



ROAR

Official Publication
of Top Cats — Illinois

President's Corner...

by Carlton R. Marcyan

Greetings Top Cats

The Top Cats Board is terrific! All present (and then some) at our first board meeting with everyone fully energized, full of great ideas and motivated to have a tremendous 2009 riding season.

Director Greg Smith and Muriel Brandt, our Activities Chair, are in the midst of planning rides and reaching out to members to plan and lead rides to new destinations. One will be the "Radiation Ride" starting at the University of Chicago the place where in 1942 scientists produced the world's first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. Then on to Argonne National Lab in DuPage County a direct descendant of the University of Chicago's Manhattan Project and followed

up by Fermi Lab in Batavia where the Department of Energy carries out research in high-energy physics. We will stop for lunch at a place to be determined and have some irradiated food! Please get in touch with Greg with other ideas for rides. Even if you don't want to plan a ride make sure to take advantage of our extensive, almost every weekend, range of rides and don't forget the granddaddy of them all, our annual ride to Sturgis, S.D.

Director Wayne Kirkpatrick with Safety Chair Don Schaffer is lining up group riding and safety seminar classes (G.R.A.S.S) for the new year. The first is scheduled for March 15th. An accident scene management class is scheduled for February 28th at Great Lakes Naval Hospital in North Chicago.

We are expanding safety training not only within Top Cats but offering classes to other motorcycle clubs not only to promote safety but to increase Top Cats visibility in the surrounding community and beyond. Immediate Past President Gary Brandt has accepted the mantle of chair of the Road Captain Committee. We will benefit from his innovations started during his presidential term.

Director Eileen Perry, with Cindy Rayburn, is in the process of kick starting our "reach-out" to potential members. Eileen is also following up on outstanding dues payments. Get your payment to her before she has to call in her collection enforcers. Don't ask. Additionally, she will be staffing a table at general membership meetings to greet
Continued on Page 3

Inside this issue:

General Meeting Information
Page 4

Board Meeting Minutes
Page 6

Membership
Page 10

Wanted Poster
Page 12

Awards Dinner
Page 13

Are You Stressed
Page 16

Activities Calendar
Page 20

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	Carlton R Marcyan cmarcyan@sdfllaw.com
Vice President	Michael Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net
Treasurer	Tom Nichols Thomas.nichols@comcast.net
Secretary	Joan DeRango jmderango@comcast.net
Past President	Gary Brandt cgb002@comcast.net
Director	Greg Smith vethog@comcast.net
Director	Dennis Dougherty wombat@dpdougherty.com
Director	Eileen Perry eprhia@comcast.net
Director	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com
Founder	Carl 'Virgo' Bender 1941-2001

COMMITTEE LEADERS

Activities	Muriel Brandt meo1957@comcast.net
Charity	Eileen Perry eprhia@comcast.net
Membership	T B D —
Email	Muriel Brandt meo1957@comcast.net
Safety	Don Schaffer numbersman@cjbs.com
Website	Brian Rainey brian@armourresearchsociety.org
Hotline	T B D
ROAR Editor	John LaMonica jlamonica2@comcast.net
ROAR Publisher	Andy Konsewicz andy@konsewicz.com



President's Corner Continued

and hand out materials to guests and prospective members. She needs assistance with this so pitch in please.

Eileen and Secretary Joan DeRango are getting an early start on our Charity Ride having had many committee meetings and readying flyers and solicitation letters. This should be a great event this year. Secretary Joan DeRango, along with her responsibilities preparing for our charity event, is accumulating club documents and organizing them to keep our records in good order. So far she has done a very thorough job of keeping minutes and distributing them.

Treasurer Tom Nichols has quickly accelerated to running speed on our financials and required to do's get new officers on the signature cards. Keeping the financials up to date is a time consuming and tedious task and we are grateful that Tom is on top of it.

Vice President Mike Bradbury has done a terrific job preparing for our annual award dinner at the Milrose in Barrington and, in addition, has volunteered for various and significant duties. Mike is instituting a speakers series that includes bringing in persons outside the club to talk to us at our membership meetings about motorcycle related topics. Motorcycle peace officers will be among our speakers. He will also be taking over supervision of club products and the like and setting up a relationship with a local vendor for Top Cat apparel. Good job Mike!

Our past Director Andy Kosewicz together with ROAR Editor John LaMonica will be working on improving our newsletter. Member Jill Hansen has volunteered to help them out. If others are interested in helping let them know.

Director Dennis Dougherty will be heading up long term and strategic planning for Top Cats together with our past presidents. Dennis is eager to work on long range plans to strengthen and expand Top Cats. By the way we are looking for volunteers for two positions: Club Historian and Sergeant at Arms. The historian should be someone who has been in the club some time and is willing to compile information and memorialize "our story". The sergeant at arms will be responsible for meeting set up and take down as well as collecting for our 50/50 at each meeting. If you want to get involved in any other manner, contact me.

We have got a great leadership team of smart, dedicated and motivated Top Cats. Join us for an outstanding 2009.

Ride on!

Carl

General Meeting Minutes...

January 6, 2009

Meeting was called to order by exiting president Gary Brandt at 7:35 PM.

Introduction of Guests

David Plumley – guest and husband of new member Cindy Baker. David is an MSF instructor.

Don Schaffer introduced his wife Alice. Alice has attended meetings and events in the past. Marty Walsh introduced himself to the group as guest of Carl Marcyan. Steve Hammer, also a friend of Carl's and his brother Chris joined the meeting later.

Introduction of New Officers/Directors – Presenting of Patches

Gary Brandt introduced the newly elected board members and presented them with their patches. Dennis Dougherty – Director
Joan DeRango - Secretary
Tom Nichols - Treasurer
Mike Bradbury – Vice President
Carl Marcyan – President

Patches were also presented for past positions
Mike Bradbury – Past Secretary
Andy Konsewicz – Past Director
Tom Malia – Past Treasurer (Tom was not present to accept the patch)
Bob Carmody – Past Vice President (Bob was not present to accept the patch)

Carl Marcyan, as new president, was also presented with the gavel and presidential “2 Spot” kept in the “CEO” cigar box made by Top Cats founder Carl “Virgo” Bender.

Opening Remarks – Carl Marcyan

Carl thanked Gary for his services as the Top Cats' President and to Muriel for all her support and assistance over the past couple of years. Carl thanked the membership for the opportunity to be their president. He values the core values of the group which includes safe, well planned rides with good friends. He looks forward to leading the group with the help of the other Board members. A goal of Carl's is to bring speakers to general meetings discussing timely topics with the general membership.

Reading of the Minutes – Bradbury/DeRango

Reading of last month's general meeting minutes was waived.

Treasurer's Report – Malia/Nichols

Tom Malia was not present. Tom Nichols had nothing to report at this time.

Awards Dinner – Bradbury

The Annual Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24th at Millrose in Barrington. Cash bar at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$35.00 per person which includes dinner and 2 drink tickets. Members should have received an invitation in the mail and a follow up email will be sent to the membership. Final R.S.V. P's are due by January 9th. Members are asked to vote on awards to be given at the banquet.

Charity Ride – DeRango/Perry

Charity Ride plans are well underway. The Charity Ride Committee

has been formed and members of the Committee have divided up various tasks. The Committee is still in need of someone to lead the Sponsor/Promotion/Advertisement tasks. Anyone interested should contact either Joan DeRango or Eileen Perry. The Charity Ride Committee minutes are in the January issue of ROAR. Charity Ride updates will be communicated at each general meeting, through emails to the membership and in ROAR articles.

Activities – Smith

The activities committee is looking for help. Members interested in helping plan activities please contact Greg Smith.

January 24th - Annual Awards Banquet – Millrose
Feb 7th and 8th – Chicago Wolves Motorcycle Club Nights. Details available on the website.
Feb. 7th – International Motorcycle Show at Rosemont. Members wishing to attend will meet at Egglectic Café – 7:30 a.m., and caravan to the show. Details are on the website
Feb 28 09 – Accident Scene Management Class at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital. New member Bill Lowry will teach the class for the cost of materials (\$15). Enrollment is limited so if you're interested email Don Shaffer at numbersman@cjbs.com.
Mar 22 09 – Bocce Ball at the Highwood Bocce Ball Court. The event will be held as a joint outing with the Jersey Pine Cruisers. More details to come

General Meeting Continued...

January 6, 2009

Apr 19 09 – Kick off Ride details to follow – check the website for details

Safety Committee – Schaffer/Kirkpatrick

Wayne will be coordinating G.R.A.S.S. classes while Ric Case is working out of town.

Gary Brandt will be responsible for Road Captain record keeping.

Safety Tips – (Wayne)

Many new laws went into effect at the beginning of the New Year – too many to go over in the meeting. Make the effort to review recent changes and see what laws impact you. (Don) Top 5 ways to ride safely. (1) Drive De-

fensively (2) Dress like you will crash (3) Helmets (4) Wear good glasses (5) Be visible – modulated headlights, reflective clothing etc.

Road Captains – reserve your ride dates NOW.

All Road Captains will be expected to attempt to involve a Sr. Road Captain whenever possible when planning rides.

Old Business/New Business – Marcyan

This is THE year for Sturgis. Make your plans to join the Top Cats on one of the group's longest running rides.

Larry Scallzitti discussed long distance riding. Larry's

new found riding passion is long distance ride rallies. Talk to him about the Not Superman Rally being held the 2nd week of July in Southern IL.

Tom Nichols is planning a long distance ride (approx. 2,000 miles) the 2nd week of June to Natchez Trace. Details will be available on website when finalized.

50/50 Raffle winner was Jane Smith

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Submitted by Joan DeRango



Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2009

Board Members Present: Carl Marcyan, Mike Bradbury, Tom Nichols, Joan DeRango, Dennis Dougherty, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Eileen Perry, Greg Smith and Gary Brandt

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Tom Malia, John LaMonica, Andy Konsewicz

Meeting was called to order by President Carl Marcyan at 7:21 PM.

Minutes

Process for approving General and Board Meeting minutes were amended as follows:

- General Meeting minutes will be circulated to all Board members prior to the board meeting. Review and approval of the General Meeting Minutes will occur at the first board meeting following the General Meeting.
- Board Meeting minutes will be circulated via email to the board members for review and approval.

Minutes for both meetings will be reviewed and approved within a week of each meeting in order to make the article submission deadline for the ROAR.

Historian for the club

Carl suggested the club record the club's history- how Top Cats started, what being a member stands for, who were the charter members, a profile of our current membership, etc.

The board will seek out a member to investigate and recommend a plan for obtaining, recording and updating the clubs history.

Dennis will create a want ad for a Club Historian to be posted in this month's ROAR.

Dennis volunteered to be the Board Liaison to the club's historian position. He also volunteered to assist with the pictorial history.

Committee Accountability

Each of the clubs committees will be expected to establish specific goals, both objective and subjective for 2009, submit them to the board for approval. The committees will provide written updates on their progress towards meeting the established goals.

- The Safety Committee's goals have already been established and approved by the board.
- The Charity Ride Committee has established goals and objectives for '09. The goals will be submitted for approval at the next board meeting.

The Membership Committee needs to establish and submit goals.

Membership Dues

Eileen reported that membership payment is slow. Over half of the membership has yet to pay their '09 dues.

An email notification will be sent to members who have not yet paid.

- Gary will assist Eileen in preparing and sending the late notice/payment request via email.

- Tom Nichols will investigate utilizing Quick Books next year to create invoices and track payments. Eileen will write an article for ROAR reviewing the guidelines for the timely payment of membership dues.

Growth

Carl recommended utilizing the general meeting as a means of providing guests with membership information and to have a more visible presence at the meetings. The board agreed.

Eileen will investigate options for printing Top Cats brochures to be available to guests at general meetings.

A table will be set up at the entrance of the general meeting room. There will be a guest sign in and nametags as well as material (i.e. the brochure and membership forms) for guest to take.

The table will also have Top Cats products – T-shirts, decals, flags, etc.

Eileen will create a schedule for manning of the table at each meeting. Initially the schedule will have board members greeting guests with the hope that eventually other Top Cats members will volunteer to assist.

Misc.

Cindy Raybern has volunteered to assist Eileen with membership related tasks.

Motion was made by Mike Bradbury granting board members the authority to spend up to \$200.00 per year on club/committee related purchases without obtaining board approval. Gary Brandt seconded them motion. All members were in favor – no one was opposed – the motion passed.

Membership information (address, phone, email etc.) will continue to be distributed to other members on an “upon request” basis only.

Products

Currently Top Cats’ products are retained by a number of different members. Greg Smith has approx. 8 T-shirts, Eileen Perry has flags, patches and pins, Gary Brandt has decals, and Mike Bradbury has some small flags. Carl recommended all products be consolidated and retained by one individual. Wayne informed the group that Top Cats previously had a board appointed Sergeant at Arms position. Setting up the room for general meetings and retaining club products were part of this position’s responsibilities. A discussion followed regarding whether or not the club needed to invest in more products such as shirts and patches for members to purchase.

Tom Nichols will create a survey for the membership to help the board determine the product related needs/wants of our members.

Carl will provide Mike Bradbury with names of local vendors to survey for product purchase options. Mike will report his findings to the board at the next meeting

Carl will prepare an article/ad for the ROAR informing the membership the board is seeking volunteers for the Sergeant at Arms position.

Mike Bradbury will merge current products and will retain them until the Sergeant at Arms position is filled.

Greg Smith will check with the people who created the logo for our current shirts to see if they are able to identify the font (pronounced “fount”) used.

Recognition Patches & Pins

Wayne will prepare a recommendation for the board on ways to use patches and pins to recognize members by the next board meeting.

ROAR

Carl asked John and Andy to update the board on issues they have experienced with publishing the ROAR every month. The biggest issue has been getting members to write articles and submit them timely. Although there have been problems in the past in being able to quickly turn around an article to meet the ROAR deadline Andy and John have worked out most of those issues and are able to accommodate last minute "important" articles. Jill Hansen has volunteered to assist with editing but equipment conflicts (Jill has a MAC) have made it difficult. Members have expressed a desire to continue to receive a notification and/or the actual publication via email. SPAM blockers have made it difficult to effectively send the notification/publication.

Gary will insure Road Captains adhere to the article schedule and submit pertinent articles timely.

John will create a schedule assigning each board member a month in which they will be responsible for authoring an article. Gary will be assigned October for election information.

Carl will provide Andy with information on a service utilized by his company to send quarterly newsletters so Andy can investigate the costs of using the service to send the ROAR to all members.

Dennis committed to having any photos provided by members up on the FTP site within a week of their receipt.

John will remain the ROAR editor for the remainder of '09 mentoring Jill on the position and evaluating her ability to take over as editor next year.

Dennis will investigate the possibility/feasibility of utilizing the G.R.A.S.S. computer for ROAR.

Website

Carl requested an assessment of the status of the club's website. Gary explained that Brian Rainey completed all the "technical" website updates the club has asked him to complete. Ongoing technical support though is sporadic due in part to Brian being the only person able to complete additional technical design and his limited availability. Gary is able to update the day to day items such as the calendar, articles or new links. The board agreed that we need to utilize our website better and to do that need to be able to have technical updates performed with greater consistency.

- Andy Konsewicz and Dennis Dougherty volunteered to research viable options and report back to the board in 60 days.

Dennis will be the board's liaison for the website project.

Financial

Tom Nichols reported that the club's current balance is \$8,659.00 not including membership dues received last month.

- Tom will work with B of A to change the account information to remove Tom Malia and add Tom Nichols as the club's treasurer.

- Tom will prepare the 2009 budget to be presented at the next board meeting.

Safety

Wayne reported the next G.R.A.S.S. class will be held on 3/15/09. Three Road Captains have already volunteered to teach the class. Due to recent issues with the management at the Village Green Wayne is investigating an alternate/back-up location to for the class and potentially the club's general meeting. Docks in Wauconda was suggested as a possibility. Dennis will investigate Dock's as an alternative and report back at the next board meeting.

Awards Dinner

Mike presented the board with the agenda for the Awards Dinner. (a copy of the agenda will be retained with the minutes). Dennis is creating the slide show for the event. Don Shaffer will bring the projector for the slide show, Millrose will provide the screen. Current responses total 33; 17 short of the minimum of 50 required. Mike informed the board that it will be more cost effective to pay Millrose the \$200.00 for not making the minimum instead of purchasing 17 additional meals. The final count is due to Millrose on Wednesday, January 17th. Mike will send a final email to members that have not responded as a final effort to reach out to all members.

Activities

Greg Smith reported that Pat Machaud has volunteered to join the Activities Committee. She will take responsibility for the Hot Line and the publicizing its existence to all members. Greg informed the group that the ride calendar is filling but slowly. The committee has set a goal of 30 rides for this year. 2008 total was 22.

Charity Ride

Joan DeRango reported that the Charity Ride Committee met again on Thursday January 8th. The ride flyer is currently out to committee members for approval. Plans have been made to have Larry Scallzitti distribute flyers at the Chicago Motorcycle Show at the end of January. Mike Bradbury and Jeff Tietz are compiling a list of events where we plan on promoting and selling raffle tickets. The committee will be looking for volunteers to attend the events. In some cases it will be necessary to find someone to tow the scooter to the event. The next meeting will be held in February at Frank Colletto's house. Between meeting the committee members work on assigned tasks and keep each other updated vial email. All Charity Ride updates will be communicated at each general meeting, through emails to the membership and in ROAR articles.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by Joan DeRango

A REMINDER FROM MEMBERSHIP

January 15, 2009

Today we have wind chills of 30 below zero – I'm sure no one is thinking of riding. I'm taking this opportunity to remind everyone that dues for 2009 are now due. If you have not already, please send a check a.s.a.p. to:

Eileen Perry
26246 W. Vista Court.
Ingleside, Illinois 60041

According to our bylaws:

“A member who fails to pay his/her dues within 30 days from the time they are due shall be notified of the delinquency, and if payment is not made within thirty (30) days of such notice, without further notice and without hearing, his/her membership shall be revoked and his/her rights and privileges of membership shall be forfeited automatically. “

These notices will be going out shortly.

If you are having difficulties with payment and need an extension, please contact a Board member with your request. It is not our desire to have anyone forfeit their membership. Please notify me by mail or e-mail if you no longer wish to be a member, so that we can update our roster. Exempt from paying dues this year are members that joined 10/01/08 or after.

We are looking forward to an exciting riding season – with new rides and new friends. I hope you will join us!

Eileen Perry



WANTED



Top Cats Historian

The Top Cats Board is looking for a member to become official historian for the club.

Over the next year we want to create a written and oral history of our club that we can share with existing, new, and potential members.

The club turns 15 in 2010. Many of our legacy members have or will be moving on. We want to capture their and others' stories of our humble beginnings as well as favorite tales of the road.

If you have an interest in becoming Top Cats Historian or being a part of this activity please contact Dennis P. (*Wombat*) Dougherty at wombat@dpdougherty.com

Our Top Cats 2008 Annual Awards Dinner

By Michael "Motorcycle" Bradbury

I spent my time on Saturday, January 24th, the day of our banquet making last minute preparations before the big event. I have the big club flag (check), the club dinner banner (check), the 7 awards I put together and completed that day (check), my lists of the agenda and of attendees (check). Side note; don't forget my \$15 for the Accident Scene Management course I'm doing on February 28th.

During the afternoon, I ran the program through my head many times and aloud only twice. Finally after going through a lengthy idiosyncratic process of mine where I can't decide what to wear to go anywhere, I dressed myself. From there a minor wait for my rider and off we went. Oops forgot the cell. Back to the domicile to get it and then off we went to the dinner.

Cindy, Terry and Kathie and I had plans to meet at Millrose Restaurant at 5:00 pm which naturally meant Kathie and I was right on time when we showed up at 5:09. Other people helping with the event were coming early. Dennis Dougherty was setting up the screen, projector and laptop for the slide show he made of pictures of the years rides and events. Others too came early and offered to help.

We all started getting the event together. Cindy was staging certificates she brought so she could hand out the correct one at the right times to our presenters. She had rolled and bound the certificates with gold and black ribbons and others in nice holders with gold accents. She really did a great job! We had certificates to recognize all the 2008 Top Cat officers, directors, committee-chairs, road captains, senior road captains, rides and awards.

After greeting arrivals, we all had a few beverages and I grabbed the microphone and announced our banquet had begun. Don Shaffer gave a beautiful and meaningful benediction with a dual language prayer in both Hebrew and English. Dinners were served. Some had chosen the Balsamic Herb Chicken or the Horseradish Crusted Salmon. I had the Pork Loin which was delicious. Lastly, tiramisu was the dessert and it looked good too. Being a diabetic I had to take other peoples word for it.

Now the fun really started. We are truly blessed as a motorcycle club. We have many who give their time, effort, ideas and passion to the club. We have members who are passionate to lead rides and show you great and interesting roads and routes. We have those who are willing to give their time and passion to run a committee or help on one. We have members who give their time and passion to help maintain the club and our ideals. We have those who are willing (and crazy enough?) to host an event. And there are those that sometimes have the passion to do all these things. These are the people we are recognizing tonight.

Officers/Directors 2008

President Gary Brandt

Vice President Bob Carmody

Treasurer Tom Malia

Secretary Mike Bradbury

Director Greg Smith

Director Andy Konsewicz

Director Eileen Perry

Director Wayne Kirkpatrick

Committee Leaders 2008

Charity Tom Nichols

Membership Eileen Perry

Activities Muriel Brandt

Safety John Lunde

Website Brian Rainey

Roar Editor John LaMonica

Roar Publisher Mark Heller

Senior Road Captain

Bard Boand

Gary Brandt

Ric Case

Jim Heniff

Don Schaffer

Wayne Kirkpatrick

Terry Kumro

John Lunde

Tom Malia

Chuck Prettyman

Sandy Vernon

Road Captains

Mike Bradbury

Dennis Dougherty

Mark Heller

Andy Konsewicz

Stefan Levy

Carl Marcyan

Tom Nichols

Bill Ryan

Larry Scalzitti

Eric Schertz

Greg Smith

Brian Rainey

Fred Zimbric

Joan DeRango

Along with recognizing members who do these things, it was also fun to give out

awards. The award recipients were chosen by popular vote by emailed responses. We had quite a few fun ones, such as the cow bell given to me for the Most Accessorized Bike award or the rain poncho given for the Wettest Ride, "The Hoosier Run" lead by Gary Brandt. It had a special label I am reprinting here for the sheer fun of it;

Official Top Cats Rain Poncho for your use unless you like to get soaked on your bike and your jeans look like you had an "accident".

Optional ways to wear this pancho;

1. At home with nothing else on. You get a bonus if you answer the front door this way.
2. Out for the evening with friends. This poncho compliments and accessorizes any ensemble.
3. On a club event. Now your getting a bonus by showing it off to the club.
4. On a club ride. Now your getting twice the bonus because you're showing it off to the club and the public.
5. With your lady out for dinner at Rookies.
6. And of course, if it rains.



Must Practice Be Stressful?

Only if you are trying to get better

From Lizard

We practice in order to get good, or better, at what is difficult for us - to become skillful - or to CONFIRM that we remain skillful.

That is not the same as 'conditioning' - you learn endurance by enduring.

So, it seems to me that a practice session should be stressful if we are trying to gain skill levels and should be satisfying if we are only confirming a skill level.

I usually find that I am totally drenched with sweat and dead tired after only 15 minutes of a good practice. But far more often than not a practice session for me lasts only 5 minutes and I am content that it has been perfectly sufficient for my purposes.

When I practice I am always looking for the little secret that makes what I am attempting look easy. That is, riding a motorcycle is not at all difficult. Riding it with complete control, on the other hand, takes skill and experience. The experience exposes those 'secrets' (that slow speed control, for example, is fundamentally in your left hand) to you and practice provides the experience in a relatively safe environment. Once you learn them they look to others like you have 'skill' while in reality what you have is confidence. Over-confidence, on the other hand, means only that you THINK you have the skills you will need. Using practice to confirm your skill level is the difference.

All I'm trying to get at is that when you start out, or come back after lots of years being away from motorcycles, or upgrade to a heavier or different type of motorcycle, your skill level is nonexistent so practice MUST increase them as you 'stretch/grow'. And the process of growth (confidence building) is stressful.

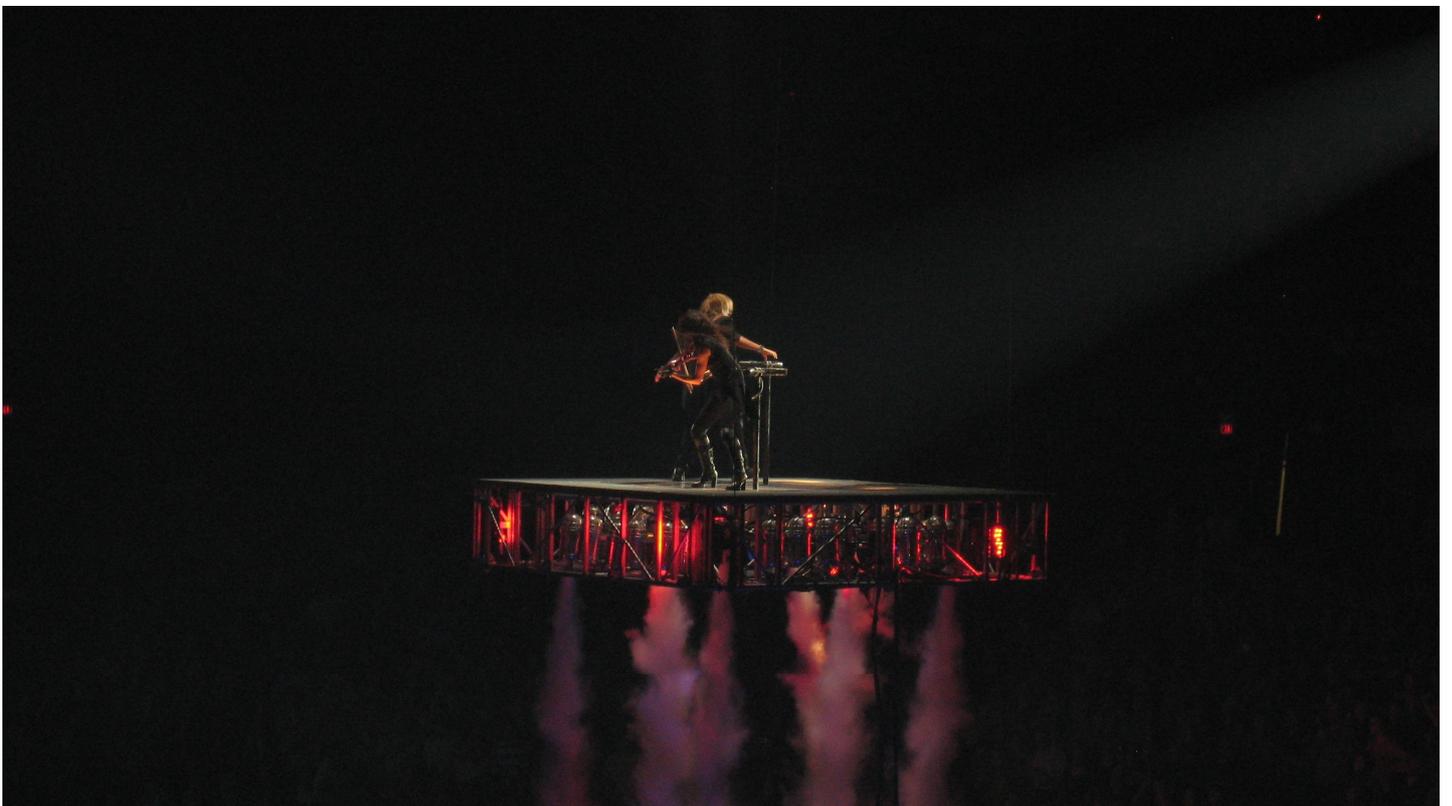
When you are tired, or notice that you are not making progress in one skill area or another, go for something else or call it quits for the day and go home and park the beast. Next time you go out and practice you will more likely than not do better on your first try than you did on your last one the last time out. And the stress level will diminish.

Don't feel like you are the only person that goes through it. After 45 years of riding I am often stressed when I practice. That's good, no? It means that I really am trying to get better at something that I'm not at all confident about. Toes over the line - with successful effort - results in moving the line. And that's the primary reason we are out there.

In the end, being on the road should not be stressful at all because you have enough experience that you KNOW you can control your bike, not just react to what it does on its own. That's confidence.

Sooner or later you will realize that you can always improve some aspect of your skills but you will CHOOSE not to. That is, your practice sessions will be used to confirm that you can always do AT LEAST as well at something as you elect to be your personal target. That turns a practice event into a pretty short session if all is well. If not, you get back to the level you personally insist is how good you want to be.

Stress is associated with getting better, not with confirming you 'still have 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

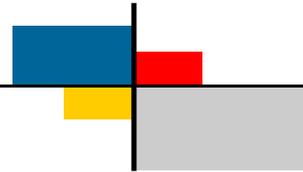
Food: Jill Hansen

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

“You start the game of life with a full pot o' luck and an empty pot o'experience... The object is to fill the pot of experience before you empty the pot of luck. If you wait, all that happens is that you get older.”

Activities Calendar

Upcoming Events



Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, February 03, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, February 7, 2009	Motorcycle Show	Egglectic Café	Rolling Meadows	7:30am	Greg Smith
Tuesday, February 10, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Sat. February 28, 2009	Accident Management Class	Great Lakes Naval Hosp.	Great Lakes	TBD	Bill Lowry
Tuesday, March 03, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, March 10, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, March 15, 2009	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	Ric Case
Sunday March 22, 2009	Rooky Bocce Ball Tourney	Highwood	Highwood	TBD	Lenny Innocenzi
Tuesday, April 07, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, April 14, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, April 19, 2009	Kick Off Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Andy Konsewicz