

During June of this year, part of my Internet Technology consulting team, CyboTech, went down South to provide support for the HITEC show held at the New Orleans Convention Center. Rolling in a rental SUV loaded with specialized tools and equipment, we drove for 17 hours over two days. After a few 'bagful' of Krystal burgers and too many truck stops later, we approached the Gulf of Mexico and turned right. Traveling along the Gulf Coast for the final few hours towards New Orleans was refreshing. We located a nice place to stay and set up camp at the Hilton Garden Inn. Arrival in town a day early was necessary for 'load-in' day at the trade show - we had to wake at five in the morning to deliver the goods.

Sunlight started to peek over the horizon and we entered downtown. Stopped at a traffic light, I noticed the horizon and its palm trees. Looking around, city lights, traffic lights, and signage lights distracted me from the natural light gaining strength. I rolled down the window to get a feel for the space. It was quiet, no other vehicles on the road, pedestrians sitting, dreaming of Cafe Au Late and Hot Beignets -- coffee with chicory and 'French doughnuts' available nearby at the 'Original French Market Coffee Stand' - Café Du Monde. The damp feel of water surged through the city streets, rushing down Decatur Street in the French Quarter and past Café Du Monde. Humidity invaded the vehicle, fogging up the windows... the scene became blurry.

Wiping my eyes, not yet wide open, I grabbed my camera and snapped a few quick shots to serve as a visual record of my senses - just as the traffic light turned green. The invading humidity had also effected my camera, a Canon Elph, causing the lens to blur when it was exposed to the atmosphere. One of the three or four shots I took of the scene came out better than the rest. I turned on the defroster and zoomed through the intersection, making sure not to lose the lead truck.

Soon after, we met the other driver, and our team took control of the large truck that had hauled an assortment of KioskMaster International Kiosks, the Identity Series 5, delivered by the stocking distributor based in Salem, Virginia. We negotiated the unloading and delivery of these devices to the show floor via the Teamsters Union. Once we got everything set up, I tested the Photo Kiosk printer using the photos I took of the city streets earlier that morning. This was the beginning of my first visit to New Orleans.

