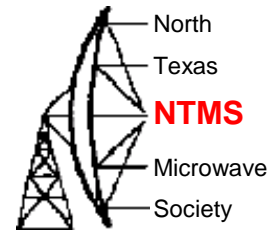


Second Annual Gulf of Mexico 10 GHz and Above Contest

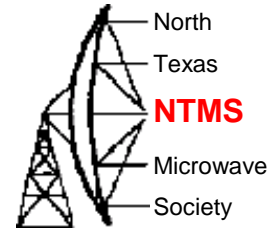
by

Bob Gormley WA5YWC

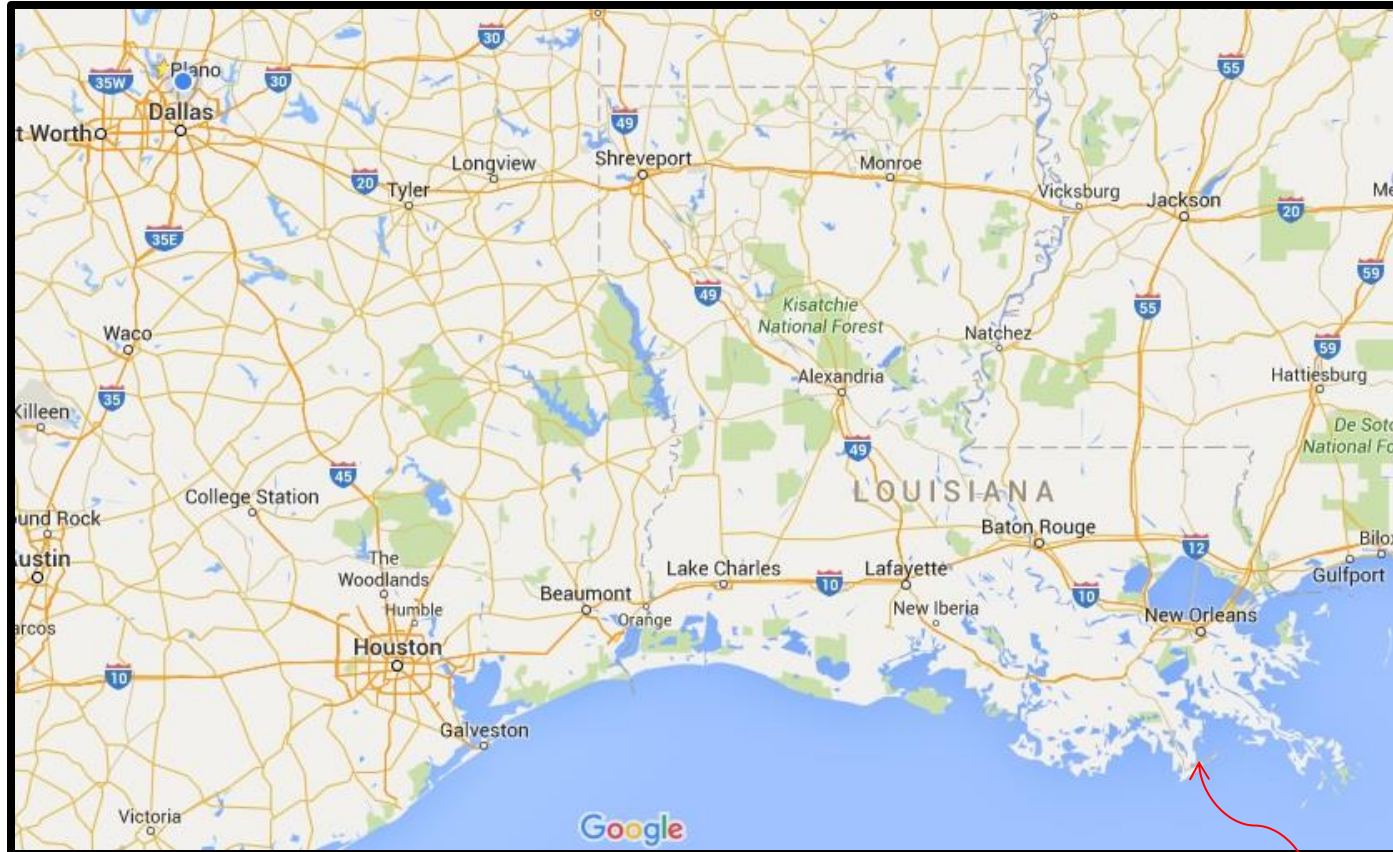


Objectives

- Work as many stations possible from Grand Isle, LA in EL49xf.
- Observe band conditions across the Gulf of Mexico towards Florida.
- Make rovers the priority.

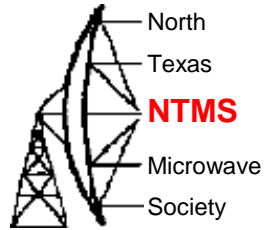


Where is Grand Isle, LA?



Here

Plans Change

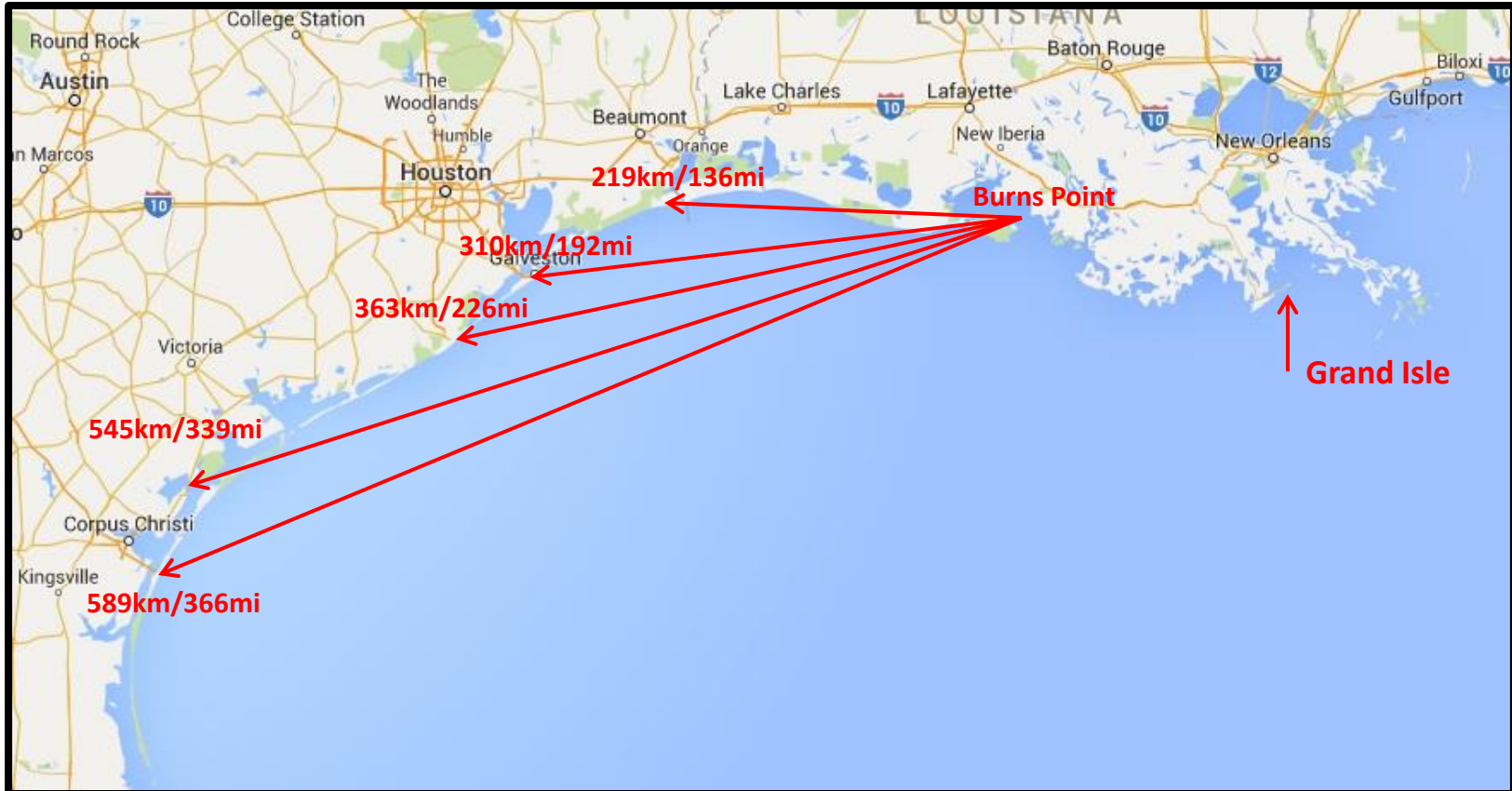
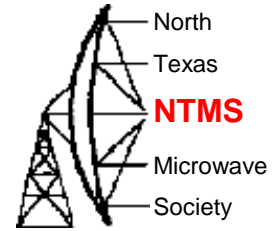


Primary plan was to operate from Burns Point Park west of Morgan City, LA in EL49fn. This location favored the Texas Gulf coast.

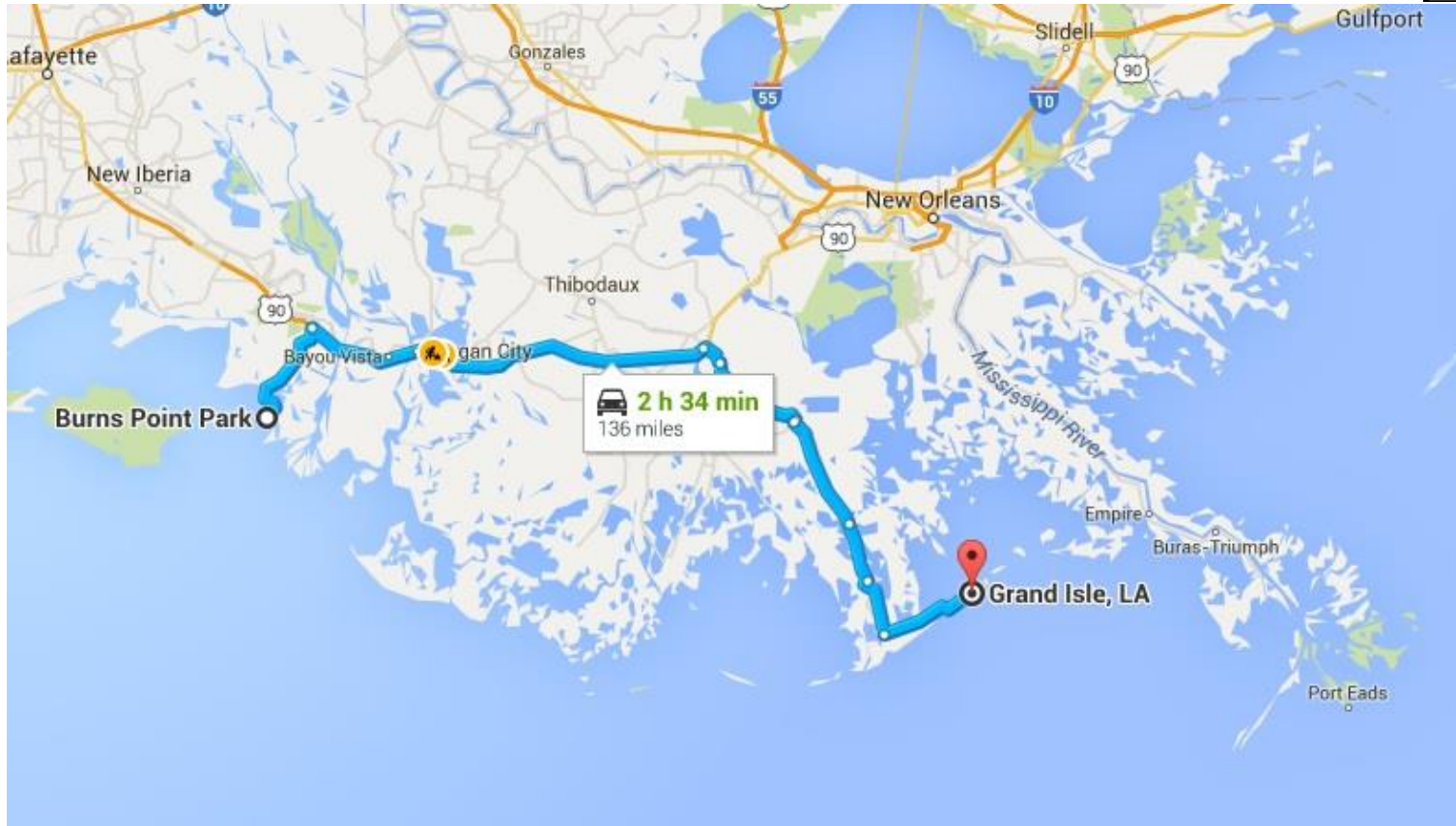
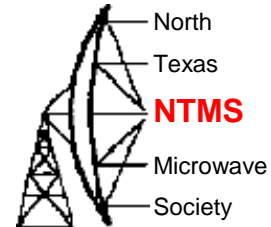
Work Texas stations on Saturday, east Gulf coast on Sunday from Grand Isle.

Plans change; nobody was going to activate the Texas Gulf coast.

Louisiana to Texas Path



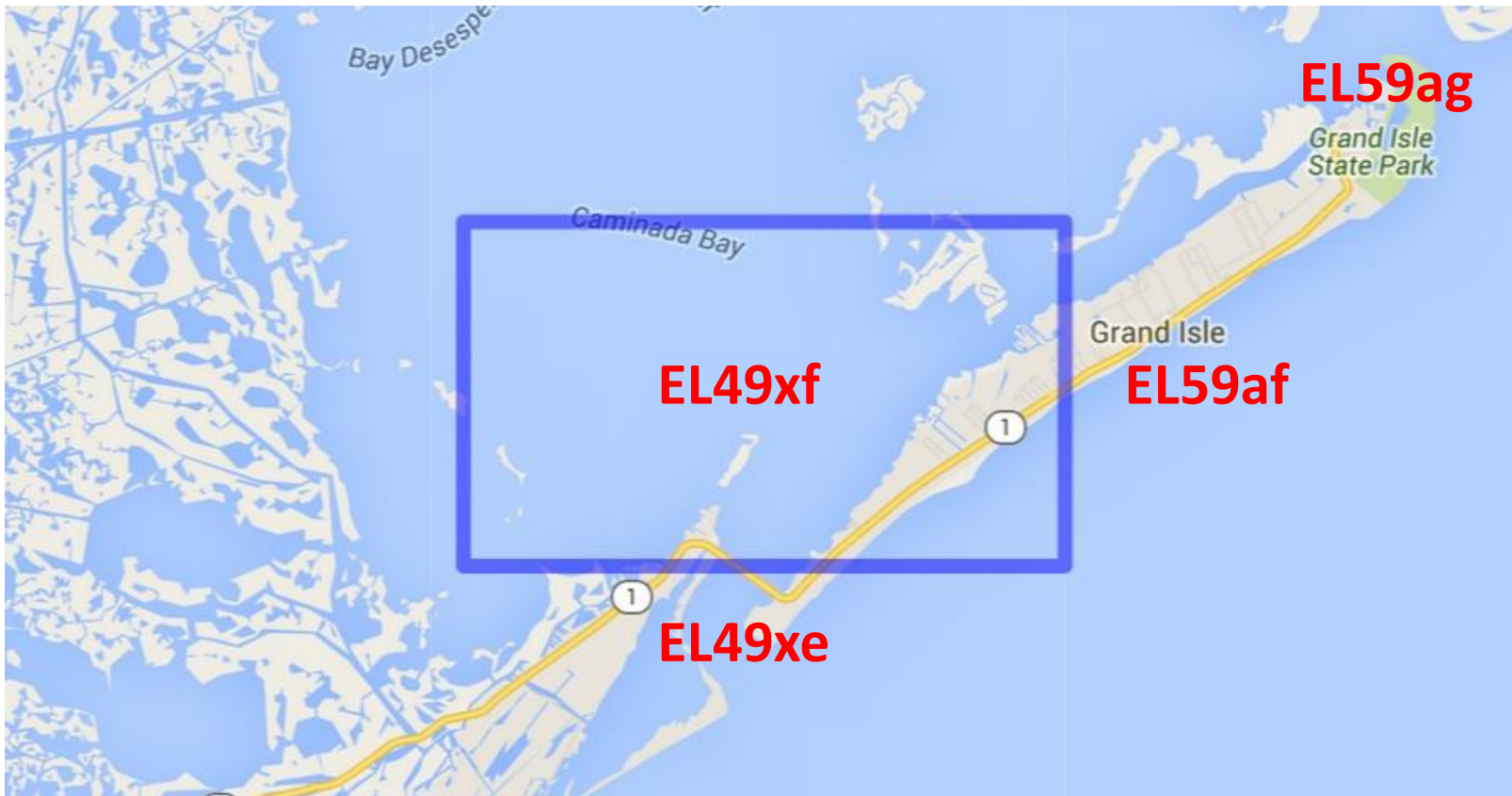
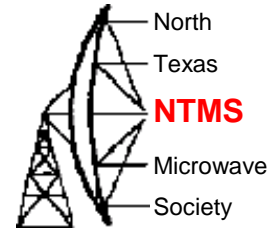
Potential Dilemma



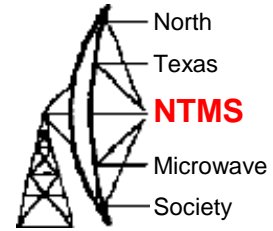
Burns Point Park is 136 miles from Grand Isle. Working rovers from Texas to Florida could present a problem. More investigation needed.

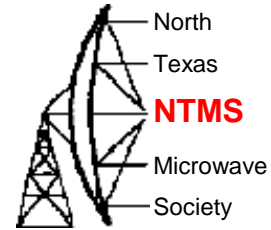
Grand Isle Grid Squares

Island is 7 miles long



Two Operating Locations Within EL49xf



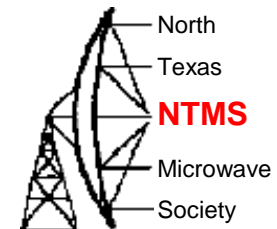


Why Move Operating Locations

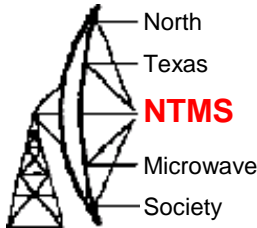
Grand Isle is positioned in a northeast/southwest direction. The northeast points to Mobile, AL.

Tony, WA8RJF is the only rover along the north Gulf coast. He started roving Saturday morning in EM50hg near Lakeshore, MS.

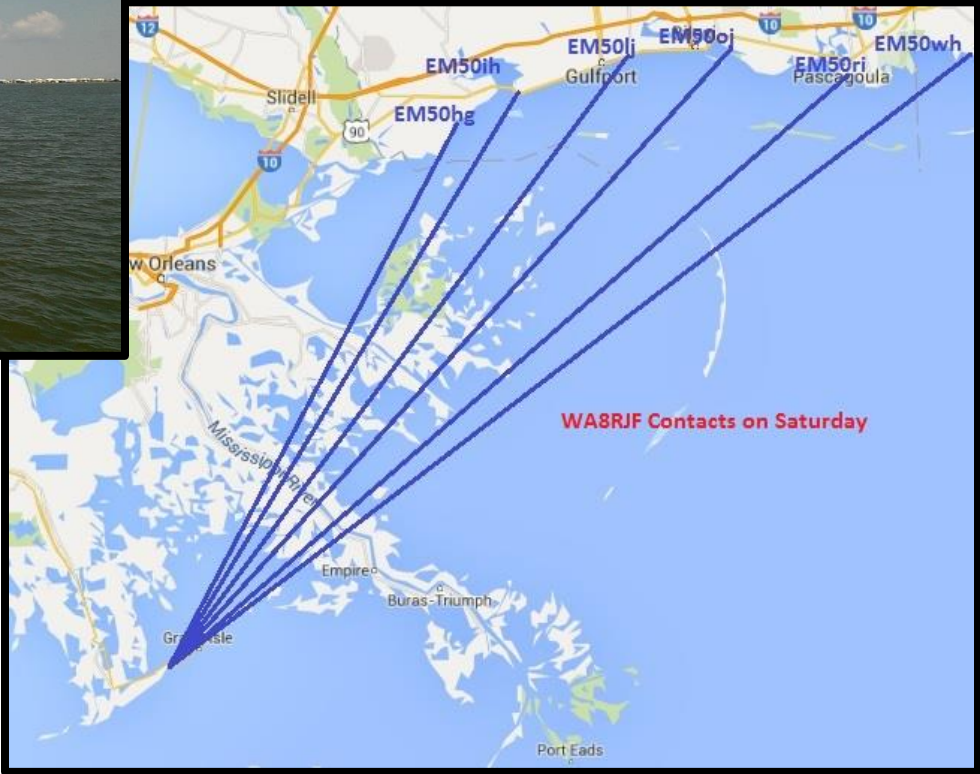
Saturday's Location in EL49xf



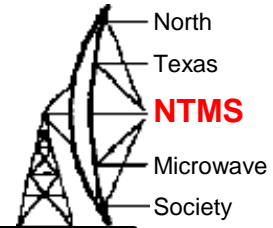
Tracking WA8RJF on Saturday



View looking northeast to WA8RJF



Sunday Morning still in EL49xf

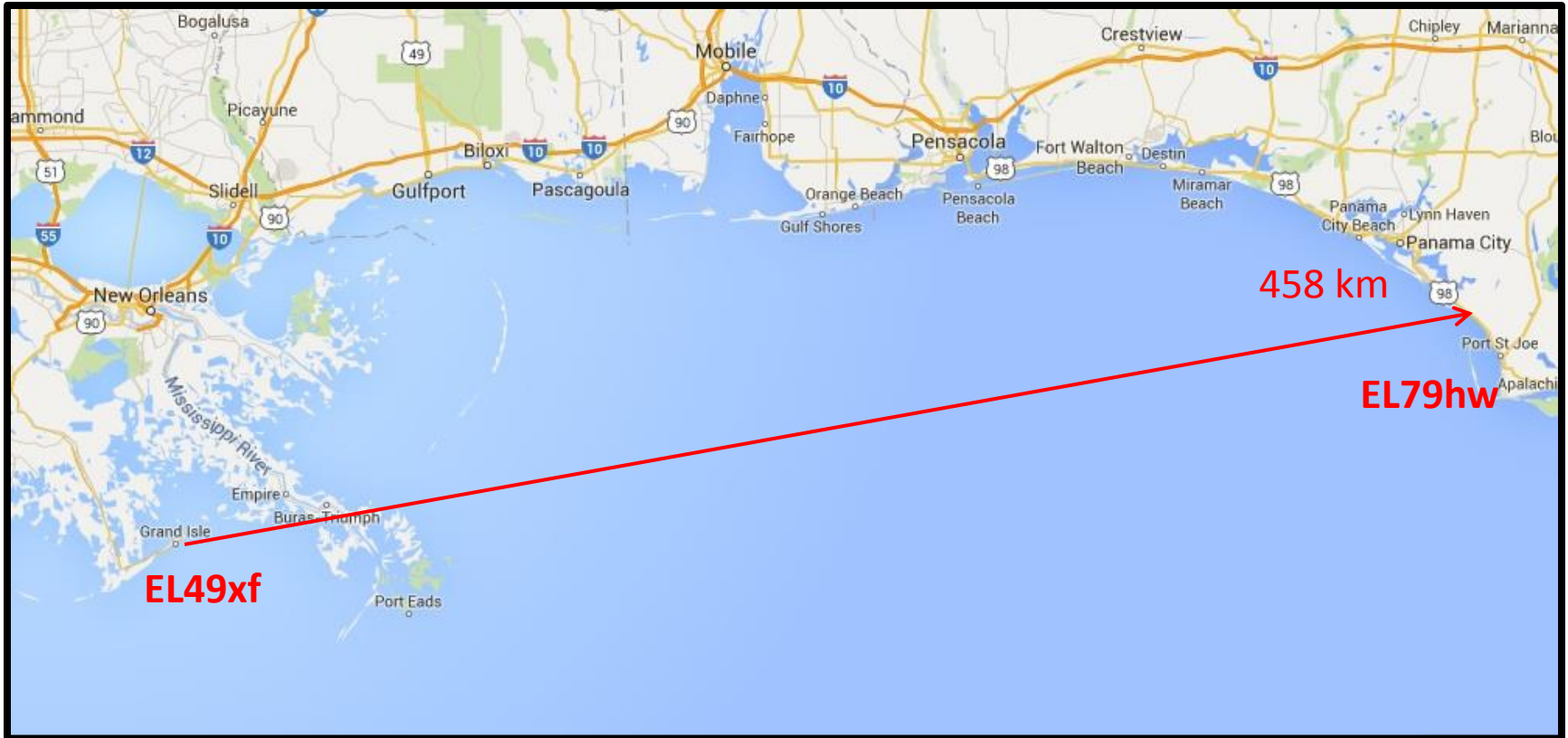
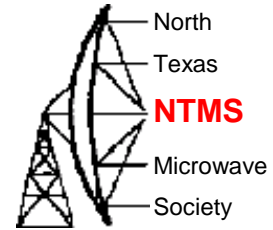


A New Experience as a Rover



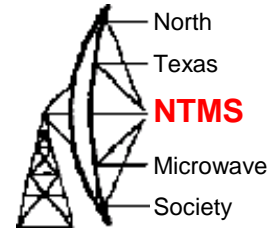
Motel manager lets me use the deck for the day.

Dawn contact with K4QF

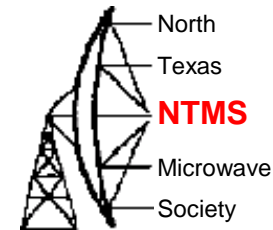


Ben, K4QF running 2 watts, 2 foot dish, distance 458 km/285 mi with 59+ ssb

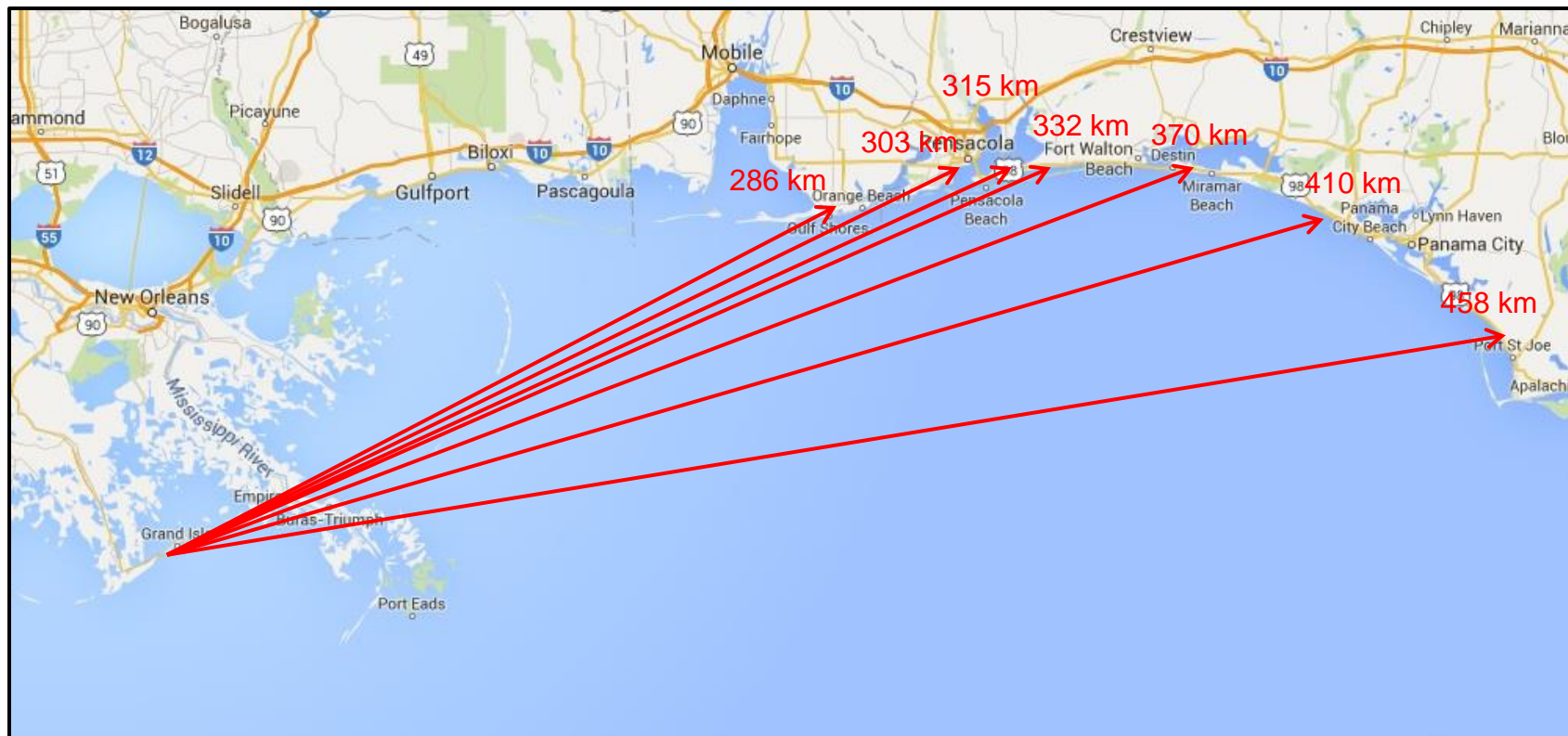
Looking for WA8RJF Sunday Morning



Most of the day, WA8RJF was across the neighbors deck.



WA8RJF Roving Sunday



Tony, WA8RJF runs 8 watts to a 2 foot dish. All contacts ssb 59+

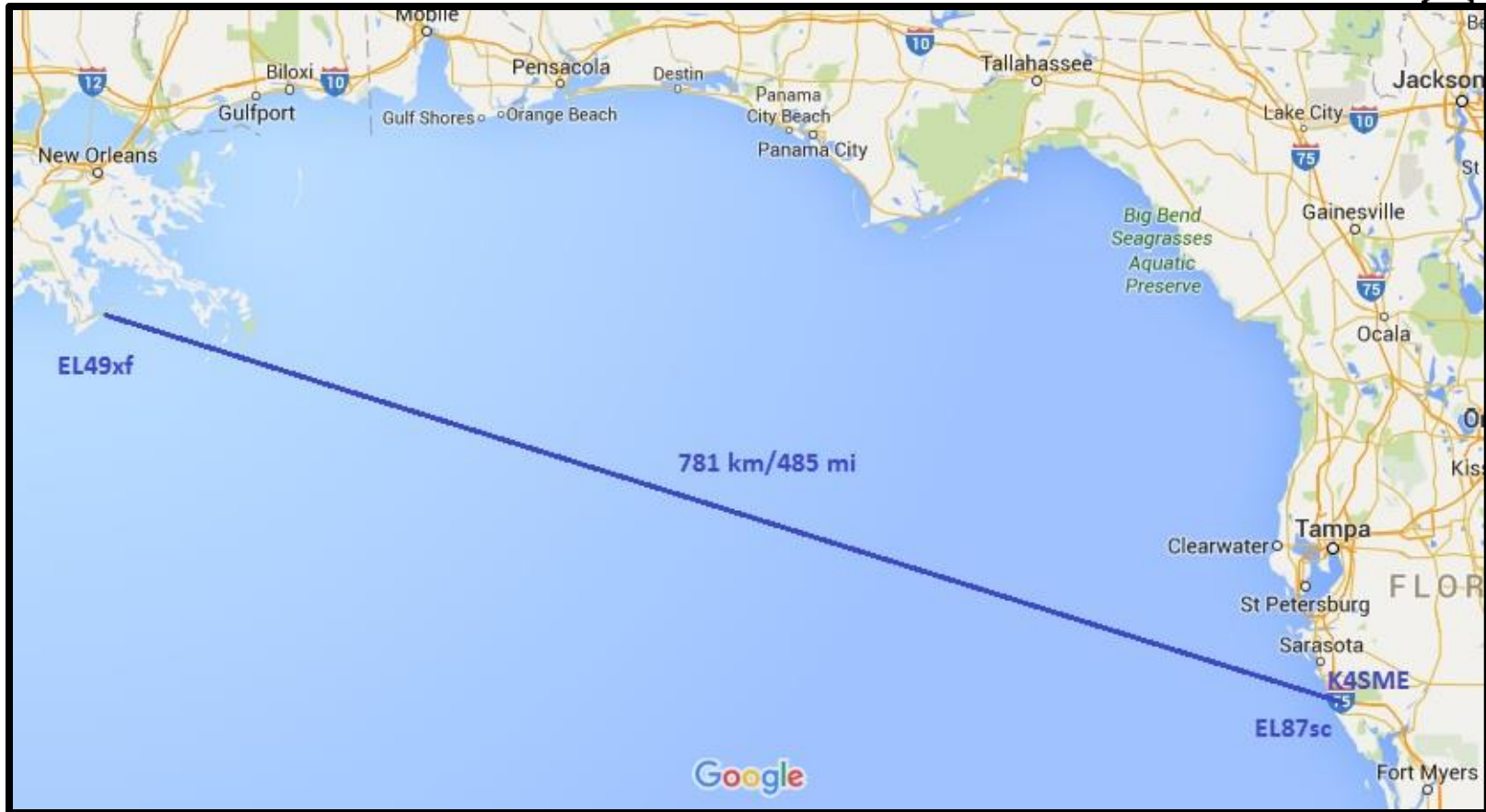
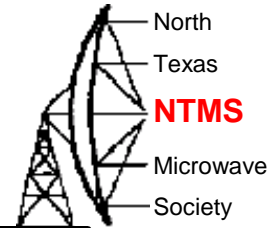
**Chasing the shadows
to keep the equipment
cool.**



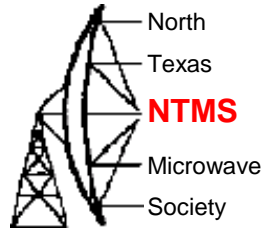
**Glad I had an
umbrella !**



Where is Steve and Sandra?



Time: 1430, High Pressure over Gulf, K4SME hears me calling. I don't here them.



Weekend Recap

All contacts were greater than 130 km.

Three unique call signs worked.

15 QSO's in the log.

4,394 km total distance worked.

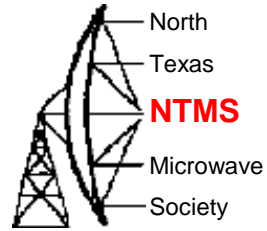
All signals were 59+, ssb mode. CW was used to initiate a few skeds.

My signal heard 781 km/ 485 mi away.

Driving distance 1,200 miles round trip.

Grand Isle is a great place to make DX contacts.

Ideas for 2016 10 GHz Contest from Louisiana



**Have digital mode operational; JT-4.
Incorporate a CW beacon in my rig.
Have rovers equipped with Omni antennas.
Texas operators from Freeport to Port Arthur.
One day at Burns Point, the next in Grand Isle.
Promote activity.**