



ROAR

Official Publication
of Top Cats — Illinois

President's Corner...

by Carlton R. Marcyan

Greetings Top Cats

Winter has just officially begun although it seems it has already been with us for weeks. Just a little harder to get out of bed in the morning when the early hours are so dark and cold. Staying up late doesn't have much appeal and hitting the sack by 9 or 10 seems like a proper retreat from freezing winter days and nights. It's easy not only to feel lazy but to be lazy. Don't let that happen; can't keep sharp and in shape by surrendering to the season. Start now on a personal "tune-up" that will challenge you mentally and physically. If you are a member of a fitness

club, get yourself there. If you aren't, either join a club or exercise in your home. Work on exercises that improve coordination, balance and strength. Most clubs offer group classes. Try something different like a palate or yoga class. The stretching exercises will improve your flexibility. These are a lot more fun than going it alone on a machine or exercycle. If you are working out at home, invest in a few CD's that provide instruction. The important thing is to do some kind of exercise at least five days a week. You will be pleasantly surprised how your mental attitude will improve. Stay in shape mentally as well. Enroll in an en-

richment class or two at your local community college. The College of Lake County offers a class on motorcycle upkeep, another on engine repairs and yet another on building a custom motorcycle. It's likely that your local college has similar offerings. If a motorcycle curriculum doesn't spark your interest, try something more academic. Another thought, contact your auto insurance carrier and find out if they offer a safe driving class, many do, and for free. Upon completion you usually qualify for a premium reduction to boot! You may want to inquire of your county government and find out if they
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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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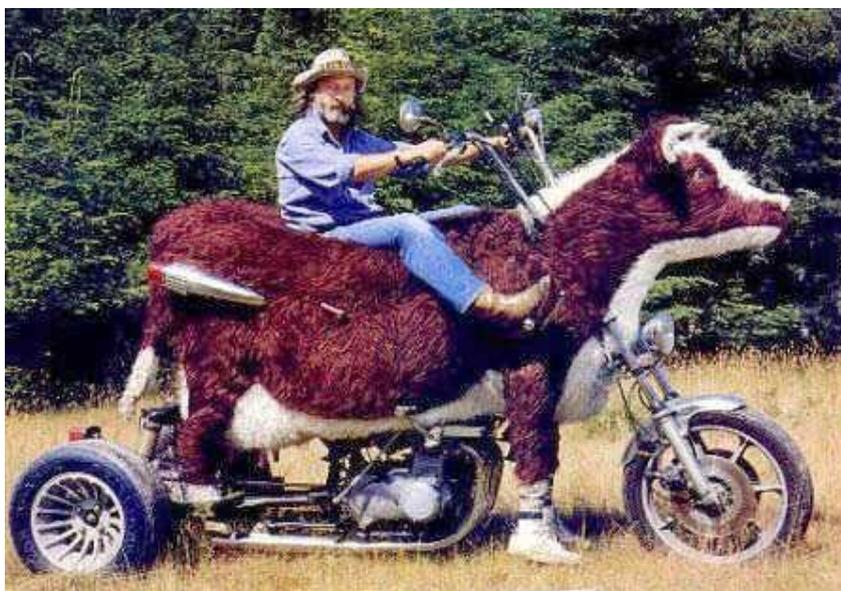
President's Corner Continued

offer an on-line drivers' safety school course. You will be surprised the "rules of the road" of which you have become unaware. The idea is to do something to keep yourself mentally challenged.

Top Cats will continue to be active as well, not only with regularly scheduled meetings, but other events too. Andy Konsewicz has arranged for an outing in early January to see the Trans Siberian Orchestra; Mike Bradbury is the moving force behind our Annual Awards Banquet on January 24th at the Millrose Restaurant in Barrington, and a Bocce Ball event is being planned by Joan DeRango and Lenny Innocenzi for sometime in March in Highwood. Other plans are in the works, for instance, an excursion to the motorcycle show in Rosemont. We arrange these activities to keep our friendships strong and build camaraderie. These coupled with your "tune-up" will ready you for a new riding season in the spring.

Ride on!

Winter bike project for metric owners, The Honda Cowboy Conversion Kit



General Meeting Minutes...

December 2, 2008

Gary Brandt, (President) called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Before the meeting started we had free pizzas offered by Gary Brandt (President) and the 2008 Board for having a great year.

The meeting began at 7:46.

As the 2008 secretary and a board member it has been a pleasure to serve the club with him.

Gary presented a check for a donation of \$900 to Brian Shahinian from the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (N.I.S.R.A.). This was due to the proceeds from the sale of a motorcycle trailer donated by Ed and Sue Apel. Thanks again to the Apels for their generous donation to N.I.S.R.A.

At this time, Wayne Kirkpatrick, (Director) called for all Senior Road Captains to come forward. Top Cats Senior Road Captains exemplify the next lever in leadership and experience in our pool of road captains. (2) Of our road captains have achieved that level and tonight Wayne presented them their new Senior Road Captains rocker patches.

The first Top Cat is demonstrative of the motto of the American Special Forces which is "quiet professionalism". He is always working hard in the background of the club. His work behind the scenes affects us all and makes the club better. His name is Greg Smith. He is our current Director of

Activities. And now he is a new Senior Road Captain.

The second Top Cat stepped up this year to help without question at a minor accident scene encountered by Top Cats on a ride. That example, along with his previous position as club treasurer and on the board shows the merit in the announcement of Carl Marcyan as a new Senior Road Captain.

Chuck Prettyman, (Past President and Election Committee Chair) announced our 2009 group of nominees for office. The slate for new positions is Carl Marcyan for President, Mike Bradbury for Vice President, Tom Nichols for Treasurer, Joan De-Rango of Secretary and Dennis Dougherty for Director. Returning to the board in 2009 are Gary Brandt as Past President, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Eileen Perry, Greg Smith and Andy Konsewicz as Director. At this point, Chuck asked the meeting for a voice vote. The ayes had it. All were elected to take their positions in 2009.

Eileen Perry, (Director of Membership) announced we have a new member. Devon Smith is our new Top Cat. He was presented with his new membership package including patch and flag. Display your flag proudly Devon!

Greg Smith, (Activities Director) presented the upcoming winter activities. Andy Konsewicz, (Director) is leading a group to see the Trans Siberian Orchestra in concert on January 3rd. Their will be dinner planned as well with the location still to be decided. Contact Andy soon if you want to go. He is getting tickets

by this weekend and needs to know before then.

January 24th is our Annual Banquet. Mike Bradbury informed us that it will be at Millrose Restaurant in South Barrington. Cash Bar will start at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Awards will be presented so be there and join with us to celebrate our riding season and club year. Invitations will be sent in the mail soon.

Don Shaffer, (Road Captain Committee Chief) advised the group that an accident scene management course is being arranged for the club with Bill Lowry. The next Group Riding and Safety Seminar (G.R.A.S.S.) will be in March. Don gave praise and thanks to our Road Captains for doing their work for us to have safe and fun rides.

Wayne gave praise to Don Shaffer for his efforts and hard work for the club. He keeps track of all the road captain accomplishments to meet their standards and requirements. Wayne showed us a complicated looking highlighted spreadsheet that showed all the data that is managed. Don puts in a lot of work to keep that up.

Don also came to bat for the club in providing a meeting place for the November G.R.A.S.S. class when we lost our original location in Buffalo Grove. He let us use his companies meeting room and space with little notice at the last minute. For that we are thankful.

Wayne gave our safety tip of

General Meeting Continued...

December 2, 2008

the evening or rather safety "advisory" like the phrase; "winter weather advisory" like the news announcers use to tell you the weather is just like it typically is in the winter. Take advantage of the time of year to have your bike checked out and checked out thoroughly. Now is the time take your bike where you have it worked on and have them due a complete maintenance check. This will keep you rolling when we get the occasional day where the weather spikes to rideable in

the middle of the winter.

A suggestion was offered by Ken Glassman that tire pressure is important in cold weather and it needs to be checked.

Gary Brandt, who has been our president for the last (2) years gave his thanks to all he has served with including the past 2007 and 2008 Boards and everyone else. Gary is sorry to go but will be on next year's board as Past President Committee Chair. He believes we have a strong group for the

2009 Board.

Gary Brandt, (President) proclaimed we had a good year of fun and interesting rides and events in 2008. He thanked the 2008 Board and everyone else he has served with for his last (2) year's terms as club President. He appreciates the opportunities the club has given him to lead and serve and he is happy to do it. We have a strong group for the next year's board where Gary will continue to serve us on next year's board.

Build a house around this series.....



Board Meeting Minutes

December 9th, 2008

Attendees; Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Joan DeRango, Dennis Dougherty, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Andy Konescwicz, Tom Malia, Carl Marcyan, Tom Nichols, Don Shaffer and Greg Smith

Absent; Bob Carmody, Eileen Perry, Chuck Prettyman

The meeting started at 8:43 a.m. at Gino's East in Lake Zurich. There was a snow storm this night that caused some delays.

A motion was raised, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

The 2008 financials were reviewed and discussed. The original budget had some small changes. The costs for pizzas at the December general meeting were added. The 50/50 raffle was less than expected. That was due to the lack of a volunteer to run it for at least 6 months this year. Membership is up and now stands at 104 members. The club accounts are well and the new board is starting in a good financial position.

The Activities Committee is searching for volunteers to assist and join the committee. Greg will keep the board informed.

Greg is working on an event in March combined with the JerseyPines Cruisers club. This is in development and Greg will have more details in the near future.

Greg is also looking at having a Bocce ball tournament as a future event.

The Annual Banquet coming up on January 24th was discussed. Mike presented the progress of the event. The event will be at Millrose Restaurant and start with cash bar starting at 6:00 p.m. and dinner starting at 7:00. The Awards Committee, consisting of him, Cindy Raybern, Terry Kumro and Wayne Kirkpatrick has a list of awards put together. Some will be issued for vote by email to the membership.

The Founders Cup Award will not be issued to anyone this year. The award is given to someone who espouses the ideals of Carl Virgo, club founder. The nominees and awardees are decided by past award recipients. There are no nominees this year.

We have to guarantee 50 people attend or face a \$200 room fee. Due to this and costs for awards, materials, printing and postage Mike asked for board approval for a budgetary amount of \$500. The motion was passed.

Mike presented the Officer, Director and Committee Chair descriptions to the Board. The descriptions are considered complete as guidelines for what these jobs are in the club. The will be sent to Andy as files to be added to the membership section of our website so anyone can see them who has interest in these positions.

Due to a conflict with John Lunde (Safety Committee Chair) attending, Don Shaffer presented the Safety Committee year end review. This was a detailed presentation that covered Safety Environment, Safety Committee, New Road Captains, Current Road Captains, Road Captain Prequalification our Group Riding Safety Seminar and Top Cat Rides. Recommendations were made on continuing and developing these areas in the club. New ideas will be presented to the 2009 board in January. Don Shaffer is recommended as the new Safety Committee Chair for 2009.



Don't let this happen to your kid!!!!!!



Stuart Johnson's First Topcat Ride

Top Cats Accident Scene Management Class

Everyone loves a bargain. One of our newest members, Bill Lowry, has recently become certified to teach the ASMI, Inc. class in Accident Scene Management. This is a great full day class that goes into hands on training of what we only touch upon lightly in our GRASS classes.

Here's the great news. This class normally costs \$55 per student. Bill is going to teach a class for us at his basic cost of materials of \$15 per person. We will be running the class on February 28, 2009 at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital.

Enrollment is limited, so the first 30 people to sign up will be guaranteed a spot. Enroll by sending and email right now to Don Schaffer, numbersman@cjbs.com. If you sign up for the class, you will be expected to pay the fee even if you do not attend, since materials will be purchased for you. Bring your check for \$15 made payable to Top Cats – Illinois to the annual banquet, or mail it to Donald Schaffer, 4050 Dundee Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062.

Senior Road Captains – You are expected to take a class such as ASM or MFS once each three years. This is a good inexpensive way to get that done.

Road Captains – This is a terrific way to improve your leadership skills and be ready to jump in during an emergency.

Everyone Else – We ride with together. Wouldn't it be nice to know that your co-riders can remove your helmet without killing you?



Great Pornography!!

By Traveler

Be honest, now. Which article would you read first? One titled *Great Pornography* or one titled *Motorcycle Safety*? If you said *Motorcycle Safety*, you are one sick puppy! You see around here, in most riders' minds, motorcycling is seasonal. We don't give much thought to motorcycling when it's the middle of January, there are 12 inches of snow outside, and the temperatures are down in the teens. Pornography, on the other hand (no pun) is non-seasonal and, I'm told, is participated in year – round.

So, when faced with writing an article about motorcycle safety, how can you get, and keep a rider's attention? Simple, combine the two sports, porn and motorcycling! Read on....

This time of year, in our climate zone, it is an excellent time to review, refresh, and learn about motorcycle safety, alone, in the concealment of our own home, and at our own pace. Just like viewing porn, right? A great place to start and a great way to brush up on our skills is via the good ol' internet. Just like porn, right? Find a good motorcycle safety website, sit back and read and enjoy, and dream. Just like porn, right?

As a start, here is a list of MC safety related sites from around the world that should give you a thrill, improve your knowledge, and your skill. Just like porn, right?

Motorcycle Safety Resources and Links

[Basic Handling Skills to Advanced Roadcraft](http://www.riderskills.co.nz/) (http://www.riderskills.co.nz/) RiderSkills - New Zealand

[Headlamp modulators for motorcycles](http://users.snip.net/~WCLAMB/MODULATOR.HTM) (http://users.snip.net/~WCLAMB/MODULATOR.HTM) William Lamb

[HighViz.org](http://www.highviz.org/) (http://www.highviz.org/) Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center

[Motorcycle Safety and Security links](http://www.ridemyown.com/links/safesecure.shtml)(http://www.ridemyown.com/links/safesecure.shtml) *I Ride My Own*, a site dedicated to the Women who RIDE THEIR OWN Motorcycles

[Motorcycle Riding Skills and Techniques](http://www.webbikeworld.com/Motorcycle-Safety/safetypage.htm) (http://www.webbikeworld.com/Motorcycle-Safety/safetypage.htm) webBikeWorld

[Motorcycle Riding Techniques](http://www.datacraftsystems.co.uk/techniques/techniques_right/index.html) (http://www.datacraftsystems.co.uk/techniques/techniques_right/index.html) Raymond Wood

[Motorcycle Tips & Techniques](http://www.msgroup.org/default.aspx) (http://www.msgroup.org/default.aspx) The Master Strategy Group

[Riding a motorcycle safely](http://www.flamesonmytank.co.za/ride.htm) (http://www.flamesonmytank.co.za/ride.htm)

[Motorbike Accident Prevention](http://www.flamesonmytank.co.za/accidents.htm#blind) (http://www.flamesonmytank.co.za/accidents.htm#blind) Source: Flames on my Tank

[Riding skills - Tips for Motorcyclists](http://www.survivalskills.clara.net/rskills.htm) (http://www.survivalskills.clara.net/rskills.htm)

Survival Skills

[T-CLOCK Inspection Worksheet](http://www.motorcyclesafetyinfo.com/images/tclock.pdf) (http://www.motorcyclesafetyinfo.com/images/tclock.pdf)

Motorcycle Safety Foundation

[Top Tips For Spring Riding](http://www.bikesafe.co.uk/Bikesafe/topridingtips.html) (http://www.bikesafe.co.uk/Bikesafe/topridingtips.html) The Official BikeSafe website in the U.K.

Motorcycle Safety Organizations

[American Motorcycle Association](http://www.amadirectlink.com/) (http://www.amadirectlink.com/)

[Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/mmsc/latest/MMSCHome.asp?cid=1) (http://www.dps.state.mn.us/mmsc/latest/MMSCHome.asp?cid=1)

[Motorcycle Safety Foundation](http://www.msf-usa.org/) (http://www.msf-usa.org/)

[Motorcycle Riders Foundation](http://www.mrf.org/) (http://www.mrf.org/)

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.d7975d55e8abbe089ca8e410dba046a0/) (http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.d7975d55e8abbe089ca8e410dba046a0/)

Laws

[The AMA's Interactive Map of State Motorcycle Laws](http://www.amadirectlink.com/legisltn/laws.asp) (http://www.amadirectlink.com/legisltn/laws.asp)

[Printable State Motorcycle Riding Laws](http://motorcycleinfo.calsci.com/PrintLaws.html) (http://motorcycleinfo.calsci.com/PrintLaws.html)

[Current US Motorcycle and Bicycle Helmet Laws](http://www.iihs.org/laws/HelmetUseCurrent.aspx) (http://www.iihs.org/laws/HelmetUseCurrent.aspx)

[Motorcycle Headlight Modulator Laws](http://www.timberwoof.com/motorcycle/faq/modulatorlaw.html) (http://www.timberwoof.com/motorcycle/faq/modulatorlaw.html)

Now, there are enough sites here to keep you busy and entertained until somewhere around the end of February or mid March. And, just to keep it interesting, there is one porn site hidden in the above list. Not that any of our riders would even think of looking for it....



TOP CATS CHARITY RIDE COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

By Joan DeRango

The Charity Ride date is set for July 26, 2009 starting and ending at the Volo Auto Museum. The ride committee has been formed and plans are well underway. The committee wants to keep *all* members informed about decisions made as well as let you know where we need your help. Look for articles in ROAR (like this one) and updates at all general meetings. Expect calls or emails from committee members to follow up on offers to help or requests for help if we think you may have a useful skill or contact.

What we need now:

Committee Leaders: (1) ADVERTISEMENT/PROMOTION

Raffle items: We need fun raffle items for our mini-raffle drawing. The drawing will take place after riders have returned but prior to the big prize drawing. We need members to obtain/donate these mini items. Suggestions: Cubs or Sox tickets, bike detailing, dinners to restaurants, wine tours at local wineries, oil change, biker wear, or bike gadgets/accessories. We want to make the post ride portion of the day a bit more entertaining and rewarding for our guests.

EMAIL Joan DeRango (jmderango@comcast.net) or Eileen Perry (eprthia@comcast.net) if you would like to lead a committee or have raffle items to donate.

Kick-off Meeting Minutes

Event Decisions

Fund Raising Goal set at \$10,000.00

Half the goal to be reached through the raffle – the remainder at the ride and through corporate donations.

Handle the Raffle and Ride as two separate events. Focus for the raffle will be on raising money for “the kids” and the focus for the Ride will be on creating an enjoyable day centered on great ride and rider camaraderie as well as the kids.

Gear the Raffle Event to everyone – don't limit it to a “riders” crowd.

Vendors will be limited to transportation-related items. The scooter store has committed to being there. Not a lot of effort will be made to solicit vendors for the event. Offers will be made to members to invite transportation related vendors.

Entertainment – at this time the team feels entertainment will not be necessary but some team members will investigate possibilities to be re-considered at subsequent meetings.

Ride day will end with the big ticket drawings which will be held at 2:00 p.m.

Involve N.I.S.R.A more at the ride day – possibly with booths or something that involves the kids at the beginning of the ride event.

Raffle Details

Budget for Raffle prizes set at \$5,000.00

\$2,300	Scooter
\$1,000	Flat screen TV
\$1,000	Travel voucher from Expedia
\$ 700	Weekend Get-a-way

Ticket prices will be \$5.00 per ticket – possibly 5 tickets for \$20.

Must sell 2,000 to 2,500 tickets to meet fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the raffle.

Members will be strongly encouraged to assist with ticket sales but not required.

Members will participate in ticket sales at events and locations to be determined. No Silent Auction – smaller donated gifts will be raffled off on Ride Day to keep riders at the event and buying more tickets until the big prizes are awarded.

Committee Leaders

Raffle: Mike Bradbury and Jeff Tietz research and recommend events for ticket sales. Ric Case ticket sales

Advertisement/Promotion: Leader still needed (although some tasks have been assigned.

Flyers/Posters: Muriel and Gary Brandt

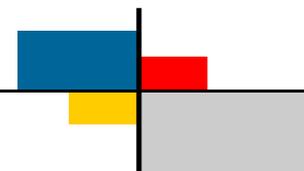
Registration: Joan DeRango

Ride: Gary Brandt/Tom Malia

Tents/tables/chairs: Greg Smith

Food: Jill Hansen

Activities Calendar



Upcoming Events

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, January 06, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Marcyán
Tuesday, January 13, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Marcyán
Saturday, January 24, 2009	Annual Banquet	Milrose	S.Barrington	6:00pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, February 03, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Marcyán
Saturday, February 07, 2009	Motorcycle Show-Breakfast First	Egglectic Café-Rolling Meadows	Rosemont	7:30am	Smith
Tuesday, February 10, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Marcyán
Tuesday, March 03, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Marcyán
Tuesday, March 10, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Marcyán
Sunday, March 15, 2009	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	Case
Sunday, March 22, 2009	Rooky Bocce Ball Tourney	Highwood Bocce Ball Courts	Highwood	TBD	Innocenzi
Tuesday, April 07, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Marcyán
Tuesday, April 14, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Marcyán
Sunday, April 19, 2009	Kickoff Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Konsewicz