



# THE WHEEL

## The Transportation Club of Houston Newsletter



Editor  
Danny Schnautz

June & July 2008

Executive Secretary  
Russell Powell

The Transportation Club of Houston The Transportation Club of Houston

### *From the Editor...*

#### TRANSITIONS.....

It is again transition time at TCH. With the installation of our new officers and directors, the new administration is at work.

For the previous 14 months I have written this column as President, and now I return to my former role in writing it as Editor. We are looking forward to hearing each month from the 2008-2009 President, Deborah Butler, a long-time leader in this wonderful club.

One goal as I continue into my 16<sup>th</sup>+ year with the club is to preserve the club's history even more than before. We look forward to hearing from TCH members with stories from the past and suggestions for the future. *Cool.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Danny

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## TCH

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### *Upcoming TCH Events - AROUND THE CORNER!*

The next TCH event is the **NIGHT AT THE ASTROS** on July 22. The event is a repeat for TCH and has sold out in the past. You will benefit from your sponsorship and attendance; information is at [www.transclubhou.org](http://www.transclubhou.org). The Coke Deck has space to mingle!

TCH will be **ON THE WATER** this Fall when the club returns to the Port of Houston Authority's MV Sam Houston on Friday, October 10 at 6pm for an evening cruise. See the web page for more details. The people aboard make the time worthwhile!

Look online for the latest information !

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### *Lifetime Membership in 1940 Air Terminal*

One of the final acts of the Board of the 2007-2008 year was to approve a mutual lifetime membership exchange with the 1940 Air Terminal.

This gives our club a lifetime membership in the museum, a granite tile in the atrium, and a fine art print. Benefits for TCH members include free admission during normal business days, half price admission during any Wings & Wheels Weekends, invitations to special events, and 10% off gift shop purchases.

No money was exchanged for this valuable benefit for TCH members. And just as importantly, TCH is able to add to the community by supporting the historic cause of this museum. Check out this fabulous museum - under renovation- at [www.1940airterminal.org](http://www.1940airterminal.org)

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## TCH

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### *TCH Officers and Board of Directors 2008-2009*

The Transportation Club of Houston enters its 93<sup>rd</sup> year with an outstanding slate of leadership:

President: **Deborah Butler, Euro Hub Int'l**

Vice Prez: **Shristi Shrestha,**

**Edna Rice Executive Recruiters**

Secretary: **JLynn Stout, EPCO Inc.**

Treasurer: **Rebecca Taylor, Conoco Phillips**

Director: **Mike Taber, Chevron Phillips Chemical**

Director: **Robert Morgan, Port of Houston**

Director: **Larry Snellings, DangerousGoods.com**

Director: **Chris Popjoy, KCS Railroad**

Immediate Past Prez: **Danny Schnautz,**

**Clark Freight Lines**

Executive Secretary: **Russell Powell,**

**Kratochvil, Powell**

Chaplain: **Father Rivers Patout, Seaman's Center**

Thanks again to our committee members and Executive Secretary for their roles in conducting the election.

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**TCH Event Recap**

The **June TCH luncheon** was our Annual Business Meeting and was held at **Brady's Landing** on Houston's east side on June 24 at 11:30. Over 60 members and guests were in attendance and enjoyed rib-eye steak and a host of fun. The featured speaker was the always-pleasing and informative **HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE ED EMMETT**, who gave attendees his view of our region's transportation scene, including the freeway commuting picture, the commuter rail outlook, and the bright future of the Port of Houston. Judge Emmett received appreciation gifts including a special keychain. Our special thanks to Judge Emmett, who graciously shares his time to help connect us with our government.

Outgoing officers and directors of the 2007-2008 year were all awarded an embossed TCH logo portfolio and a leadership book "The Blue Flame Project" (by Bill Webb, formerly of TMTA), both provided by outgoing President Danny Schnautz. Also, four "Hardworker Awards" were presented: Past President **Ed Schinnie** (Transport Service) for his work leading the Education Committee and on the Nominating Committee; Director **Jamie Joiner** (Baker Hostetler, LLP) for her work in organizing events and leading the Sponsorship Committee; Past President **Rebecca Taylor** for her work on the Speaker Committee; and Executive Secretary **Russell Powell** for his tireless work in all aspects of the club. These four received an embossed TCH portfolio and leadership book, plus a bookstore gift card, engraved Cross ink pen, and a music CD by Ray Carlisle which explains "The Reality of Trucking (A Left Lane Experience)" ([www.raycarlisle.com](http://www.raycarlisle.com)). A special thanks to these four who went above and beyond with their work for the club last year.

John Kendall with the Houston Maritime Museum received a ceremonial check for \$2,500 from TCH Director Larry Snellings ([dangerousgoods.com](http://dangerousgoods.com)). This check is in support of a student intern who is working at the museum at the expense of TCH. This continues a years-long relationship between HMM and TCH, going back to the founding of the museum by the late James Manzanillo.

Outgoing President Danny Schnautz gave a very brief farewell speech lauding the contribution of the 2007-2008 leadership. Quality speakers were brought to our luncheons, and there is a long list of other successes (including *BEEF* at some luncheons!). The attendees of the luncheon themselves were part of the success of the 2007-2008 year with their presence.

Finally, new officers and directors were installed by Transportation Clubs International representatives Lynn Donovan (Martin Midstream Partners), Lory Tauber Don (Tauber Oil), and Dennis Tam (DJ Railcar Services).

The previously announced two free giveaways at this luncheon were American-made TCH logo pencils and 12" rulers, compliments of your outgoing club President. All attendees were able to help themselves to these items, and more will be available at future events.

Photos of the luncheon are available online at [www.transclubhou.org](http://www.transclubhou.org).

The June luncheon sponsor was **CLARK FREIGHT LINES**. Door prize sponsors were: Brady's Landing; Clark Freight Lines; Euro-Hub International, and outgoing TCH President & First Lady Danny & Celessa Schnautz.

**Harris County International Trade & Transportation Conference**

HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE ED EMMETT has announced the first annual Harris County International Trade & Transportation Conference, to be held September 14 - 16 (Sunday thru Tuesday) at the Westin Galleria.

Make plans now to join Judge Emmett for a 2 day conference on International Trade and Transportation. The conference will address current topics, as well as a special focus on Mexico and southern border trade. Come hear what high profile experts have to say about the present and the future of the transportation world.

The working conferences will take place on Monday and Tuesday, Sept 15 & 16. Networking opportunities include receptions on Sunday and Monday evenings, as well as breakfasts and a seated lunch on Monday.

For more information to attend or to sponsor, contact Caroline Binick at [Caroline.Binick@cjo.hctx.net](mailto:Caroline.Binick@cjo.hctx.net) or 713-755-4046.

***THE EVOLUTION OF TRANSPORTATION***

by Dale W. Crawford, TCH President 1990-91

Recently I came across a documentary about caravans; a story of crossing the Sahara Desert. It was informative and interesting watching the Arab's as they prepared the evening meal, made tea, tended the camels, and finally bedding down for the cold night.

The interesting thing is, this wasn't about a caravan of hundreds of years ago, this was in 2007. It is hard to believe in this day and time some countries still move goods, long distance, by animals.

I'm not a believer in evolution of us humans, I do believe in evolution in transportation. In almost sixty (60) years of being associated with, and a part of, the finest, most efficient and modern transportation system in the world, I have seen it first hand.

Containers are widely used to get traffic to their destinations. It is one of the most economical and dependable ways of moving goods. It wasn't always so. In the late fifty's (50's), the railroads decided to compete with the motor carriers. Actually, "try to compete" might be a better description. The railroads had lost what was known as "less carload" or LCL traffic to the motor carriers. LCL was shipments that were combined to make a full carload, thus moving on carload rates.

Trailers were put on flat cars, and "piggy back" was born. The idea was great, but it almost failed. It didn't take long for the railroads to see that it wasn't working. The theory was, charging the same rates as the trucks would get the traffic. Not so, in reality the shipper was experiencing transit times three (3)-five (5) days longer than on the highways, at the same cost as motor carrier. They were non-competitive in every aspect.

An additional problem was the damage in transit. The trailers weren't constructed to absorb the damage caused by rail transportation. Inherent in train dynamics is the tremendous amount of energy generated when the train moves and stops. This caused severe damage to the trailers, particularly the dollies. Not only was the trailer damaged, but the goods were severely damaged, resulting in an extremely high claims ratio.

The rail carriers turned to the Association of American Railroads to solve the problem. At its Colorado Springs, Co. Research and Development facility, the AAR, with help from the trailer manufacturers, tackled the problem. Today, thousands and thousands of trailers move by high speed rail, with little damage. On the other side of the world, goods still move by camel, with no damage.

Does anyone remember Sea-Train? Sea-Train was the water carrier's attempt at competing with the railroads for coastwise traffic. We'll talk more about that in the near future.

***TCH website "MEMBERS ONLY" section***

Check out the TCH web page section for the MEMBERS ONLY section. The entry point is at the bottom right corner of the home page ("Members Only"), where you will find discounts from vendors that will help you and your business.

MORE VENDORS ARE WELCOME!

***TCH Immediate Past President speaks at SDTC***

On June 10 TCH Then-President Danny Schnautz was the speaker for the June luncheon for the Sabine District Transportation Club. He spoke on the topic of "Fuel Surcharge: Do Any of Us Really Get It?"

**TCH**

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*Founded 1915*

[www.transclubhou.org](http://www.transclubhou.org)

**Remaining TCH Golf Shirts on Sale**

TCH golf shirts have sold through the first run. The five remaining shirts will be on sale at the first fall luncheon. Each is embroidered with the "TCH We Move Houston" logo on the left sleeve, available at \$25.00 each. [www.transclubhou.org](http://www.transclubhou.org)

**TCH Incoming & Outgoing Boards Meet June 23**

On Monday, June 23 the outgoing and incoming TCH Officers and Directors met in a first ever joint board meeting. While the final business of the 2007-2008 Board was conducted, bridging to the next year was underway. All of those present were able to voice their ideas, questions, and participate in the ending of one administration and beginning of another.

Pizza, salad, dessert, and drinks were provided by Clark Freight Lines. A photo of some of those present is posted on the club web page.

This groundwork for the future was recognized as an important way to build upon the past and keep TCH strong into the years ahead.

**NTW Houston 2009**

NTW 2009 is slated for May 10 - 16. YOU can continue help our industry by taking the message of transportation to the public year-'round, and not waiting for NTW 2009.

The TCH board looked favorably upon the idea to repeat the 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest for NTW 2009, and considered another event as well.

We at TCH appreciate the joint efforts from the Houston area clubs and look forward to more teamwork throughout the year ahead and into a great joint effort for **NTW Houston 2009**.

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**TCH around Houston**

TCH was represented by Immediate Past President & First Lady Danny & Celessa Schnautz at the **Sabine District Transportation Club's annual FISH FRY** on Tuesday, July 8.

**Character**

The man that makes a character, makes foes." --  
*Edward Young*

"Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" *I Corinthians 15:33*

**Member Welfare Report**

I would like to report that Doug Fulton, Ret'd District Manager of Canadian Pacific Railway passed away April 24, 2008. Doug had been hospitalized for a couple of weeks in the Hill Country Area for Respiratory and cardiac arrest. Doug is survived by his wife Cheryl and daughter Laurie.

Thanks and Best Regards  
Ken Ryall

**TCH Mission Statement**

"To serve its membership as a premier organization to cultivate relations among professionals in the transportation, distribution, and logistics industries. To achieve this mission, the Transportation Club of Houston endeavors to stimulate public and commercial interest in understanding the transportation industry."

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**Be a Sponsor!**

TCH has many sponsorship opportunities - to bring business-earning exposure for your company, and for you. You can sponsor this newsletter, a 'mail-out' meeting reminder card, a golf outing, a luncheon, a seminar, or the web page (note the new banner ads). Look on the web page or email the club office or President for information.

*-Upcoming luncheon sponsors-*  
**Your company name here**

*This issue of "The Wheel" is brought to you by -*  
---- **THIS SPACE AVAILABLE!** ----  
*Advertiser Needed!*

**TCH Accomplishments for the 2007-2008 Year**

Every year at TCH is a group effort. The many hours of effort by many people are what produces the overall results of the club.

The elected officers and board of directors are supplemented by the committee members and club members who with ideas and participation make the events happen.

And finally, our Executive Secretary, Russell Powell, is a key part of the stability and continuity of the club.

This list of accomplishments is testament to the hard work of many throughout the 2007-2008 year.

- Members only section on the web site, with vendors providing member discounts
- Corrected the club founding year to 1915, thanks to the research of TCH Past President Dale Crawford.
- Deferred two luncheons for the purpose of industry unity: for the DOT seminar in March, and NTW All-Club luncheon in May
- Brought 16 Past Presidents back for the Past Presidents' lunch in April
- Two NTW events: poster contest and 1940's Hobby Terminal Evening mixer
- Food drives at the November & December luncheons; food to the Houston Food Bank
- Toy drive at the December luncheon, toys to Star of Hope
- Reached out to many clubs by attending & rejoining, those such as ITMA, HTPA, HACA, NDTA, SDTC, and joining the Chicago Traffic Club and the Memphis Traffic Club
- Formally recognized the 100<sup>th</sup> anniv of the Chicago Traffic Club and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniv of the Philadelphia Traffic Club & 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary Traffic Club of New York with a letter and a TCH mug, sent by club president at no cost to the club.
- sent TCH Past President Bob Clark to the TCI conference in Seattle
- sent a number of auction items to the TCI conference in Seattle at no cost to the club
- Added 41 members throughout the year
- Increased the visibility of TCH by attending various political functions

- Hosted two successful golf outings
- Hosted a successful seminar - "Negotiating Partnerships"
- Increased club balance by \$5,000 over year start
- Started sending the black TCH We Move Houston reminder cards at no cost to the club
- Started sending TCH birthday cards to all members at no cost to the club
- TCH hosted the NTW Houston 2008 kickoff meeting & served as the communication center
- Distributed TCH logo pencils and rulers at no cost to the club (all American-made!)
- Sold the first run of TCH logo polo shirts
- Increased the visibility of the club by a no-cost to the club ad in the nationally-distributed QUICK CALLER Air Cargo Directory
- Held successful club social activities including a Sam Houston boat tour in recognition of new members, Christmas party at Dave & Busters, a night at the Houston Aeros, a night at the Sam Houston Race Park with a race named for TCH),
- Have planned a night at the Houston Astros for July 22 and a Sam Houston boat tour in October.
- Hosted a variety of high profile speakers at luncheons including Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Port of Houston's Charlie Jenkins, Houston Mayor Bill White, Wilson Warehouse's Larry Kelley, etc.
- Made good on the promise to sponsor a student intern at the Houston Maritime Museum
- Moved toward supporting NTW Houston 2009 with a commitment for sponsoring the poster contest in 2009 and hosting another event
- Became a reciprocal life member of the 1940's Hobby Air Terminal, and started moving toward funding a student intern there
- Overhauled the student scholarship requirements
- Produced and distributed a club roster
- Maintained our TCI membership

**2007-08 TCH Rosters**

TCH Membership Rosters were mailed out last month. If you are a paid-up member and did not receive yours, contact the club office.

**Transportation Clubs International Membership**

The Transportation Club of Houston is a proud member of The Transportation Clubs International. See you in Moncton, Canada!

[www.transportationclubsinternational.com](http://www.transportationclubsinternational.com)

**New Members for May & June**

- Jonathan Lockstein Highway Transport Inc
  - Dean Jones JB Hunt Transport
  - Terry Rodery Coal City Cobb Company
  - Michael Simon Scancode Systems
- Welcome to the club!*

**TCH ITINERARY FOR 2008-2009**

2008:

- 7-22 TCH at the Astros
- TBA Kickoff September Luncheon
- 10-10 TCH Port Tour on the MV Sam Houston
- TBA Fall Seminar
- TBA Fall Golf Outing and Awards Dinner
- TBA TCH Christmas Party
- TBA social and networking events
- TBA many other happy times and events



**"The Wheel"**

*the official newsletter of the*

**Transportation Club of Houston**

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2008 - 2009 Officers & Directors:

- President: **Deborah Butler, Euro Hub Int'l**
- Vice Prez: **Shristi Shrestha,**  
**Edna Rice Executive Recruiters**
- Secretary: **JLynn Stout, EPCO Inc.**
- Treasurer: **Rebecca Taylor, Conoco Phillips**
- Director: **Mike Taber, Chevron Phillips Chemical**
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