

The Cajun Link

Newsletter

Published quarterly – January, April, July, October

By and for
Grand Voiture de la Louisianne

February – March - April
April 2011

John Kilgus Award -- Fiscal Years 2005 & 2006
Arthur McDowell Award -- Fiscal Year 2008 & 2010



La Société des
Quarante Hommes et Huit Cheveux

L'Editeur Carl A. Barr carlbarr@bellsouth.net

On the Web at <http://www.cajunlink.org>



Grand Chef de Gare Donald K. Schreiber

Time marches on—here we are in April and there are things we still need to accomplish.

Membership: At 95.87%. Some Voitures have made a good showing in the past few weeks; some seem to be at a standstill. We can recruit from other organizations and don't forget—the person does not need to be a member of the American Legion. If he has a good DD214 and you think he would make a good member, propose him. Let's make a special

effort to get 100% and make our Chef de Chemin de Fer proud of Louisiana.

Southland Dixie Promenade is on us, hope to see you there. Our cooks—Dudley and Ray Boy—will be there so there will be a touch of home in the chow line. Shreveport 2012 will be our turn. Plan to be there.

The Cajun Wreck combined with Homecoming of the Chef de Chemin de Fer was a huge success that all those attending seemed to enjoy.

Our programs seem to be going along fine. The people who work so hard to make these successful spend a lot of time on them. The next time you see one of these individuals take the time to pat him on the back, shake his hand and say thanks.

Once more—MEMBERSHIP—let's work it and make Chef de Chemin de Fer Hank proud. Until next time, God bless each of you, and God bless the U. S. A.

Donald Schreiber

Grand Officers for 2010-11

| TITLE | NAME | VOITURE | | TITLE | NAME | VOITURE |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------|--|----------------|------------------|---------|
| Chef de Gare | Don Schreiber | 137 | | Commis Voy | John DeMoss | 1588 |
| Chef de Train | Charles Aucoin | 1584 | | Historien | Carl A. Barr | 1588 |
| Chef de Train | Raymond Walters | 1616 | | Drapeau | Jesse Morrison | 1588 |
| Correspondant | Henry Kwiatkowski | 1588 | | Chem Nat'l | Joe Caldwell | 137 |
| Sous Corr. | Dudley LeBlanc | 1038 | | Alt Chem Nat'l | Terry Sharp | 224 |
| Comm. Intend | Cliff Kershaw | 309 | | Cheminot | Charles Rodgers | 1588 |
| Medicin | Kenneth LaFleur | 1351 | | Cheminot | Paul Strange | 1588 |
| Avocat | Richard Jakubiak | 309 | | Cheminot | Henry Montgomery | 1532 |
| Conducteur | Dennis Engdahl | 137 | | Cheminot | Mike Bourque | 1577 |
| Gard de la Port | Gil Lovelady | 1588 | | Cheminot | Eldon Guidry | 1618 |
| Lampiste | Alex Gueho | 340 | | Aumonier | Charley Parent | 309 |

Membership

MEMBERSHIP STATUS FOR LOUISIANA – 21 Apr 2011 (National Web Posting)

<http://www.fortyandeight.org/>

| General | Grande | Voiture | 2010 | 2011 | % of Quota | Short |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 108 | 34 | 30 | 88.24% | -4 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 137 | 159 | 153 | 96.23% | -6 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 201 | 51 | 45 | 88.24% | -6 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 224 | 23 | 26 | 113.04% | 3 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 274 | 21 | 27 | 128.57% | +6 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 309 | 39 | 38 | 97.44% | -1 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 313 | 25 | 20 | 80.00% | -5 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 340 | 24 | 23 | 95.83% | -1 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 392 | 11 | 10 | 90.91% | -1 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 430 | 17 | 12 | 70.59% | -5 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1038 | 78 | 72 | 92.31% | -6 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1351 | 35 | 36 | 102.86% | +1 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1360 | 36 | 30 | 83.33% | -6 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1522 | 39 | 37 | 94.87% | -2 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1532 | 17 | 16 | 94.12% | -1 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1577 | 20 | 19 | 95.00% | -1 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1584 | 26 | 28 | 107.69% | +2 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1588 | 56 | 54 | 96.43% | -2 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1602 | 12 | 8 | 66.67% | -4 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1615 | 85 | 85 | 100.00% | 0 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1616 | 36 | 33 | 91.67% | -3 |
| MOLEN | LOUISIANA | 1618 | 27 | 22 | 81.48% | -5 |
| | | TOTAL | 871 | 835 | 95.87% | -36 |

Note: The top ten Grandes have met or exceeded 100% if Quota.
Grande du Louisiana is ranked 18th with 95.87%.

Americanism and Special Awards (2011)

Milton Harrison, Grand Directeur

Now is the time to start putting your Voiture Locale's activities for the 2010-2011 year down on paper for your annual reports. If you have done anything for the Forty and Eight, American Legion, VFW or any other veterans organization, then please report those activities to your correspondant for inclusion in the end of year reports.

Americanism is the activity of any voiture or voyageur in service to the public. while participating in your communities' activities, you are not only accumulating hours, miles and dollars for the Americanism Program, you are promoting the Forty and Eight Americanism Program and its ideals by setting an example of a veteran's love for his community, state and nation.

The 40 and 8's Flags for First Graders Program is the Veterans chance to show the very young what **Americanism** really means. Remember, you do not have to stop with the first grade, some school systems ask that the FFFG's presentation be made before an assembly of elementary classes. Just insure that you are reporting your FFFG's activities to the Grande Voiture. Please use the Americanism Report Form and the Flags for First Graders Form found in your Petite Communiqué from Nationale when reporting to the Grand Correspondant. Go to the Forty and Eight website and download your forms from the Petite Communiqué. Your reports are due to the Grand Correspondant NLT July 08, 2011. We need 100% participation and reporting to Grande Voiture de la Louisiane.

Milton "Milt" Harrison

Public Relations

The end of year is fast approaching. It is time to start preparing your public relations reports from Petit Communiqué and sending them in. Every Voiture has done some type of pr this year, whether it be a newspaper article or a bit on the evening news. All reports are due by July 1st. Please take the time to complete them. This is a way for us to share what we do with Nationale. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (504) 722-2469 or email dkfransen@yahoo.com.
Donna Fransen-Miller

Voiture Activities

Larry Abshire, Chairman
105 Noma Lane, Westlake, LA 70669
larryabshire@netcommander.com
cell 337-304-6980 – home 337-433-5690

I am asking for help from each Voiture by turning in Voiture Activity Reports so that we will get credit for all our hard work. Write it down! Keep good records! Render reports to Grand. Consider promenades, wrecks, hospital visits, funerals, etc.—you do have activities—report them.

Obtain the reporting form on line <http://www.fortyandeight.org>—go to > Main Index > Download Forms > Petite Communiqué > Voiture Activity Report. You can fill the form in on line and e-mail it to me, or you can print the form, fill it in, and send it via USPS mail to my home address above.

If I can help you, call me anytime.

Nurses Training

Grand Directeur Cliff Kershaw

I have the 2011 Pins available at this time. If you haven't gotten them, let me know and I will get them to you. Some Voitures got the pins at the 2nd Grand Cheminot. If they are on consignment, please send the check to the Grand Directeur made out to Grand Voiture de la Louisiana. Donation for pins is \$3.00 each. Let's get the funds submitted to Grand so we can get the funds forwarded to Nationale Directeur Ken Lefleur. It's time to submit an application to Boland Trust for another Nurse in training. Cliff Kershaw, 2027 Antonio Road, Port Allen, LA 70767 clijeakershaw@cox.net

Youth Sports Program

Directeur Wes Howell

The Youth Sports Program of 40 & 8 is now in full swing and welcomes any and all contributions. The importance of this program and the contributions it has to offer our communities cannot be over-emphasized.

The **Youth Sports Program** was established in 1994 and through this program the 40/8 provides financial assistance in the form of Grants to individuals or teams who lack the funds to attend or participate in amateur sports programs. This program covers all amateur sports programs for youths from age 7 to 20 years of age.

For Grant applications and information contact **Grand Youth Sports Directeur Wes Howell** cell phone 985-966-1799
weshowell@aol.com

The program offers the **Voiture Locales** the opportunity to help make supporting contributions through the sale of **Pins** and **Booster Cards**. These are also available through the program Directeur. Any Voiture interested in participating in Pin sales or wishing to make a donation to this worthwhile program may contact me and I will get this information to you. All checks should be made out to **Voiture Nationale Youth Sports**.

Wesley Howell

Grand Aumonier Charley Parent

A ONE-SIDED CONVERSATION

During a recent visit to the Alexandria VA Medical Center, I stopped off to see a couple of veterans who I have known over many years of their long hospital stays, brought on by both physical and mental disabilities. Neither was able to carry on a conversation or to speak an intelligible word. Knowing this, I wondered if my visit would be a one-sided conversation.

Moments later I was happily surprised to find that they were responding to some of my words. A twinkle in the eyes and an evident effort to smile at one of my attempts at humor showed me that our conversation was not one-sided. They were not able to speak, but they certainly could communicate. A happy look, a raised eyebrow, some good body language was all I needed. We understood each other perfectly.

In Proverbs 4:1 King Solomon said to pay attention and gain understanding. In our hurried world, do we really pay attention to others? Do we hear what they say? Truly, it is difficult to communicate personally in such an increasingly impersonal world.

Yet, when God speaks, we must pay close attention, for our Commander of the Universe speaks subtly...the rush of the wind through the trees...the falling of raindrops on our plants and flowers...the sunrise that gives a new chance for a better day tomorrow...gratitude in the eyes of a less fortunate soul.

God also speaks to us in his house of worship. When you visit God in his house, you can really feel his presence...but you must pay close attention.

Charley Parent
Grand Aumonier

TAPS



VFW 12th District Honor Guard Bugler - Memorial Day 2008 Hill Crest Cemetery

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| V. 137 | Glenn Donald Jenkins | V. 1522 | John W. Gairens |
| V. 137 | Claude "Sonny" Pearson | V. 1522 | Paul Bertuccini |
| V. 201 | Leon Ragas | V. 1577 | Joseph E. Richard |
| V. 201 | Lawrence White | V. 1602 | Charles Morris |
| V. 224 | Danny Potts | V. 1616 | George T. Andry |
| V.1351 | Reuben Sumrall | V. 1588 | James C. Rodgers |

Past Chef de Gare Club

This membership year is almost over for all of us. Check your NPCC member card, if it is not 2011, please renew now. Send your \$15.00 dues to me. If you have moved this year I will need your new address. If you would like to join us as a new member, send \$20.00 and your complete mailing address. I will complete the paper work and forward it to the Grand Commissar Intendant. You will receive your card from Nationale. The Club is growing, we are picking up new members at every Grand Promenade, at our next Grand Promenade the Club will have election of Officers for 2012.

Archie Boyette
128 Legacy Pointe Dr.
Pineville La. 71360

Cajun Wreck 2011 and Homecoming

Thirteen new Voyageurs were wrecked in the Class of 2011. We have posted additional photos on the web site for these events <http://www.cajunlink.org>

National Box Car Directeur Ron Wheeler sent a letter of thanks to P. L. Landry for the Kangaroo Court donation of \$3,150 to Box Car Program. "...we would like to thank all the brave individuals that took a pie in the face for Box Car."

"...thanks to the following for their sacrifice for our great cause.

- Chef de Chemin de Fer, Hank Kwiatkowski
- Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer, Joe Steil
- Hotel Manager of the Holiday Inn



Hank had been waiting in the pillory quite a while when someone finally offered him a bit of refreshment—then his old buddy Dick Jakubiak took dead aim with the dreaded "*pie in the face.*" The dollars kept piling up until Hank's pie netted over \$2,000. Other contributions to Joe Steil and the hotel manager brought in \$3,150 for Box Car and about \$1,000 more through Berta Henderson and others for other programs, including Carville Star and the Hansen's Museum at Carville.



Chef de Chemin de Fer Hank Kwiatkowski was the Obligating Chef for the thirteen PG's in the Cajun Wreck Class of 2011. The Wrecking Chef was Past Chef de Chemin de Fer P. L. Landry 1992. The Voiture 1351 Wrecking Crew was ably assisted by Voyageurs from across Louisiana and some from Florida.

Special kudos to Pat Beamer, Spirit of the Unknown Soldier.



Chef de Chemin de Fer 1992 Paul Landry (at rear) was wrecking chef; Sous Chef Grethmann seated at left, Sous Chef Molen kneeling at left; Chef Hank and Grand Chef de Gare Don Schreiber;

New Voyageurs - Standing: John James 224, Luther Stepp 274, Roy Sanders 274, Dennis Stephan 1584, Charlie Martin 1584, Ron Burkhalter 224,

New Voyageurs - Seated: Herbert Jones 274, Sammy White 274, James Barron 1351, Frank Courville 1351, David Williams 224, Percy Henry, Jr. 274, Raymond Hartley 224

Individual portraits of each of the New Voyageurs are on page 9.



Ron Burkhalter
224



Herbert Jones
274



Frank Courville
1351



Raymond Hartley
224



Roy Sanders
274



Charles Martin
1584



John James
224



Luther Steppe
274



Dennis Stephan
1584



Dvid Williams
224



Sammy White
274

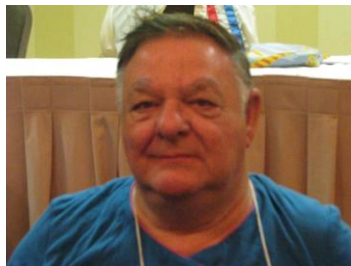


When the Wreck was over, each of the new Voyageurs received pins from VIPs –

- Big Chef Kwiatkowski
- Sous Chef Grethmann
- Sous Chef Molen
- Grand Chef Schreiber



Percy Henry, Jr.
274



James Barron
1351



Leonard Walters and JoAnn Hall



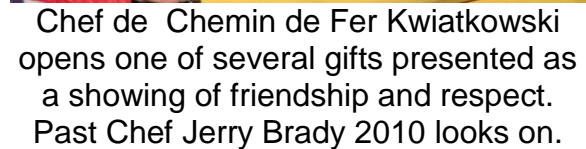
Joe & Cheryl Jamnick



Terry & Smoke Simms



254 attended the banquet Saturday



Chef de Chemin de Fer Kwiatkowski opens one of several gifts presented as a showing of friendship and respect. Past Chef Jerry Brady 2010 looks on.



Gifts and gift bearers came in all sizes.

News from Voitures Locale

Voiture 137 Wreck is planned for May 21st; Breakfast at 0700, wreck at 0800. Lunch will be served when wreck is completed. We expect about 11 PGs; more will be welcome. Please let us know in advance if possible—Jim Canada, Conducteur canada50@bellsouth.net

Voiture 137 Promenade on 7 April was occasion to recognize their selections of Hero of the Year and Law Officer of the Year. These two public servants with their spouses and supervisors were guests for a dinner before the Promenade



MEMBERS OF THE SHREVEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT
DEPUTY CHIEF TOM SELF, **FIREFIGHTER COREY T. CUMMINGS**, CAPTAIN SCOTT CALVERT, ASST CHIEF TOMMY CARPENTER **Corey Cummings** was selected as Hero of the Year, having risked his own life to rescue a child from a burning house.



MEMBERS OF CADDO PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE—SHERIFF STEVE PRATOR, **RICHARD E. PORTER**, LT. JACKIE LEWIS **Deputy Richard E. Porter** is Law Officer of the Year, based on his nearly thirty years in law enforcement agencies including State Police, with specialization on DWI enforcement and prevention.



Milton Harrison, Directeur of Americanism, submitted the names and resumes of Firefighter Corey Cummings and Law Officer Richard Porter.

Voiture 1602 Baton Rouge—A letter goes out each month to tell the membership where the Promenade and other activity will be held. They vary from churches to Legion Posts—the change may be good—gives them a sense of independence.

Voiture 1577—Elton Bourque always sends out notices of their monthly Promenade, and includes a comment that “there will be a good meal for those who attend.” And he notes other activities of interest that are upcoming—Southland Dixie Promenade 2011 in Charleston and 2012 in Shreveport. Elton usually waxes philosophically, too. “THIS I KNOW...after driving in Lafayette a few days ago...if you lined up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.”

Hey, Elton, that's not limited to Lafayette. In the spring of 1995 I was returning to Shreveport from Baton Rouge on Highway 190 just east of Opelousas, carefully adhering to the speed limit. There was a lineup of perhaps ten vehicles in my lane going a bit under the limit. I chose to pass them and, wanting to accomplish it expeditiously, went to seventy. Of course, you know what was waiting for me—cost \$140 and the embarrassment of being observed by my seventeen year old grandson. CAB

* * * *

I served in the 455th Bomb Group (H) during WWII. That organization was deactivated in August 1945—it has since been reincarnated as the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, serving in Afghanistan. I recently received a letter from the current Wing Historian, Lt/Col Kenneth Tilley, describing the makeup and mission of the wing today. What follows is a brief summary of his letter. [L'EDITEUR]

We have about 3,500 personnel making this one of the largest wings in the entire Air Force. We are equipped with F-15, F-16, C-130, MC-12, EC-130H, HH-60G, plus some use of C-135 and C-17 for evacuation of wounded. We support the ground forces in close air support and basically drop bombs on the bad guys. We strafe some, but the A-10s in the south do most of that. This is some of the most rugged terrain in the world and obviously is a challenge with a tribal culture like Afghanistan. Tribal leaders and elders have all the power here and democracy is not in their vocabulary. There is less infrastructure here than just about anywhere else in the world, which adds to its being a dangerous place. Plus there are the 7 to 10 million mines the Soviets left from the 1980s. We have some of the best warriors in the world here and this is by far the busiest and best wing in the U.S. Air Force right now, so we can all be proud.



F-15Es from 389th Fighter Squadron dropping bombs on a target in Afghanistan. They are part of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing.

* * * *

Bin Laden is no more!

In a cleverly conceived and expertly executed operation on Sunday, 1 May 2011, a team of US Navy Seals and CIA agents raided the compound that housed Osama [or Usama] Bin Laden and killed him, extracted his body, id'd it by dna, and buried it at sea. All this was done without loss of any of our team!

The newscast description of it reminded me of the movie "The Dirty Dozen" with Lee Marvin.