



# ROAR

June 2009

Volume 09 Issue 06

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS - ILLINOIS

## Inside This Issue

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



### Greetings Top Cats!

Let the riding season begin! We have all waited for the better weather, and it has arrived. During our "winter break" the Club has emphasized safety skills, risk avoidance, insurance coverage and planned many interesting and varied rides. Take advantage of this and enjoy the next six months on the road by riding with us on day rides or the longer overnight rides that the Road Captains have planned out. They, together with our activities committee, spend considerable time exploring new places to visit, creating new routes and most importantly, new restaurants at which to eat! Also, don't hesitate to suggest new places to use as destination points. We have weekends in September and October that are available to conduct a ride.

An upcoming event for which we all need to assist with and participate in, is the upcoming "Ride for Dreams". This is the official Top Cat - Illinois Charity Ride benefiting the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association for disabled children. Joan DeRango, Eileen Perry and the committee are putting in untold hours of preparation. Dennis "Wombat" Dougherty has planned an interesting route, and many very nice raffle items have been chosen. **This is our charity.** Please, please, please buy raffle tickets, sell raffle tickets and come to the event. It will be a great time. At our next membership meeting, we will talk further about the charity ride and may have a representative from NISRA to tell us about summer plans for their kids.

In the meantime, get your bike on the road and

Ride On!

The Top Cat

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## WHAT DO WE DO WITH LAURA HUNT?

By Don Schaffer - Numbersman

By now everyone knows about the death of motorcyclist Anita Zaffke, run over by a car driven by Laura Hunt. Hunt was painting her fingernails and did not see either the red light or the motorcycle. The biker community has been appropriately outraged and is crying out for the scalp of Ms. Hunt. There have been demonstrations and calls for her to be thrown into prison for life. One group is circulating a petition for Federal laws to impose punishment for such situations. However well intended, any attempt to get the Federal government involved in traffic law will and should go nowhere. Vehicular homicide is a State/Local matter with no Federal implications. One of the things we should be doing is to support the AMA's campaign that has been lobbying for several years to get States to provide appropriate penalties, and to get courts to enforce those penalties. The efforts of the local biking community related to

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Upcoming Events

### June

- June 2 General Meeting
- June 5 Wisc. Dells 3-Day
- June 9 Board Meeting
- June 19 Little Sturgis
- June 27 Lakeshore Ride

### July

- July 7 General Meeting
- July 11 Top Cats Picnic
- July 12 Grass Class
- July 14 Board Meeting
- July 17 Route 66/Lincoln Ride
- July 26 Ride for Dreams
- July 29 Sturgis Ride

## RIDE FOR DREAMS NEEDS YOU!

We need all members to get busy and...

### SELL THOSE RAFFLE TICKETS!!

Friends, Family, People on the street!



### Grand Prize



Laser R-Series Scooter  
from



### 2nd Prize

42 Inch Flatscreen TV



### 3rd Prize

Weekend in Galena at the  
**Queen Anne Guest House**  
and  
\$200 Gift Card

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### Other Fabulous Prizes Include:

**MOTORCYCLE RIDING LESSONS FROM LRN2RYD**

**CUBS AND SOX TICKETS**

**MARY KAY GIFT BASKET**

**GOLF AT LAKE PARK GOLF CLUB**

**MINI-GOLF AT MOUNTAIN VIEW ADVENTURE CENTER**

**GUEST PASSES AT PRAIRIE LAKES COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER**

**MOTORCYCLE ARTWORK**

*And more...*



Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.00 - Drawing is July 26<sup>th</sup>

*Winner need not be present to win*

For Tickets, e-mail: [RideForDreams@TOPCATS.org](mailto:RideForDreams@TOPCATS.org)



# TOP CATS - *RIDE FOR DREAMS*

## TOP TEN WAYS TO BE A PART OF IT

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10. Pre-register for the Ride. Registration form available on our web-site.
9. Pre-register all your riding buddies and bring them along for the ride.
8. Hang ride brochures in your office, at your favorite stomping grounds, local dealers – everywhere
7. Obtain and donate raffle items. We can always use more raffle items. The more we have the easier it will be to reach our raffle goal.
6. Volunteer to set up and take down the day of the event. Greg Smith is coordinating this task. Let him know you can help.
5. Volunteer to be a road captain for the ride. Dennis Dougherty and Tom Malia are our ride leaders. Let them know you can lead a group on the day of the event.
4. Sell Raffle Tickets with other Top Cats members at local events. Contact Mike Bradbury or Jeff Tietz for event dates and times.
3. Sell Raffle Tickets to everyone on your email list. Need tickets – send an email to [ridefordreams@topcats.org](mailto:ridefordreams@topcats.org) and a committee member will work with you to get tickets.
2. Sell Raffle Tickets to people you see every day. Co-workers, friends, family. We have some GREAT prizes this year AND the tickets are only \$5.00 each – 5 for \$20.00

*And the number one way to help -*

1. **Get involved, sell tickets, volunteer, pre-register...  
and bring friends!!!**

## KAUTION KORNER

By Don Schaffer - Numbersman

We ride with our eyes, not with our hands, feet or derriere. While I would not advocate it as a normal practice, you can ride with both hands off of the bars until you have to make a turn. You can ride with your feet on the cruise pegs until you need at least one of your feet to hold up the bike at a stop. How long do you think you could survive riding with your eyes closed? Probably not long, but even for the sake of science I'm not willing to try it and find out how long I stay alive. If that is the case, why do we find that most accidents could have been avoided by looking where we are supposed to look, and seeing what we are supposed to see.

We have a long running campaign to get the cages to "See Motorcycles". We must constantly practice and remind ourselves to do the same thing. Visual perception of one type of another enters into most of our safety tips. Let's do a little summary of where we should be looking, and when.

First and foremost is the oft repeated "Look where you want to go". This is to recognize that for most people, our bodies have been trained to follow our gaze. This part of eye usage is most directly involved with eye/hand coordination. It deals strictly with control, or you can say it is an integral part of riding skill. What does this aspect of visual focus have to do with safety, as opposed to operation? "Look where you want to go" is not related to the discovery of a hazard, but contributes to accident avoidance with a known hazard. You look through a curve rather than at the side of the road because you want to go through the curve, not over the side of the road. You look at the safe path rather than at the target when you have to swerve to avoid a hazard. This is visual control.

An equally important use of your eyes deals with the "Safety" of your ride. It is similar to "Look where you want to go", because its objective is accident avoidance, but it deals not with control, but with discovery, or situational awareness. Once you have become a proficient rider, it is a lack of awareness that is likely to kill you, not a lack of visual control. Where should be looking?

The answer is "Everywhere, but always where you need to be looking". Yes, that is not possible but we try to get close. Human vision is a miraculous combination of senses. We have sharp central vision, automatic focusing, mobility of sight direction and wide peripheral vision.

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## REMEMBERING MY FIRST BIKE...

*BY TOM NICHOLS*



When I was 15 I wanted to get a motorcycle and there was no chance that my parents would even consider buying me one. So I decided I needed a job. I had heard that the local broasted chicken shack needed someone, so I went and talked to the owner and he hired me. But I had to bring something to prove I was 16. I took my baptism certificate to the library with some liquid paper and made a copy and altered it to show I was 16. I worked at the broasterie for \$1.50 an hour and I hated that job.



Now, I had been to Champion Cycle on Western and they had a 1973 Kawasaki 100 that sold for \$600. The day I had saved the \$600, I quit the chicken shack and my father and brother went with me to buy the bike. My brother rode it home. Now I had never ridden and I spent the next couple hours in the alley learning how to work the clutch ( I think my first and last wheelie occurred at this time) and how to brake. Then I hit the side streets of the NW side of Chicago, where I spent days just going up and down the one way streets. A week later I got my license and have been riding legally ever since.



## the World According to Andy

*So the riding has begun... Here are some words of wisdom to think about while you're out looking at the world...*

1. The early bird still has to eat worms.
2. I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing--if I HAD any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!!!
3. The worst thing about accidents in the kitchen is having to eat them.
4. Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.
5. Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press "Ctrl Alt Delete" and start all over?
6. Stress is when you wake up screaming and then you realize you haven't fallen asleep yet.
7. People say I never listen...at least, I THINK that's what they said.
8. Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?
9. If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor!
10. Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.

## GALENA... COLD AND WINDY – BUT STILL GOOD!

By Tom Nichols

Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am. It is 52 degrees and the wind is blowing out of the NW at 40 mph. Pleasant would not be a proper description. But Tom Malia, Joe Fiedler from the Jersey Pine Cruisers, and I decided to brave the conditions and we tackled the ride.

Traffic was light for most of the day so the pace was constant. We headed out on various roads and hopped on Rte 2 out near Rockford and stopped in Byron. Tom Malia has a fondness for large structures, so we decided to take a side trip to the nuclear power plant and take a look at it. While we were stopped in front of the place a guy in a pickup truck pulled up and checked us out, we thought it best to move along and get back on the road.

We continued down Rte 2 to Rte 64 and headed west. They are doing a lot of resurfacing out by Mt Carroll. While it might be a pain this year, any of those roads out there being repaved is welcomed. We turned onto Rte 78 and shortly we began a trek of approximately 75 miles of tertiary roads, just blacktops no striping, no shoulders. There are some really nice views as you drive through the hills and valleys - a nice break from the suburban area.

After a nice meal at Chestnut Mountain ski lodge, we headed into Galena. Now having large gas tanks is an advantage and we were able to bypass a scheduled after lunch gas stop. But as we drove through downtown Galena the two BMW's and the Gold Wing just didn't rumble the windows of the shops like a gaggle of Harleys would have. It just wasn't the same.

Now the weather had decided to cooperate and the temperature had skyrocket to 62 degrees! It actually had become pleasant. We back-roaded for awhile longer and then headed east on Rte 20 back to the hustle and bustle. Another day another ride.

*The older I get, the faster I was.... Anonymous*

## MARK HELLER'S ONE NIGHT STAND - SAUGATUCK MICHIGAN AUGUST 1ST AND 2ND

### The Top 10 Reasons To Go On This Ride

- 10 Saturday and Sunday; so probably no time required off of work.
- 9 Great Scenery & Camaraderie
- 8 Top Cat 500 Race
- 7 Outdoor Blues Fest
- 6 Bar-B-Q Dinner on vineyard grounds
- 5 As far from work as you can get in 1 day
- 4 The always entertaining Framed Photo Award
- 3 Wild Dune Buggy Ride (kinda like how my wife drives)
- 2 You gotta see me get in and out of a go-cart

**And the number one reason for attending this ride...** *I don't wanna go Obama self!*



### **Lodging:**

- Microtel Inn (Holland, MI)
- JD Powers has rated the Microtel Inn the best No Frills Motel & highest in customer satisfaction for the past 7 yrs.
- Right now I have a block of 10 rooms set aside for the Top Cats.
- Call 616-392-3235 for reservations. 1 night, August 1<sup>st</sup> and mention Top Cats group rate.
- I negotiated a great room rate of just \$58 for the Top Cats.
- This motel is strategically located near all our activities and in a quiet, remote area.

While this is months away, it's during peak tourist time in the area. Place reservations now. If they get no response they may remove the offer below. If the response is good I'll try to reserve more rooms. Just FYI, most hotels in the area charge over \$100 per night this time of year.



### **Highlights:**

- Saturday: Meet at Twin Lakes Park at 14 & 53 in Palatine. Travel 175 miles and arrive in Saugatuck about noon.
- Gas up and Burger King Lunch Stop (noon)
- Dune Buggy Ride (\$15 per person, approximately 50 minutes)
- Hotel Check in
- Ride to Outdoor Vineyard Blues Fest (\$8 per person admission) and Bar-B-Q Dinner
- Return to Hotel. Walk 1 block to Goog's Pub and Grub for a nightcap
- Sunday: Ride or walk 2 blocks to Bob Evans for breakfast then return to Hotel
- Hotel checkout and ride 2 miles to Go Cart track for Top Cat 500 (\$5 per person) Framed photo award.
- Head south along Lake Michigan on Blue Star Memorial Highway through South Haven, Benton Harbor, etc
- Lunch stop in St. Joseph Michigan
- Return home reaching the Palatine area around 4pm. Everyone is home well before dinner time.

### **Roads:**

Toll Roads, Interstates and secondary roads. The most scenic part of the ride is on the return trip on Sunday.

### **Please Note: Contact Mark if...**

- You are a Road Captain willing to be Tail Gunners:
- You don't have an I-Pass
- You are planning on joining but are coming from the south... You can join at the Southland Lincoln Oasis at 9am



## IRON HORSE RIDE - MAY 3RD

By Mark Heller

I had decided to attend the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Grass Class but I knew that I also wanted to ride that day. Seeing that the Top Cats' calendar was open, I decided to lead a ride to somewhere after the class. With a



little research on activities being held that day, which would be of some interest to fellow Top Cats, I discovered that the Austin Saloon was holding their annual Iron Horse Ride that day. It was to be held at the Sundance Saloon in Waukegan. So the event was chosen with a start time immediately after the Grass Class.

I believe there were 8 bikes that participated in the ride, some with a passenger. We had two guests as well. The ride was short; so short, that I joked that the pre-ride meeting was longer than the ride itself. Actually, the ride was about 35 minutes in length.

Holding a pre-ride meeting immediately after a Grass Class is a humbling moment since the safety committee was present, listening and watching my delivery. The good news is that it all went smooth including our ride to the rally.

The rally was a typical rally. Food tents, beer,

leather, biker accessories, beer, leather, bands, beer, leather, etc...The weather was beautiful, couldn't have been better.

At my pre-ride meetings I like to inject some humor while I try to get the idea of safety in everyone's heads. I mentioned that besides watching out for the usual hazards like potholes, joggers and bicyclists that we need to be on the lookout for the women drivers talking on their cell phones... the women drivers putting on their makeup... and the women drivers who are tending to children while driving. That was at 12:30 in the afternoon. The day turned tragic just 4 hours later when a motorcyclist was killed after being rear ended by a woman driving 50mph while painting her nails.

We all know that this sport we have chosen is inherently dangerous and we accept that. We do what we can to minimize the risks. As Top Cats we're good at that. We had a good time and we all made it through the day unharmed and looking forward to our next motorcycle ride. Unfortunately, today there is one less motorcycle on the road. Be careful, take safety seriously and attend the next Grass Class. Keep your eye and the rubber down.

### Editors Note:

*Although we can find many humorous stereotypes about drivers of both genders, the main thought is to be aware of the not-so-attentive drivers that share the road with us!*



[www.lrn2ryd.com](http://www.lrn2ryd.com) 847-438-6588 [scalzitti@mindspring.com](mailto:scalzitti@mindspring.com)

**BASIC RIDER COURSE - EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE – ON STREET COURSES**

## ANITA ZAFFKE MEMORIAL RIDE

Reflection from Pat Michaud



Thursday, May 7, 2009

On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, fellow biker, Anita Zaffke, from Lake Zurich, was tragically killed by a distracted driver.

Anita was stopping for a yellow light at a major intersection when she was hit from behind by a young woman painting her nails. Anita suffered major trauma and was pronounced dead a short time after.

It was a somber afternoon in many respects. Storms were rolling through the area. I made the decision to suit up and take protective clothing and ride regardless of the weather. I wanted to recognize Anita and support recognition for safe roads for all drivers - whether on two wheels or four. Anita's accident had an impact on me personally. I travel the roads in and around where Anita was hit and I felt it could have been me. Anita and I shared other similarities - grown children, a return to college as an adult which resulted in a bachelor's degree, and the thrill of riding. She was enjoying some of the best years of her life. How terribly, terribly sad that life was snatched out from under her by such carelessness.

Email notices were sent out shortly after the accident from many Chicago motorcycle sites announcing a memorial ride in her honor - and also to bring attention to the injustice that prevailed, as the driver of the vehicle received minimal consequences.

I met Joan DeRango, Andy Konsewicz, and Ed Lipinski at the Shell station at the corner of Fairfield and Gilmer Rd and we rode together to the meeting location at the parking lot of the Lake County Traffic Court House. Hundreds of motorcycles began arriving in the parking lot. A large group of sport bikes arrived to participate. Bikes of all kinds were represented. There was an informal gathering of riders and a blessing was said prior to departing. For a last minute ride with little organization, it was very orderly and safe. The long procession (which I estimate to be around 300 bikes) made its way south and then west.



There was some blocking at major intersections in an effort to keep the group together. Once at the funeral home, we were greeted by Anita's family who came outside to recognize the riders.



We had an opportunity to embrace her son and give our deepest sympathy to her husband. The hundreds of bikes that arrived was a clear show of love and support for her and her family.

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## 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](mailto:wombat@dpdougherty.com)



(Continued from page 1)

## WHAT DO WE DO WITH LAURA HUNT?



cases such as Anita's also provide strong support for lobbying efforts of ABATE and other groups to make the available penalty fit the violation. We need to make our legislators/prosecutors/judges aware of their obligation to provide proper laws and enforcement to keep us safe.

With that having been said, we cannot legislate away the dangers of traffic mishaps, and any laws passed should carry penalties that are appropriate. There will be distractions. There will be accidents. There will be deaths. Do we really want laws that mandate long term imprisonment because a person was distracted by children fighting in the back seat of a car? How about being distracted by fishing for tollway change in the console? What about an argument on a cell phone? Reading a map? And finally, painting your fingernails? This gets pretty complicated. We need laws that allow the imposition of severe penalties such as long term imprisonment for someone who has a record of bad behavior, while allowing punishment that is appropriate for someone who displays an isolated case of bad judgment. Most important is

to have Judges intelligent enough to make the punishment fit the crime.

Now it is your turn to play Judge. Let's assume (strictly hypothetical) that Ms. Hunt has led an exemplary life other than her incredibly bad judgment that resulted in the loss of Anita Zaffke's life. Good mother, active in her church's charity committee, gives her time each week to help at a soup kitchen, has a clean driving record and criminal record, has one kid in college, holds a good job and supports elderly parents. What do you do with her? Do you assume that she will be monetarily punished enough by civil lawsuits and rule that it was only an accident, impose a \$100 fine and have her walk away from the system otherwise unimpaired? Do you treat her as a vicious killer and sentence her to the maximum jail time, even though you know that the State will incur enormous costs keeping her and possibly welfare costs to support her family? Or would you try to make lemonade out of lemons by convicting her of a felony with a long sentence, but order her confined for only the first 30 to 90 days, and then let her out to work and during the rest of her sentence visit every high school in the state to lecture on what happens to you when you are a distracted driver. She took a life, why not have her try to save a few lives.

## KAUTION KORNER

(Continued from page 4)

A rider should always be looking far down the road. You need to know what is taking place more than a football field away, even at moderate speeds. At the same time, you need know everything that is happening between you and that "way down the road" vision. You also must be aware of activity to both sides, and to the rear. Combine that with keeping track of your speed and other instrumentation and you get a picture of the workout our eyes get every few seconds of a ride.

How are we to do all of this at the same time and on a consistent basis? First there is that marvelous peripheral vision. As you focus far down the road, you can see a slightly fuzzier vision of the row of riders or cars ahead of you. With practice, our brains keep track of this information and give us a complete picture of everything in our direction of travel. However, you must consciously direct yourself to inspect the hazards more closely as they are recognized. "Are the wheels starting to turn on that auto stopped in the driveway to my right?" "Is there a car signaling for a left turn right behind that approaching truck? All the while, our peripheral vision must be trained to keep track of changes in other hazards as we ride.

What about the other distractions? We are constantly reminded to clear the road before taking a closer glance at the speedometer or the rear view mirrors. Know where your controls are located so you can operate them without the use of your eyes at all. Remember that if you glance over at an unusual road sign, the people in front of you are likely doing the same thing and may do something dangerous.

How do you insure that you are looking where you should be looking at all times? Just like getting to play at Carnegie Hall, practice, practice, practice. Consciously remind yourself to look for hazards far down the road. Look several bikes ahead on a group ride. Tell yourself to search the road sides. Tell yourself to clear the road before checking the speedometer. Tell yourself to turn your head before changing lanes. Pretty soon you will find you don't have to remind yourself to do this. That, my friends, is called experience, and there is a difference between experience, and just having time in the saddle.

# ROAR



**GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

Cinco de Mayo





## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### MAY 05, 2009

Submitted by Joan DeRango

The meeting was called to order at approx. 7:30 by Carl Marcyan.

#### **Opening**

The meeting began with the general membership standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Introduction of Guests**

David and Cindy Purcell

Bob Farro

Lee Murphy – President of Rolling Thunder Chapter 2

Joe Fiedler – President Jersey Pine Cruisers

#### **President's Update-Marcyan**

- A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the Top Cats of Illinois "In recognition of your exceptional support and patriotism provided to the Soldiers of the 16<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Battalion during Ride With The Troops" on 4 April 2009". Carl thanked Wayne Kirkpatrick for organizing Top Cats participation in the event.
- Top Cats have received a number of awards over the years. Dennis Dougherty will work to create an award gallery on our website displaying the various awards received.
- A number of Top Cats attended NISRA's Recognition Dinner.
- Dennis Dougherty was recognized for becoming a certified MSF Instructor.
- Bill Yates displayed artwork he had for sale. Various shirts depicting a motorcycle motif framed for display. Bill will be a vendor at our Charity Ride event in July

#### **Charity Ride Update – DeRango/Perry**

- Raffle Tickets are available for sale by members. Goal is to sell all \$3,000 tickets which would equate to a minimum donation to NISRA of \$7,000. Tickets will be available at every meeting or contact Joan DeRango at [jmderango@comcast.net](mailto:jmderango@comcast.net) to obtain tickets for sale.
- Members are needed to participate in ticket sale events held at events in the area. Contact Mike Bradbury for event details and sign up dates and time.
- Members will be needed to set up for the event on

Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> and to take down on after the event on July 26<sup>th</sup>. See Greg Smith to sign up for set up/clean up/both detail.

- Please continue to seek out additional raffle items. The goal of the raffle is to have items to raffle off for the couple of hours between the first bikes come return from the ride until the last bikes are in and the final "big ticket" items are drawn.

#### **Membership Update – Perry**

No new members at this time

#### **Secretary Update - DeRango**

No updates at this time.

#### **Treasurer's Updates - Nichols**

- Solid Cash Position.
- Annual Insurance had been paid.
- As past Chairperson for the Charity Ride Tom encouraged members to register early for the event. Early registration helps the committee more easily fund upfront expenses and they plan for the event.

#### **ROAR– Dougherty**

- April ROAR is available to download from the website. This month the email notification for ROAR was distributed from the new email address for the newsletter – [ROAR@Topcats.org](mailto:ROAR@Topcats.org).
- Articles and suggestions for the ROAR can be submitted to the editor Mary Walters via this email address or directly to Mary at [mwalters@wthns.net](mailto:mwalters@wthns.net).

#### **Vice President Update – Bradbury**

Mike has researched the availability of products for members to purchase that will contain the Top Cats logo. If you are interested in a specific product see Mike. Currently on hand are decals for your bike or car, flags, some T-shirts and the DVD of the 2008 Top Cats year in review. See Mike after the meeting if you are interested in any products.

#### **Guest Speaker – Lee Murphy President of Rolling Thunder Chapter 2**

Lee presented a PowerPoint presentation about Rolling Thunder Chapter 2. Although many of the Rolling Thunder members ride motorcycles the club is not a

*(Continued on page 12)*



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### MAY 05, 2009

(Continued from page 11)

motorcycle club. The club's mission is:

*"To Correct The Past and Protect The Future"*

*Rolling Thunder ®, Inc.'s major function is to publicize the POW/MIA issue. To educate the public of the fact that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all past wars. To help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners of War/Missing in action. We are committed to helping Disabled Veterans from all wars!*

- Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Fox Lake American Legion Post 703. The post is located at 703 N. US Highway 12, Fox Lake, IL.
- The club sponsors several charity events. All proceeds benefit the V. A. Hospital.
- For more information about Rolling Thunder, their mission, events, membership visit their website at [www.rollingthunderilch2.org](http://www.rollingthunderilch2.org)
- Lee Murphy presented Top Cats with a Battery Tender worth over \$100 to be used as a raffle item for our Charity Ride.

#### **Activities – Greg Smith**

Greg reviewed the upcoming rides for May and June. Please see website calendar for all ride details.

#### **Member Focus – Jeff Tietz**

This month's member to know is Jeff Tietz.

- Jeff has been a member of Top Cats for 1 year. He has three different "rides". A 50cc scooter, and '03 Super Glide and an '08 Ultra Classic.
- Jeff is the Vice President of Information Technology at Fellowes Manufacturing. A third generation family owned business that started in 1917 as the Bankers Box Company. Since then they've expanded the product line beyond banker's boxes to 70 other products.
- Jeff's worked for the company for 17 years.
- In November of '08 Jeff and his partners opened City Scooters located at 6320 N. Milwaukee Ave in Chicago, IL. 60646. City Scooters sells scooters, ATVs, Motor Bikes and Accessories.
- City Scooters is located down the street from Super Dawgs so grab some lunch and then visit the shop and say hi to Jeff and his partners. If you can't get there in person visit their website at [www.cityscooters.com](http://www.cityscooters.com).

#### **Safety Committee – Schaffer/Kirkpatrick**

May is Motorcycle awareness month. Unfortunately the month began with a tragic accident in Lake Zurich where a female motorcyclist was killed when a distracted driver (painting her nails) rear ended her as she stopped for a red light. The driver of the car received a ticket for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Members were given a handout that encourages everyone to write the authorities to enact legislation that appropriately punishes people for the sometimes deadly results of their actions.

Wayne provide a three part safety tip – Group riding, Individual and Personal.

- Group Riding Tip: When riding in a group 2 seconds behind the bike directly in front of you, scan 3-4 seconds ahead.
- Individual Riding Tip: Use Motorcycle approved safety gear – helmets, goggles, clothing etc. Select function over fashion.
- Personal Riding Tip: Remember to recognize Mother's Day!!

#### **LinkedIn Overview – April Williams**

LinkedIn provides it's users a means of networking via the internet. Users build a profile and ask other LinkedIn members to link into their profile. Users can join groups of other LinkedIn users with similar likes. The site can be used to promote our Charity Event and as a means of communicating with other Top Cats who have LinkIn.

#### **Other Business**

John Lunde advised members to check their business profiles on the Internet. After "googling" his business name he discovered a competitor had changed his companies contact information redirecting his customers to his competitor's site.

Guest Bob Farro presented the club with an antique ride pin to be included in our 50/50 raffle. Winner of the pin was Ric Case. Gary and Muriel Brandt were winners of the 50/50 raffle.

Meeting adjourned.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### MAY 12, 2009

Submitted by Joan DeRango

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

**Board Members Absent:** Tom Nichols

**Guests:** None

**Meeting called to order- Carl Marcyan**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

**ROAR/Website/Historian/Long Range Planning – Dennis Dougherty**

- ROAR – April was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition under the new format. Feedback has been good. Mary Walters and Andy Konsewicz continue to work with Dennis on improvements.
- Website – The enhancements to the website continue to be delayed due to lack of resource. Dennis will investigate and report back to the board an estimated cost of hiring someone to perform the initial enhancements allowing ongoing upgrades to be performed by the membership.
- Dennis is working with Ipower on issues related to using webmail, in particular the distribution list.

**Secretary-Joan DeRango**

Charity Ride – Finishing touches are being made on the plans for the ride day but overall we are on track for the day's event. Primary focus now is ticket sales for the raffle. A decision was made by the board to focus the next two general meeting on the Charity Ride. Joan will work with the Charity Ride Committee to plan the events at the general meeting. NISRA will be contacted to present at least one of the meetings.

**Past President's Comments – Gary Brandt**

Gary presented the board members with the "Top Cats Board of Directors" handbook. Directors will use the book as a reference guide and as a reference guide for new directors.

**Activities – Greg Smith**

Ride calendar continues to be updated. With the exception of holiday weekends there is at least one ride

planned for every weekend between now and September.

**Membership-Eileen Perry**

- No new membership's applications to review at this time.
- A decision was made that follow up with general meeting guests by the board will help potential new members feel more welcome. Ongoing, Eileen will supply the board with contact information of guests.

**Safety/Road Captain – Wayne Kirkpatrick/Gary Brandt**

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> G.R.A.S.S. class was successful. Three Top Cats' members still need to complete the G.R.A.S.S. class to meet their membership requirements. Two Road Captains need to as well.
- Gary has distributed packets for all the Road Captains that contain club material and waivers. Road Captains have been informed they need to bring the packets on every ride they lead.

**Vice President-Mike Bradbury**

No responses have been received from members showing any interest in products. The board felt the lack of response was related more to the lack of products being displayed then lack of interest in purchasing them.

A decision was made to purchase a limited number of men's and women's shirts – polo and long sleeve button down shirts and make them available for sale at future general meetings. Additional shirts can be ordered once the supply is depleted.

**Treasurer-Tom Nichols**

Tom was unable to attend the meeting but will provide a report via email to the board.

**Old Business/New Business**

Dennis requested Road Captain assistance with the Rte 66 ride. After pre-riding the route he feels it will be advantages to have assistance from RC's with communication headsets. He'll work with Gary to make arrangements.

The board discussed an email from a Top Cat member regarding how the activities committee addresses con-

*(Continued on page 14)*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES MAY 12, 2009

(Continued from page 13)

flicts in requests to add rides to the calendar. The board discussed this topic extensively at the last board meeting and felt the decision made at that time still applies.

Currently Greg and the activities committee deal with conflict by insuring "like" rides are not held on the same day. For example, if a 3 day ride is scheduled and another road captain would like to schedule an extended day ride for the same weekend the request would be denied but if they planned a single day ride during that same weekend to a local event that ride would be approved. The board agreed that this process has worked in the past and is a good basis to keep going forward. They also agreed that Road Captains need to be respectful of others plans. When a Road Captain wants to plan a ride that MAY be in conflict with another they discuss their plans with each other to insure no one feels their ride is being "stepped on". In the event the conflict cannot be resolved amicably by the Road Captains the board will make the final decision.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

### FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

**Attention all Top Cats business owners!**

As part of our ongoing philosophy to support our members and goal to provide a more value-rich publication, we are now offering free advertising space in ROAR for Top Cats business owners.

Each business owner can submit advertising content and graphics up to 2 X 3.5 inches (Business Card size) for their company.

We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it.

This offer is for Top Cats business owners only. We are not accepting advertising for other businesses at this time.

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at [ROAR@TOPCATS.org](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)

## NISRA... THE REASON TOP CATS ARE WORKING SO HARD!

For 13 years the Top Cats have been proud sponsors of the Northern Illinois Recreation Association – NISRA. NISRA provides year round recreation activities for people with disabilities. Since 1976, children and adults of all ability levels have enjoyed socializing, building skills and having fun in hundreds of weekly programs, special events, camps and trips each year.

♦ **Their Mission:** Enriching the lives of people with disabilities through meaningful recreation experiences.

♦ **Our Mission:** Raise money to help NISRA.





## RIDES & EVENTS

| DATE                | RIDE/EVENT                          | LOCATION                  | DESTINATION           | TIME    | LEADER           |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------|
| Tuesday, June 02    | General Meeting                     | Village Tavern & Grill    | Buffalo Grove         | 7:30 pm | Carl Marcyan     |
| Friday June 05      | Wisconsin Dells Adventure-3 day     | BP Rt.12 & Rt 120         | Wisconsin Dells       | 8:00 am | Gary Brandt      |
| Tuesday, June 09    | Board Meeting                       | Ginos East                | Lake Zurich           | 7:30 pm | Carl Marcyan     |
| Friday, June 19     | Little Sturgis-3 Day                | Rt14 and Rt176            | Davenport, Iowa       | 9:00 am | Gary Brandt      |
| Saturday, June 27   | Lakeshore Ride                      | TBD                       | TBD                   | TBD     | Mike Bradbury    |
| Tuesday, July 07    | General Meeting                     | Village Tavern & Grill    | Buffalo Grove         | 7:30 pm | Carl Marcyan     |
| Saturday July 11    | Top Cats Picnic                     | TBD                       | TBD                   | TBD     | Bradbury-Michaud |
| Sunday, July 12     | G.R.A.S.S. Class                    | Location to Be determined | TBD                   | 8:30 am | Ric Case         |
| Tuesday, July 14    | Board Meeting                       | Ginos East                | Lake Zurich           | 7:30 pm | Carl Marcyan     |
| Friday, July 17     | Route 66/ Lincoln Ride-3 Day        | Starks Corner             | Springfield, Illinois | 7:45 am | Dennis Dougherty |
| Sunday, July 26     | Ride For Dreams                     | Volo Auto Museum          | Volo                  | 9:00am  | Dougherty-Malia  |
| Wednesday, July 29  | Sturgis-Multi Day                   | TBD                       | Rapid City, SD        | TBD     | Bard Board       |
| Saturday, August 1  | Mark Heller's One Night Stand-2 day | Twin Lakes Park, Palatine | Saugatuck, Michigan   | 8:00 am | Mark Heller      |
| Saturday, August 08 | Wisconsin State Fair Ride           | Route 176 and 60          | Wisconsin State Fair  | 8:15 am | Mike Bradbury    |
| Tuesday August 11th | General Meeting                     | Village Tavern and Grill  | Buffalo Grove         | 7:30 pm | Carl Marcyan     |
| Sunday, August 18th | Board Meeting                       | Gino's East               | Lake Zurich           | 7:30 pm | Carl Marcyan     |

### Support the TOP CATS Sponsors



Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at City Limits Harley-Davidson

#### Membership Has Its Privileges!

All suppliers and vendors who support the Top Cats by providing discounts to Top Cats members will be listed in ROAR.

**Sign-up your favorite merchant today!**



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.

For more information about the Top Cats visit our website at [www.TOPCATS.org](http://www.TOPCATS.org)

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|------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|---|---|
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