

# Special Event Station: W5R



The USS Razorback was commissioned on 03 April 1944. She is currently docked in North Little Rock and is open to the public as a museum. The special event described here is scheduled to coincide with VJ Day – the day Japan surrendered in the Pacific and the end of World War II. The USS Razorback was present in Tokyo Bay at the signing ceremony on September 2, 1945. The chosen operating day is the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan’s surrender.

She has been used as an amateur radio operating location in the past – as part of the Museum Ships On The Air, so the museum staff is familiar with amateur radio operations. The staff is very accommodating. For the Special Event, we are allowed as many people as necessary to run the event with no fees charged. We are encouraged, and I highly recommend, we make a donation to the Museum.

## **Museum Location**

Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum  
120 Riverfront Park Dr, North Little Rock, AR 72114

## **Date and Time**

Date: 02 September 2023  
Time Onsite: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Time Operating: 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM

## **Operating Locations at the Museum**

There are two available operating locations – the USS Razorback (submarine) and USS Hoga (Woban Class District Harbor Tug).

## **Operating on the USS Razorback**

The Razorback has a radio room which can easily be setup for amateur radio use. It is located two decks below, inside the submarine. There are five 120 vac outlets located in this area and the area is climate controlled.



There is existing (original to the submarine) coax which runs to the outside with an attached long-wire antenna. A second 75-foot cable run of RG-8 that will reach into the sail of the submarine and is terminated in a male PL-259 connector. The coax connectors used in the radio room are both type "N" male connectors.

As you can see from the photograph, there is not much room in the radio room. Physically navigating the boat is a challenge, but at 6 feet, 195 lbs., I was able to do so. Remember that as late as the 1960s, the Navy limited the height of sub-sailors to 5' 9", so there is a lot of

bending over when walking through the boat.

The transceiver is placed on the left where the typewriter is in this photo, with the operator seated on the stool in front. In previous activations, the logger was located on the right, where the museum employee is sitting. If a separate logging person was not used, a second transceiver could be operated from here.

The antenna for the RG-8 coax feed will need to be supplied by us. The coax feed is setup to be on the submarine's sail, the highest point on the boat and is setup for a vertical. The location would give the best operating range.

The sail could also be a second operating location within the Razorback. It is a two flight climb from the deck.



Previous activations used the sail to accommodate a vertical antenna, but it could be used as an operating location as well. There are two pipes installed in the walls of the sail, where a mast and antenna could be inserted for support.

There is no power in this location, but if we wanted to operate from here, an extension cord could be provided or run from batteries. This would be a good location to put a live camera feed. The views are awesome.

### **Operating on the USS Hoga**



The USS Hoga has been recently finished a major upgrade and can be used for operations. There is 120 vac power available. There are no environmental controls, but fans can be brought in if necessary. There is no coax but the staff suggested we can run our coax out a nearby portal. The antenna could be mounted using C-clamps or whatever method on the deck on top of the tug.



On the main deck of the tug, is a great table we can use to setup equipment to operate. There is public traffic here where we could introduce patrons to ham radio. The area is large enough we could place a large computer monitor to demonstrate APRS, logging, FT4/FT8 digital, and local VHF operations to patrons of the Museum. A great “meet and greet” opportunity. We can also have a large table brought in and located immediately opposite the built in table if required.

### **QSL Cards**

I recommend we have a professional QSL card printed for the event. There are quite a few people like myself who collect these cards, and this would increase our contact count.

Finally, this would be a grand location for meeting the public, and providing additional exposure for the Museum and ham radio.

Michael Gunter, Ph.D.  
17 March 2023