



# ROAR

Official Publication  
of Top Cats — Illinois



## President's Corner...

by Gary Brandt

### Greetings Top Cats

It's hard to believe that it's September already. With the lousy spring weather we had, the season just seems to be too short. Once again this month we have plenty of rides on the schedule. From a Southwest Wisconsin multi-day ride to the Ride for Cheese, there should be something for every Top Cat to enjoy.

How about that picnic! Big thanks to Buffos (Top Cat Lenny Innocenzi) for providing the hamburgers, Mike Bradbury for leading the efforts and getting us that great site. Terry Kumro and Cindy Raybern for being his partners and main contributors, and of course all of the Top Cats who helped out. Every year we seem to find a

way to top the previous one. This year aside from the many the new ride locations we enjoyed, the picnic was the icing on the cake.

Have you been thinking of some new ideas to make the Top Cats an even better organization? Don't like the way some things are done? Do you have a few extra hours a month to donate? Well now is the time to get your name in the hat to fill our leadership positions. The current board is putting together some short job descriptions that will be posted on the web site and mailed out. They will be available by mid September. Chuck Pretzman (Past President) is once again leading the yearly election process. Feel free to ask Chuck or any board member for information. Remember, you don't improve things by complain-

ing. You improve things with personal action!

Some points to remember. The Top Cats Hot Line, 847-622-3501, is a one way communications tool. Messages are not regularly checked. Email addresses for your leaders are listed in the ROAR. Of course attending the general meetings each month also provides you with lots of information. Also, we use email as our primary short term communications device. If you don't look at your emails, you will miss out on many activities. During the riding season you will normally get at least one per week and often two or three. We also try and get critical messages on the front page of the web site. Of course if you can see the web site, you can check your emails.

**Gary Brandt**

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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	<b>Gary Brandt</b> cgb002@comcast.net
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Treasurer	<b>Tom Malia</b> tmalia@cfalp.com
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Past President	<b>Chuck Prettyman</b> topcats2003@aol.com
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Director	<b>Andy Konsewicz</b> andy@Konsewicz.com
Director	<b>Eileen Perry</b> eprhia@comcast.net
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Founder	<b>Carl 'Virgo' Bender</b> 1941-2001

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# Black Hills Ride 2008



# Ride For Dreams 2008



# Ride For Dreams 2008



# General Meeting Minutes...

August 12, 2008

Top Cats General Meeting August 12th 2008

Gary Brandt (President) called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Guests were introduced to the meeting. Joe Rominsky was introduced by Wayne Kirkpatrick. Jill and Paul Hansen were introduced by Bard Boand. Larry Scalzatti introduced Justin Ryan.

We will be holding elections for the 2009 Top Cat's officers during November's general meeting. Anyone who is interested in running for election needs to contact Chuck Prettyman (Past President) now. Chuck, who is in charge of the Elections Committee, needs to know by the September general meeting who wants to run for an office or director's position.

The elections committee is comprised of Chuck and other past presidents who will interview candidates and let them know what it takes to fill a position. Executive offices, such as the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretaries position are for 1 year terms with 2 year consecutive limit. The Director's positions are for 2 years. Contact Chuck if you have any questions or interest.

New and renewing Top Cats members were announced. Jeff Tietz, Cindy Raybern, Robert Raffetto and Cindy Baker were presented their new membership package with flag and patch.

Mike Bradbury (Secretary) spoke about the Top Cats Picnic on August 16th. The Picnic is at Moiraine Hills State Park in the Whitehill Prairie section.

Dennis Dougherty is leading a ride to the picnic that starts at the BP Amoco at Rte 176 and Hwy 12. 9:30 AM is the meet time, 9:45 AM the pre-ride meeting with the ride leaving by 10:00 AM. The picnic starts at 11:30 AM.

The picnic will have hamburgers, bratwurst, chips, watermelon and refreshments. Badminton, Baggo and other games will be available too. Your club funds help support the picnic as well as the progressive dinner ride, so do your best to participate and join in on these functions.

Gary reported that the Ride for Dreams was the best it's been in years. Thanks again to Tom Nichols and all of you who helped. We had double the attendance since the last few years. 156 riders paid and registered. We had 50% Top Cats member participation, and all the road captains did a great job. While the final financial results are being tallied, we will be able to donate in excess of \$7,000 to N.I.S.R.A.

While no money essentially was made on the raffle, everything else did well. A lot of hard work went into this event and again, many thanks to all who assisted.

While Greg Smith (Activities Di-

rector) was unable to come tonight, Gary detailed the up and coming activities;

August 24th, The President's Ride; This is a 130 mile, or so, ride that will take us to the Joliet Harrah's Casino by way of Lake Shore Drive along Lake Michigan. This is a different ride than we normally do, but is a beautiful route along the lake with a great view of Chicago.

September 6th, The Mexican Fiesta Run; Mike is leading this dinner ride to a Mexican restaurant. This ride was originally an early evening ride he put together combining roads in his area with scenic views for his rider. It is a destination ride that starts at the Shell station on Hwy 176 and 60. See the web for more detail.

September 12th – 15th, Southwest Wisconsin Weekender Ride; Fred Zimbric is leading this overnight weekend ride to Prairie Du Chien with Saturday and Sunday day rides. This is a great area for motorcycling roads and scenery, including Wildcat Mountain.

The roads are twisty and fun. Even if you cannot take the time off from work and stay the whole weekend you could come up for Saturday and Sunday only.

September 13th, The Sunset Ride: This ride is being removed from the calendar for the time

# General Meeting Minutes...

August 12, 2008

being.

September 14th, The Cast Iron Ride; Carl Marcyan is leading a 100 mile ride to the 5th Annual Cast Iron Ride at the Vintage Spoke Museum in Rockford. This is a 60 mile ride with vintage motorcycles.

September 20th, The Ride For Cheese; Mike Bradbury is leading this ride to Monroe Wisconsin for the Green County Cheese Days Festival.

Don Shaffer has flyers for a non-Top Cats ride called Iron Justice of Lake County. See or contact him if you are interested.

The Harley 105th Anniversary celebration and festivities is from August 28th through the 31st. Gary will send emails soon to co-ordinate grouping interested Top Cats to go to the events together.

Wayne Kirkpatrick (Safety Director) gave our safety tip for the meeting. When doing the Sturgis rides in the past, some riders have had accidents. These riders are good, skilled and experienced riders which caused Wayne to wonder why these accidents happened.

Wayne concluded that the accidents were caused by poor judgment vs. skill levels. How do we improve our judgment as riders? We all should be asking ourselves this to be safer motorcyclists. No one answer exists, but we should all consider this.

Don Shaffer (Senior Road Captain) gave thanks to all road captains leading rides at the Ride for Dreams. This was a slow year for new road captains. So far, we have had only 2 new road captains in 2008. Don reiterated the requirements to become a road captain. If you have any interest contact a current road captain, club officer or director or see the website for more details.

Terry Kumro (Senior Road Captain) gave another safety tip. New riders feel peer pressure when riding with a group. This can cause new riders to push the envelope on their riding skills. The pressure to keep up, avoid embarrassment, etc. all can happen when riding with a group.

When we group ride, we recognize everyone is not the same skill level. Ride your own ride and the longer you ride, the more your skills will develop.

Emails are important. Check your emails every week for updates, announcements and requests for r.s.v.p.'s. Emails are the #1 tool for club communications.

Do not leave messages on the Hotline. This is a one way communication device to announce recent changes due to weather and other conditions.

The floor was opened by Gary to general comments;

- Mike talked about the Top Cats tradition to never leave a rider behind. Mike got a flat tire on the way home from the Mendota Sweet corn festival ride on Sunday night. Gary and Muriel Brandt stayed with him and Kathie, his rider for 2 hours while he arranged a ride home. Another Top Cat, Emil Kornecki came at a moment's notice and trailered Mike, Kathie and their bike. Mike was proud to be a Top Cat.

Carl also was proud to be a Top Cat when his bike broke down with a gasket problem and Top Cats stayed with him. He also thanked Bard Board and Wayne Kirkpatrick for leading a tremendous ride to Sturgis from which they just returned. Make sure and go next year.

Bob Carmody needs a volunteer to be publisher for the ROAR newsletter during 2009. Let him know if you are interested and to learn more about it. Experience with Microsoft Publisher and converting Microsoft Word documents to Publisher documents is needed.

Submitted by Mike Bradbury (Secretary)

# Rustic Road

By Mike Bradbury

Rustic Road Riders,

To all who came on my ride, thanks again for joining me and following me blindly through Wisconsin! I love back roads and we were on some neat ones.

We had some fun stops and things along the ride too. Thanks to those on the first sign stop that helped the guy off-load his race car from its trailer while we were just standing there in front of his house.

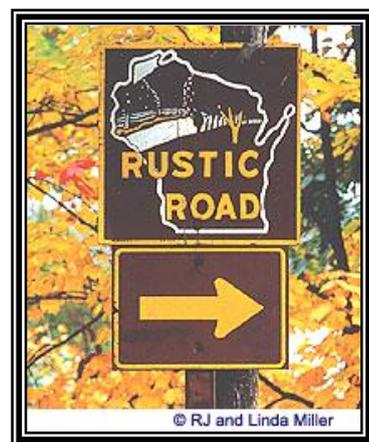
By the time we got to our first stop, we had stood and photographed ourselves on the side of the road by 3 rustic road signs. Each time we parked and got off our bikes and stood by the sign where our ride photographer, Kathie, took our pictures. One requirement from the State of Wisconsin gave me a chance to designate a bike to be parked in front of the group for each picture. It was fun picking out the bikes to show off in front of our group.

The first stop was a hoot too. Who heard of a combination pharmacy and gas station with gift shop all in one before? While you stood there waiting for the bathroom at the same time you could shop for precious moments figurines!

We had to do 6 more sign stops before lunch. Unfortunately, the stops took a little longer than I figured. Each time we were on and off the bike with a walk to the sign. My ride was starting to be aptly coined as; "Mike's Bike and Hike". Consequently, we were late for our lunch stop and we lost a few riders to a bratfest somewhere else (?). The call of the stomach is sometimes stronger than most anything else.

We finally arrive, late for lunch, at Port Hemingway on County H in Lake Geneva. Everything was in order with our big Top Cats flag mounted on the wall and the dining area all to ourselves.

We must have overloaded the cook with our group size though.



Some of our orders took over an hour to get served. Some of our stomachs were singing out by then.

While we were eating the weather was turning. A storm was coming from the west. Weather alerts were being issued for that area and even someone at the restaurant, who had come from that way, warned us to get a move on if we wanted to avoid the rain.

We took off for our last (2) stops. I eliminated a portion of the ride to take us directly on highway 50 to our last stop. After completing the last sign photo we all said goodbye. While some of the original group came most of the way home with me, others took their own directions home to beat the rain and go more directly to their destination. My group made it to Salem, Wisconsin before ducking under cover at a gas station for a wardrobe change into our rain gear.

All in all, it looked to me like everyone had a good time. The patch that all of us earned by doing this ride has been sent to each of you. Wear it loudly and proudly because you are now an official Rustic Road Rider!

Mike "Motorcycle" Bradbury

## Wisdom from the Ole' Saddle Sage As told to Chuck P'man

"Never hesitate to ride past the last street light at the edge of town."

# Progressive Dinner Ride 2008



# Hoosier Ride 2008

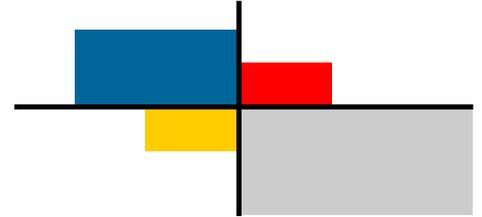


# Hoosier Ride 2008



# SAFETY...

by Ric Case



## Managing Intersections

We have all heard how dangerous intersections can be. Vehicles turning in front of you from the left, vehicles pulling in front of you from the right, vehicles crawling right up your back and onto your rear fender or tour pack. Pedestrians walking right in front of you or even right into you, even when you're stopped. That cell phone user is paying absolutely no attention to the intersection as they approach whether it be walking or driving.

Just what is a motorcycle rider to do?

Take charge of that intersection as you approach. Make sure that you are seen by all vehicles and pedestrians in the proximity of the intersection as you approach the intersection. First check to the rear using your mirrors, second check for oncoming traffic, third check to the left, and last check to the right. If possible make eye contact with oncoming traffic, pedestrians, and especially turning traffic. With the design of today's more modern vehicles, it is getting harder to see but watch the front tire of any oncoming vehicle for and indication of what the driver might

do. If they are about to turn in front of you, the tire will turn and begin to move. Next cover the horn button, cover the clutch, cover the shifter with your foot, and cover both brakes with your right hand and foot so that you are ready to use them instantaneously if necessary. This should reduce your reaction time. If the intersection is two lanes wide in both directions use vehicles on your left and/or your right depending on your position to block you from approaching or cross traffic so that they would hit those vehicles before you. And as always look for and leave escape routes wherever and whenever you are near an intersection. These techniques are even more applicable when you are group riding. Learn the habits of the rider directly in front of you. That way you can be prepared for actions. However, do not expect that rider to react the same way every time. Expect the unexpected, and play that wonderful "what if" game. That way you can look out for and protect your fellow Top Cats Riders.

Ride Free, as "IT DOES NOT HURT TO RIDE SAFE".



# Traditions

By Mike Bradbury

The Top Cats have many traditions that define us and make us a great club. These traditions make us who and what we are, and strengthens us as a club. One of those traditions is to never leave behind a rider on our club rides.

I was reminded of this when I was returning home from the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival ride on August 10th. Kathie and I were riding north on highway 47 when our front tire went flat and we had to pullover. I gave an anemic horn blast from the back of our little group as Gary and Muriel Brandt and Eileen Perry were turning east bound on Highway 176.

Gary and Muriel returned to stay with us for 2 hours while we waited for help. This was on a Sunday evening at dinner time! We waited and waited for AAA to assist and finally gave up and called another Top Cat, Emil Korneki, to help us with his trailer.

Gary, Muriel, and Emil gave us their assistance without hesitation while we were stranded, and for which we are very grateful. This tradition helps define us as Top Cats and is another reason why I am proud to say I am a member of the Top Cats.

**Ride Safe, This Is No Fun!**  
**Besides...we like having you around.**



# Board Meeting Minutes...

August 19, 2008

## Top Cats Board Meeting, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Attendees; Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Tom Malia, Eileen Perry, Chuck Prettyman, and Greg Smith

Absent: Bob Carmody and Andy Konescawicz,

Guest; Tom Nichols

Gary Brandt, (President) called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM.

A motion was passed to accept last meeting's minutes.

Gary thanked Mike Bradbury for coordinating the Club picnic last Saturday. Mike (Secretary) asked to reserve the same Saturday, 17 Aug, to have it again in 2009.

Joe Fiedler, president of the Jersey pine Cruisers club asked for us to consider doing a combined club event together, perhaps in the off season. He also is planning to attend a G.R.A.S.S. class in November. It was suggested that we invite them to one of our off season events.

Eileen Perry (Director of Membership) presented 4 new candidates for membership. Pat Michaud, sponsored by Ron Freudenberger is applying for Associate membership. Jill and Paul Hansen, sponsored by Bard Board are applying for Regular Family membership. Mary Walters, sponsored by Joan Durango is applying for Associate membership. Motions were passed to accept all into club membership as applied.

Chuck Prettyman (Past President) updated us on the progress for the election process. So far, one person has shown interest in running for a

position. Board members need to let Chuck know what they are running for, if anything, in this Fall's elections. Chuck needs help finding candidates. We need to work on this now.

The board needs to create a written description of what their functions are. This is like a job description with what your duties are and a description of what we do. This will become a template for explaining to a future candidate what we do. Give your descriptions to Mike. He is working with Gary on this.

The current state of the budget was reviewed and discussed. Overall, the budget looked good. We discussed ways to improve the 50/50 raffles. Greg felt it was tough to do that while preparing the activities before the general meetings started. We need a person (or a group) that is prepared to do the 50/50 raffle at each meeting. Gary will send out an email asking for volunteers.

Gary thanked Tom Nichols for chairing the Ride for Dreams charity event this year. Tom presented his assessment of the ride and how to improve it. The board discussed and reviewed the charity ride financial results. We generated \$8,500 to donate to N.I.S.R.A. Doing the raffle portion of the event was questioned and debated. Some suggested that the raffle of the event does not seem worth the effort for what it generates for N.I.S.R.A. The format for the event at Volo Auto Museum is good. It was suggested that we should focus more on the ride than the raffle.

Wayne needs to be reimbursed for the 105<sup>th</sup> Harley Anniversary tickets. Checks for the raffle winners and N.I.S.R.A. are needed for presentation at the September general meeting.

Gary has made the secretary responsible for keeping a list of assets consisting of the large club flag, computer laptop, overhead projector and screen. This list will keep track of who has these items. Mike will email requests for updates and start maintaining this list.

Wayne has been asked by the Combat Vets of America for training on G.R.A.S.S. This training is on how to present G.R.A.S.S. and will be held at a VFW hall in Ohio in the near future. The board agreed that this can be a Top Cats sponsored event.

Gary provided a presentation on the new membership roster database. He showed us how the database can be used. The system is still being updated and the database corrected for a few minor issues with importing the information. Access with password protection will be given when decided which committees have a need. Officers and board members will have access when completed. Access requires limits to avoid corrupting the data.

No member comments were recorded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Submitted by Mike Bradbury

## WANTED

The Top Cats are looking for someone to create the ROAR publication for the 2009 calendar year. If you have the interest and the ability to do this contact Bob Carmody at: [bcarmody@email.com](mailto:bcarmody@email.com)

# New Glarus Ride 2008



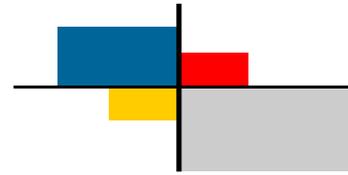
**I wonder what the violation was.**



**It can get pretty hot and dry in Sturgis; be sure to bring plenty to drink.**

Shown at Funny-games.biz

# Activities Calendar



Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, September 02, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Saturday, September 06, 2008	Mexican Fiesta Dinner Run	Rt. 176 & Rt. 83	Las Palmas	4:00pm	M. Bradbury
Tuesday, September 09, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Friday, September 12, 2008	SW Wisconsin Ride	4 days of riding fun	SW Wisc	TBD	Fred Zimbric
Sunday, September 14, 2008	Cast iron Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	C. Marcyan
Saturday, September 20, 2008	Ride for Cheese Ride	Shell station Rt. 176 & 60	Monroe, WI	8:15am	Mike Bradbury
Sunday, September 28, 2008	Fall Colors Ride	Citco St. Bonner & Rand Rd	Walworth County	9:00am	Joan DeRango
Tuesday, October 07, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, October 14, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, November 04, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Sunday, November 09, 2008	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	R. Case
Tuesday, November 11, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt

## Classified Ads

Top Cats members wanting to post a classified ad may do so for free. The classified ad service is only available to members. Put your club/motorcycle oriented ad together, including a picture if you wish and send it to [bcarmody@email.com](mailto:bcarmody@email.com). Your ad will run in the next available ROAR issue. Each ad will run once. If you wish to repeat the ad, send it again.