



The Wheel

The Transportation Club of Houston Newsletter



November 2005

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DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

December 6, 2005

Our Holiday party this year will be held at Magic Island in Houston. If you have never been there, you have missed a really great night out. The night starts out with a fine dinner, then on to world-class magic & comedy shows featuring international stars of illusion. Magicians perform magic in close-up theatres and defy you to understand how they do it. Patrons can also play a game of fun-blackjack, have fortunes told by psychics or enjoy dancing in the Temple of Isis dance club. The surroundings are awesome replicas of ancient Egyptian artifacts.

See: www.transclubhou.org/Cparty05.htm for details.

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TCH FALL EDUCATION SERIES

Land Transportation 101

Due to the many issues associated with the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast, this seminar will be rescheduled to March 2006. Check out the education link on the [TCH website](#) for details.

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RAILROAD SWITCH SAFETY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT BEGINS TESTING

A federally funded test of new technology designed to prevent train accidents in dark, or non-signaled, rail territory by electronically monitoring the position of railroad switches is underway, announced U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta. If successful, the new technology will help reduce accidents like the recent collision involving a hazardous materials release in Graniteville, SC, Mineta added.

The test involves the installation of wireless communication devices at 49 switches along a 174-mile section of non-signaled BNSF Railway track between Tulsa and Avar, OK. Train dispatchers at an operations center in Fort Worth, TX will monitor the devices to identify when hand-operated switches are set in the wrong position. If a switch is misaligned, the dispatcher directs a train to stop until railroad crews in the field confirm it is safe to proceed.

Approximately 40 percent of all mainline track is located in dark territory and carries only about 20 percent of all rail traffic. Thus far in 2005, there have been nine accidents involving misaligned switches in dark territory resulting in ten fatalities and over 600 injuries.

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BOEING LAUNCHES 747-8 AS RIVAL TO AIRBUS

Boeing intensified its counter-attack against Airbus by approving the launch of a stretched version of its 747 as a belated rival to the Airbus A380 super jumbo, the world's largest passenger aircraft. The 747-8 is being introduced initially as a freighter aircraft on the strength of 18 firm launch orders worth \$5bn at list prices before heavy discounts from two all-cargo airlines – Cargolux of Luxembourg and Japan's Nippon Cargo Airlines,

which will take delivery of their first aircraft in the second half of 2009.

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FALL GOLF OUTING

The Fall 2005 Golf tournament was held on Thursday November 10, 2005 at the Longwood Golf Club. The format was the usual four man scramble. It started with a shotgun start at noon.

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Jevic Named NASSTRAC 2005 Carrier of the Year

Jevic Transportation Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of SCS Transportation (NASDAQ:SCST), announced it was named 2005 Carrier of the Year by the National Small Shipments Traffic Conference (NASSTRAC) and Logistics Management magazine. Jevic received the award, based solely on customer input, for demonstrating excellence in performance and results in the Multi-Regional Coverage Category.

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Transportation Club of Houston Life Member John Welch passed away October 29, 2005 surrounded by his family. John spent 45 years with Federal Barge/Gulf Canal Lines and retired as Vice President in Houston. We send our condolences to his family and many friends.

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NEW ENERGY LAW ADDS ONE MONTH OF DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME:

The new energy law signed by President Bush will add four weeks of daylight-saving time beginning in 2007, news services reported. Computer experts quickly pointed out your present computers will not be able to make the clock adjustment without additional programming.

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REMEMBER: /// We now accept all credit cards for advance luncheon Payment \\ Call Russell at 713-528-2869 with credit card information OR Pay Online with Credit Card and PayPal Registration. Cash or Check ONLY is accepted at the door.

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Next time make sure to tell the new guy – square container in the square hole. Nothing in the round ones.