



ROAR

May, 2011

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Things are getting better and better. Spring might finally be starting. I say 'might' as we still have our s***y wet weather days. But all in all, nuggets of worthwhile biking days are interspersing with the wet and near cold ones. Things are progressing well with the club, too.

Thanks to our road captains who are stepping up to get new (and old) rides on the calendar. We are first and foremost a motorcycle club that enjoys riding so it is good to see the calendar is starting to get filled. But there are still plenty of weekends for more rides so don't be bashful. Come forward with your "route inspirations"! If you are a road captain, step up and lead a ride (or two or three, there is no limit). If you are not a road captain but have an idea for a ride, see one of our RC's or Senior Road Captains or better yet, consider becoming a road captain. It is a fulfilling role in the club and one that you would probably enjoy. You won't know how fulfilling until you give it a try!

For new membership, we had 4 guests at our April general meeting and Greg Smith, Activities Director, reported that all the guests were interested in becoming Top Cats.

The Ride For Dreams Charity Committee, lead by Terri Loden, is finalizing the Ride For Dreams with fresh ideas and changes. The major change is moving the venue from the Volo Auto Museum to Woodstock Harley Davidson. Another change is adding a stop at The Pepper's Tree House in Barrington where the committee has coordinated with NISRA to have their benefactors there. This will give us and our ride guests all an opportunity to meet and see the NISRA benefactors of our event. The event will be new and a little different and is sure to be a good time.

We are looking forward for assistance with some areas and events within the club. The ROAR will need a new Publisher by the end of the year. Mary Walters, our current editor, has worked hard to maintain this premier club newsletter but she would like assistance and is willing to guide someone new in the Publisher role. We also can use a new Award Committee Chair to assist with awards and the yearly annual Banquet. Awards are a great way to earn recognition. A new committee chair is needed to lead us onward to manage existing awards, create new ones when needed and to assist with the Annual Banquet Dinner.

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Upcoming Events

MAY

- 1 Ride the Blues
- 3 General Meeting
- 7 Epic Memorial Ride
- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 GRASS
- 14 Lunch on Lake
- 15 Little Angels
- 21 Millie's Ride
- 22 Sunrise Ride
- 24 Franks and Fries

JUNE

- 1 General Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting

KAUTION KORNER

Hunting With Motorcycles 101

By: Traveler

This is the time of the year that winter weather changes to spring and motorcyclists take to the road in large numbers. Animals small and large take to the roads also and become an increasing hazard again until late fall. You will find that taking the time to do your pre-ride risk assessment, **be alert to your surroundings**, and practicing avoidance techniques, will pay off in safe cycling throughout the year.



Not only does an experienced rider look at the weather, cycle, and route, but hazards that may be encountered as well, such as **animals the rider could run into**.



Below are some basic tips for avoiding the animal that could injure or kill you while cruising through the countryside.

First and foremost you should consider wearing approved protective gear; helmet (Full-face is the best), gloves, long pants, long-sleeve shirt/jacket (day), retro reflective upper-outer garment (night), over the ankle shoes (leather boots are the best), and any other ballistic type outer wear that protects your body.

Watch for areas along the road where the surrounding land is wet or a brook crosses under the road. These are usually areas used by animals for crossing but may not have transportation departments animal crossing signs.



Heed animal crossing signs. Around here we have deer-crossing signs. In many other areas you have **Moose, Elk, Free – Range Cattle, Horse, Turtle, Raccoon** and, I have even seen Frog – Crossing signs. Turn up your alertness, slow down, use your high beam, and cover the brakes when you're in areas like this. By the way, flashing your headlights and revving your engine may break the spell that seems to cause animals to freeze.



Additionally, good, **powerful driving lights are worth their weight in gold** on a deserted road at night. They also increase your visibility to other vehicles. Alternatively, fit your bike with high wattage (100-watt high-beam) High intensity Discharge (HID) headlight bulbs.

If you are driving at night and see the oncoming headlights "**twinkle**", that is **probably an animal's eyes** reflecting your headlight beams. They are rarely alone and may be with young. Slow down and keep your eyes open, brakes covered, and make noise (exhaust pipes, horn, obscenities, etc).

(Continued on page 4)



You're A Star!

Story and Pictures by: Mike Bradbury



Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association
present the
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
to
Top Cats of Illinois

It was Friday the 17th of April and instead of going to a local watering hole to watch people melt, I had the extreme good fortune to go to the NISRA Recognition Dinner, held at the Heritage Ballroom in The Centre, which is located in downtown Elgin.

NISRA (the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association), is the benefactors of our annual charity ride, The Ride For Dreams and they have this yearly event where they recognize all of the organizations that contribute donations throughout the year. And since we are one of those organizations, all Top Cats were invited to attend.

So there we were; myself, Kathie my wife and Wayne Kirkpatrick at the NISRA Recognition Dinner, called "You're A Star". I have to admit, I was not looking forward to spending my Friday evening at a function like this but hey, I figured I would have a decent banquet dinner and say hi to a few people I know in NISRA. Well, it turns out that I should have been a little more open minded. Not only did I get my banquet dinner but I had a great time being there. I was able to say hi to a bunch of NISRA constituents and they really put a smile on my face.

There was Todd who had on his Top Cat's pin. Todd is a really extroverted individual and I have seen him before at the Recognition Dinners. Last year, a Top Cat member gave him his pin right off his jacket and made him an "honorary member". This produced a megawatt smile on that young man's face that he was still wearing a year later when we said hi to each other and with his pin on his shirt. This guy has got more energy than a classroom of energizer bunnies and he is just tickled pink when he feels he is one of us and it shows. I met and said hi to many others as well. The NISRA benefactors that talk with me all seem to have one thing in common. They love the Top Cats! And when you get to converse with them, their love for the club and positive attitudes are truly a marvel and a sight to behold.

It was a good thing we were there to represent the club. The Top Cats Club received a Community Service Award for the 2010 Ride For Dreams and all our help with NISRA. They truly appreciate us and it shows! It takes courage and strength to face their separate individual adversities and try to rise above them. More than we will ever know and that what makes them all stars in my book!

Hunting With Motorcycles 101

Continued

If you are driving at night and see the oncoming headlights "twinkle", that is probably an animal's eyes reflecting your headlight beams. They are rarely alone and may be with young. Slow down and keep your eyes open, brakes covered, and make noise (exhaust pipes, horn, obscenities, etc).

During the spring, animals may **congregate along the sides of roads** to lick the salt applied during the winter months to control iced roads.



"S.E.E."- Search, Evaluate, and Execute... a simple but powerful strategy taught in the Basic Riders Course (BRC). It should be employed as far in front of the rider as visibly possible when riding in areas where animals are common. The strategy will allow more time to stop if an animal is spotted. Stopping is an appropriate maneuver to avoid an animal strike. Once the animal is spotted and the motorcycle comes to a stop the rider can **proceed very slowly with caution unless it's an animal that can eat you.**



Small - animal motorcycle collisions with raccoons, armadillos, dogs and the like can also be deadly. A fast-moving motorcycle with the brakes locked is a recipe for disaster. A glancing hit can veer a motorcycle off the road and out of control. These animals are low and have a round body structure that doesn't crush easily, causing the body to roll under the motorcycle.

The proper rider position in this case is important. The rider should ride across a small animal as you would ride over a small fixed obstacle; straight up, slow down, approach at a 90-degree angle if possible, weight shifted to the rear and slightly off the seat, strong grip on handlebars, knees squeezing the tank. Shift weight to the rear by slightly rolling on the throttle just before the front wheel makes contact with the small obsta-

cle. Rolling on the throttle reduces the weight on the front wheel helping climb over the obstacle. Upon contact with the obstacle roll off the throttle immediately so the rear wheel is not under power when it strikes the object.

Avoidance techniques, well executed are absolutely invaluable to survival in emergency situations. If, the first time you ever have to swerve your motorcycle, or the first time you have to do an emergency stop is to avoid a dangerous encounter you are already at a loss.

Swerving. When it is safe, and you have the opportunity to practice, try executing swerves to avoid an obstacle. An opportune time is when you are safely changing lanes. Occasionally, make your lane change swiftly and aggressively so you'll know what the bike feels like and you'll become proficient at it if, and when, you ever have to do it. If you do not become proficient at swerving, you have a great chance of joining that group of fallen riders whose excuse is..."I decided to lay it down." What they're really saying is, "I didn't know how to swerve."

Braking. We can talk about this ad infinitum. There is an overwhelming amount of information available on HOW to brake in an emergency but, it's like foreplay. You ain't gonna become good at it by talking about it. Ideally, you should start practicing emergency braking in a safe, no traffic area like a large parking lot. Practice braking at increasing speeds until you are comfortable with hard, aggressive braking at speeds that you normally ride at. Once you are comfortable solo, practice braking with your co rider. Do not practice emergency braking when riding in a group. Practice alone.

Combining. There are likely situations where you may have to emergency brake and swerve or vice versa. Be alert to any traffic behind you.

You may have to combine emergency braking with swerving to be able to slow enough to safely swerve or to avoid traffic approaching behind you. It won't do you much good to only be comfortable and proficient at braking or swerving. You must master both techniques.

Encounters with animals are common where bikers like to ride, in the countryside and on the twisties. There is no, single, perfect, fail – safe way of avoiding them.

Extra vigilance and preparedness, knowing when and where to expect large animals, slowing down, being proficient at emergency braking and swerving are your best bets for avoiding and mitigating the dangers from animals.

Far too often, with animal encounters, there are two kinds of road kill...the rider and the animal. Stay alert!





Top Cats and NISRA
Present the 16th Annual
RIDE FOR DREAMS

Save the Date

And Bring a friend or two -or three -
or four!

July 24, 2011

Start Time: 9AM

***Stop at the Tree House
and Visit with NISRA families!***

Eat and Party
back at Woodstock Harley!

Want to help your fellow Top Cats with this event?

Contact Terri Loden
Terber06@comcast.net



By Traveler

LAST CALL????

When we hear "Last Call" it typically indicates the pending loss of an opportunity to do something that we enjoy. It's no different when it's applied to our annual trek to the Black Hills and Sturgis Bike Week.

If you have the interest and you can afford the time and the cost of the trip, then you'd better make your hotel reservations for Sturgis ASAP for what might be the last significant, long – distance Top Cats' ride to the Black Hills Rally....



This year is the 71st Anniversary of the legendary Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and, possibly, the last call for a Top Cats' group ride to Sturgis.

As we do every year, we will take a leisurely, three – day ride to Rapid City, SD staying in Mankato, MN the first night, Pierre, SD the second night, and Rapid City the third and remaining nights.



The dwindling interest of our members in this iconic Black Hills Rally, combined with increased travel and rally expenses appears to be eroding the excitement we traditionally experienced as a club over our annual ride to Sturgis.

As this edition goes to publication, we are less than 30 days away from our cut - off date of 1 June 2011 for making or cancelling hotel reservations at the Alex Johnson Hotel in Rapid City, SD.





As most riders realize, it is difficult to plan a ride if you have no idea of how many riders will participate. Once we have an idea of how many Top Cats are going to Sturgis, this year, we will publish our group departure times and location and, canvas our riders for interest in returning home via, Santa Fe Trail, Kansas back roads, or Canada.



So, if you are "on the fence" about this year's Sturgis trip, or you just haven't gotten around to making hotel reservations, better saddle up and make them now. Remember, you can always cancel reservations but you can't re-negotiate our contract room rates after the cut – off dates.



*Remember, life is like one tank of gas....it eventually runs out and it's up to us to decide how to use it. We can burn fuel idling or we can ride through life with a wide - open throttle..
Last Call!*

Here's the info for hotel reservations...

Wed. Aug 3

City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN.

Rates: \$74.00 / night

Phone: (507) 345-1234 / (877)345-5577.

Cut-off Date: **3 July 2011**

Thurs Aug 4

River Lodge, Pierre, SD.

Rates: \$59.00 / night

Phone: (605) 224-4140

Cut-Off Date: **8 July 2011**

Fri, Aug 5 – 10 (?)

Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD.

Rates: Contract sliding scale

Phone: 800-888-ALEX (2539)

Cut-Off Date: **1 June 2011**

NOTE: No refunds for the total number of days booked if canceled after 1 June 2011.

Please let Wayne; wkirkpa177@aol.com, Cell: (847) 915-8428, or Bard; bard.boand@att.net, Cell: (847)721-7470, know when you make your hotel reservations so we can finalize our departure times and start to develop our return trip route / plans.





TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

BY TONY LODEN

May flowers?? Maybe in another region of the country...

WOW... zero to 10 in well, 31 days!!! Our calendar is now jam packed for May with something to do each and every weekend. Let's hope that Mother Nature cooperates and brings some decent riding weather to the Top Cats home turf.

Road captains have also begun setting their ride dates; it looks like a lot of great outings this year. Keep in mind that the Events Calendar is updated weekly with any new rides as they are submitted. You will also receive a blast email "announcing" a ride and a "reminder" either a few days before the event or the day of the event depending on the particular event. Make sure to set your spam email folder so that "tcatsrsvp@comcast.net" is not considered junk.

Does anyone remember that the Top Cats has a Ride and Event HOT line? This hot line typically remains dormant throughout the year but if the weather is bad on the day of an event, call the line before you leave, it just might save you a ride in the rain. Road Captains should call or email me and I will do my best to leave a message as to the status of the ride or event. The number to call is: (847) 622-3501.

As the 2011 riding season starts up, I would like to remind everyone to be considerate of our hard working Road Captains. Let them know if you plan on participating so they can have an idea of how many to expect for the ride. Most of these rides involve lunch so it also helps to know how many to expect and if the group starts to get large, maybe the drafting of an Assistant Road Captain may be in order. It does not mean you have to go, but means you probably will if the planets are all lined up and the weather is great. If you will wear the boots of the Road Captain, just think how you would feel in trying to plan a ride with an unknown number of bikes and people. So let's remember to help out the Road Captain and give him/her a shout or email to say you will be going. If you are late they might actually wait a few minutes to see if you show up or give you a call. We would hate for you to be a minute or two late only to find the group already gone.

don't forget the monthly General Meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at eSkape Entertainment Center, located at 350 McHenry Road in, Buffalo Grove, IL.

Have a ride or place you'd like the club to go to? If you know of a special event that you'd like to ride to, let us know the date, we'll do our best to work it into the calendar. For more information, please contact me or contact one of the other officers or senior road captains.

Remember to check the web site – www.topcats.org for more activities information. And as always, call me on 847 652-6617 or e-mail me at: tcatsrsvp@comcast.net with your questions or ideas.

Ride Safe!!!

Tony



Here is a look ahead to some of the upcoming events from the Calendar... May is a busy month so please make a point of marking the dates so you do not miss the action!!

- **Sunday, May 1st**
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Ride the Blues (Levy)
Ride down the lakefront to Buddy Guys Legends Club in the 700 block of South Wabash, in the South Loop for lunch (about 1:30p).
- **Saturday, May 7th**
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Satellite Ride to the Epic Memorial Ride (Loden)
For those Top Cats that will be participating, take the back roads (Rt 14) up to Delevan, WI and assemble with the rest of the Road Guards at the starting point. We meet at the Shell Station, Lake Cook and Rand Rd, Palatine. Open to all members and guests.
- **Saturday, May 7th**
Noon – 3:00 p.m.
2nd Annual Epic Memorial Ride
Begins at the Geneva Lakes Kennel Club (Wisconsin 50 exit off I43) in Delavan, WI and ends in Lake Zurich, IL. More info and registration at: www.epicmemorialride.com
 - 52-Mile Escorted Ride (Delavan, WI to Lake Zurich, IL)
 - FREE Distracted Driving Awareness Rally
 - Silent Auction, Music/Live Bands & More
 - Meal ticket included.
- **Saturday, May 14th**
8:30 a.m. – Noon
G.R.A.S.S. Class and RC module
TopCats Senior Road Captains host GRASS class at the Keller Williams offices located near the NW corner of Rt14 and Rt53, in the Harris Bank building (the tall one). Open to all members and guests. Second Floor, enter in rear of building.
- **Saturday, May 14th**
12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Lunch on the Lake (Schaffer)
Immediately after the GRASS Class, have lunch at Kathy's Lakeside Inn in Lake Zurich. After lunch it will be leisurely roads with a break in McHenry for leather shopping at Kelly's and ice cream at Scoopers. For those who will not attend the GRASS class, arrive at 12:30 for target kickstands up at 1:00. Gas up before the ride as there will be no scheduled gas stops.
- **Sunday, May 15th**
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
24th Annual Little Angels Pledge Run (Open)
For those Top Cats that will be participating, we have a reserved spot at the front of the group. This satellite pick-up ride will take the back roads up to Woodstock Harley and assemble at the starting point of the ride. We meet at the Shell Station, Lake Cook and Rand Rd, Palatine. Open to all members and guests.

(Continued on page 8)



TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

CONTINUED...



- **Saturday, May 21st**
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Aunt Millie's Lunch Run (Loden)

Travel county back roads through Illinois and southern Wisconsin to take in the sights and sounds of typical Americana. We will stop for Brunch at Millie's Restaurant in Delevan, WI. From there, we will meander a bit westward if the weather is cooperating and return back to the friendly confines of Northern Illinois later in the afternoon. Open to all members and guests.

- **Sunday, May 22nd**
6:00 a.m. – Noon.

Sunrise Run (Marcyan)

At the time of writing, our past prez is still in the process of defining this event. For those of us that love the early morning hours, rumble the silence as we cruise along the open roads. Watch the calendar for the latest updates to this ride. Open to all members and guests.

- **Tuesday, May 24th**
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Franks and Fries (Scalzitti)

Scotty's - 1016 N. Cedar Lake Road, Round Lake Beach, IL. Here's another chance to meet up with your motorcycling buddies in a different social setting. Eating starts whenever you get hungry and conversations last until you're talked out. Open to all members and guests.

- **Thursday, May 26th**
Thru
Tuesday, May 31st

Annual Rolling Thunder DC Run (Kirkpatrick)

Wayne still has rooms available at the time of the writing. Travel to Washington DC during the Memorial Day weekend with your fellow Top Cat members to experience the largest gathering of bikes calling for the government's recognition and protection of Prisoners of War (POWs) and those Missing in Action (MIAs). About 400,000 veterans will roar across Washington, DC on their motorcycles as a tribute to American war heroes.

- **Saturday, June 4th**
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NISRA Fishing Derby Ride (DeRango)

Join Joan DeRango for the annual NISRA Fishing Derby. Meet for breakfast before heading out on a short ride ending at the Lindy's Landing pier in Wauconda, IL. Top Cats will help set up and serve lunch to the kids.

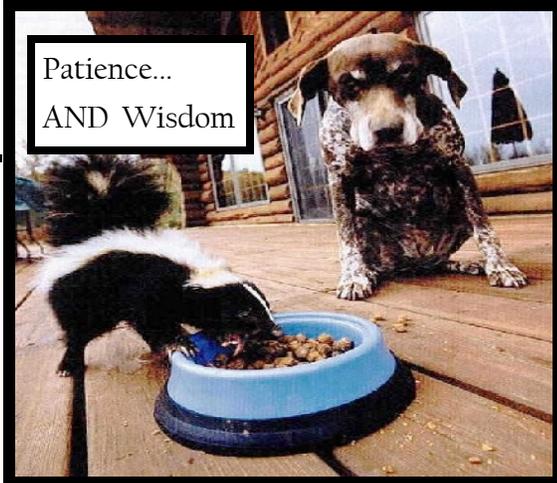
- **Wednesday, August 3rd**
Thru
Wednesday, August 10th

STURGIS 2011

Top Cats member Bard Board has finished negotiations with the Alex Johnson for our annual Sturgis trip. A block of 20 rooms has been set aside for Top Cats, and the unsold rooms from the block will be released to the public at higher rates June 1st. If you are planning on going, check the website calendar for more information.



the World According to Andy



So....you think you've said some stupid things, check these out!

- *I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."*
Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943
- *"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."*
Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977
- *"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."*
Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949
- *"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us."*
Western Union internal memo, 1876.
- *"The concept is interesting and well-formed, but in order to earn better than a 'C,' the idea must be feasible."*

Bad Predictions!

A Yale University management professor in response to Fred Smith's paper proposing reliable overnight delivery service. Smith went on to found Federal Express Corp.

- *"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."*
Decca Recording Co. rejecting the Beatles, 1962.
- *"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper."*
Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in "Gone With The Wind."
- *"Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?" -- H. M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927*
- *"With over 50 foreign cars already on sale here, the Japanese auto industry isn't likely to carve out a big slice of the U.S. market."* -- Business Week, August 2, 1968
- *Television won't last because people will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night.»*
Darryl Zanuck, movie producer, 20th Century Fox, 1946.
- *"There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable. It would mean that the atom would have to be shattered at will."*
-- Albert Einstein, 1932
- *"There will never be a bigger plane built."* -- A Boeing engineer, after the first flight of the 247, a twin engine plane that holds ten people



Motorcycles in the News

News Pieces sent in by Informed Motorcyclists



CONGRESS ACTS TO REINFORCE BAN ON NHTSA LOBBYING

By Traveler

Finally, someone is looking out for the interests of the motorcycling community!!!

Here is a news release regarding the NHTSA's effort at coercing states into enacting helmet laws.

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month across the country, and Congressional lawmakers are introducing a resolution on May 2 to continue current restrictions on NHTSA that prevent the federal transportation agency from lobbying state and local governments to enact helmet laws.

The lobbying ban was originally amended into the Transportation Equity Act in 1998, but U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and his House colleagues want to reinforce the prohibitions on NHTSA lobbying and focus the agency's efforts on crash prevention and rider education.

According to the resolution, the U.S. House of Representatives "supports efforts to retain the ban on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's ability to lobby state legislators using federal tax dollars, encourages continued growth in the motorcyclist community, and encourages owners and riders to be responsible road users."

The resolution, similar to a version Sensenbrenner introduced last session, goes on to say that the House "recognizes the importance of motorcycle crash prevention as the primary source of motorcycle safety (and) encourages NHTSA to focus on motorcycle crash prevention and rider education as the most significant priorities in motorcycle safety."

Traveling? Need a Taxi, but want a Motorcycle? There is a new business starting up that lets people call for a ride if they are members of the Moto-Limo Club. Right [Click Here](#) to read more.

Want to get a look at the new 2012 BMW's? Check out some great new pictures by Right [Clicking Here](#)

And if you haven't gotten enough of the 'how to get ready' advice... Right [Click Here](#) for some great ideas from the April 8th Road Runner.

Here is a fun HISTORY site! For those of you who do not remember what happened to the world during the year that you were born.. Right [Click Here](#) and check it out! (Once you get past the adds)



Polaris Acquires Indian Motorcycle

April 20, 2011

Polaris Industries Inc. has announced the acquisition of Indian Motorcycle. The business was acquired from Indian Motorcycle Limited (IML), a company advised by Stellican Limited and Novator Partners LLP, U.K. Private Equity firms.

“We are excited to be part of the revitalization of a quintessentially American brand,” said Scott Wine, CEO of Polaris Industries Inc. “Indian built America’s first motorcycle. With our technology and vision, we are confident we will deliver the classic Indian motorcycle, enhanced by the quality and performance for which Polaris and Victory are known.”

With this acquisition, Polaris adds one of motorcycling’s legendary brands to its strong stable of Victory cruiser and touring bikes. Indian will operate as an autonomous business unit, building upon the potent combination of Polaris’ engineering acumen and innovative technology with Indian’s premium brand, iconic design and rich American heritage.

“Polaris will utilize its well-known strengths in engineering, manufacturing and distribution to complete the mission we undertook upon re-launching the brand in 2006: harness the enormous potential of the Indian brand,” said Stephen Julius, chairman of Indian and managing director of Stellican. “Polaris is the most logical owner of Indian Motorcycle. Indian’s heritage brand will allow Polaris to aggressively compete across an expanded spectrum of the motorcycle market.”

Novator Partners LLP is a London-based alternative investment firm founded and led by the investor Thor Bjorgolfsson. An avid motorcycle enthusiast, Bjorgolfsson said, “After a troubled past, our goal was to bring the legendary Indian bikes back on the roads. The initial phase of that project is done, and now our great partners at Polaris will carry on the work to realize the full potential of this classic American brand.”

[Click here](#) to read more!

[President’s Note Continued....](#)

.The dinner is a lot easier to put on than it looks and is another great chance for new blood to step up and lead us forward. Wayne Kirkpatrick has done an exemplary job as Awards Committee Chair but is willing to guide someone new and pass the torch on. Step up and help the club!

Activities for May are growing Top Cats are leading a group of Road Captains on May 7th to assist with ride management for the 2nd Annual Epic Memorial Ride, sponsored by the CRASH coalition, formerly the Black Nail Brigade. A satellite ride is meeting early to ride together to the Epic Ride’s start point in Delavan. Tony Loden, Activities Chair, is leading the 2nd Annual Millies Brunch Run on May 21st. Carl Marcyan, Past President of 2009 and 2010, is leading a Sunrise Ride (caffeine optional?) on May 22nd. And lastly for May, there is the NISRA Fishing Derby which is an event where Top Cats volunteer to hand out lunches to the NISRA beneficiaries. Joan DeRango is leading a ride to this event too but let Terri Loden know that you are willing to help. For our road captains, there are still openings like Memorial Day weekend and other weekends (and weekdays?) throughout this season’s event calendar to lead a ride, small or large.

So that’s all for now but remember to ride safe!

Motorcycle Mike



TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS



ANKONN TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

1-888-GET-WRLS

Your source for audio communications, large format displays, and all IT related business needs

Contact: Andy Konsewicz
andy@ankontechology.com

Wireless





Conference

Corded





Monitors

Wireless





Take this coupon to Buffo's and get \$5 off a large cheese pizza!

**Compliments of
Top Cat's own Lenny Innocenzi!
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Highwood, Illinois 60040
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Motorcycle-Only Check Points



By: Traveler

Seems that the hyper – sensitive, politically - correct sector of our society has great difficulty with the use of "Profiling" to enforce any law regardless of the threat. We have seen outrage expressed at the use of "Profiling" by TSA and Homeland Security in enforcing immigration laws and implementing counter terrorism programs but, you aren't hearing a peep out of anyone, other than us, about "Profiling" motorcyclists. Read on....

Hundreds of motorcyclists from around Georgia rode to the Capitol to rev their engines in protest of a federal grant the Georgia State Patrol is using to conduct motorcycle-only checkpoints.

The crowd denounced the overly-invasive and discriminatory roadblocks as unconstitutional and chanted "No more profile stops" and "Education, not checkpoints!"

The protest rally came two weeks after the state patrol conducted motorcycle checkpoints on Interstates 75 and 95 during Daytona Bike Week, during which troopers stopped motorcyclists at roadblocks to check for proper "Paperwork", approved helmets, and properly functioning equipment.

"The roadblocks are a violation of our rights and are a pure attempt at profiling," said Dan Forrest, State Director of ABATE of Georgia. "Having a registration, proof of insurance and an endorsement on our license does make us safe. Loud pipes never killed anyone."



Georgia is the first state to conduct such checkpoints under a federal grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as part of a \$350,000 pool of funds available to as many as five law enforcement agencies nationwide

to test the effectiveness of a New York State Police pilot program.

Several motorcycle organizations are urging riders to call on Georgia Governor Nathan Deal to cancel the remainder of the checkpoints, which will be scheduled over the next 20 months at undisclosed locations during unannounced times.

Some in Congress have also questioned NHTSA's grant and called for Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to pull the plug on future funding for motorcycle-only checkpoints. Rep. Tom Petri (R-WI), who recently co-sponsored legislation to prohibit such grants, called the checkpoints "outrageously intrusive."

Indeed, many of the protesters at the March 23rd rally held signs in support of US House Resolution 904 which would prevent the US DOT from providing funds to states which would be used for motorcycle roadblocks.

In the meantime, motorcyclists are also awaiting a court ruling on the constitutionality of the New York checkpoints, being challenged by N.Y. Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) ABATE of New York and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM).

Check Points

Safety?
Or
Profiling?



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20TH, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Muriel Brandt: Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Mike Bradbury

Opening

The membership was asked to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Jeff Schuttler, David Von Bergen, Gene and Noelle Rigsby

Mike updated everyone about Eric Schertz current health issue and asked everyone to keep him in their prayers. Mike also had sent flowers from the Top Cats and he read the thank you card from Eric.

Mike asked for more people to consider attending the NISRA dinner on April 9th 2011.

Vice President

- Wayne Kirkpatrick reflected on how people gave up their time and with much effort to conduct the last G.R.A.S.S. class and the Charity committee meetings. He then asked all Road Captains to stand and be acknowledged.
- Wayne is looking for an awards committee chairperson for the 2012 Top Cat banquet.
- Wayne also reminded everyone that Top Cat coins were still available for purchase.

Membership-Greg Smith/Jeff Tietz

Jeff reported that the 2011 membership cards were in and available from Greg at the meeting.

Safety/GRASS/Road Captains- Don Schaffer/Ric Case/Gary Brandt

- Don spoke about the Senior Road Captain meeting that was held on Sunday, April 3rd 2011. He said that one of the things talked about was there were no accidents in 2010. He thanked all Road Captains for leading safe rides.
- Ric talked about the upcoming G.R.A.S.S. class which will be held on May 14th which will be a Saturday for anyone who usually can't make a Sunday class. It will be held at Keller Williams Harris bank building located at Rt. 53 & 14 on the northwest corner. Topics that will be covered are hand signals, day of the ride, passengers, road captains and accident scene management.
- Don added that the last G.R.A.S.S. class had the highest attendance yet which was 31 people with representatives from 4 other motorcycle groups.
- Safety tip was given by Chuck Prettyman. Chuck suggested when planning a ride to remember to include your tail gunner. He suggested using another road captain for that position who has had some training. Road captains could have their mentors be their tail gunner. They could help to plan your ride and during the ride give input as far as speed of the ride and hand signal usage. After the ride the tail gunner could help the road captain debrief the ride.
- Don encouraged those who have not taken it for several years, to attend a G.R.A.S.S. class. He mentioned that in order to become a Road Captain you need to take the Road Captain portion of the class before you lead a ride.
- Don also mentioned that this year, after the G.R.A.S.S. classes we will try and have a short ride somewhere.



ROAR -Website-Mary Walters

- Mary asked for help with working on the ROAR.
- She thanked everyone for all their articles they have been sending in. Mike Bradbury suggested writing an article about nice roads you have ridden on.
- Mary also told everyone to watch ROAR for updates on the charity event. She spoke about the new start and finish for the charity ride this year which will be at Woodstock Harley Davidson. A stop at the tree house will be included in the ride with activities there with NISRA.

Past President-Carl Marcyan

Carl spoke about a accident scene management refresher class that could be taken via the internet. Details will be sent to Mary to be put in next month's ROAR.

Activities-Larry Scalzitti/Tony Loden

- Tony asked if everyone was receiving emails from him. If not, please let him know so that he can add you to his list.
- Tony went over the upcoming rides.
- Franks and Fries rides are now posted on the calendar. The first one is April 19th at Delicious Reds in Lake Zurich, meeting there at 6:30pm.
- Stefan Levy spoke about his Ride the Blues ride which will be held on May 1st.
- The Crash Collision (Black Nail Brigade) Epic Memorial ride will be held May 7th. Top Cats have been asked to help with that ride.
- Wayne Kirkpatrick asked if anyone was interested in joining with Rolling Thunder for Memorial Day in Washington D.C. He went over in detail the events which will be taking place everyday. They will be leaving on Thursday, May 26th and returning on Tuesday May 31st.
- Wayne also talked about the Sturgis ride, hotel rates are locked in for 2011 and reservations must be made by 6/1/11. Bard Board will be looking for suggestions from attendees as far as day rides while there.

Ride for Dreams Update

- Terri Loden, charity committee chair, spoke about how plans were coming along for the July 24th charity event. She also spoke about the new start and finish for the charity ride this year which will be at Woodstock Harley Davidson.
- Don Schaffer suggested passing out charity ride flyers at every motorcycle ride or event Top Cats attend to help promote our ride.

Old/New Business

Ric Case has a friend who has a year 2000 Road King motorcycle for sale. Let Ric know if you are interested.

This month's 50/50 was won by Larry Johnson

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 12TH, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

Submitted by Muriel Brandt-Secretary

Present: Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Muriel Brandt, Larry Scalzitti, Greg Smith, Stewart Johnson, and Mary Walters

Absent: Carl Marcyan

- Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Mike Bradbury, Top Cats President
- Mike had attended the NISRA dinner and was presented with a community service award that was given to the Top Cats.
- Mike said he would like to reinforce the traditions of the club as far as colors, patches and protocols. He asked Wayne to speak about these traditions at the next general meeting.

Vice President Report-Wayne Kirkpatrick

No report

Membership-Greg Smith

- Greg reached out to the four guests who attended April's general meeting. Greg reported that they are considering joining the club.
- Greg was contacted by a Mark Pratt who will be at the next Frank's and Fries to submit an application for membership.
- Gary will be removing unpaid members from the roster.

Safety-Gary Brandt

- Gary gave a summary of the Senior Road Captain meeting which was held on 4/3/11. Ten of the eleven Senior Road Captains attended. Several topics were discussed. They included the need to recruit new Road Captains, getting present Road Captains to lead rides, and putting together a detail list of tail gunner duties. A pre-ride guide sheet for Road Captains was approved and will be created before the season begins.
- Gary reported the next G.R.A.S.S. class will be Sat. 5/14/11 with a lunch ride following weather permitting.

(Continued on page 19)



Activities-Larry Scalzitti

- Larry went over some of the upcoming rides which included the first hot dog ride which is set for 4/19.
- Larry volunteered to do the Kick-off Ride which will be 4/30.
- The Sunrise Ride will be 5/22.
- Wayne discussed how the Top Cats would be helping out with the Epic Memorial Ride. The Top Cats will be providing assistance at intersections.
- Mike asked if there was any interest in a Progressive Dinner Ride or a Top Cat picnic this year. We will start soliciting the membership for support.

ROAR/Website-Mary Walters

- Mike commented on the great job which was done on last month's ROAR. He also suggested soliciting articles at the general meetings.
- Mary asked for some help with ROAR.
- Mary asked for the Board's approval for the website to have an option added to do on-line payment for the charity ride and member registration. Mike Bradbury made the motion to approve and Gary Brandt seconded the motion. The board agreed to a separate, stand – alone web site at NISRARide.org and the motion was approved for one year to determine the benefit. The funding will come from the Charity Ride proceeds.

Old /New business

Wayne reported that the Barrington library is continuing to work on the Top Cat files, scanning them into an online database, which is a "Flicker" account.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

WANTED

Co-Editor (or Publisher) wanted to work on the ROAR.

Get to know all of your Top Cat Riders! Fun and Excitement!

No experience needed... Just a love of passing on information and creating interesting and informative communication for your fellow Top Cat Members!

Birthdays for May

Muriel Brandt ~May 3rd

Please send your special dates so that we can remember you!

Roar@TopCats.org

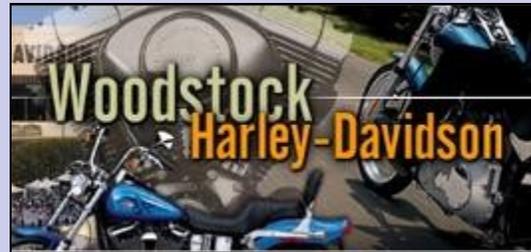
Anniversaries for May!

Rob and Ilene Mann ~ May 17

Support the TOP CATS Patrons



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



Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry 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.

HELP WANTED WEBSITE EDITOR

The Top Cats Board of Directors is looking for an enterprising and creative individual to assume responsibility for coordinating the content on our soon-to-be upgraded website. No 'technical' website experience is required.

The primary responsibility will be to work with the webmaster and various individuals who 'own' certain areas of the website to ensure our content is fresh and inviting as well as come up with ideas for additional content and enhancements to the site to bring more value to our members.

For more information contact any board member or

Dennis P (Wombat) Dougherty at

wombat@dpdougherty.com

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



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Sunday, May 1st	Ride the Blues	EsKape in Buffalo Grove	Buddy Guy's Legends	9:00 am	Levy
Tuesday, May 3rd	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 am	Bradbury
Saturday, May 7th	Satellite Ride to the EMR	Shell Gas Station Rte 12/Lake-Cook	Epic Memorial Ride at Noon	8:30 am	Loden
Tuesday, May 10th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30	Bradbury
Saturday, May 14th	GRASS Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:30 am	Case
Saturday, May 14th	Lunch on the Lake	Keller Williams	Kathy's Lakeside and Scoopers	12:30 pm	Schaffer
Sunday, May 15th	Satellite ride to Little Angels Pledge Run	TBD	Woodstock HD in	8:30 am	Open
Saturday, May 21st	Millie's Lunch Run	Rte 12 and Ela Rd	Millie's Restaurant and Shoppe	9:00 am	Loden
Sunday, May 22nd	Sunrise Run	TBD	TBD	6:00 am	Marcyan
Tuesday, May 24th	Franks and Fries	Round Lake Beach	Scotty's	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Thursday, May 26th through May 31st	Rolling Thunder DC Run	Washington, D.C.	Holiday Inn Dumfries, VA	9:00 am	Kirkpatrick

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.



ROAR



TOP CATS OF 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

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