



# ROAR

August, 2011

Volume 11 Issue 8

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## Inside This Issue



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Top Cats,

Usually your president's article for August does not include direct feedback on the Charity Ride for NISRA, but in this case I delayed long enough to comment on our event. I hope our Roar Editor, Mary Walters has a little patience with me and forgiveness for doing this to her. As I write this, I am the last contributor for our August Roar and I sense the villagers are climbing the hill with torches in hand to see me about it.

The Ride For Dreams was held at Woodstock Harley Davidson for the first time this year. The day started with semi-inclement weather which may have caused some potential riders to consider not joining, but your Charity Committee did a good job in putting together a little different event than in recent years. This year we included our NISRA beneficiaries at the ride stop at the Pepper's Tree House and we even had Elder Kaos, a rock band play for us at Woodstock HD. Many thanks to the hard work of the entire committee and it's members; Ric Case, Joan DeRango, Judy Scalzitti, Mary Walters, Tony Loden and the committee chair, Terri Loden. There were more who had assisted at various times and they deserve our thanks as well. Even though the club is a little smaller than in recent years past, we will be able to support NISRA in some way with a donation to help improve the lives of those who are less fortunate than us.

Looking forward, the club needs to re-examine what we do to benefit NISRA, our chosen charity to support. If we continue next year for the 17<sup>th</sup> year of having a charity ride, we need more member support to do this. And support does not just mean setting up a tent or helping with a corporate donation. We had a little less than a third of the membership show up to the ride. To me that is shameful when less than half of our own membership comes to our own ride. Where were the rest of you? If you weren't out of town you should have come. At the least we can all support our own charity ride by participating in it. Why can't we? The answer is we can and you should be there. Period.

And for those who are road captains but have not led a ride, why not? You should at least have a scheduled date on the calendar. For a senior road captain, this may not be a requirement but why isn't leading a ride something you want to do anyway? There are many, many, many possible rides that you can do. Short or long, in directions North, South, West or even East (but not too far before we become jet skis with wheels in Lake Michigan).

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## Upcoming Events

### AUGUST

- 2 General Meeting
- 3-10 Sturgis Experience!
- 9 Board Meeting
- 14 Mendota Corn Fest
- 16 Franks and Fries
- 21 President's Ride

### SEPTEMBER

- 6 General Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting
- 17 Burgers and Brats
- 20 Franks and Fries
- ? Your Ride Here ?



## KAUTION KORNER

### Tire Safety and Other Information

By: Gary Brandt

Sr. Road Captain



We have been informed in the past regarding available links that can provide us with safety and other important information.

There is one link that provides a significant amount of safety information for not only Motorcycles, but other vehicles as well? The Federal Governments NHTSA department maintains a complete website, for not only Motorcycles but autos and trucks as well.

Use the link: <http://icsw.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/> to see dozens of items including reports and other facts.

The tire safety tip section is reprinted with permission below. In fact all of the information on the NHTSA site is considered public and can be copied and reused as you wish. This is the link to see this specific report. If you go to the site you can follow the embedded links that lead to other information.

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/psimotorcycle/pages/McycleTireSafTips.htm>

#### Worth repeating are a few basic principles:

1. You only have two tires on your cycle. They are all that separate you from the roadway.
2. You need to monitor your tire pressure often. Improper pressure leads to poor traction. This includes under and over inflation.
3. Keep an eye on the wear on the tire. Measure your tread depth. Many tires also have wear indicators.

*The following information is from NHTSA*

### MOTORCYCLE TIRE SAFETY TIPS

#### Know Your Pressure Level and Load Limits

- Become familiar with your motorcycle manufacturer's inflation guidelines. Look in your motorcycle owner's manual to find the right PSI (pounds per square inch) of air pressure for your tires. Some bike manufacturers also list this formation on the bike itself. Common locations include the swing arm, front fork tubes, inside the trunk, and under the seat.
- Keep in mind that these recommendations are usually dependent upon the weight of you and your passenger, as well as any cargo. For instance, some manufacturers advise adding 3 or 4 PSI when carrying a heavy load. Know your vehicle weight and load, and follow the PSI recommendations specific to your motorcycle. Failure to do so can result in adverse motorcycle handling (wobble and weave) or tire failure, or both.

(Continued on page 3)



- Check your tire pressure often and adjust as necessary, using an accurate tire gauge. Motorcycle tire manufacturers recommend checking pressure at least once a week. However, many motorcycle safety experts recommend checking tire pressure and tread wear every time you take your bike out. After all, you ask more of your motorcycle tires than you do your car tires. So it's wise to ensure they're roadworthy each time you ride.

## Tire Wear and Care, and When to Buy Replacements

- Take the time to frequently inspect your tires for sidewall and tread groove cracking, punctures, blisters, knots, and cuts, excessive or irregular wear. As with tire pressure, it only takes a few minutes every time you ride is not too often. If you do find any of these tread wear conditions, immediately replace the damaged tire. In addition, most tire safety experts recommend replacing rather than attempting to permanently patch a tire.
- When your tread is worn down to the level of the built-in tread wear bars on your tires, the tread won't provide good traction. This is yet another indication it's time for new tires.
- Check your tires for signs of aging, including dry rot and cracking. Even barely used tires become hard with time or exposure to the sun. When tire rubber gets hard and stiff, it tends to crack and cannot grip the road to provide proper traction. So it's wise to replace old or dried-out tires even if they still have plenty of tread on them.
- If you store your motorcycle during winter months, be sure to store it in a cool, dry place, out of direct sunlight and away from ozone-producing appliances (anything with an electric motor, such as a refrigerator). Additionally, your tires should not come into sustained contact with gasoline or oil. Improper storage will rapidly accelerate the normal aging process, making your tires unsafe.

## What to Consider Before You Tire-Shop

- Make sure you get a matching set of front and rear tires. Unlike car tires, you need to make sure that your motorcycle tires are a matched set. At a minimum, they should have complementary tread patterns, should both be either radial or bias ply, and ideally be the same make and model.
- Size matters. It's best to choose replacement tires of the same size as the motorcycle's original equipment tires.
- Remember that front and rear motorcycle tires are not designed to perform exactly the same functions and are not interchangeable. You'll need one front tire and one back tire of a complementary make, model and size.



## Tire Safety on the Road

Avoid riding on the shoulder or near medians where sharp objects and other tire-damaging debris tend to accumulate.

Constantly monitor the way your motorcycle rides so you can detect any rapid air loss — and respond appropriately without delay.

Carry a cell phone whenever you ride, in case of emergencies.

(Continued on page 4)



## How to Handle a Tire Blowout While Riding a Motorcycle

With today's tubeless tires, actual blowouts are rare, but may still occur. When tires do fail, the most common cause is improper tire pressure usually pressure that's too low. Checking the overall condition and pressure levels of your tires frequently can go a long way toward ensuring you'll never experience a blowout. However, if one of your motorcycle's tires should fail while you're riding, you'll need to react quickly and decisively to avert a crash. So take a few minutes now to familiarize yourself with the following steps for successfully handling motorcycle tire blowouts:

1. Ease off the throttle and slow down gradually.
2. Do not use the brakes. Braking, especially braking hard will only make keeping control of your motorcycle even more difficult. If you must use some brake, apply gradual force to the brake on the good tire and ease your motorcycle to a safe stop.

*Caution: Using the brake on the wheel with the bad tire can cause the tire to separate from the rim, resulting in immediate loss of control. Be aware, however, that integrated braking systems don't permit rear-brake-only applications, while linked braking systems do not allow for single-brake operation. On motorcycles with either of these two systems, braking with the good tire only may not be possible. Any braking necessary should be done very lightly and with great care. Avoid downshifting too. Like braking, this will only make your bike less stable.*

3. Firmly hold on to the handlebars while keeping your arms bent. Do not "fight" the steering to correct the wobble or weave that will likely develop. Focus instead on maintaining control by keeping your motorcycle directed in as straight a line as possible until it comes to a stop.
4. Remain seated until your motorcycle has come to a full stop.
5. Once stopped, push your motorcycle as far away from the travel lanes as possible.

**While tire blowouts are not common, the absolute best way to "handle one" is to avert it before it happens.**

President's Article Continued...

We haven't gone West for a lunch destination in a while. There is the usual motorcycle oriented places like Poopsy's in Savannah, Galena, Lena or a lunch in Janesville, Beloit, New Glarus, Eagle, Peoria, Dixon and Utica just to name a few. Even a lunch ride to Rockford?! Okay maybe that's a stretch but you get the idea. The club loves to eat almost as much as we love to ride and there are many places to do this. A ride doesn't have to be for brunch or a lunch it could be doing a local route and stopping for a refreshment or an ice cream somewhere. We tend to overlook the near for the far destinations but recently the Rainbow Confection Ride (led by Dennis Dougherty) went right here in our own backyard to Kenosha and was a very pleasurable outing. The point is – lead a ride! See a road captain or a senior road captain for assistance and support.

See you on the road,  
Mike Bradbury



## TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

*YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS*

*BY TONY LODEN*

Tony has  
**GONE  
RIDING**  
See you in September



Information on the rides planned for August and September can be found on **page 17** of the ROAR and also on the website at [WWW.TOPCATS.ORG](http://WWW.TOPCATS.ORG).

We also have many dates open.... Is there a destination that you have planned for the summer? Would you like to have company? Somewhere that you've heard is a good eatin' spot? Contact Larry Scalzitti at [Scalzitti@mindspring.com](mailto:Scalzitti@mindspring.com). He will help you find a date and provide you with any other information that you would need to make that ride happen... and get others to accompany you on the ride!

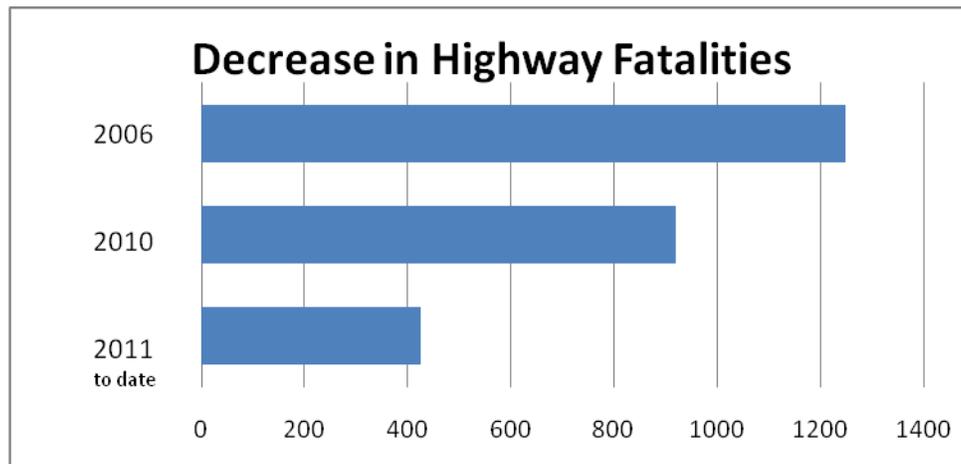
## A Case of Less is More? The Illinois State Motorcycle Patrol Unit

By: Mary Walters



Four wheels or two? How about both? On June 24, 1921, the 52nd General Assembly of the State of Illinois authorized the Department of Public Works and Buildings to hire a "sufficient number of State Highway Patrol Officers to enforce the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Laws." The Illinois State Police was officially created in 1922 and today is comprised of sworn personnel and civilians totaling more than 3,000. It is one of the most modern and efficient police organizations in the country. In 2006, a motorcycle patrol was initiated that has proven to be as modern and efficient as their four wheel counterparts. Maybe even more so...

There are many advantages to the two wheel patrol units. They are not easily recognized by motorists and many drivers do not notice them until their lights flash and they are pulled over. One of the main advantages is that the bikes can maneuver through blocked traffic to get assistance to accident victims quickly. Both of these advantages have proven beneficial as can be seen in the decrease of fatalities over the four years that motorcycles have been in use by the State Patrol.



Goals of the motorcycle patrol unit include:

- Increase interstate speed compliance by five percent
- Reduce by ten percent the number of cars speeding by more than 21 miles per hour
- Increase mandatory safety belt compliance rate
- Increase motorcycle awareness

The main goal of the unit is to improve safety on the highways, but motorcycles are also cost effective, with an operating cost of approximately 15 cents per mile compared to a patrol car cost of 40 cents per mile.

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There are many different personalities within the Motorcycle Patrol Unit, but what stands out in every story is their dedication to their work and to each other. Three of the Unit's members have been guests at our Top Cat's general meetings. They have presented information that can be used to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the club's rides. Their power point presentation and personal stories made it a learning experience. But there is more to each of their stories – Such as, “How did they decide to get into this line of work?” or

“What keeps them working and what challenges do they face?” Liz, Rich, and Ben took a few minutes of their busy day to answer some questions for me. And here is what makes them such special people...

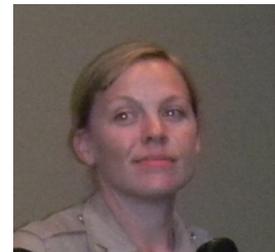


Ben began his career with the Illinois state police in 2007, with his families' support. He then bought his first motorcycle, a Harley Davidson Police FLHTPI, in 2008. Ben is dedicated and committed to working in this field for as long as he is able – even though some of the details are a bit 'chilling'. Last year, the motor patrol honored a fallen officer at his funeral in freezing temperatures and snow. These are times when the dedication is tested – but the final score always comes up 100%.



Liz has been riding since she was 17. Her father signed her up for the MSF Basic Safety Course and she has been hooked ever since. It became a family tradition, with her sisters taking the course as well. Liz's first bike was a Honda CBR 350, and she enjoyed riding with no helmet! Wearing one now, though, has become an important part of riding for Liz. She feels that if one is going to TALK safety, one should model it as well. Her husband, a lieutenant in the fire department, also has experiences that would motivate riders to consider high levels of precaution.

In 2005, Liz decided to join the Illinois State Police, despite some opposition from family and friends. She completed six months of training and then applied for the new and developing Motorcycle Patrol Unit. After demonstrating skills on a '94 HD Road King, she was given a verbal interview by the selection board. She was accepted and became the first female motor patrol officer when the program initiated in 2006. In her own words, "...I believed that law enforcement was a good fit with my personality." Now, she was going to be able to combine her love of motorcycles with her career choice while also staking a place in Illinois History!



Liz has also ridden in rough weather, and has had ONE close call on black ice, very late (or early) in the riding season, responding to a crash with injuries on a bridge. Recently, Liz has determined that temperatures between 40 and 85 degrees are the optimal temperatures for being effective on the bike. When the call is for enforcement details, and not a parade or escort, these temps are the guide that Liz uses when determining if she will use a cycle for her patrol. "If it's too hot to wear good gear, it's too hot to ride," she says.

The last and most 'seasoned' officer to assist Top Cat's mission for safety is Rich. He states that he is 'too old' to remember his first bike, but began riding at age 15. No other dates or years were provided in his comments. Short and sweet is common with all of these officers. Their job is important to them they are not looking to be rewarded. They are simply doing their best every day – without a need to be recognized. Rich presently is part of the training process for the motor patrol and the requirements to enter and remain in the unit are very rigid. To enter the patrol, there is an 80 hour program, after which each officer is required to test at 100%. NO Errors! This test is repeated annually.



(Continued on page 9)



## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

*BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS*



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Going to Sturgis for the 71st Annual Events??

**HERE ARE A FEW SITES TO HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING...**

**#1 on the list is to contact Bard Board! He will have many of the answers to your questions.**

After that here are a few suggestions:

**Buffalos Chips** is Celebrating their 30th year of entertaining and fun at Sturgis. There will be the usual all-star line-up of entertainers, an LED light show and Parade, a Raffle for a bike built by Laura Klock, a land speed record holder, and the women of Abbott House and so much more. Read about it and other topics at [www.motorcycle-usa.com](http://www.motorcycle-usa.com). Also, get it strait from the Chip at [www.buffalochip.com](http://www.buffalochip.com).

The history of Sturgis as well as some of the sites to see can be found at [www.sturgisrally.com](http://www.sturgisrally.com). There is also information on the bands and entertainment at the downtown Sturgis establishments of Full Throttle, One-Eyed Jacks, and The Knuckle Saloon. Poker Runs, Rides and Charity Events are found here too.. In case you want to make this a philanthropic trip!

User Friendly, the [www.sturgis.com](http://www.sturgis.com) site, has all of the events listed by date and then sublisted by venue. It is an easy way to plan each day of your trip!

The most important factor for this trip, could be the weather.... For those who have experienced the hail of the last years....The weather reports at this time look favorable for your trip! No hail in the present predictions at this time! [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com). Happy Trails!

## State Police Continued...

Getting to know these motor patrol officers is very enlightening. Although we all appreciate safety and the work of the Illinois State Police, seeing the personal side of these three develops a deeper appreciation for their daily work. Hopefully, too, as we come to know their commitment – they will be able to experience a larger circle of support and appreciation from us.

**Check out the Patrol's photo collection at:**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/chicagos-finest/3624449862/in/photostream/>



!

Who's Bike is that Anyway?

Take a look at the tanks below and be ready to identify the owners at our General Meeting on the 6th. A Prize to the winner!



1



3



2



4



5



7



6



9



8



## NISRA *Ride for Dreams*



Dark cloudy skies, rain, and lightning... The day started out like many others this summer. But, in spite of the weather, Top Cats *Ride for Dreams* team went ahead with the plans for the day. At Woodstock Harley, the tent went up, the band set up, and the raffle and registration team prepared for whatever the day would bring. NISRA personnel had already marked the roads along the gorgeous route for the riders, and activities began at Citizens Park for NISRA participants.



Around 9:15, the first riders took to the road and enjoyed a beautiful ride

that took them around the area with a stop at the Pepper Tree House to meet with the NISRA group. Illinois State Patrolman, Ben, also joined in the ride for the day and was a hit with all of the NISRA people! On the half hour stop, riders were able to take pictures, play bags, and tour the Tree House built with the help of Top Cats. Everyone was able to see a little bit of what will happen with the money raised on this ride!



Although the rain put a damper on the day, the smiles of the riders and NISRA clients brought sun to the day. The committee will be meeting again soon to plan for next year, so if you would like to volunteer, contact Terri Loden at [Tber06@comcast.net](mailto:Tber06@comcast.net).

**A Blast from the Past....1996....****Top Cats' Fall Scenic Charity Ride**

By

Traveler

“ Get your motor runnin’, Head out on the highway, Lookin’ for adventure, or whatever comes our way....”.

How did it Go? Measured in terms of rider enjoyment, scenic beauty, organization, number of volunteer workers, and the purpose of the ride; charity, this was an overwhelming **SUCCESS!!** Thanks to everyone who helped, who participated, who rode safe, and who donated. But, if it wasn’t for O.J. Simpson, there wouldn’t be anyone nor anything to be thankful for. Thanks, O.J. for making it happen!

Now the details. If you ever wonder why this is the greatest nation on the Earth, just take this ride. We crossed borders and didn’t need passports. We purchased things in another area and didn’t have to exchange money. We gathered in the hundreds and didn’t need a permit. We rolled into a small town on a quiet Sunday morning and weren’t surrounded by an armed militia. We listened to loud music, some of which had political undertones. We rode, we drank, we partied, we made a lot of money and then we gave it away. You can bet your saddle that there ain’t no other country where you can do what we did without a hassle. When you come off of a ride like that, you feel good about yourself, your brothers and sisters in leather, your club and your country.

For many of the Top Cats, Sunday morning started early with reporting to their volunteer station. For me it was a very challenging job, that I was assured no one else could possibly handle because of the high risk environment, and the requirement for polished technical skills and a background in management. In fact, it was so critical that Rob Mann decided to send two of us, Brett Bacci and I got to hand out flyers at the Highland House. Do you have any idea how humiliating it is for a Harley rider to have to call a for-

eign bike rider sir? Nonetheless, we executed our job with vigor. We were nice to everyone and we even smiled when the owner came out and got upset because I was drinking coffee from a thermos in his parking lot. (Poor judgment on my part.)

Sensing that there wasn’t an overwhelming demand for our flyers, and realizing that we weren’t going to get to ride until we handed out all of these flyers, we got innovative. You see, if you lead folks to believe that Top Cats actually stood for Topless Kittens, a group of female strippers who were putting on a charity ride for aged and sagging former strippers, and that the event would end with the world’s largest wet t - shirt contest, they lined up for flyers. Well...not exactly, but we finished at the Highland House and headed to R.S.V.P.’s and the start point.

As you pulled into the pit area, your first impression was one of organization. Top Cats were greeting people, signing riders up, selling raffle tickets, serving coffee and generally running a super show. Hook & Donna, Ric & Jackie, Tom Reid, Bard Boand, Gordon Tapley, Charlie Ensslin, Ed Giuntini, and, of course good ole Ray Ray, all made it look like a world class Grand Prix staging area. You really had the impression that these people have their act together. It gave you confidence that the overall ride was going to be extremely well organized.

Brett and I arrived at the start about 10:20 am and volunteered to help again. But, another indicator of how well put together this event was, there were no jobs left. We were encouraged to head out on the ride!! So, after some coffee and registration we headed out on the course.



The three - bike group that I rode with was led by Brett Bacci, and navigated by his wonderful wife Pam, on their Dyna Convertible. The Low Rider and I hung in the middle and Noah Glazov on his beautiful Springer Softail rode tail gunner. For those who haven't met Noah, who is a second generation Top Cat, you'd be impressed. Excellent rider, good group riding skills, sharp young man. You really wouldn't guess that he was Jordy's son. Aaaaanyway... We had a good group to ride with.

The route couldn't have been better; good roads, low traffic, very scenic. You could not help but think about "Spacious skies and amber waves of grain..." somewhere along that route. There were miles and miles of cornfields, pumpkins, farm houses, small towns, and an occasional farmer's daughter to blow a kiss to. The fragrance of new mown hay and freshly harvested crops, interspersed by a strong whiff of a ripe barn, gave an added dimension to the ride. The course was so well marked by arrows and smiling volunteers that even Ray Charles could have found his way.

We only stopped twice en route. Once to secure a loose saddle bag and once to take a break around the half - way point. I don't know the name of the town that we stopped in but, there were about 50 - 60 other bikers at the same little store. I am sure that, within a few hours, we simultaneously tripled their annual sales and wore out both of their restrooms.

Some two hours and change later, we pulled into the, once peaceful, town of Eagle, WI. We were greeted by the blaring (and very appropriate) sounds of Stephenwolf's "Born To Be Wild" and by George and Chris Lax and John and Sue Kahles who were directing parking and who looked like the song was written just for them.

Bikes were everywhere. It looked as if a wild group of bikers had invaded a small northern town, took it over, played loud music, ate, partied, and had a wild time. And we did!!

The food was not what some would call health food but, after a two + hour ride, it was super!! The raffle was great too. I even won an extra, extra large shirt and a hot pink cargo net. The event was really "happenin'", thanks to folks like Marlboro & Judy, Vince & Judy, Jordy & Sheila, Vic & Lynn, Mickey, Gary & Carol, Jim, Terry, Tom, Ray, their families, friends, et al, who worked the event, mingled with the crowd and kept the party alive. And, of course, always in the background, like a good coach letting his team go out and win yet keeping a close eye on them, was Virgo, along with his lady Josie. I'm not sure how the town's folks viewed this whole invasion, but I saw one (probably the only) Cop observing us from a covert location and he was laughing out loud. He may have been laughing at the bikers who were looking for the wet t - shirt contest.

As published, we closed it down around 3:00 pm and everyone returned home on their own, some tired, some looking for another party, some grateful it was over, but all satisfied and proud to have been a part of it. As if O.J. had planned it in recognition of all who helped, the last song to blast from the speakers on the balcony of the hotel was "Born in the USA" by Bruce Springsteen. Somehow it fit so well.

Safe saddles folks.

Sounds like this was a great event with the whole club involved and enjoying the work together. That's what is needed to make our event even better as the years go by!

We may not use the same promotional strategies as the team in 1996, but if we can get more heads into the think tank... we should be able to come up with many ways to raise interest in and awareness of the NISRA cause!

Hope to hear from all of you in the near future with ideas and a willingness to get involved for next year! Contact Tber06@comcast.net.



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### JUNE 7TH, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by President Mike Bradbury

#### Opening

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

Guests Gene and Noelle Rigsby

#### Traditions

Mike talked about the Top Cat tradition, no rider left behind. He discussed his situation at the fishing derby where he left his lights on and his battery was dead. Several Top Cats stayed with him until he got a jump and was able to start the bike. He also talked about a situation (on the Davenport Trip) when a rider got a screw in his tire and the tail gunner stayed with him until the tire was fixed.



#### Ride for Dreams

- Judy Scalzitti encouraged all members to register on-line as soon as possible for the charity ride. She asked members to try and get raffle donations from different companies or restaurants.
- Mary Walters talked about the plans for a barbecue and games at the tree house for NISRA families as part of the charity event.
- Joan Derango reinforced the need for member's participation the day of the ride. It was suggested members try to bring at least two more riders with them the day of the ride.

#### Vice President-Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Wayne thanked Mike Bradbury for the past weekend's ride to Trempealeau, WI
- Wayne ordered the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Top Cat coins. They will have a blue motorcycle instead of a red motorcycle which is on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition coin. Wayne will have them available for purchase at the Charity Ride.

#### Membership- Jeff Tietz

- Jeff reminded everyone to see him or Greg Smith if they haven't received their membership cards yet.
- Jeff also said he had membership applications if anyone needed them.

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

Ric reminded everyone that the next G.R.A.S.S. class will be July 31<sup>st</sup>, 8:30am at Keller Williams. Don Schaffer said there will be a lunch ride at 12:30pm after the G.R.A.S.S. class.



## Safety Tip

The safety tip was given by Bard Board. Bard suggested practicing off road riding to erase any fears of riding on gravel. When possible stand on foot pegs to transition weight to feet instead of your seat, relax and do not lock arms, deflate your tires a little, the motorcycle will go where you are looking. Know your limits and if turning on gravel put your weight on outside peg.

Bard reported that there are still open rooms at the Alex Johnson hotel in Sturgis. Info is on the website for the ride.



## *Hotel* **ALEX JOHNSON**

## ROAR -Website-Mary Walters

Mary reported that the July ROAR was posted on-line. Mary asked for help with ROAR and any ideas for articles.

## Activities-Larry Scalzitti/Tony Loden

- There was a call for more rides to be added to the calendar.
- Tom Malia asked if anyone was interested in riding with him to Mankato, MN for one night along with the Top Cats on their way to Sturgis. He would return the next day.



This month's 50/50 was won by Chris Heller

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

The Barrington Area library has finished archiving about 100 pages of our club photos.

They are found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barringtonhistory/tags/topcats/>.  
Check them out... and see how things used to be..



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### JUNE 14TH, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Mike Bradbury, Top Cats President

Mike pre-rode the route for the Charity event and thought the 2 hour ride to Pepper's Tree House needed to be shortened. Also he wanted to change another section near arrival at the Pepper's Tree House to eliminate an unprotected turn on highway 14. He has contacted Don Schaffer about this.

#### **Membership-Greg Smith**

Greg presented the Board with applications for new members for approval:

- A motion to approve David Von Bergen, as an Associate member was made by Greg Smith, seconded by Gary Brandt and approved.
- A motion to approve Russ and Theresa Peiffer as Associate family members was made by Greg Smith, seconded by Mike Bradbury and approved.
- A motion to approve Gene Rigsby as a Regular member and Noelle Rigsby as an Associate member was made by Greg Smith, seconded by Carl Marcyan

Greg suggested putting something on the website for new member applicants, to contact membership about getting a sponsor. Some confusion in the past was noted.

#### **Vice President Report-Wayne Kirkpatrick**

Wayne placed an order for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Top Cat coins. The color of the motorcycle has been changed on the new edition coin. Wayne said the coins should be available for purchase after July 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **.Safety-Gary Brandt**

There was discussion about postponing the July 31<sup>st</sup> G.R.A.S.S. class due to conflicting rides and lack of instructors. Mike Bradbury will let Ric Case know.

#### **Activities-Larry Scalzitti**

Larry talked about some of the upcoming rides and is looking to fill the remaining open dates on the calendar.

*(Continued on page 17)*



Wayne voiced concern about planning two Top Cat rides on the same day. The proper protocol was discussed and while there was no specific issue, it can still result in confusion. Activities were asked to be careful when these situations come up.

## **ROAR/Website-Mary Walters**

Nothing to report

## **Treasurer- Stewart Johnson**

No financial reports have been created to date. He will have them for the next meeting based on the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

## **Old /New business**

Carl talked about the upcoming State Police ride which will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

## ***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 and Anniversaries for July

Happy Birthday to YOU!!

Jane Smith—August 16th

Greg Smith—August 24th

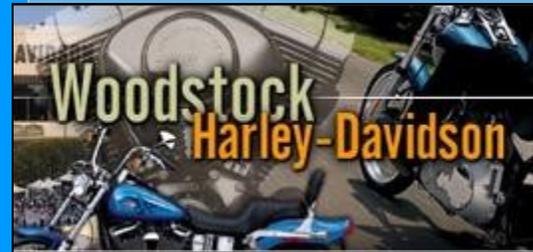
Happy Anniversary to  
Jim Hudmon—August 16th

Tony and Terri Loden—  
August 30th

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



## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Wednesday, Aug 3rd – 10th	Sturgis /Sturgis Lite	Check Website for Details	Sturgis, SD	7 am	Boand / Malia
Tuesday, August 2nd	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 am	Bradbury
Tuesday, August 9th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30	Bradbury
Sunday, August 14th	Corn Festival	Hwy 12 and Lake Cook, Palatine	Mendota	8:30 am	Johnson
Tuesday, August 16th	Franks and Fries	Franks for the Memories	Mundelein	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Sunday, August 21st	President's Ride	TBD	Only Mike knows for sure!	Check web-site	Bradbury
Tuesday, September 6th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, September 13th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Bradbury
Sunday September 17th	Burgers and Brats	Hwy 12 and Lake Cook, Palatine	Galt Airport	7:30	Tietz/Bradbury
Tuesday September, 20th	Franks and Fries	Big Jacks	Round Lake Parrk	7:30	Scalzitti

### **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](http://www.TOPCATS.org)

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				<b>Motorcycle Community</b>	Michael Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at [ROAR@TOPCATS.org](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)