



# ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS - ILLINOIS

August 2009

Volume 09 Issue 08

## Inside This Issue

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



### Greetings Top Cats!

The annual Top Cats charity ride and event was TREMENDOUS!!! All the hard work and effort put into its preparation and execution was apparent. Joan Derango, Eileen Perry, and the Charity Ride Committee are to be commended for the extraordinary effort for this year's very successful event. The day before set-up went smoothly; day of the event final details were attended to; the route was fantastic, food was great as well as the prizes. The venue at the Volo Auto Museum gets better every year. Greg, the owner of the museum, seems very happy to help us out and promote our efforts.

Much thanks to all members who registered and came out for a perfect Sunday morning and afternoon. And we greatly appreciate the many guests that you invited. All of you who donated gifts for auction items, provided items at reduced cost for raffle prizes, helped the set up on Saturday, thank you very much too.

Top Cats, I hope you acknowledge in some way the committee members and road captains who designed the route and escorted riders. They deserve our kudos.

Best wishes to Pat Michaud. As most of you know she had an incident that resulted in some serious injuries. Please drop an email to her with words of encouragement. [michaud.pat@gmail.com](mailto:michaud.pat@gmail.com)

It's off to Sturgis, Top Cats! See you at our next meeting; please remember that our August membership meeting is the second Tuesday in August and not the first. Also, it will be at Woodstock HD. It will be a fun and interesting meeting. Mike Bradbury has put lots of effort into making all our 2009 meetings different. This upcoming meeting will be no exception.

Our Illinois State Police trooper friends have asked that we support their August 15<sup>th</sup> motorcycle ride. Please go to <http://www.isphf.org/Portals/97/MCrunform.pdf> for details. (See page 12 for the registration form)

In the meantime, RIDE ON!

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## Upcoming Events

### August

Aug 01	One Night Stand Ride
Aug 08	WI. State Fair Ride
Aug 11	General Meeting
Aug 16	Rustic Road Ride
Aug 18	Board Meeting
Aug 22	Progressive Dinner Ride

### September

Sep 01	General Meeting
Sep 08	Board Meeting
Sep 13	President's Ride

## TOP CATS CHARITY RIDE FOR DREAMS...

### A HUGE SUCCESS!!



## RIDE FOR DREAMS WHAT A DAY!!!

By Mary Walters



With the final tally coming close to \$15,000, NISRA wins! But so did the Top Cats. This event brought out the best in everyone. From beginning to end, hard work and great ideas were on the table. With Joan DeRango and Eileen Perry as Co-Chairs, the committee had a great start, and every member played a large part in organizing and planning. Many of the NISRA and Top



Cats members added the final touches with their efforts in ticket sales, set-up, clean-up... and all things in between. There were so many faces at the set-up for Saturday! What a great effort!

The week-end was blessed with perfect weather. A high of 80 degrees and a gentle breeze made the scene on Saturday and Sunday very relaxing. The ninety-nine bikers and one-hundred and twenty-two riders all commented on how much they enjoyed the day, the people, the ride route, and the location. The Volo Auto Museum was a great place to have the ride. When the riders returned, they were able to walk through the more than seven miles of aisles filled with antique and muscle cars. Definitely a must see!

The route was put together by Dennis Dougherty and Tom Malia. Many thanks to them for a great site-seeing back road ride! Gary Brandt, Greg Smith, and a great Boy Scout Troup ensured that the line-up, take off, and return parking ran quickly and smoothly. The Road Captains that were ready to lead were; Carl Marcyan, Mike Bradbury, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Tom Malia, Don Schaffer, Mark Heller, Ric Case, Chuck Prettyman, Dennis Dougherty, Tom Nichols, Eric Schertz, Joe Rominski, and Gary Brandt. Others that helped as Tail Gunners include; Bill Lowery, Carrol Hornsby, Rob Mann, and Frank Coletto. They all worked together and made sure that all of the riders enjoyed the day and came back safely – Underscoring our Top Cats safety reputation! Nice!

Behind the registration desk were Muriel Brandt and Jane Smith with the Smith's daughter and granddaughter, Shannon and Annika, as assistants. Rick Case was leading the raffle table with the voice of Rob Mann out front advertising the prizes. The team effort on these two fronts made the whole ride process an easy and very fun one for the riders and the workers!

When it came time for the raffle winners, Frank Coletto and Mike Bradbury were enjoying themselves as they called names and handed out prizes. Tickets bought by friends of Don Schaffer and Bob Carmody were targeted to be re-donated. This did happen with a group of Sox Tickets and the 42" T.V. The prizes were used for an open auction and brought in another \$600. When the Grand Prize Scooter was called, a large crowd gathered. Marcus Bennet was the winner – A last minute ticket buyer enticed by the free *Diana's Banana!*

Dennis Dougherty caught much of the day on camera, so check out the pictures that are in this edition. Some of the group got together to make sure that our sidelined member, Pat Michaud, was remembered and included in the day... Good wishes to you, Pat! Hope the pictures cheer up your day!

As a new Top Cat, it was a great opportunity to see the BIG hearts that are the foundation of this club! From set-up to clean-up, people were giving, helping, and offering whatever they could to make this a success. The club name truly represents the spirit of our membership. We are **Top Cats** one and all!





# NISRA IS THE WINNER!

## THANKS TO SO MANY WONDERFUL DONORS AND SPONSORS



## RIDE FOR DREAMS WHAT A DAY FOR THE TOP CATS!!!



Pics by Wombat & Jan Wilcox



Pics by Wombat & Jan Wilcox

# **RIDE FOR DREAMS** **WHAT A DAY FOR NISRA!!!**

## KAUTION KORNER

### **ELIMINATING BAD HABITS**

**BY: GARY BRANDT**

Habits are behaviors we acquire over time, and when they become part of your Top Cats group riding routine, they can be annoying or even dangerous. Most of the your fellow Top Cats are not going to say anything, so we will use this column to mention a few of the more common bad habits that your Road Captains have seen. They are not aimed at any one individual, but if the shoe fits.....

#### ***Bad Habit 1: Lack of preparedness for a ride.***

We have all seen this. The pre-ride meeting is wrapping up and everyone is excited to get on the road when all of a sudden a Top Cat realizes that he or she forgot to get gas. So the entire group has to wait. Some other common gas up habits include not paying attention to ride instructions, such as the number of miles until the scheduled gas stop, then having to ask for a special stop. The solution is simple. Think ahead. If the start location is at a gas station, top off your tank. If its not then give yourself enough time to gas up prior to arriving.

#### ***Bad Habit 2: Lane encroachment.***

As you are slowing down approaching an intersection, or even while in a traffic slow down, the rider to your oblique rides up along side of you. This is most annoying and can even startle you. If you're in a fellow riders oblique do not fill the lane until just before you come to a complete stop. We all expect to have the entire lane so there is room to maneuver if necessary. Plus, it's just plain rude.

#### ***Bad Habit 3: Leaving the stop before the person in front of you does.***

Wait until the person in front actually pulls out before you start to move. There can be any number of reasons that the person is slow getting out. Perhaps, they are seeing something you don't. Keep the clutch in until you are sure it's safe to go, and this includes leaving in turn.

#### ***Bad Habit 4: Leaving too large a gap between bikes (when it's safe to be closer)***

Leaving excessive space, especially when we are in a large group causes several issues. For

starters with the accordion effect the group becomes split up and way to long. The road captain will lose track and it becomes difficult to keep everyone on the route. It also gives cars opportunities to get between us. This is not always an issue (see bad habit number 5). It also will result in frustration at the back of the pack. Everyone wants to stay with the group as much as possible and if you are in the back and see a fellow rider not keeping up, its easy to lose focus.

#### ***Bad Habit 5: Car lane change blocking***

When we are riding on an expressway or any limited access highway we must stay cognizant that cars will have to merge in or exit off. Think ahead and give them a break. Create a space and let them get on or off. Some drivers are intimidated enough by the site of 20 bikes crowding the road, and could make bad decisions if backed into a corner.

There are surely other things we should work on improving. One way to help suggest improvement, not only for bad habits but for improvement overall, is to attend a GRASS class on a regular basis and use the class's interactive atmosphere to drive discussions. Everyone should try to attend a GRASS class once a year (as the Road Captains do), but if that's not possible shoot for every other year.

While over 60% of us have been to the class in the last 2 years, that still leaves over a third who have not. All it takes is one of us to forget some part of our group riding protocol and cause an incident. And incident does not just mean a crash. It could result in a fellow Top Cat being afraid to ride by you or causing some altercation.

Come to a GRASS class and get a refresher on all of the ways we like to ride together. You may even discover a bad habit that you may have or be able to *tactfully* point some out that affect how you ride.




**ANNUAL PICNIC  
RIDE**  
July 11th  
Road Captain: Pat Michaud



## ROYAL ENFIELD MOTORCYCLES

Article By: Alan Liptrot Founder of [www.motorbiketours.co.uk](http://www.motorbiketours.co.uk)

Submitted By Andy Konsewicz

Since I heard Bob Carmody brought a guest to the charity ride who was sporting enough to ride a Royal Enfield, I thought it appropriate to give a little history on this odd machine.

Through necessity, and in common with most other engineering companies of the day, Enfield didn't restrict themselves to one line. They also made lawnmowers, bicycles and rifle parts for a Small Arms factory in Enfield. A clue lies in their logo which depicts a cannon, which I have to say, is infinitely better than a lawn mower. Their motto of 'Made like a gun, Goes like a bullet' is also evidence of their military involvement. In 1907, the company joined forces with a business with the unlikely name of 'Alldays & Onions', to produce the Enfield-Allday automobile. Fortunately, the onion was dropped. These cars remained in production until 1925.

Royal Enfield produced their first motorised vehicle in 1898, a vehicle that would today be described as a 'Quad'. This early effort had a De Dion-Bouton 2.75 hp engine. As the 20th century dawned, a bicycle with a 150cc engine mounted above the front wheel was introduced. The year after in 1902, a similar machine was fitted with a 239cc Enfield engine. The famous V-Twins appeared in 1910, primarily fitted with a Motosacoche 344cc engine, but later superseded by Enfield's own power unit. The first small, two stroke engines saw the light of day in 1915 with the 200 model.

With the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, Royal Enfield was requested to furnish the British armed forces with machine gun-carrying combinations and stretcher-bearing motorcycles. The company also won a contract to supply machines to the Russians. In 1917, when most able bodied men were at war in Europe, a police force made up of women was issued with 600cc Royal Enfield motorcycles.

The time between the wars saw a boom in the popularity of sidecars, and in 1924 a combination using a 350cc single was launched. In 1928, saddle tanks and centre-spring, girder front forks were used. Royal Enfield bikes now took on a more contemporary appearance, and despite the economic gloom of the depression years, sales kept steady. A 488cc machine with a four speed gearbox was offered in 1927 and a side-valve 225cc in 1928. It seemed that the company could do no wrong, and during

the thirties, Royal Enfield's catalogue featured thirteen models. This is the time that the famous single cylinder 'Bullet' was born.

As the world once again fell into war, Royal Enfield rose to the occasion to produce a series of motorcycles for military use, the most famous of these being a 125cc bike called the 'Flying Flea'. It was also known as the 'Airborne' because of its capability of being dropped by parachute. Special instruments for war use were also manufactured at this time.

In the fifties, Enfield of India began building machines with parts shipped from Britain, but in 1962 were producing complete motorcycles. Unfortunately, the factory in Redditch, England ceased production in 1970, with the Chennai plant in India still operating. Denomination rights were purchased by the Indians and the name lived on, which today enables Royal Enfield to claim the title of 'The world's oldest motorcycle model'. The bullet is in fact the model with the longest production run.

Between 1955 and 1960, Royal Enfield's were sold in the USA as 'Indian Motorcycles'. This of course had nothing to do with India in the Asian context. The famous Indian motorcycle company had experienced troubles of its own, and this was just another chapter in their particular history. The Americans weren't too keen on badged motorcycles, and when the business agreement expired, Floyd Clymer, who had controversially claimed the 'Indian rights', sought other sources for his venture.

It appears that the 'Enfield' name has plenty of life in it yet. Enfield India continues making motorcycles and is indeed flourishing. In 1986, a civil servant from Britain named Raja Narayan went back to India to create an export arm for Royal Enfield, so in the same way that Raja had returned to his roots, so had the Bullet, which is now marketed in Britain.

Despite production moving from Redditch to India, the marque can claim to be the only one to span three centuries, and who knows, it may even reach a fourth. Whilst the Indian plant goes from strength to strength, the few buildings that remain from the Redditch glory days have been swallowed up by the Enfield Industrial Estate. Alan Liptrot is the founder of [www.motorbiketours.co.uk](http://www.motorbiketours.co.uk) Motorbike Tours.co.uk The Company offers guided [www.motorbike-tours.co.uk](http://www.motorbike-tours.co.uk) motorcycle tours in Spain, Portugal and Morocco.



## The World According to Andy

### **JOBS - A RETROSPECTIVE**

Since being laid off due to “The Economy” I’ve had to take numerous jobs in order to make the monthly mortgage payments and I’m here to tell you it hasn’t been easy. The following are just a few of my attempts and why I didn’t last!!!!!!



First there I was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned because I couldn't concentrate.

Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

After that I tried to be a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it. The job was only so-so anyhow.

Next I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was exhausting.

I wanted to be a barber, but I just couldn't cut it.

I attempted to be a deli worker, but any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard.

My best job was being a musician, but eventually I found I wasn't note worthy.

I studied a long time to become a doctor, but I didn't have any patience.

Next was a job in a shoe factory; I tried, but I just didn't fit in.

I became a professional fisherman, but discovered that I couldn't live on my net income.

I thought about becoming a witch, so I tried that for a spell.

I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.

My last job was working at Starbucks, but I had to quit, because it was always the same old grind.

After years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a historian, until I realized there was no future in it.

So I figure now that the Top Cat's world famous Charity Ride is over we could all concentrate on the “other” less fortunate, the other white meat, yours truly, the one, the only, **ME!**

If I go down in flames, who would take over writing this fabulous column? Hedda Hopper? Rex Reed? Mike Royko? I think not! Besides the fact they're all dead and I'm not, even though I have been told that that is a possibility especially from the neck up, shouldn't be a deterrent to your generosity. So I will accept any donations and would prefer the type that folds but hell, I'll take the stuff that jingles too. So look for me at the display booth that will be set up at the September meeting so stop and say Hi.

Thanks in advance for your thoughtful and kind donations.

## REMEMBERING MY FIRST RIDE

Dateline Memphis, Tennessee.  
 Young Donald, Age 14.  
 Not yet known as Numbersman.

Bought a non-running Cushman Deluxe scooter \$10. That was the one with a sprung rear suspension and enclosed body as compared with the cheap model that mounted the rear axle directly to the frame and had open sides. Spent six months disassembling this piece of junk, re-building the Briggs and Stratton motor and automatic clutch. About July 1, 1955 it was ready to go.

Kick down the starter pedal. Reach down and pull it back up (No return spring on Cushman). Repeat about 20 times until motor did something more than cough once and die. Rev the engine until the clutch caught and off it was onto the city streets. No license, no insurance (I don't think they even sold it then). Ride about 2 miles before being pulled over by a police car.

"Son, you were going 45MPH in a 35MPH zone."  
 "Really, officer? I don't have a speedometer. The guy who sold me this told me it had a top speed of 30, and I just spent 6 months getting it running. This is the first time I have ridden it."

"How old are you?"  
 "14".

"Have your learner's permit or restricted license?"  
 "I was going to get one when I got this thing running."

"Go home and get this piece of junk off the streets."  
 "Yes sir, right away"

Blew engine on the way home. Out of oil.  
 Pushed for last mile. Never ran again.



*The following is excerpted from a letter in the recent Hog Tales magazine. If you have not yet been persuaded to wear a helmet, this might provide some additional food for thought.*

After hunkering down behind my husband, I felt the bike slow down. I looked up to see what was going on just as my husband ducked his head. Something black was coming right at me, with another black object hovering above it. WHAP! The first object hit the upper edge of my Harley-Davidson Stealth modular helmet. Next thing I knew, the face shield was flopping in the wind.

Through the intercom, my husband asked if I was okay. "I've been hit!" I replied. He stopped the bike, and I was off in record time, struggling to pull off my stinky helmet.

The object that hit me was a dead skunk, which was being feasted on by a crow (the second object). My husband explained that the crow took off when we approached, attempting to take his dinner with him. But the winds were too strong and he dropped it - right into my face.

**We don't always wear helmets when we ride, but I'm sure glad I was wearing mine that day!**

WANTED

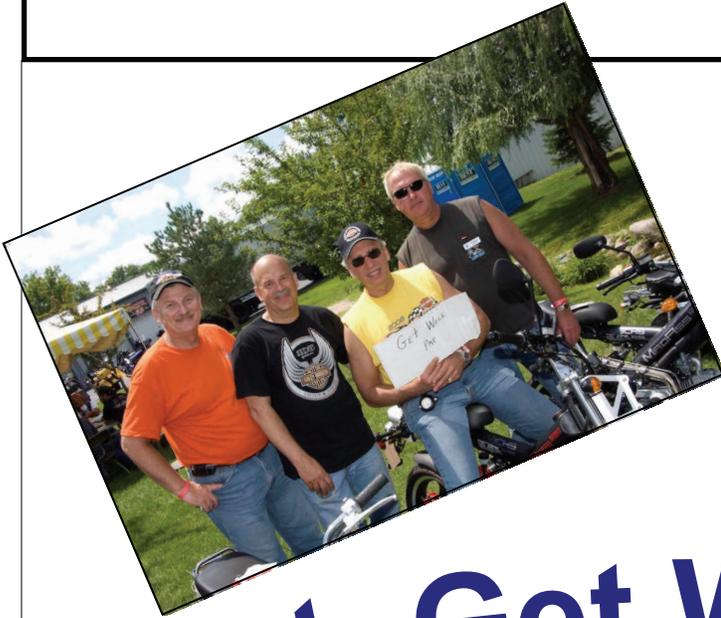
Top Cats Historian

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)



# Pat, Get Well Soon!



From these and all your friends in the **TOP CATS**





# ROAR



**Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation  
 Second Annual  
 Illinois State Police Memorial Park  
 Motorcycle and Fun Car Run**



**Saturday, August 15, 2009**  
*Rain or Shine*

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE ILLINOIS STATE POLICE MEMORIAL PARK**

**Registration:**

- \$35.00 per Motorcycle or Vehicle for two individuals If paid by August 11<sup>th</sup>
- \$40.00 per Motorcycle or Vehicle for two individuals If paid after August 11<sup>th</sup>
- Additional riders are \$10.00 per person
- If paying by mail - please return the Registration Form with the registration fee by August 11, 2009.
- **Checks should be made payable to:**  
 Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation  
 4000 North Peoria Road  
 Springfield, Illinois 62702



**Includes:**

- Memorial Park Pin for each participant
- Memorial Park T-shirt for each participant
- Dinner provided by FOP Troopers Lodge 41  
 5880 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street Road  
 Springfield, IL 62703

**Discount Lodging Available:**

Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center  
 625 East St. Joseph Street  
 Springfield, IL 62703  
 888-707-8366  
 ISP Heritage rate is \$77 per night

Questions? email [www.isphf.org](http://www.isphf.org) or call Clare Pfothenauer 312-636-3025, Rich Kozik 708-205-0065, or Stephanie Peske at 217-741-3076

### Registration Form

Motorcycle    Vehicle

Route information will be provided at each location

**Chicago**

Chicago Police Memorial  
 18<sup>th</sup> & Lake Shore Drive  
 8:00-9:00am Registration  
 9:20am Departure

**Odell**

Jensen's Amoco  
 600 Prairie  
 9:30-10:30am Registration  
 10:30am Departure

**Bloomington**

Chuck's Harley-Davidson  
 2027 Ireland Grove Drive  
 10:00-11:00am Registration  
 11:00am Departure

**Effingham**

Mason Yamaha  
 1509 W. Fayette Ave.  
 9:30-10:30am Registration  
 10:30am Departure

**Metro East Area**

Flying J Truck Stop  
 IL Rt. 111 & I-270, Pontoon Beach  
 9:00-10:00am Registration  
 10:30am Departure

**Litchfield**

BP Gas Station  
 IL 16 at I-55  
 11:30-12:30am Registration  
 12:30am Departure

<b>Rider/Driver Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>City State, Zip</b>	
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Passenger(s) Names</b>	



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

## JULY 7, 2009

### SUBMITTED BY JOAN DERANGO

#### Opening – Marcyan

#### **Membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance**

Guests: Mike Mastrangelo – Zero Motorcycles  
 Vince O'Leary, Director – Palatine Hog  
 Karsten Striwe - Germany  
 Chelsea Shum and her Father Jack - NISRA participants and supporters  
 Jim and Barb Divine – referred by Larry Scalzitti after taking his LRN2RYD course  
 Mighty Mouse – Small in stature but very capable of clearing a room just by showing up.  
 Joe Fidler – President Jersey Pinecruisers

#### Activities – Smith

Greg reviewed the activities calendar for July and August. Details of rides and activities can be found on the website. Dennis provided details of the Route 66 ride to Springfield.

#### ROAR-Website – Dougherty/Walters/Koneswicz

July Edition of ROAR is available to download from the website. Dennis, Mary and Andy continue to tweak the format. Mary reported that the ROAR team is working on a 6 month advance schedule for ROAR themes. Please send any and all ideas on what you like to see in the ROAR or theme ideas to Mary

#### Safety/GRASS/Road Captains – Kirkpatrick/Schaffer/Case/G. Brandt

- Wayne reported that three more riders were lost since our last general meeting. Speed and inattentiveness contributed to the deaths.
- Next GRASS class is 7-12-09. The class will be held at Don Schaffer's company offices in Northbrook. Wayne thanked both Don Schaffer and Greg Smith for volunteering their facilities.

#### Anita Zaffke Update:

There has been no real change in the status of this case at this time. The circumstances surrounding the accident continue to be investigated.

#### Safety Tip – Bard Board

Beating the Summer Heat. Bard reviewed the safety tips outlined in his article in the July version of the ROAR. Please see the ROAR for details.

#### Membership – Perry

Nothing to report at this time

#### Treasurer's Report – Nichols

Tom was absent – nothing to report at this time.

#### Charity Ride - DeRango

- Raffle ticket sales have been good this year. Joan encouraged the members to continue their sales and if they had any unsold books that they were not going to use to let her know as others were in need of blank books. The goal of 3,000 tickets sold is in site.
- Members were encouraged to “talk up the ride” with all their motorcycle riding friends and family and encourage them to come to our ride. With the ticket sales going well the next big push is to get riders out at the event.
- Joan introduced Chelsea Shum, a NISRA camp participant to share with the members what NISRA means to her. Chelsea, although shy in front of a crowd, spoke about all the programs she has participated in through NISRA. It was evident how much she enjoyed the programs offered by NISRA.
- Jack Shum, Chelsea's father spoke to the membership about the benefits Chelsea and her family have gotten from participating in NISRA's camp. Jack talked about how without NISRA's programs for adults with disabilities Chelsea's social life would be cut in half. He and his family appreciate the efforts made by our club to keep NISRA's programs affordable and available.

#### Zero Motorcycles – Guest Mike Mastrangelo

Mike is the Mid-West sales rep. for the Zero “Electric” Motorcycles of Santa Cruz California. The company has been around for 1 ½ years. They initially developed on an electric dirt bike with the goal of developing a street bike. The street bike will be available this August at a cost of approx. \$9,500. Tax credits may be available that could reduce the price. For more information check out their website at [www.zeromotocycles.com](http://www.zeromotocycles.com)

(Continued on page 14)

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

(Continued from page 13)

### Vice President's Report – Bradbury

- Polo Shirts with the Top Cats logo stitched in the "pocket" area are in. Anyone who ordered a shirt can pick them up from Mike at the cost of \$25. Extras are available.
- Mike intro Gina Woods from Open Road Radio. Before being rudely interrupted by Mighty Mouse, Gina spoke with the membership about her life and how she got started in radio and in particular Open Road Radio. The show is expanding to XM Satellite radio where she'll host a 2 hour show on Thursdays in addition to the current 1 hour show on Sundays. Gina gave away T-shirts to members that could answer her questions. Don Schaffer and Joan DeRango were both winners.

### Guest Visitor: Mighty Mouse



Able to clear a room with just his presence!

50/50 Raffle winner – Pat Michaud

Meeting adjourned

## Support the TOP CATS Sponsors (Continued on page 17)



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



## Wisconsin Dells Ride More Fun in the Sun, Some of the Time, Anyway

By Gary Brandt

Another Early June has now passed which can only mean one thing - Top Cats were rained on! This was the third year in a row that a special ride was set up for the same weekend and the riders rode in the rain!

Two years ago we went to Door County and got drenched on the way home. Last year, we barely made it to Indiana due to massive thunderstorms. So why did anyone expect this year to be different? After all, it is June in the Midwest and the weather is far from predictable.

Weather aside, a group of 17 motorcycles and 24 Top Cats left Volo for a sunny ride to the House on the Rock. There were plenty of nice country roads for all to enjoy. Unfortunately the same can't be said for the House on the Rock, which drew mixed reviews at best. A fine dinner at the world famous Paul Bunyan Cook Shanty topped off the first day.

Saturday's ride up to Wisconsin Rapids started off in a fine rain. Most still came on the ride despite the forecast, and those who stayed behind...well, what can be said about them? After lunch the rain picked up in intensity and the ride back to the Dells was another character builder. The route had to be shortened some, but we all made it back safe and sound.

Sunday morning after breakfast and a short downpour, the rain stopped and we had a dry ride back. After a late lunch in Fox Lake, we all went our separate ways.

So now its time to start thinking about next years possible destinations, however perhaps a little later in the season would be better.....but then again, maybe not!





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

## JULY 14, 2009

Submitted by Joan DeRango

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

Carl is scheduled to lead a ride with Lake Shore Harley Davidson and inquired about the ability to combine the ride with Top Cats. The board agreed a combined ride would be ok.

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: None

### Meeting called to order- Carl Marcyan

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

### Membership-Eileen Perry

No new membership's applications to review at this time.

3 guests were at the last general meeting. Eileen has followed up with an email and intends to phone the guests as well.

Carl asked if something should be done to contact current members that don't regularly attend general meetings or rides. The goal would be to identify any consistent reasons the members have been attending meetings and/or rides. Carl will follow with Eileen to create a list of members for the board to call and check in with.

### 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 and getting the word out to friends and family to attend the event. Joan will investigate and recommend to the board a means of recognizing those members of the ride committee and club members who have gone above and beyond in their support of the event.

### Activities – Greg Smith

Rides are needed on the calendar for August and September. Tom Nichols will look to schedule another ride to Galena since the first ride was not well attended due to bad weather. Joan will schedule a Fall Colors ride.

### ROAR/Website– Dennis Dougherty

Dennis has contacted John Sweeny will review the website and provide an estimate on costs to upgrade our website and to determine if he has the time to work on it for us. Dennis asked the board members to provide him with input on exactly they would like to see for each of their respective areas of responsibility i.e. – Greg Smith, Activities; Wayne Kirkpatrick, Safety; Eileen Perry, Membership; Joan DeRango, Charity Ride and so on. To avoid wasting time on development and insure we get the most for our money it is imperative that the board provide Dennis with input and/or just allow him to proceed.

### Past President's Comments – Gary Brandt

Board members need to get back to Gary about their intentions for elections by 8-15-09.

### Vice President-Mike Bradbury

Mike has talked to Doug Jackson of Woodstock Harley Davidson about speaking at one of our meetings. There is no current commitment for a specific meeting but Doug is willing to speak at one of the upcoming meetings. Dennis has a representative from Nolan Helmets in Auroa who is willing to speak at a meeting during the "off season". Dennis will work with him to coordinate a date. Another perspective speaker is Randy Weaver formerly of Randy's in Huntley.

Mike continues to work on finding a better provider of flags. He has one serious quote offering a variety of materials. Mike will work to samples of the materials.

The picnic was very successful and inexpensive. A total cost to the club of \$95.12. Lenny once again donated the burgers for the picnic.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

(Continued from page 15)

### Treasurer-Tom Nichols

Tom provided the board with an up to date statement of condition. To date no unexpected costs or anyone over budget.

### Safety/Road Captain – Wayne Kirpatrick/Gary Brandt

- The Anita Zapke accident is still under investigation. Currently the investigative team is waiting for the accident scene reconstructions. Unofficially it appears as if more serious charges MAY be filed.
- Pat Michaud successfully planned and lead her “Bid for Road Captain” ride. Overall she did a good job. Once she meets her 1 year membership requirement she will officially become a Road Captain.
- G.R.A.S.S. was held at Don Schaffer’s office. 3 Students attended and 5 instructors.
- Wayne presented his first recommendation for award pins. The pin will recognize members’ years of service. The board approved the purchase of the pins.

### Old Business/New Business

The board discussed the problems Top Cats have had with hosting general meeting minutes at the Village Green. Other locations have been investigated in the past with little success. Dennis suggested trying the restaurant formerly known as Wyncourt on Rt. 12. He will contact the owner to determine the feasibility of moving meetings to their restaurant.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

## HONDA MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE

### 2005 VTX 1300S

**\$6,400**



**\$6,400**

**METALLIC SILVER, LUGGAGE RACK AND LEATHER HANDLEBAR POUCH**

**LOW MILEAGE: 9,000+ TOP CATS DAY RIDES ONLY GARAGE KEPT**

**CONTACT: JOHN LAMONICA 847.446.6362 OR 847.331.7674**



# RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Saturday, August 1	One Night Stand	Twin Lakes Rt 53 & 14	Michigan	8:00am	Mark Heller
Saturday, August 08	Wisconsin State Fair Ride	Rt. 176 & Rt. 60	Wisc. State Fair	8:15am	Mike Bradbury
Tuesday, August 11	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, August 16	Galena Ride	Caribou Coffee Rtes 59 & 62	Galena	8:30am	Tom Nichols
Tuesday, August 18	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, August 22	Progressive Dinner Ride	Multiple	Multiple	TBD	Dennis Dougherty
Tuesday, September 01	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, September 08	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, September 13	Presidents Ride	TBD	TBD	8:30am	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, October 04	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:30am	Ric Case

## 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!**

## 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)



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

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