



The Wheel

The Transportation Club of Houston Newsletter



September 2005

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Executive Secretary: Russell Powell

September 13, 2005 Luncheon

We are very excited to invite you to what we know will be one of the best ever Transportation Club of Houston luncheon meetings! We are very pleased to announce that our speaker will be Austin Davis! We expect this to be a sell out, so please get your reservations in early and invite your coworkers, customers, suppliers, etc.

Austin is a professional comedian and has been a Comedy Corporate Trainer for over 16 years. As a comedian, Austin has opened for acts as diverse as Jay Leno and Wayne Newton. Austin first mixed laughter and learning in 1984 when he invented and developed the concept of Comedy Defensive Driving in Texas. Since 1989, Austin has also focused on Personal Protection/Crime Prevention.

More information may be found on our website.

Port of New Orleans to Open Soon

Officials at the hurricane-battered Port of New Orleans say the Mississippi River was open to vessels going upriver and that the port may start accepting commercial traffic in as early as one or two weeks.

The Port of New Orleans' riverfront terminals are damaged, but are still workable once electrical power and manpower is available. The port expects to be largely used by military relief vessels in coming weeks.

For now, the Lower Mississippi is open only to ships with a draft of 35 feet traveling upriver during daylight hours. American Commercial Lines and Kirby, two of the nation's largest barge operators, say they suffered only minimal damage to equipment in Hurricane Katrina and they are able to operate in much of their inland waterway territory.

A handful of senior port staff members set up a headquarters at the port's administrative office building. They have asked the U.S. DOT Maritime Administration to provide ships with the capacity to temporarily house 1,000 people who will operate the port.

The port also asked staff members who have not contacted the port to call a special emergency hotline number to establish their safety and whereabouts. That number is 1-866-476-7866.

While the port may open, civil authorities have not been allowing commercial trucks into the Gulfport or New Orleans areas. Interstate 10 and US 90, the major commercial routes in Louisiana and Mississippi, were all but destroyed. Bridges and roads have been taken out through Louisiana and Mississippi. The Interstate 10 bridge over Lake Ponchartrain is impassable because 40% of it is missing.

Russell Powell

Red Cross Donations for Hurricane Katrina

People are opening their hearts and their pockets to Katrina victims. The American Red Cross alone is collecting thousands of dollars for those in need. But now we're now learning someone may be taking advantage of your generosity. The Red Cross does not go door to door. Red Cross officials say you should not give to anyone going door to door. You can call 1-800-HELP-NOW, or you can go to their website; the national or the local web site, at; www.redcross.org or www.houstonredcross.org to make a secure donation. That's the quickest, easiest and most secure way to give to the Red Cross.

Remember: We now accept all credit cards for advance luncheon payment.

Call Russell at 713-528-2869 with your credit card information.

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