



ROAR

Official Publication
of Top Cats — Illinois

President's Corner...

Greetings Top Cats

So close and yet so far. It seems like winter is never going to end, but we are getting closer. In the next few months we will start to hear the wisdom of our safety committee regarding getting out on our machines after the long winters' nap. We all should pay close attention. For many of us it will have been 4 months or so since we have been in saddle. Lets all have a safe spring.

A hearty thanks to John Lunde and all who helped him with the yearly Banquet. It was a great new location and a good time was had by

all despite the sub zero temperatures we had. Congratulations to Ric Case at receiving the Founders Cup. Ric has dedicated many years in the service of the Top Cats and this award is well deserved. The Founders Cup is a lasting reminder of Virgo, our founder, and one very important tradition we have as Top Cats. As we participate on our many rides each year it's easy to forget that this all started years ago with one person's vision. It was also good to see a return to the general awards portion of the banquet. And last but not least, the great slide show full of highlights from 2007.

The new ROAR team is doing a great job, but they need your help. Let's not be shy about writing some articles or sending in some pictures. Did you attend some motorcycle event recently, perhaps snapped a picture of a cool custom chopper. Write up a short paragraph and send it to John LaMonica.

John and his team will be making some adjustments to the due dates. It is clear that we can wait longer to finish the newsletter and we want to take advantage of every opportunity to include your submissions.

Gary

Notice:

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

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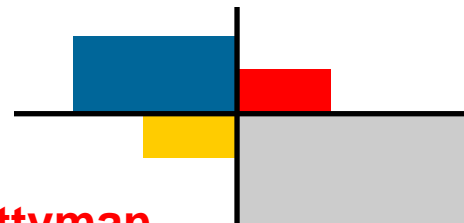
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SAFETY...

Kaution Korner by Chuck Prettyman



Your Ride's as Good as Your Preparation

When it's time to stop whatever you're doing and take a ride, don't forget to plan for the elements, unexpected circumstances and the occasion to reach for some additional gear. Whether it's warm weather or "pre-season" riding, it's easy to climb aboard and forget rain gear, tinted or clear glasses, something for your head, and something to keep warm or avoid sunburn.

Being prepared should not be limited to the unexpected; one should re-think preparedness as doing what's best in normal riding situations also.

If you have jumped on the bike for a short ride that lasts longer than you planned, the weather changes, as does the light, the distance required to return home, and expected time of arrival. Last week another rider talked to me about his experience when the temps reached 41 degrees and he "had to take a ride".

What started as a short trip became longer since it was such a great day. Eventually,

he was farther from home than he realized, with no hat, cap or do-rag, only thin gloves, riding in a rural area with low fuel, cell phone on his desk and snow starting to fall. He thought it was an adventure since he came home safe but very cold. It could have been worse for lack of preparation.

We have so much storage on our oversized "hogs" and having the option to bungee "stuff" on most bikes, that it makes sense to include rain gear, a pair of clear glasses, a long sleeve shirt for winter and summer and a cap, hat or helmet. Maps? Tools? That's a given!

Good boots are a safe and smart accessory that every rider should consider and many don't. In addition, check out your riding boots to verify there is enough sole and it's not slick.

Toll booths, gas stations, slick streets and a little bit of gravel can cause your boots to slip out from under when you stop and plant a foot.

Think of your passenger. If you have a regular passenger, include their rain gear and extra glasses in your preparation. Explain the need for extra gear to an oc-

casional or new passenger the same as you would explain how he or she should mount, dismount, when to lean, and communicate with you on the ride. That is a whole other article, though.

None of this is in lieu of the required bike inspection but should compliment the pre-ride ritual. Having the right gear handy before you take off will influence the probability your ride will be safer and more enjoyable.

Chuck Prettyman

Editor's Note

Just a reminder to keep those pictures/images coming.

Dennis "Wombat" Dougherty is the Top Cats chairman and coordinator for club picture collection and storage. send or contact Dennis about pictures that you want to provide. See the Committee Leaders list for contact info.

Pictures taken at the Annual Banquet that appear in this ROAR issue are provided by Cindy Rayburn.

John LaMonica

General Meeting Minutes...

February 5, 2008

Gary Brandt, President started the meeting at 7:49 PM on a blustery, stormy winter's night. Everyone who attended was recognized for their courage (insanity?) for coming out.

No guests were present to introduce. The storm was attributed to the smaller turnout. Due to the weather, Colleen and Brian Masheimer could not attend the announcement of their new membership to the club. Both their new membership announcement and Stewart Johnson's were postponed until the next general meeting.

Greg Smith, Activities Director, presented future rides. On March 16th, the club is going to Tommy Guns Garage, a dinner theater experience in Chicago. \$55 per person is needed by February 16th. The Kick-Off ride is on April 13th, the Sunrise Ride is on April 27th. A new ride called the K3 River Ride is on the calendar. All were requested to see the website for more information.

Greg announced that rooms are now available to reserve for two future overnight rides. The Hoosier Run in Southwest Indiana and Little Sturgis in Davenport, Iowa are about half filled for available rooms. All were encouraged to book their rooms soon, especially Little Sturgis. See the web site for more information about the rides and lodgings.

Mike Bradbury talked about another ride in June called the Rustic Road ride on June 7th. All who do that ride will receive a patch for riding rustic roads in 3 counties in Wisconsin. This is a 211 mile day ride with a stop for lunch. Also, in June, a ride called the Milk Run is on the calendar.

Bard Board talked about our ride to Sturgis. New things are planned for the ride. Bard outlined the trip with stops for dinner and lodgings. Our South Dakota lodgings are at the Alex Johnson, in Rapid City. A new manager there has great new ideas for activities. We could take chartered transportation to a casino in Deadwood with a great buffet ("boofay") for \$25 per person. Rides to Fort Mead and Ellsworth Air force Base are possible. Also, day rides to the Sturgis Rally, Mount Rushmore, Spearfish Canyon, Devils Tower, and more are planned. This ride is a great tradition in the club and, combining The Black Hills with the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, one of the greatest motorcycle experiences one can have. All were encouraged to call and make reservations. All hotel information is listed on the web site.

John Lunde, talked about our Annual Awards Dinner, February 10th at Sevilles, 700 N. Barrington Road in Streamwood. The food there is very good, you won't be hungry afterwards. We need the final count by February 6th but exceptions can be made. An award nomination list was handed out for all to fill and return. The list will be e-mailed to the membership for all to respond.

Wayne Kirkpatrick talked about a new awards program for the club. Awards could be issued during rides and other times for a lot of different reasons. 3 types of awards to consider are Impact, Service and Earned. Pins and patches could be issued for Impact awards for exceptional safety practices observed. A Brotherhood award is another one like past "gangs" or clubs would issue. Service Awards could be issued for examples of exceptional service. Earned awards would be issued for most miles rode, most states rode in one day, etc. We are soliciting ideas from everyone for awards. A con-

sensus of all attending was that this awards program was a good idea. Wayne will proceed and present more in the future.

Greg Smith announced that more Top Cats T-shirts were available for \$12 each. Medium, large and 2X-large sizes were with him for sale. Extra large size is on order and will be available to purchase at the next meeting. Greg was selling Top Cat stickers. One sticker for \$2 and two for \$3 was the nights "storm special". Also available to buy are Top Cats coffee cups, mouse pads, and coasters. Any ideas for other club products are welcome. We all need to show our club identity wherever possible. Wearing our club patches and pins is one way to do that. Buying items with the club logo on them is another.

The first safety tip was presented by Wayne Kirkpatrick, Director of Safety. When considering our safety tips, there is a wide spectrum grouped by type; basic and advanced. Everything on the bike has to do with safety. While Wayne was visiting with the quality director for S & S Cycle recently, he learned there are federal specifications for motorcycles. These include where the cockpit is, what gauges exist, locations of critical controls, etc. The specification for wind screen design is that the field of view should extend beyond 2 degrees lateral and 4 degrees. When installing electronic gadgets, you stay within those fields to keep your view clear and unobstructed.

The second safety tip was provided by John Lunde. This tip is to work hard on keeping emotions from getting in the way of driving.

Ric Case announced the next G.R.A.S.S. class will be February 24th. Class will begin at 9:00 am at

General Meeting Minutes...

February 5, 2008

the Village Bar and Grill.

Don Shaffer is looking for any non-road captains to plan a short ride idea for after the G.R.A.S.S. class.

Bard Board presented the 3rd and last safety tip for the night. Sandra Vernon volunteered for Bard's demonstration. When following in a group, the spacing rule is 2 seconds of travel from the rider in front of you and 1 second for the rider on your oblique. Sometimes we forget to count 1001, 1002 and do not maintain the spacing. An easier way to make sure of distance is to keep in position where you can see the rider's eyes in their side view mirror. Sandy graciously demonstrated by holding glasses in her hand to mimic the proper view.

If anyone has any questions about the ride to Sturgis, contact Wayne. Bard will be doing a motorcycle tour in Japan during March, April and May and will not be available.

Jim Heniff announced a new ride recently added. This ride is an overnight to Trempealeau, Wisconsin starting July 4th and returning July 6th. This ride will start with separate ride groups on different routes to Trempealeau. The Iowa River Road, a common route road, is listed as one of the top ten National Scenic Byways. At this time, plenty of lodging is unreserved and available.

Tom Nichols, Charity Ride Committee leader announced that he will

need help to start putting the event together in about 4 weeks. Anyone interested, contact Tom. Last year's event went well and we want to utilize that formula to keep building on it and be more successful this year.

Gary opened the floor to general comments. Jim Heniff announced some motorcycle sale he was aware of. Contact Jim for more information.

The meeting was adjourned and closed about 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Bradbury.



Traditions

Part One

What are traditions? While there are several definitions, the one that makes the most sense says that a tradition is the passing down of beliefs, legends, customs etc. usually to each generation. We grow up using traditions as guides in many of the things we do. These could be cultural beliefs that identify your background or a basic set of rules that a family may follow.

As Top Cats, we are rich in traditions. Many of us are not familiar with them. Over the coming months we will try and explain a single tradition each month. For some a refresher, while for others new information.

The Top Cats have a patch and symbol that we all wear proudly. Our tradition is to have two colors of patches: White on Black and Gold on Black. The white patch is our standard patch given to all members when they join the organization.

The Gold patch is given to members who have served the organization in a role on our board of directors. Once you have served you retain the gold patch as long as you remain an active member. This is done so members can see who to go to if they have questions or concerns.

Board members will also wear a gold rocker that indicates current or past offices held. The Top Cats flags follow the same protocol.

Gary Brandt

Banquet 2008



Photos by Cindy Raybern









Board Meeting Minutes...

January 15, 2008

Attendants: Board Members; Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Bob Carmody, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Andy Konescwicz, Tom Malia, Eileen Perry, Chuck Prettyman, and Greg Smith.
Guest; Brian Rainey

Gary called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at the Mexico Lindo in Lake Zurich.

The preliminary 2008 budget, produced by Tom, was handed out to the board by Gary. The plan is to review and discuss the budget at the board's February meeting, and vote on it in the March meeting. More ideas are sought to generate club excitement and interest. Budgeted expenses and projected costs were discussed.

The club's materials was the next topic. Both Mike and Bob have club patches and we discussed whether a single person or the appropriate committee should keep the materials. Items we sell and display that identify the club, (flags, pins and t-shirts) are a good first step for getting our name out and provide club visibility, but we need to keep it up. Gary requested from Bob, Greg and Mike a list of materials by the next board meeting.

The need to learn all of the club's legal requirements for filing and maintaining ourselves as a not-for-profit organization was addressed. This includes what's needed to maintain our incorporation with the State of Illinois and any general tax liabilities. Mike will be researching this and will present his results to the board at the next meeting.

Brian, chair of the Website Committee, provided information as to the

state of the website and pending changes. He is working on a list of improvements and refinements which were discussed. We determined that our website can have articles from non-club sources but an okay from the original source should be obtained first. A notice to members is needed when the website is down. The membership list needs updating for 2008. The 'About Us' section is missing the 1st part of our mission statement. John Lunde's name needs to be added to the Safety Committee. Links to dealers were questioned. When a ride is listed, the ride leader's full name should be shown. No content on our site should be listed anonymously. Brian will be making these changes to the website during the next few days.

Bob presented new member candidate, Stewart Johnson. After a brief discussion, the motion was passed to accept and welcome Stewart as a new Associate Member. Bob has collected more membership dues since last reported. He has collected more than 50% overall with about 35 members left.

Wayne proposed new awards for fun, riding achievements, and overall club self-interest. Wayne offered ideas for many types of awards and reasons for them. They could be given out on rides or at the banquet. The consensus was this was a good idea. The matter was deferred until the budget discussions for the February board meeting.

Wayne commented on the Top Cat's Road Captain and Safety Conference meeting last Sunday, January 13th. The turnout and participation by the road captains and senior road captains was better than ever. All present who attended the meeting agreed. At the meeting, 2 changes were made to the group riding guidelines. One was for road captains to

refrain from making right turns on red when leading a group ride. This helps keep the group from getting split up. The other is for riders to stay in their position when a rider drops out of the staggered formation of a group ride. All riders would stay in their original positions and the gap would be left open until the next stop for an opportunity to regroup together. A mid-summer safety meeting was proposed. Ways to keep encouraging new ride leaders and ideas were discussed at that meeting. Road captains attending this meeting also satisfied their annual requirement to attend the road captains section of our G.R.A.S.S. program.

Wayne and the board discussed the Safety Committee equipment improvement costs. These are the costs for a new screen and projector. The matter was discussed at length. The 2008 preliminary budget has these costs included. This will be revisited at the February board meeting.

Greg reported on club activities to the board. The goal is to have an event once a month during the off riding season. February will have the Awards Banquet, dinner at the Tommy Guns Garage is planned for March, and April includes the club Kick-Off Ride. 11 rides are on the calendar so far.

Greg reported that there are 8 odd sized t-shirts left to purchase. The board Okayed the purchase of a dozen more for sale. What about embroidered hats or decals? Greg would look into it. There was some additional discussion pertaining to the Tommy Guns Dinner event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Board Meeting Minutes...

February 19, 2008

Attendants: Board Members; Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Bob Carmody, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Andy Konescwicz, Tom Malia, Eileen Perry, and Greg Smith. Guest; Brian Rainey
Absent: Chuck Prettyman

Gary called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM at the Mexico Lindo in Lake Zurich.

A motion was passed to accept the minutes from January's board meeting.

Mike presented his research on the annual requirements to maintain the club and its not-for-profit status with the state and the IRS. Mike will finalize his research in time to meet the necessary filing deadlines. Wayne will produce a letter of declaration received from the government for the secretary's records. The secretary's position is now responsible for maintaining this annually. Mike will begin doing that.

Lists of club materials were presented by Tom and Mike for our records.

A preliminary budget for 2008 was presented by Gary for general discussion amongst the board. An itemized review of the list was given. Some adjustments were made. After final dues receipts are verified, the budget will be reviewed again, adjusted and finalized in the March board meeting. The board passed a motion to give the President discretionary spending of \$300 per annum without prior board approval.

Bob presented the current status of membership dues and their receipts. The last dues receipts were issued to Tom. Thirteen member's dues have not yet been received. This includes three new members and ten current members. The deadline for member's dues is December 31st with a cut-off of February 29th. The board agreed that Bob needs to issue an e-mail as a notice to the delinquent members for their dues payment. The deadline for dues was extended to March 04.

Bob presented a new design for membership cards to the board. The board approved of the design.

Wayne discussed Safety topics. G.R.A.S.S. class presentation materials are now available for presentations in Microsoft PowerPoint. The type of projector to purchase for the safety committee is still under consideration. A future presentation on global positioning systems (GPS) is under development and review.

Wayne presented the need to establish an Awards Committee. The purpose of the committee is to create and refine ideas for awards. The committee could also present the awards at the club's annual dinner. Awards for various reasons are considered a good idea to foster club enthusiasm and member recognitions. The board agreed this was a good idea. Wayne will continue to develop this item.

Greg discussed activities. Confirmation was made that a G.R.A.S.S. class on June 8th is the same day as a Rolling Thunder ride. Greg advised the board about the sale of club T-shirts. 6 are left and orders for 8 in other sizes were taken from members. A new order for 12 was proposed. A motion was passed and accepted to order 12 more.

Gary discussed other products for sale with the Top Cats logo such as coffee cups, coasters, decals, mouse pads, etc. A motion was proposed and passed to purchase a small quantity for sale.

Tom discussed the current two category membership system with the board. A general discussion ensued about these two types of membership and what they mean to the club. The discussion included the pro and cons of making any changes to our current membership practices. A general agreement was met that the system in place is adequate for now, but Board members were encouraged to give the matter further thought and to assess whether further discussion of this matter is warranted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

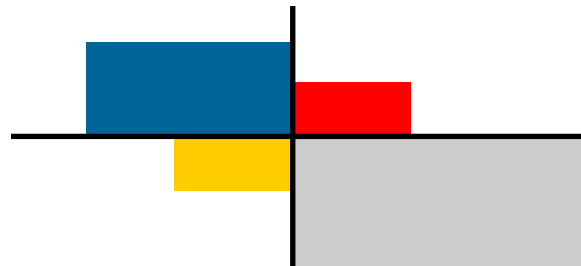
**Wisdom from the
Ole' Saddle Sage
As told to Chuck Prettyman**

The only good view of a thunderstorm is in your rearview mirror.

Activities



Calendar



Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
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
Sunday, March 16, 2008	Tommy Guns Dinner Show	800 E. Northwest Hwy, Palatine	Chicago	3:30pm	G. Smith
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
Sunday, April 13, 2008	Kickoff Ride	Shell Station-RT12 and Lake Cook	Brunch Surprise	8:30am	A. Konsewicz
Sunday, April 27, 2008	Sunrise Ride	BP Station Rt12 and Rt176	Surprise	4:45am	D. Dougherty
Sunday, May 04, 2008	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	R. Case
Tuesday, May 06, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, May 13, 2008	Board Meeting	Mexican Lindo	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Sunday, May 25, 2008	K-3 River Ride	TB D	TB D	TB D	B. Rainey
Friday, May 30, 2008	Hoosier Run	Rt14 & Rt176, McDonalds	Indiana	8:30am	G. Brandt
Tuesday, June 03, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Saturday, June 07, 2008	Rustic Road Ride	Many Wisconsin Roads	TB D	TB D	M. Bradbury
Sunday, June 08, 2008	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	R. Case
Tuesday, June 10, 2008	Board Meeting	Mexican Lindo	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Friday, June 13, 2008	Little Sturgis	Rt14 & Rt176, McDonalds	Davenport, Iowa	9:00am	G. Brandt

2008 Rides you can book rooms for now

Date	Event	Hotel	# Nights	Number
Friday, May 30, 2008	Hoosier Run	Comfort Inn	2	217-443-8004
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