



ROAR

Official Publication
of Top Cats — Illinois

President's Corner...

Greetings Top Cats

Welcome to our first electronic ROAR newsletter. With this important step we bring our club forward in technology and increase our communication capability. Our ROAR has set the standard for organizations like ours for over a decade. This change will allow us to do even more. But the most important detail remains contributions from you, our membership. Any newsletter, regardless of the medium it uses is only as good as its content. There are several key advantages to no longer printing the ROAR. By being electronic, the content can

be more real time. With only a few days from creation to distribution, our event calendar will be more accurate. We can archive past editions on the web site. There are no limitations on size so all submitted articles should be included. We also can add color pictures and other graphics. The last advantage will be one of cost. The majority of our yearly club expenses have gone toward printing costs. We now will be able to re-direct that money to other areas that can make our club more progressive and fun to be a part of.

There will be two ways for you to see the con-

tent. Each month you will receive an email that will contain both a web link and an attached .pdf file. We will also retain past issues on the web site. That way you can easily go back to read a past safety tip or some article about a ride.

Our newsletter has been one of our crown jewels for many years. It is often what separates us from other groups. This change is simply intended to take something that is first class and make it easier to create and more cost effective. It has been mentioned before that it's the content that's critical.

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Notice:

Items for ROAR need to be submitted by the 11th of the month to be included in the coming ROAR issue.

John LaMonica

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THE BIKERS WHO MEAN BUSINESS

TOP CATS—Illinois is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts with similar interests. Members consist of responsible Leaders, Presidents, Chairmen, Owners, Proprietors, Partners, principals, CEO's, and other 'Top Cats' of large, medium and small organizations, institutions, and companies. The content and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Top Cats—Illinois.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Gary Brandt cgb002@comcast.net
Vice President	Bob Carmody bcarmody@email.com
Treasurer	Tom Malia tmalia@cfalp.com
Secretary	Mike Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net
Past President	Chuck Prettyman topcats2003@aol.com
Director	Greg Smith vethog@comcast.net
Director	Andy Konsewicz andy@Konsewicz.com
Director	Eileen Perry ephia@comcast.net
Director	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com
Founder	Carl 'Virgo' Bender 1941-2001

COMMITTEE LEADERS

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SAFETY...

Kaution Korner by Traveler



Kaution Korner By Traveler

With temperatures in the 20's, ice on the streets and snow on the ground... thoughts of motorcycle riding are fleeting dreams rapidly eclipsed by the realities of the season and our typically harsh weather. Safe motorcycling becomes even more distant at the dawn of a new year as our thoughts are focused on business goals, family events, and a myriad of non - motorcycling activities. Hence, tips on motorcycle safety typically fall in the same category of excitement as snow blower maintenance.

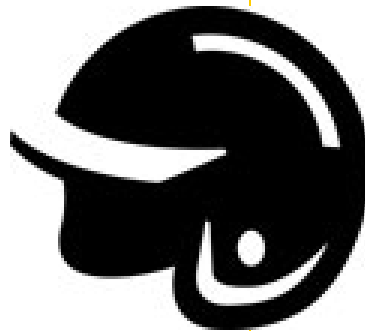
Bear with me and muster up all the attention you can spare for the rest of this safety tip. Here is one technique you can employ right now to preserve the integrity of both your motorcycle and your body during the 2008 riding season...the good ol' New Year's resolution!!!

Don't waste your time on resolving to lose weight. Nobody cares but you and you won't follow through anyway. Don't waste your money on expensive health club memberships. At your age, you're more of a voyeur than a participant. Stop smoking, stop

drinking? Come on! How many times have you tried to stop and failed already? Set a realistic and fun resolution for 2008 like...improving your riding skills, techniques, and your riding style.

Look back over your 2007 riding season and honestly ask yourself what you did well and what you didn't do so well. If you are honest enough with yourself, you'll remember the time that you followed other riders through a right turn at a stop sign and almost got hit by an oncoming car because you didn't stop and visually clear the intersection.

Your resolution then is simple...for 2008 you resolve to visually clear every intersection before proceeding regardless of the bikes in front of you. Or, your recall that day back in April 2007 when you were day dreaming on one of those perfect rides and didn't notice that old tail pipe in the road that you damn near ran over. You resolve for 2008 to maintain your focus and to clear the



highway as far ahead as possible. See? It's as simple as that.

Now, for those few riders with limited recall or those who don't believe they have to improve on any skill, try to set a resolution like; 1.) Once a month practice slow maneuvering in a remote area like a large parking lot, 2.) Make a walk - around safety check of your lights, tires, controls, etc, before every ride, 3.) Practice making it a habit to clear the highway ahead then visually sweep your gages and your mirrors and return your focus to the highway, 4.) Attend GRASS again, 5.) Attend a riding improvement skill course, 6.) Go to an Accident Scene Management course, 7.) Replace or upgrade your safety gear, or, 8.) Simply resolve to be more alert, listen to, and learn from friends or more experienced riders or seek self improvement from any other source.

Just like any other New Year's resolution, if you don't personally commit to it and practice it until it becomes a part of your riding routine, it will never happen. Have a safe, exciting and enjoyable 2008.

Little Sturgis on the River

June 13-15, 2008



Attention all Top Cats : We will be attending the Little Sturgis on the River Rally the weekend of June 13th. We will leave mid morning Friday from a Crystal Lake location, take a nice easy ride over to Davenport and arrive early afternoon. For 2008 we will return to the Radisson Hotel which is located on the river, a few blocks from the Rally. So far we have been allocated 12 rooms. If we fill them early it's possible that we could get some more. There will an organized ride on Saturday as well. On Sunday we travel up the river and cross near Galena. For all you newer members this is a great way to get to know your fellow Top Cats.

Call 563-322-2200 to book your room. (two nights 13th and 14th) Make sure you tell them you are part of the Top Cats.



Trans-Siberian Orchestra Outing

December 2, 2007



On December 2nd the Top Cats held their first winter event for this year. After a dinner at the famous Harry Carrays Steakhouse the group went over to the Allstate Arena to see the Trans Siberian Orchestra. This is one band that knows how to rock. With a fantastic laser and light show to back up world class rock and roll musicians, the sound and sights were hard to explain.

The show lasted for 3 hours. If you ever get the chance to see them, and you like rock and roll, don't miss it. Thanks to Andy Konsewicz for setting this up. Keep your eyes open for more winter events as we count down the days to the next riding season.



Wet Weather Riding Tip (Partial reprint)

We've all been caught by unpredicted rain. The first thing we do, if we are prepared, is pull off the road and get into our rain gear. If it's a heavy rain, we often wait under a bridge or other shelter until it abates. Sometimes it is just a short shower so we opt to continue.

Here's something you want to consider as you get back on the road. There are now two road conditions: wet and oily. Want to stay upright? Keep to the right or left of the center of your lane. It takes quite a downpour to wash the oily slick from the center, particularly if it hasn't rained for a few weeks. The oil and rainwater combine to create a surface that can be as slick as ice. You'll have substantially less traction in the center of the lane than at either side.

President's Corner Continued From page 1

Please keep those articles coming. Did you enjoy a ride or some other event? Write a short article about it.

As with the new web site, the teams will be making changes as we get more experience. Criticism is welcome as long as solutions and help implementing changes are included. It takes a lot of work to set up these new methods. Let's make sure we demonstrate our support to those members helping make these changes occur.

Now that your new board has been elected, it is appropriate to thank those outgoing members who gave much of themselves in service to the Top Cats. Many hours of personal time are volunteered to make us the best riding

club in the area. Lynn Adams, Keith Zawilla, John Lunde and Windy Krepel have made great contributions with selfless attitudes. Please take a moment and give them a personal message of thanks. We are better because of them.

Expectations on the new board are high as they must continue to maintain our long history of excellence and keep us moving forward while recognizing traditions that are a part of our culture.

Thanks to all of you, 2007 was a fabulous year and 2008 can and will be even better.

Gary

General Meeting Minutes...

December 4, 2007

President Gary Brandt called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM at The Club House.

Gary introduced Past President Chuck Prettyman who updated everyone on the election process, and then conducted the election.

Bob Carmody (Membership)
Bob introduced our newest member, Paul Menard, and presented him with his flag, patch, and pin. Bob reminded us on two additional items: updated membership rosters are available (just contact him), and if any member would like any apparel embroidered with our Top Cats logo, just contact the Membership Committee.

Greg Smith (Director)

Updated us on activities. Plans are underway for 2008, with some rides already scheduled.

The activities calendar is available for you to sign up for a corresponding 2008 weekend, if you'd like to repeat a 2007 ride. We currently have two 3-day rides planned: a Hoosier Run to south western Indiana at the end of May, and the Little Sturgis ride to Iowa. Rooms (12) are available at the

Radisson for the Little Sturgis ride (please check the website for details). Other scheduled rides include the Ride For Dreams (July 27), and the President's Ride (September 9).

Wayne Kirkpatrick passed out cards for the Rolling Thunder Poker Run (June 8). This is the first of 2 fund raising events for Veterans that Rolling Thunder has each year.

John Lunde announced our annual banquet is tentatively scheduled at the Millrose Brewery in Barrington on Sunday, February 10 (around 6:00 p.m.). Cost is expected to be approximately \$35/person, with a cash bar. Anyone willing to help work on this event should contact John.

Keith Zawila (Secretary)

Wayne Kirkpatrick (Safety Chair) commented many people put riding on the backburner during the winter months. However, this is a good time to reflect on some of the things you may have done incorrectly this past year, and work on ways to improve on those things in the coming year.

Ric Case informed us there are 5 GRASS classes scheduled for 2008. The first one being held on February 26. Check the website for other dates.

Wayne announced the annual Road Captain's meeting will take place in January.

Chuck Prettyman offered a safety tip. While traveling down the road, you may notice a rider encountering some problems with their bike. They may not be experienced or knowledgeable enough to be able to resolve their problem. If we can assist them, make things safer for them, and help them get back on the road, it's our responsibility as riders to offer what we can.

Gary Brandt (President)

Gary introduced John Lunde who provided an update on ROAR. The December issue

will be the

last 'printed' version. Beginning in January, it will now be available electronically thru our website (the last week of the month), as well as being sent to our membership as a PDF attachment along with the web link in an email. Deadlines for articles remain the 15th of the month (please forward these to John LaMonica). We will try to archive previous versions of ROAR on the website too.

Please offer any feedback on this new version to John.

Chuck Prettyman (Past President) Announced the results of our annual election:

Gary Brandt (President)

Bob Carmody (Vice President)

Mike Bradbury (Secretary)

Tom Malia (Treasurer)

Eileen Perry, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Greg Smith (Directors)

Our 50/50 raffle winner was Tom Malia.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted....Keith Zawila.

(On a personal note: I'd like to thank all of our members for allowing me the honor and pleasure serving as your Secretary the past 2 years. I've enjoyed it, and appreciated your support).

Board Meeting Minutes...

November 20, 2007

Board Members:

Present: Gary Brandt, Keith Zawila, Tom Malia, Lynn Adams, Greg Smith, Chuck Prettyman

Absent: John Lunde, Andy Konsewicz, Windy Krepel

Guest: Bob Carmody

Proceedings:

President Gary Brandt called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm at Mexico Lindo in Lake Zurich.

The Minutes from the October meeting, previously distributed, were approved.

Gary Brandt (President)

Offered opening comments. Led a quick review of our budget. Operating account current balance is \$5,806; Charity account current balance is \$2,662. A brief discussion followed on a few details in the report. A motion was made to accept the report as presented. The motion was approved.

Gary mentioned dates for 2008

ROARin with Laughter



I refuse to go anywhere until you turn your head to the left.

General and Board meetings have been reviewed. Meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of the month, except for January and August, which require moving them back one week.

Bob Carmody (Membership)

Bob presented 2 membership applications for approval. Carrie Baab was presented, discussed, and voted in as an Associate member, and Paul Menard was presented, discussed, and voted in as a Regular member.

Bob mentioned annual membership dues are coming up for renewal, with dues invoices to be e-mailed this coming weekend.

Gary led a discussion on our current dues structure. After a lengthy discussion on various aspects, the Board decided (with 1 vote 'opposed') to retain them at the same rate as this year. That rate structure is: \$60 for an Associate member, \$75 for a Regular member, \$105 for Family of 2 Associate members, \$115 for Family of 1 Regular and

1 Associate member, and \$130 for Family of 2 Regular members.

Gary Brandt (President)

Discussed the first draft of the electronic version of ROAR. While it is still a work in progress, it is ready for publication beginning in January 2008. After some discussion on various aspects of this media and its content, a motion was made to convert the publication of ROAR to an electronic format beginning in January 2008. The motion was approved.

Gary lead a discussion on retaining Mexico Lindo as the site for 2008 Board meetings. He men-

tioned the owner is looking for a minimum of \$60 be spent on food / beverages during our Board meetings. If we do not spend the minimum amount, the difference would be made up by the club. A motion was made to commit our 2008 Board meetings to Mexico Lindo, and accept the requested \$60 expense per month, with any difference being made up by the club. The motion was approved.

Greg Smith (Director)

Updated us on activities. We had 4 new Road Captains this year, who provided us 6 new rides.

We currently are looking at 3, 3-day (Friday – Sunday) rides for next year. Finally, in December and January, the rides from this past year will be posted, so anyone wishing to schedule the same ride and/or date for 2008 can have the opportunity to do so.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 11th, 7:30 pm at Mexico Lindo in Lake Zurich.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted....Keith Zawila.

**Wisdom from the
Ole' Saddle Sage
As told to Chuck Prettyman**

“Winter is Nature's way of telling you to polish.”

Board Meeting Minutes...

December, 2007

Start Time: 7:32

Attendees; Lynn Adams, Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Bob Carmody, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Andy Konsewicz, Tom Malia, Eileen Perry, Greg Smith and Keith Zawila

The meeting started with opening remarks by president **Gary**. The election at the last general meeting went well. Turnout was good considering the snow storm. The final ROAR bill has been paid. Any outstanding receipts are needed (some due from Bob and Andy). Bob has revenues for flags, pins and patches to submit to **Tom**. Expenses were reduced in 2007.

Board approved December general meeting minutes per **Keith**. Per **Bob**, 2 new candidates, Colleen and Brian Massheimer applied for associate membership. Their sponsor is Mike Bradbury. Motion was passed for accepting their membership.

The board discussed public vs. private access of the ROAR newsletter on the club website. Members will receive newsletter releases as a pdf file by email but the question posed was should the website include all ROARs, both archived and current for anyone to view.

The board voted to allow all ROARs to be online and accessible to the public. Also discussed was what member information should be available as public vs. private. No vote was taken at this time on that matter.

Wayne discussed the Safety Committee goals for 2008. He reviewed the committee's pro-

gress in achieving goals for 2007. Three new road captains were designated in 2007. GRASS class needs an equipment upgrade with a new screen and projector. Curriculum needs some changes for 2008. New items (i.e. no right turns on red in a group ride) are being considered for addition to the curriculum.

Two safety complaints were lodged in 2007. Both were valid. One was for aggressive riding and after rider warning was given, riding was okay. The other complaint was when a rider drops out from the group and we pull ahead to fill gap vs. switching sides. Pulling ahead of another rider in the same lane is illegal. Under consideration is changing to the rider holding position and then regrouping at the next stop.

Greg discussed Activities. Ride scheduling is developing slowly for 2008. Andy's concert suggestion turned out well and was very enjoyable. More ideas for social outings during the winter are needed. Ideas that require tickets in advance are tough to achieve. A meeting is being arranged for January or early February with Gary, Greg, Tom Nichols and Volo Auto Museum to discuss this year's charity ride. We have t-shirts for sale for \$12 each, 24 were ordered and 9 have been purchased already.

Gary advised the board that the club banquet will be held at Seville's on Barrington Road. John Lunde has been managing the arrangements and confirmation. The board has approved needed expenditures for our banquet.

Gary closed the 1st half of the

meeting with thanks to **Lynn** and **Keith** for their service as board members in 2007.

Gary started the 2nd half of the meeting with handouts for new board members. This consisted of 2008 meeting dates, board assignments, a contact list and a printout of club bylaws. 2008 meeting locations have been confirmed and stay the same as they are now.

Gary advised the board that he wants all present to speak their minds and submit ideas for the club. While the club is changing and 2007 was good, Gary is looking to maintain and continue our progress.

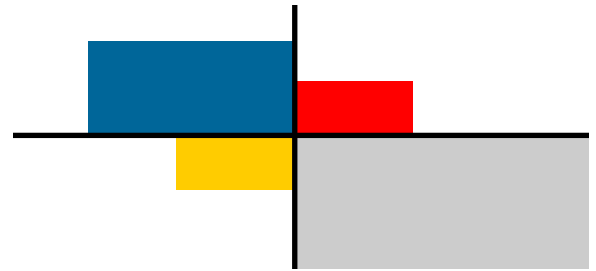
The 2007 budget results were issued and **Gary** discussed his preliminary numbers for 2008. The initial numbers are meant to spur ideas and response from the board. The board will be reviewing the 2008 budget in detail during January and February meetings.

Bylaws and effect on the club were discussed. **Mike** was assigned to get a copy of the article of incorporation from the county or state. State of Illinois filing requirements for the club need to be reviewed. Maximizing club identity with flags, patches, etc. was emphasized by **Gary**. **Bob** advised the board that membership dues collections were good with 16 member fees received already. Only 1 member has not yet been contacted for renewing fees.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47.

Activities

Calendar



Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, January 08, 2008	General Meeting (note date)	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Sunday, January 13, 2008	Road Captain Meeting	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	D. Shaffer
Tuesday, January 15, 2008	Board Meeting (note date)	Mexican Lindo	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, February 05, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Friday, February 08, 2008	Motorcycle Show-3 days	Rosemont Convention Ctr	Rosemont	TBD	TBD
Sunday, February 10, 2008	Annual Banquet	Seville	Streamwood	TBD	J. Lunde
Tuesday, February 19, 2008	Board Meeting (note date)	Mexican Lindo	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, March 04, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, March 11, 2008	Board Meeting	Mexican Lindo	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, April 01, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, April 08, 2008	Board Meeting	Mexican Lindo	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt

2008 Rides you can book rooms for now

Date	Event	Hotel	# Nights	Number
Friday, June 13, 2008	Little Sturgis	Radisson-Davenport	2	563-322-2200
Wednesday, July 30, 2008	Route to Sturgis	Holiday Inn-Makato Mn	1	507-345-1234
Thursday, July 31, 2008	Route to Sturgis	Kelly Inn-Pierre SD	1	605 224-4140
Friday, August 01, 2008	Sturgis	Alex Johnson	multiple	1-800-888-ALEX
Remember to mention that you are with the Top Cats				

Last Minute Submissions...



Hello Top Cat Road Captains -

It's time for our annual meeting. The meeting will be held at the Village Grill, same place as GRASS, at 9:30 on Sunday January 13, 2008. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.

The Senior Road Captains will be meeting at 8:30AM for one hour, then the Road Captains will join in at 9:30 for a joint meeting. Come to discuss our safety program for 2008.

This year we are adding a new feature. At about 10:30, following the joint meeting, we will hold the Road Captain's portion of GRASS so all of us can get that portion of our mandatory obligation out of the way for the year. We will finish before noon.

Please let me know if you are not going to attend, and if you are going to participate in the continental breakfast (\$8) or coffee service (\$2).

Don Schaffer, Numbers Man

Fellow Top Cats,

I am pleased to announce that as of 1 Jan 2008, John Lunde will assume the position of Safety Committee Chief for the 2008 season. We are fortunate to have John accept this position as he brings a wealth of talent and experience to one of the most important areas of our Club...safety. I am confident that every one of us will benefit from John's experience as a former Club officer, a former Club Director, a Senior Road Captain, and the former Chief of the Road Captain Committee. John's experience, combined with Don Schaffer's experience as Chief of the Road Captain Committee and Ric Case's as Chief of the GRASS Committee give us a powerful and unequalled team to promulgate and maintain our Club's safety culture.

Please join me and your Board in thanking these individuals for their efforts in 2007 and in supporting them in 2008. Safety is important and we must continue to maintain that focus.

Gary Brandt

