducks were indignant.

Another item I noted while I was in town – the area had many signs advertising a phone number to call if you had claims against BP resulting from the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf. Yet on the local news, it was reported that shrimp are so plentiful, that fishermen were bringing in more shrimp than the processing facilities could handle. Golly. Hope the price of Louisiana shrimp drops for you crustacean eaters.

Cheers,
G.





















