

Bringing Power to Hurricane Ravaged St. Bernard Parish

The American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour brought together two organizers who are helping deliver solar power to an area ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. The local tour organizer in Baton Rouge, Jeff Shaw asked the National Solar Tour Manager, Mike DiGrazia, "If there are any portable solar power systems that could be loaned out to help get the government back up and running - it would be fantastic."

Jeff Shaw of Louisiana Solar Energy Society has been working with State Representative Kenneth L. Odinet Sr., from St. Bernard parish, one of the worst areas hit, to bring critically needed electricity back to the area. Following Jeff Shaw's request for help, Mike DiGrazia put out the call out to tour organizers nationally, and William Ball in Little Rock Arkansas was among those who answered. Shaw and Rep. Odinet connected Ball with Bob Scafidel, with Port, Harbor and Terminal District.

Mr. Ball delivered a portable trailer mounted solar array designed by his company, Stellar Sun, to the St. Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District the afternoon of Monday, October 3. The solar trailer was displayed on October 1 at the Clinton Library, one of the stops on the National Solar Tour.

Stellar Sun developed the array to build houses without the need for grid power or fossil fuel. Solar energy technology has a direct use in disaster recovery during times when power is unavailable and fuel for generators is scarce.

Stellar Sun is donating the use of the trailer, and the Energy Division of the Arkansas Department of Economic Development is helping with some of the expenses incurred to get the trailer to Louisiana. William Ball says "The opportunity to help is also an opportunity to demonstrate capabilities of solar power." Remarkably, the PV panels on the trailer are about twenty years old and performing nearly as well as when they were new.

The Port was significant in the rescue efforts. As described on the Port's website, <http://www.stbernardport.com/update.html>: "St.



Bill Ball reviews the setup of solar trailer to the port electrician

Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District's Chalmette Slip served as a shelter of last resort for nearly 7,000 last minute evacuees. Rescue teams utilizing boats and jet skis rescued thousands and transferred them to Chalmette Slip and then to river ferries and then to shelters in New Orleans. Port warehouses continue

to serve as distribution sites for relief supplies or emergency response and other essential response

workers. The Port continues to assist local, state and federal government agencies with cleanup and recovery efforts."

For more hurricane stories, read Jeff Shaw's account of the aftermath in Baton Rouge at www.lses.org/katrina.html.

A recap of National Solar Tour events on October 1, including those hosted by Jeff Shaw in Baton Rouge, LA, and William Ball in Little Rock, AR, can be found at www.NationalSolarTour.org.

Solar Tour 2005



The Louisiana Solar Tour for 2005 was held on Oct. 1 this year. Attendance was low this year due to the hurricanes but six sites of the original eight were open for the tour.

Tony Adrian, Jonathan Riley, and Jeff Shaw reported low attendance but high interest. It seemed like the participants were full of questions about off-grid power more than grid-tied systems this year. Sandy Petit said that they had about nine people visit them.

The Petits, LSES members and tour hosts, were featured in the *St. Charles Herald* on October 20. A very nice article written by Eric Leblanc featured information about their solar power home, and included pictures of their solar set up and electric car.

Earth Day 2006

It will be here before we know it so let's get ready. Submit any ideas you may have to involve children this year. In the past we have set up a solar powered water fountain and solar powered laptop computers. One possibility we are considering is having a miniature solar car race. If you have any economical ideas we could implement, e-mail Jeff Shaw at jeff@lsec.org.



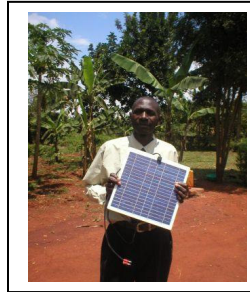
NEWS

The 2005 Energy Bill: Starting in January, a tax credit of 30% (up to \$2000) for solar power systems which will mean shortages of panels. As more Americans discover the tax credit and get their systems on order deliveries will be delayed even more. If you have been considering solar and have been waiting for an incentive, now is the time! For more information visit:

http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?BT_CODE=EDG1760

New Fiberglass Solar Panels Used for Unique Application in Africa

Evangelist Moody Adams of Baton Rouge had a unique problem to solve. He had purchased portable DVD players for mission work in Uganda but had no way to recharge the batteries once they got there.



Fiberglass panel in Uganda

A worldwide web search found the solution right in his city. Moody contacted Gulf South

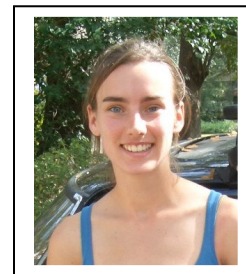
Solar of Baton Rouge for a portable solar power system that he thought would cost \$2000. GSS proposed lightweight 10 & 20 watt fiberglass solar panels to directly charge the players costing under \$200. Since the panels are not glass with metal frames they were easily packed in luggage.

For more information you can contact www.gulfsouthsolar.com

NESEA Representative Visits Louisiana to Help Rebuild

LSES welcomes Stephanie Mezenski from NESEA (Northeast Sustainable Energy Association). She is down to assist in the rebuilding of New Orleans in more sustainable ways.

Stephanie stayed with LSES Director Jeff Shaw and family before going down to New Orleans to start work. LSES member and energy auditor Audrey Evans has located her temporary housing.



Stephanie reported that the NESEA tour was big this year with over 500 homes featuring their solar power throughout the northeast. We have our work cut out for us down here!

Watch for . . . Jeff Shaw's story about surviving Hurricane Katrina's aftermath with the help of solar power in the November/December issue of *Solar Today*. Members of the American Solar Energy Society receive this magazine.
<http://www.solartoday.org>

Coming Soon on the Website

"What You Can Do To Save Money And"
Visit us at <http://www.lses.org>

If you are not a member of LSES now is a great time to join. We welcome you. For only \$15 a year you can support this ever growing solar society.

Dues are easier to pay now. You can now pay through PayPal from the website! Only \$15

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