PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2010. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and that you see good things for you on the horizon. In my last message I made reference to the weather with the acronym H.O.T (Houston Opportunities Today). Is it not ironic that we also had some of the coldest conditions on record a few weeks ago? So much for the Global Warming/Climate Change pundits.

One of the wonderful aspects of the Houston Electrical League is that it is a volunteer organization. The president’s position that I hold, is a quasi elected position by the board, so it is more of a rite of passage and not a popular vote by the membership. Since that is the case, and I am not up for re-election as president, this message is more of an editorial or opinion page for me.

One of the opportunities that I suggested in my last message was to “not just complain but to get involved in the political process.” I don’t mean to just vote or send a sometimes in bad taste email to friends. I am talking about understanding the issues and supporting the groups and or politicians that match up with your values. An example of being involved was the vote in the state of Massachusetts on January 19th. With the passing of Ted Kennedy, there was a special election to fill the unexpired term. The citizens of Massachusetts, democrats, republicans and especially independents elected Scott Brown, a republican. This is the greatest system on earth and it proves that people want and desire the balance of power that our forefathers so painstakingly set up for us.

Now what does this have to do with the Electrical Industry in Houston Texas? I think we all suspect that the health care bill as written would have cost all of us hard working individuals more money. The more significant piece of legislation that could be derailed by this balance of power is the Cap and Trade Bill. I challenge each of you to investigate this proposed bill and understand the impact it would have on our state, city, and industry. Contact your elected representatives and express your feelings. All I ask is that you don’t just complain, but become educated and get involved and effect change like Massachusetts did if you don’t like something. Just like my last message I challenge you to investigate and understand the HEL and get involved. We have a great organization with very well intentioned board and a small group of hard-working volunteers. The one thing that is missing is YOU! Please accept my challenge and get involved and make 2010 a year to make a difference.

Thank You and God Bless America
Scott Weddle
At CenterPoint Energy, we understand that when you’re on the job site, work can’t stop. But neither can safety. So, whether you’re working on scaffolding, using equipment or moving a ladder, the only way to stay safe around power lines is to stay 10 feet away and never lose sight of them. After all, when it comes to power lines, safety is in your hands—and always on our mind.

For more information on power line safety, visit CenterPointEnergy.com.
During the ETC this past October, The Houston Electrical League recognized CENTERPOINT ENERGY for their support of the league. Sharon Michael Owens was presented with the first Diamond Sponsor Award for continuing support of the league and scholarship.

The association between the two began back in 1968, when then Houston Lighting and Power provided co-ordination support for the league. Virginia Brown was the first league coordinator working closely with the league elected officials. The synergy between the two entities developed into The Southwest Electrical Exposition at The Albert Thomas Convention Center. The efforts focused on education and scholarship, through the trade show, and educational classes for sales personnel of local distributors. Over the years and a couple of name changes, (Reliant Energy, Centerpoint Energy), a new league co-ordinator, Gail Maza, the joint efforts still are going strong. The HEL wanted to take the opportunity to recognize the long-standing relationship and all Centerpoint Energy has done by awarding them our first “Diamond” Award.

FEBRUARY 25-27  Kilowatt Kookers BBQ
MARCH 9  Board Meeting
APRIL 13 Board Meeting
MAY 11 Board Meeting
MAY 17 Spring Golf Tournament
MAY 17 General Membership Scholarship Drawing
JUNE  Summer Intern Program Begins
JUNE 8 Board Meeting
JULY 13 Board Meeting
SUMMER TBD Fishing Tournament
AUGUST 10 Board Meeting
SEPTEMBER 14 Board Meeting
OCTOBER 14  Sporting Clays Tournament
OCTOBER 27  E.T.C. Engineering Seminar
NOVEMBER 1  Fall Golf Tournament
NOVEMBER 1 General Membership Scholarship Drawing
DECEMBER 14 Board Meeting

2010 Hel Calendar

Our website is your key to all event information and registration!

www.hel.org
Houston Satellite Service Center

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- Field consultation services
- Value engineering

Products
- Switchboards through 6000A
- 480v Motor Control Centers through 3200A
- Medium Voltage Motor Control
- Enclosed Combination Starters
- Enclosed Circuit Breakers
- Panelboards through 1200A
- Vintage breaker kits & MCC buckets
- Standby generator distribution equipment

Celebrating 35 Years Powering Houston
THE WORLD CHAMPION "KILOWATT KOOKERS" WILL BE COMPETING AT THE HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO BBQ COOKOFF FEBRUARY 25-27. THANKS TO THE DEDICATION AND GENEROSITY OF THE COOKING TEAM AND THEIR SPONSORS, THIS EVENT CONTINUES TO BE THE LARGEST FUND-RAISER FOR THE HOUSTON ELECTRIC LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION.
Jefferson Electric & NSOEM, Inc. have developed an inventory of drilling stock and porch transformers right here in Houston. Allowing you to provide immediate and after hours pickup and delivery services for emergency situations. We can also provide free storage and logistical services in our 20000 square foot facility to help you from tying up resource and floor space. Quick wind and special design units are also available, making Jefferson a leader in the Drilling, OEM, and Industrial Transformer Industry. For pricing and detailed drawings & Applicational assistance, please contact NSOEM, Inc. directly!

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9831 Whithorn Drive, Houston, TX 77095
Phone: (281-500-8940)
The beginning of the new year means it is time for our annual HEL Membership Drive. If your company was a member last year you should have already received an invoice to renew for 2010. If you haven’t received an invoice and would like to join, or would like to learn more about our organization, just visit our website.

www.hel.org

REGISTER ONLINE - REQUEST INVOICE OR PAY WITH CREDIT CARD

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES SUPPORT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP DRAWINGS, BENEFITING THE KIDS OF H.E.L MEMBERS

REASONS TO JOIN

Support the electrical industry that supports you!

Participate in shaping the future of our industry by supporting educational programs for students planning to work in our industry.

Members and their children are eligible to apply for scholarships to help with college and trade school expenses

Access to scholarship winners for recruiting opportunities

Be informed about news in our industry

Valuable networking opportunities with people who share common goals

You get a really cool poster to hang in your office!
Legrand/Cablofil® is the world’s most specified cable tray with decades of experience in the industry. Each of our cable tray lines is designed for maximum flexibility and expandability that help installers finish projects faster and reducing costs, while supporting cables better. With multiple North American manufacturing facilities, we are perfectly positioned to supply any size project.

Cablofil has a wide variety of two rail cable management products to provide our customers with specific products they need - from standard products lines to custom-built designs in finishes to meet the demands of any application. Our exclusive long span/heavy duty ladder tray is designed with I-beam side rails that can span up to 40' and meet exacting industry and load standards.

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The 2009 Engineering Technology Conference (ETC), held at the Reliant Center on October 21, 2009, grew significantly compared to the previous year's event. Part of this growth was the more than doubling of the number of technical sessions, to a record 27. Attendance also grew to over three hundred, including many of Houston’s leading engineers and architects.

ETC is an annual educational event presented by the Houston Electrical League Scholarship Foundation (HELSF) which provides the Houston engineering and architecture community with a very valuable source for meeting the educational requirements of their profession. Through the generous support of the presenting and sponsoring companies, HELSF was able to hold this event at no cost to the attendees and raise greatly needed scholarship funds. A cost effective alternative to the traditional trade show, ETC allows electrical manufacturers to share their technical expertise and training. For engineers and architectural professionals, ETC provides the opportunity to earn up to five Professional Development Hours in a single day.
PRESENTING COMPANIES
Chloride Power
Coleman Cable
Eaton-Cutler Hammer
Eaton-Site Reliability
Electro Static Technology
Aegis SGR
Gutor - Schneider
Lectrus Corporation
MCT Brattberg
MIRUS International
Powell Electric Systems
Raycap Inc.
SquareD - Schneider

PLATINUM SPONSORS
NSOEM (ETC Breaks)
Wildcat Electric Supply (Free Attendee Parking)
Wholesale Electric Supply (ETC Program CD & Lunch)

GOLD SPONSORS
Acme Transformers
Cablofil-Legrand
Cooper B-Line
Crawford Electric
Houston Wire & Cable

ETC 2010 IS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER 27, 2010
Planning is underway to expand this event beyond the successful ETC 2009. Initial commitments for ETC 2010 are already being made, so to make sure that your company doesn’t miss out on this great opportunity, contact us as soon as possible.
Jim Krepper 281-293-9991
Mark Mitterlehner 832-228-8601

Without the support of all of our sponsors and presenters we would not be able to hold this event. In addition to the educational interaction, event sponsors and presenting companies were provided a display area allowing interaction with attendees during breaks. This display area allows attendees additional opportunities to meet with industry leaders and discuss how new electrical industry developments and solutions may assist in their professional efforts.
We are only a couple of months into the New Year, but The Scholarship Committee is already busy planning for our 2010 activities and scholarship drawings!

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the $1,000 scholarship awards that were presented during our Fall 2009 Golf Tournament.

David Dixon – The University of New Mexico
Paul Pesek – Texas A&M University
Kevin Pesek – Texas A&M University
Candie Solis – Lee College
Archie Buchman – Texas A&M

The HEL contributed $1,000 dollars to each of their scholarship accounts for school expenses as needed. Our next general drawing will be held at our spring golf tournament. Anyone interested in applying is encouraged to visit the HEL website to determine your eligibility and turn in your scholarship application form. Take some time to learn if you are eligible to win these general scholarships. You will be glad you did!
The New Year also means we need to start preparing for our 2010 Summer Intern Program. Student applications have been sent to Texas A&M and The University of Houston. Student interviews were held during the month of February at Texas A&M and The University of Houston. We look forward to a successful interview process and hope to meet or exceed the student intern count from 2009. Each HEL Summer Intern has the opportunity to earn over $7,000 during the 12-week assignment to help with school expenses, and participate in a valuable learning experience prior to graduation. As always, company sponsors are a valuable and needed part of a successful intern program. The HEL thanks all of the companies that participated last year and we hope we can count on your support again in 2010. The number of interns selected to participate is directly related to the number of sponsor companies that commit to the program. We could not offer these internships to these interested and eager students without the support of all of these Houston area companies. The HEL Scholarship Committee will be contacting you soon to get your company signed-up to participate again in 2010.

We look forward to another successful year assisting students with needed scholarships and providing companies with quality summer interns. Please contact John Focke if you have any questions regarding Scholarship Committee activities.

The HEL Scholarship Committee
John Focke – Chairman
Powell Electrical Systems, Inc.
Phone: (713) 947-4431
E-mail: jfocke@powl.com

THE NEXT SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 17. REGISTER ONLINE AT www.hel.org
Inside-Outlet® (GFCI)

Testing and resetting GFCI outlets inside your panel is impractical under NFPA 70E and 79. By using this patented GFCI, now the TEST/RESET buttons are outside your panel door. In addition to the duplex outlet outside your panel, the Inside-Outlet® also gives you a free GFCI-protected outlet inside your panel, too!

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Tempcovers™, our exclusive UL Classified Temporary Panel Cover, will save you time and money! Removing and installing dead front service panels is dead time. Using Tempcovers™, which have non-conductive magnetic strips and are tear and puncture resistant, allow for simple and timeless installation. They are designed to be used by a licensed and/or qualified worker as a temporary protective panelboard ingress barrier for commercial, residential, or maintenance electrical panels.

Tempcovers™ also meet all of OSHA's applicable standards. Additionally, this product does not violate the limited accessibility provision in 29 CFR 1926.405(d). In fact, according to a letter from OSHA, "If a Tempcover™ is used...the requirements in 29 CFR 1926.405(d) regarding accessibility would be met."

Save Time and Money!

Customize Your Order... mix and match!

Tempcovers™ are intended to be field installed by qualified persons over the electrical access opening of indoor electrical lighting and/or appliance branch and power circuit panelboard enclosures, or the like, on a temporary basis during intermissions in the process of wiring the internal components of the aforementioned devices. Tempcovers™ are not intended for Temporary Electrical Power and Lighting Installations as covered in National Electrical Code (NEC) Article 590.

Information regarding this can be found at www.osha.gov and by typing "Tempcovers" in the search field. Link: http://www.grace-eng.com/TempCover/TempCovers.shtml
The HEL Sporting Clay event was hosted at the American Shooting Center on Thursday, October 15 and was attended by 72 shooters and Doug Miller who did their best to bust 50 targets. Sporting Clays had its origins in the United Kingdom more than 60 years ago where it was first developed as a teaching and practice layout for developing wing shooting skills. Introduced to the United States in the early 1980s, Sporting Clays is the fastest growing of all the shotgun sports. The diversity of the targets presents the field shooters with wing shooting practice that is difficult to get by hunting alone. Most sporting clays layouts are changed frequently so each time out is a new challenge. Because of these course changes Sporting Clays is sometimes referred to as, "Golf with a shotgun." Courses are laid out in natural surroundings and typically include five or 10 shooting "stations" with shooters moving from one station to the next to complete the course. Each station presents shooters with a different type of shot. At a "grouse station", for example, shooters might face flushing "birds" that zip in and out of the trees. At a "decoying duck" station, incoming targets may float in toward the shooter. Most courses make use of natural features such as woods and ponds to create a realistic setting for each type of shot. At any station, targets may be thrown as singles, simultaneous pairs, following pairs (one target right after the other), or report pairs (the second target launched at the sound of the gun being fired at the first). To further challenge shooters, target size may vary from the standard trap/skeet clay bird to the smaller "midi" and "mini" targets, or a flat disc shaped "battue" target. There are even special "rabbit" targets that are thrown on end and skitter across the ground. A full round of Sporting Clays usually consists of 50 or 100 targets (depending on the number of stations) with 10 targets normally thrown at each station. When shooting in teams, shooters rotate turns from station to station.
1) Kris Culpepper, Casper Culpepper, Jeff Birmingham, Bray Vincent sponsored by DaCott Energy with a score of 177/200

2) Scott Sims, Mark Morris, John Kitchel, Mike Bryen sponsored by Solaris with a score of 167/200

3) Donnie Daniels, Ross McClintock, Charles Clemons, Tommy Railsback sponsored by Houston Wire & Cable with a score of 161/200

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SCORE WAS AWARDED TO
Mike Bryen of the Solaris Team with a score of 47/50

LOW SCORE WAS PINNED ON
The Southwire Team with a score of 82/200

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:
Southwire sponsored the prize raffle
JD Martin Co sponsored the beer and water
Emmco & Associates sponsored the awards
Houston Wire & Cable sponsored the box lunch

TEAM SPONSORS
DaCott Energy, Solaris, Houston Wire & Cable, Wiltex, Turtle & Hughes, GEXPRO, Emmco, Eaton Corp., The Reynolds Company, Omni Cable and Southwire

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Albin James, Greg Pulido & Phil Thennes
2009 FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2009 Fall HEL golf tournament was once again held at the Northgate Country Club and, despite a suspect economy, we had another solid field of golfers show up to support the tournament! We have been blessed with amazing weather, and this year's tournament was no different - as evident by the number of shorts and legs (some that probably shouldn't have been) that were on display!
The famous Kilowatt Kookers were on hand to support our golfer's appetites and once again stepped up to the plate for lunch and dinner. We would like to thank our sponsors and volunteers for coming through and helping make this one of the most successful events for the Houston Electric League year after year. Northgate has proven a great spot when it comes to hosting the tournament and we will return there for our Spring 2010 (May 17th). Start thinking about your teams and cross your fingers for another beautiful day to come out and support the HEL while enjoying a little golf and camaraderie.
HOUSTON ELECTRIC LEAGUE
SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT

save the date!
MAY 17

OUR SPRING GOLF TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD MONDAY, MAY 17 AT NORTHGATE COUNTRY CLUB

EASY ONLINE REGISTRATION AT www.hel.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN - CHRIS TULLOS
c tullos@bellandmccoy.com  713-223-4146
COUNTERFEIT ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS
A REAL HAZARD!

Article Courtesy of: Tom Grace & Stephen Paul, Eaton Corporation

For more than a decade counterfeiting in the electrical products industry has been a growing problem. We have all seen name brand knockoffs on products ranging from watches to handbags but most of us rarely think about the dangers of using counterfeit products that can cause severe personal injury and have a huge financial consequence. In the electrical industry, counterfeits are finding their way into the market in many different products ranging from complex products like circuit breakers to simple extension cords. In our business the implications of using a counterfeit can be much more severe than the fake Rolex’s found on Harwin.

How large is this issue facing the electrical industry? Last year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that seizures of counterfeit electrical products increased 43 percent over 2007 levels. In 2008 electrical products represented 8 percent of all counterfeit products seized – the fifth highest total of any category. More than 80 percent of these sub-standard, unsafe products originated in China and have started finding their way into the United States. According to Underwriters Laboratories Inc, since 1995 U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized more than $150 million of products bearing counterfeit UL certification marks. Counterfeiting costs the electrical industry $600 billion a year worldwide. In the United States, the annual figure is $200-250 billion. Additionally, because of the revenue siphoned from lawful companies, counterfeiting reduces U.S. employment by 750,000 jobs each year. While any form of counterfeiting is unacceptable, fraudulent electrical products pose a serious risk to property and public safety. As well, companies face huge financial liabilities if they are involved with the sale and use of these products.

With a worldwide customer base that depends on our industry to control, distribute and manage electrical power safely, reliably and efficiently, many major electrical manufacturers have developed anti-counterfeiting programs. The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), recently published a white paper titled “Authentication Technologies for Brand Protection,” and is an example of how NEMA and member companies like Eaton are helping facilitate anti-counterfeiting activities. NEMA also works closely with U.S. government officials to develop policies that remove counterfeit products from the market-place and aggressively enforce laws against counterfeiting, penalizing individuals and companies involved with the trade of counterfeit products. In addition to NEMA, the National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED) has identified distributors and installers as being at risk for significant financial harm. The financial risk related to losses or damages caused by counterfeit products in most cases far exceeds liability insurance coverage limits.

How can you help protect your company and customers? The best way to protect your company and your customers from receiving a counterfeit is to use established vendors and authorized resellers. If you have any doubts concerning a products legitimacy or need to find an authorized reseller, contact the manufacturer. While it may be tempting to use the lowest price alternative, remember that some bargains are too good to be true!
We plan to add two “mini-editions” of The Circuit Newsletter this year so you won’t have to wait so long in between! If you are interested in helping support this effort with advertising or have industry news that could be included please contact us.

Jack Justilian 713-398-7837 jackjustilian@aol.com
Nancy Brown 713-223-4146 nbrown@bellandmccoy.com

LENDING A HELPING HAND...

On the weekend of January 30th, a group from the HEL traveled to Moravia, Texas to lend a helping hand to Harry and Sabra Clinefelter. Harry, as you may know had a stroke last April and has been unable to work. The group included Jim & Jeff Sims, Tom & John Kirby, Gus Smith, Greg Scherbenske, Rebecca and Jim Krepper. Joining the group was Harry’s cousin, Jim “Boone” Keeling. The gang all arrived at the same time. There were some chores which had been identified. They broke into groups and started cleaning and fixing. The weather was cold and windy, which would not allow the painting planned. Some items were repaired and installed. A new deadbolt lock was installed in the front door after much consternation. In fact, it took the combined talents of all in attendance finally get the lock to work. A new dusk to dawn light was put on the barn and the deck and front porch were pressure washed. Some deteriorated wood trim around the windows and doors was replaced. Gus Smith fired up the grill and cooked a hearty lunch for everyone. February 2nd was Harry’s birthday, so we took the opportunity to celebrate with a tres leches cake. It was almost like old home week as Harry sat and chatted with everyone. Another trip out is planned in the future when the weather will allow painting.

THANK-YOU FROM SABRA...

I just want to thank Jim and Rebecca Krepper, Gus Smith, Jim Sims, Jeff Sims, Tom Kirby, John Kirby from the Houston Electric League and Greg Scherbenske, “Bubba”, (who always wanted to be part of the “club”) donated unselfishly their time on a Saturday to work so hard on the house at the ranch January 30th. I know it was not as warm as we had expected, but Harry could not have had a more wonderful time than he did that day. It was like old home week for him and he could not stop talking about how much he enjoyed seeing his old friends and reminiscing about the “old” days. It was great to see you guys and meet new people. You will never know how much all of your time and effort means to our family! There are just some things a lady can’t do…but boy have I learned a lot!

I also can’t go without saying thanks to all the people who contributed to Harry. Just to name a few, Chuck Stanley of Stanley Sales, Ken Hamilton of Priority Wire & Cable, Charles Nitsch, all the wonderful people at Turtle and Hughes, Burrus & Matthews, Danney McCoy of Bell & McCoy, Keith Kolaja and all the people of E-Tel, and last but not least…. Ron Moser for getting the donations started. There are so many more people, but I just can’t remember them all, but you know who you are. Please forgive me. It has been a whirlwind ordeal, but everyone has been so thoughtful and caring. We wouldn’t have survived without your thoughts, many prayers, and contributions. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts!

Love,
Sabra Clinefelter
J.D. Martin Co. announces that JUSTIN BESS has joined their firm as an Outside Territory Manager. Justin will cover various accounts in the Greater Houston Area.

Wildcat Electric Supply announces that RACHEL HOOD has joined their Houston Team. Rachel worked at Wildcat this summer under the Houston Electrical League’s Scholarship Program. “It is important that we recruit new talent to our industry and the HEL intern program does a great job of screening students and providing us qualified interns” states Addie Stilley, Operations Manager. Rachel graduated from A&M in December and started full time at Wildcat in January.

Summit Electric Supply has promoted STEVEN LINCOLN as the company’s Service Center Leader in Clute, Texas. Lincoln has been serving as interim SCL since October when former SCL RODNEY ILSENG was appointed to head the Houston service center. DAN FERRARI, whom Ilseng replaced, was appointed to the newly created post of regional vice president of the Gulf Coast Region.

Alpha Industrial Power - Represented by Bolin Industrial Sales
NEW PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENT - AFP 10 SERIES UPS Ideal Solution for Fire Protection Alarm/Signal Systems. The AFP 10 is a continuous duty, single-phase, double-conversion, solid-state uninterruptible power supply designed specifically for fire protection alarm/signal systems.

Lectrus Corporation announced the acquisition of D.T.S., INC. of Tea, South Dakota. The purchase expands Lectrus’ sales, engineering, fabrication and electrical engineering capabilities into the upper Midwest, Rocky Mountain and Western Canadian regions. D.T.S., Inc. was established in 1979 and manufactures custom steel and aluminum enclosures, sub-base tanks and trailers for the commercial generator market. Like Lectrus, each project is designed, engineered and individually built to meet customer-specific requirements. D.T.S., also known as Dakota Enclosures, has developed a specialization for large, sound-attenuated projects that require unique electrical components enclosed in a high-quality, engineered metal housing.

Alpha Wire introduces Environmentally Friendly EcoWire™ Hook-Up Wire - Smaller, Lighter, and More Robust than PVC. New EcoWire hook-up wire from Alpha Wire uses a modified polyphenylene ether (mPPE) thermoplastic that is inherently lighter, tougher, and more flame resistance than PVC. The result is UL AWM wires that are smaller than their PVC-based counterparts. The non-halogenated insulation contains no heavy metal pigments, allowing it to help manufacturers to meet Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) requirements.

**IN MEMORY**

LARRY JOHNSTON passed away on August 29, 2009. Larry was the Field Service Manager for Power Field Services.

HAYWARD HALFORD passed away on February 3, 2010 after a hard fought battle with cancer. Hayward was the Gulf Coast District Manager for Cooper Wiring Devices.

**DID YOU KNOW ...** Your Texas driver’s license has a phone number on the back, just above the bar code on the lower left side: 1-800-525-5555. This is the DPS Stranded Motorist Hotline for non-emergency roadside assistance. You can call this number whenever you have trouble on the road. This service is state-operated and paid for with your tax dollars. A state trooper will be sent to make sure all is well. Check it out on their website at www.txdps.state.tx.us
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