



ROAR

September, 2011

Volume 11 Issue 9

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

Inside This Issue



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope that the members have been sating and satisfying their motorcycle riding appetites since the August ROAR was issued and throughout all of August. The weather has been very co-operative and the club had it's fair share of rides to participate on from

the Illinois State Police Heritage Rally lead by Carl Marcyan; Don Shaffer's lunch ride both at the end of July; the long, long, long distance Sturgis Ride lead by Bard Board; Stewart Johnson's Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Ride; The President's Ride (mystery revealed as we went to The Machine Shed in Rockford for lunch!) and Larry Scalzitti's Franks and Fries event which was held at Frank's For The Memories in Mundelein. There was plenty for the club to do that covered all areas of interest for the participants.

Of course, if you're tires aren't worn down to nubs yet there are still plenty of chances left to lead and do rides and our schedule is dwindling faster than the recent Dow Jones market. The only ride scheduled in September is the Burgers, Brats and Bonfires ride lead by Jeff Tietz. This means there are plenty of open weekends to put together and lead a ride in September and throughout the rest of the year, weather permitting. See your friendly road captain for assistance or if you already are a road captain help the club and lead a ride!

It is that time of year again. Elections will be coming in December for your officers and directors of Top Cats but we need to start this process now. This is for those of you who have some time to spare and a commitment to assisting with

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Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

- 4 General Meeting
- 11 Board Meeting

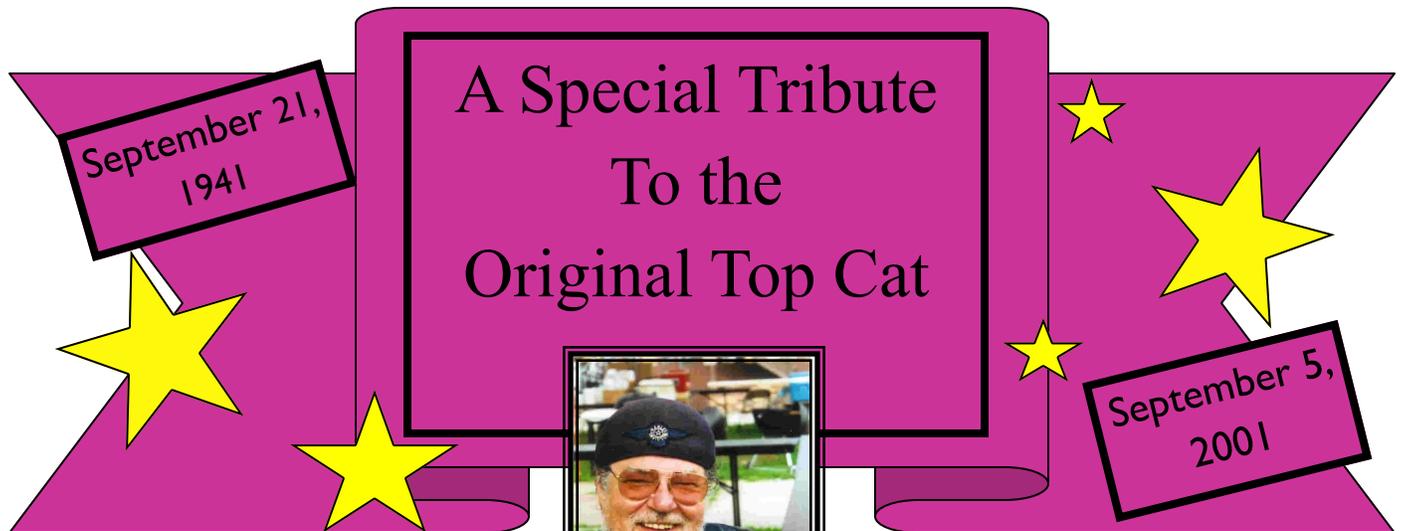
**WE NEED YOU TO
FILL THIS SPACE
WITH RIDE IDEAS!**

Carl "Virgo" Bender

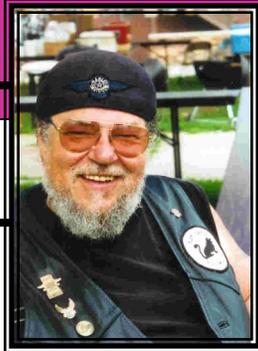
Born: 21 Sept, 1941

Died: 5 Sept, 2011

THE LAKOTA TRIBE OF THE SIOUX INDIANS SAY THAT MANY PEOPLE WILL WALK ON YOUR LIFE'S TRAIL, BUT ONLY TRUE FRIENDS LEAVE THE PRINTS OF THEIR MOCCASINS ON YOUR HEART.



Ric Case Remembers...



Here I sit, still mourning our loss after ten years. Our beloved founder was taken away from us by our Road Captain of the sky. He must have had a better mission for him up there – more important than the mission he had for him here with us. So in his memory, I dedicate this article to his character and his achievements as a person, as a businessman and as a motorcycle enthusiast here on earth.

What would he have wanted me to write about him? What would he like to hear as his legacy? Let me use his preferred position in the club's rides to exemplify the man. He enjoyed and preferred being tail gunner much of the time and I believe there were some reasons why he enjoyed it back there:

- He could assist the Road Captain, with keeping the group together (*He was a together type of guy*) with his CB communications...GPS was not a common accessory back then.
- He could help anyone who might encounter trouble along the way (*He was a helpful type of guy*).
- In our infancy, when we were learning and struggling with controlling our group rides, he could watch for mistakes, miscues and unsafe practices and point out our deficiencies, through thoughtful teachings (*He was a thoughtful teacher type of guy*).
- He enjoyed sharing his love of motorcycling with the world. From the back he would wave to everyone. He once said "I even wave to 'roadkill.'"
- He was the ultimate, team player. He would speak his mind with gusto, but if the group felt otherwise he would put his pride and his ego aside and support the common good and best interest of Top Cats. (When it pertained to Top Cats, he was a *Proud of our Brotherhood as any one could possibly be* type of guy)
- Just like a Captain of a ship, he would guide the ship and its crew, as a tiller and helms man would from the stern (*He was a 'stern' type of guy*).

So when you're ready to take on the responsibilities of tail gunner; do it Proudly, do it Safely, and do it to the Glory and with the Honor of our Founding Father, Virgo. Do it as he would, in the best interest of the Safety of the Top Cats in front of you.



A Few Words and Memories from Mrs. Carl Bender....

I don't even know where to start to explain to people what it was like spending time (30 years of marriage) with Carl. I can start probably by saying that it was never boring. Carl was always coming up with ideas, some incredible, some impossible, most of them were doable and most of them were to benefit other people besides himself. Carl Bender was the most generous person I ever knew, not just to me because I was his wife but to all friends and to many strangers.

If he were to find out that someone's life could be bettered by an object that they could not afford, then he would step into their lives and provide it for them. Probably most people do not know that about him. In our time together I can remember him providing air conditioners, washer and dryers, microwaves, CB's for entertainment and lots of his time to help other people's lives for the better. I can't remember all the "things" he provided, but the main thing he gave was hope and care to others.

Every Christmas we would put a box of food and toys together and Carl would play "Santa" and deliver it to a needy family. I remember he took the kids with him to do this, sharing the joy of sharing with them and teaching them to be thoughtful of others and generous to people that had very little.

Carl was capable of achieving whatever needed to be done without being bossy or mean. One learned very quickly that he would not take no for an answer, this applied to his business life and his personal life.

Carl was also one of the most moral people I've ever known. There were times in our lives when it would have benefited us very much if he were not so moral but he never caved in in that respect. You could feel very proud of yourself indeed if he was proud of a decision you made.

He believed in truth no matter what the consequences would be. You always told the truth to him and to everyone - that was written in stone. And he us taught that you always followed the law. He did not believe in vigilantism and we had many strong and interesting debates on that subject.

He was a patriot and did his time to serve our country when he was younger and was extremely proud of our son for his service to our country. I've never told anyone that when our son first joined the military I composed a letter to him to tell him it was ok if he wanted to drop out if it was too hard for him (a mothers love and point of view here). When Carl saw what I was writing he told me to encourage Nick instead and not give him "an easy" way out. So I changed that in the letter and told Nick instead that I knew he was strong and could "make it" through boot camp. I'm glad to this day that Carl gave me that advice....And understand it was advice - Carl didn't force his opinions on me or others, just told us his opinions and taught us how honorable they were.

Carl loved the Top Cats very much, he was proud to be among their ranks. I know he would have loved for me to "ride" with him but I've always been afraid of bikes and he never made me feel bad about it or tried to force me to "ride". Instead if he wanted to attend a special kind of Top Cats doings and wanted me to go along he would drive the car so I could go and we enjoyed those times together very much.

I could go on and on and write a book about my life with Carl if given the time but for now I'll just leave it with I still miss him like crazy a lot of the time, but I feel he watches over us and protects his family. He'll always be a part of my life.

Mrs. Carl (Josie) Bender

And a very 'rich' memory from Traveler:

DURING THE MANY CONVERSATIONS I ENJOYED WITH VIRGO, I WAS ALWAYS AMAZED AT HIS WISDOM TOO. I BEGAN TO REFER TO MY TRIPS TO THE HOSPITAL AS MY VISITS TO THE WIZARD OF OZ. HE TOLD ME ONE EVENING RECENTLY, AS WE DISCUSSED THE DEFINITION OF SUCCESS, THAT WE ALL HAVE A RESOURCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T TAX, THAT THIEVES CAN'T STEAL, THAT NEVER WEARS OUT, THAT YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY LOSE, AND THAT'S WORTH MORE THAN ANY RICHES IN THE WORLD.

INTRIGUED, I ASKED HIM IF YOU COULD GET THIS STUFF AT WAL MART. HE SAID NO..IT'S FREE, IT'S YOUR MEMORIES. AND IF YOU MEASURE YOUR WEALTH IN TERMS OF MEMORIES YOU CAN BE A VERY RICH PERSON....

KAUTION KORNER

Insect Response!

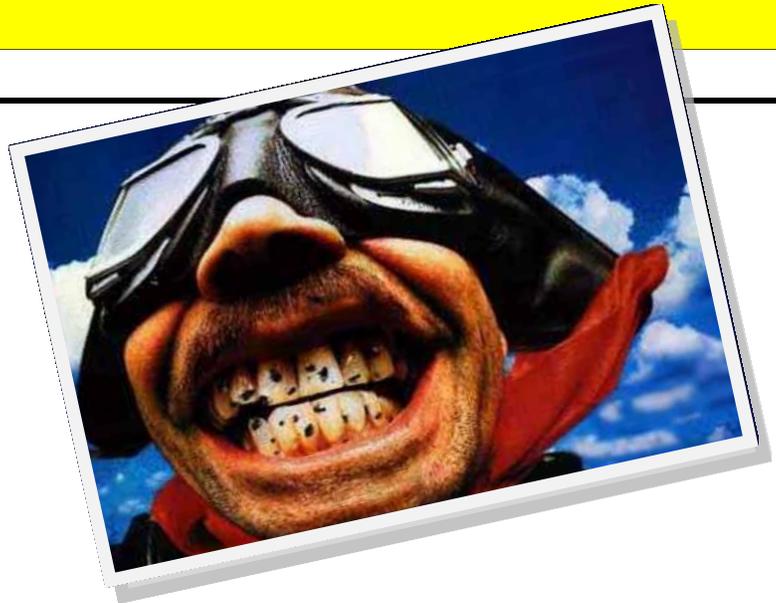
By: Ric Case

Sr. Road Captain

Are Bugs hitting you in the face, or your helmet, or your windshield? Ever been stung by a bee, or wasp, or a yellow jacket while riding? An ounce of prevention is much better than a pound of cure.

When getting ready for a ride, check all your equipment and protective gear for any kind of insects before putting it on especially if you left it secured to your motorcycle. While stored, it was accessible to insects so a quick check may save you from pain or scratching while riding. Another suggestion is to rub your gear with bounce fabric softener sheets. If your comfort liner in your helmet is removable and washable do it frequently and make sure to use those fabric softener sheets when drying your protective gear. Insects don't like that scent for some reason.

To illustrate the possibilities, one of our fellow Top Cats left Esckape after a meeting, geared up and put on his helmet. By the time he was on Lake-Cook road he discovered he had a wasp in his helmet. It started crawling around on his head and stung him several times before he could get stopped and get rid of the pest. He knew it was a wasp, because wasps can sting several times, a bee only once because it loses its stinger in the first attack. The best way to manage the situation, is when you get startled by anything while riding, retain composure and remain focused on riding and controlling the motorcycle. Then get off onto the shoulder of the road and eliminate the problem.



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..



TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

BY TONY LODEN

**Old Mr. Dodge
Went to the garage
To go for a ride on his bike,
When he got there
His Top Cats calendar was bare,
With not even a ride to the fair.**

I believe the poem above states the current status of our ride calendar. Not much to say this month except that I've been waiting for the phone to ring with all of you Road Captains clamoring for a date and destination.

Kudo's to all of the fellow Road Captains that have stepped up so far this year to provide the club a destination and reason to ride. As I write this I've just come back from the Presidents Ride which appears to be the last ride of the summer and maybe the last ride of the year... Well maybe not the last.

What we need are a few more rides like our President Mike Bradbury put together that will take us through the back countryside and deliver us to a good place to eat and drink to share with our fellow club members.

I ask all of our members to think about a really unique place that you would want to share with the club and set a date. It only takes an idea and a Senior Road Captain to plan a route with you and maybe it will be the talk of the club in years to come!!!

Here is a look ahead at the short list of upcoming events from the September Calendar...

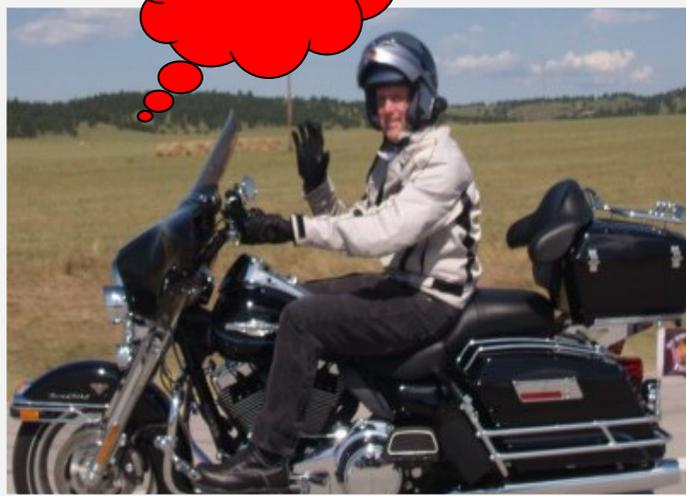
Saturday, September 17th

3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Burgers, Brats and Bonfires

We meet at the Shell Station on the northwest corner of Rt 12 & Lake Cook Rd, Palatine with kick stands up at 3:30pm. Jeff Tietz will be escorting us through Palatine, Barrington, Cary, Crystal Lake, McHenry, Woodstock, and Wonder Lake on a short, 1 hour & 15 minute ride to our final destination, Well, that's unsure at present time. Check the Calendar for further updates as this ride gets closer.

(Continued on page 15)



I Bought It For The Sirius XM Music...

By: Larry Johnson

...but soon realized my new Garmin Road Tech 665 GPS performed as a *serious* piece of motorcycle safety equipment. In addition to the satellite radio capability and MP3 player for music and book downloads, the 665 provides real time Doppler and Satellite weather visuals over-

laying the programmed route of travel. The color screen shot repeatedly advances 5 times in 4 minute intervals displaying actual movement of clouds and rate of rainfall. The rainfall rate is displayed as either light green, dark green, yellow, or red, depending on intensity. Weather bulletins pop up and display shaded areas of severe weather warnings, which is exactly what Topcats members experienced Sunday, August 7th while returning from a day ride to Cascade Falls, SD.

This ride begins at the Alex Johnson with a scenic route on hilly and curvy back roads to Hermosa, SD. After a short break at a Conoco Station, the ride continues south on Highway 79, also known as the Heartland Expressway, past Fairburn, Buffalo Gap, and Hot Springs to its final destination on State Road 71 at the Keith Memorial Cascade Falls in the Black Hills National Forest. This area is known as Mike Canyon and offers views of the high plains and the Black Hills for miles in all directions. Cascade Creek in southwestern South Dakota originates at Cascade Springs, the largest single springs in the Black Hills with water emerging at 22.5 cubic ft per second at a constant 67° F from six known discharge points with enough flowage to have served in the past as the location of an early grist mill and later as the location of an electrical power generation station. Now all that remains are some foundations from those structures. It still however, remains popular with tourists and locals as a natural mineral springs “swimmin’ hole”, since the water emerges from the ground at that constant temperature year round.





Music or.... continued

After pictures and swimming, the group forms back up at the bikes for a lunch stop at the All Star Pub & Grill in Hot Springs, with some of us noting a large cumulonimbus cloud beginning to tower in the northern sky. After lunch at around 2:00, some of the group needs to travel directly back to Rapid City and the Alex Johnson. Four others, me included, decide to stay in Hot Springs and visit what is called The Mammoth Site. As we ride to the Mammoth Site I notice my GPS Doppler showing that those leaving for Rapid City, more than likely, are headed straight into the huge, billowy, maturing, cumulonimbus.



The Mammoth Site displays Columbian and Woolly Mammoths that were trapped and died more than 26,000 years ago, in a large spring-fed pond near what is now the southwest edge of Hot Springs. For centuries the bones lay buried, until discovered by chance in 1974 during the excavation of a housing development. Today it is the world's largest Columbian mammoth exhibit, and a world-renown research center for Pleistocene studies, now enclosed and protected by a climate controlled building. The bones are displayed as they were discovered. To date, fifty five (55) mammoths have been identified, along with the remains of a giant short-faced bear, camel, llama, prairie dog, wolf, fish, and numerous invertebrates.

It's now about 3:30 and as we gear up in the parking lot to leave, the GPS is showing what we now know is a thunderstorm described by the National Weather Service as a Level 6 storm characterized by "extreme" severe turbulence, lightning, large hail, and extensive surface wind gusts. This appears on the GPS as a large fast moving dark red mass. Based on this real time information we are certain the storm has already passed to our right (east) as we head north back to the Alex Johnson. So no rain gear needed!

Most of our trip north is in the sunshine, but the storm is clearly visible, and its position seems consistent with the GPS. But as we pass Fairburn, Highway 79 turns almost due East which creates an illusion that we are possibly heading into the largest, and blackest ground to sky storm front that I've ever seen. As we top a large rise, I view what gives me the feeling we are on the abyss of the Valley of Death. The ambient temperature drops about 20 degrees as we feel the effects of the outflow and associated turbulence on the backside of the storm. My "batwing" fairing is attached to the front forks, and my Road King begins to dance back and forth in the lane as we continue north. Many other travelers must be experiencing this same feeling because ahead of us I see nothing but break-lights and a procession of cars, motorcycles, and trailers diving for the shoulder of the road. Vehicles are transitioning from 75 mph to 0 in a very short time, vying for space on the shoulder with no overpass in sight for protection.

We avoid this hazardous exodus from the freeway by remaining in the left lane and continuing toward Rapid City. With the weather information we have, we continue safely down the road. Within a mile or so the highway turns back north and we are facing some broken clouds and blue sky.



Music on... continued

We avoid this hazardous exodus from the freeway by remaining in the left lane and continuing toward Rapid City. With the weather information we have, we continue safely down the road. Within a mile or so the highway turns back north and we are facing some broken clouds and blue sky.

Back at the Alex Johnson we talk with members who left for the hotel after lunch. They tell us they just recently arrived because the storm caught them at Hermosa, where they and others sought refuge under the canopy of a service station for up to an hour. They barely escaped the heavy rains, winds, and hail. Hail was reported as golf ball size, with some of the hail stones clumping together as they fell some 40 - 50,000 feet (eight to ten miles) exploding like bombs when they hit the concrete. When the storm passed, exposed vehicles in the parking lot were dimpled with hail stone craters, and would most likely be considered as "totaled".

Having the weather information saved some of us from being caught in this High Plains storm, and provided us with early warning information to successfully plan and navigate the route with maximum safety and minimum exposure to Mother Nature. I of course love the music choices the satellites offer, but the real time Doppler information and weather alerts could be a life saver!

WANTED

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

**Get to know all of your Top
Cat Riders! Fun and Ex-
citement!**

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries for September

Happy Birthday to YOU!!

Jim Hudman—Sept. 9th

Happy Anniversary to
Gary and Muriel Brandt
September 11, 1976

Please let us know your special dates...



Roads, Reunions, and Rest Stops 2011 Sturgis Black Hills Rally

By: Traveler



Our annual ride to the Black Hills Sturgis Rally is typically so energy charged that our overnight stops are no more than short rest stops to catch our breath, grab a bite to eat, consume mass liquids, shower, get a little bit of sleep, check the oil, then hit the road and do it all over again. However, no one complains, we continue to do it and, by now, our hotels are usually anticipating our arrival with Top Cats Welcome signs, banners and marquees, reunions with hotel staff, and coolers of refreshments. After 16 years, the trek to Sturgis itself is like nothing any other club experiences.

3 August found a group of Top Cats and friends enjoying an outstanding send – off breakfast hosted by Dominique Legeai, owner of D&J Bistro and former Top Cat.



Great riding weather and a tried and a proven route took us to Mankato, MN for the evening, under the leadership of Road Captain Bard Board, accompanied by Jim Chevalier, guests Chris Heller, Karsten Striwe, Birgit Stribold, and a day ride with fellow Top Cats, Don Schaffer, Ron Freudenberg, and Stu Johnson, organized by Tom Malia, who took the time to ride with us just to Minnesota.

At the start, this year seems no different than the past 15 other years. Some hotel names have changed, marquees have gone digital, staff personnel have changed or aged but, the ambience is always the same... Welcome Top Cats. Good to see you again! It's more like family reunions than rest stops



(Continued on page 10)

RR&R Continued

The traditional evening in Mankato was spent at Mettler's Gentlemen's Club for dinner. Although a Sturgis Ride Tradition, it didn't compare with the ride and friendship of the day. Was it the traditions or just all of US getting old?

The next morning began in the parking garage with a rider's brief that was reminiscent of the years before and off we went to Pierre, SD. On this leg of the trip, the endless highway, a blistering day and arduous ride chipped away at spirits.



After hours and miles of cornfields and combines we did have an incident that fit with the day's character....a meeting with the law!

Our leader encountered one of many wide vehicles on the backroads and proceeded to pass it at full throttle, 80+ mph. The problem was that the vehicle escorting this wide load was a marked police car whose occupant immediately pulled our offending rider over. The rest of us, of course, continued on pretending not to recognize or even notice the offender. Apparently, the officer ran the offender's license and simply gave him a warning telling him that someone his age should not be going that fast. A senior citizen benefit? Surely, we haven't reached the age of having to adjust attitudes about things like this....



Arriving at the River Lodge in Pierre, we met Larry Johnson who came by a different route to link up with us. Our welcome party at the River Lodge was Ron

Seault who has been hosting us their for the past 12 years and never misses an opportunity to welcome the Top Cats.

Now, Ron usually has a cooler of beer waiting for us each year but, the new owners of the Lodge decided that it would create too much liability to give free beer to bikers so, we settled for their other benefit, the bike wash area complete with high pressure hose soap, and clean towels. Warning: Never clean your bike near Jim Chevalier. Once you get dry, he takes great pleasure in spraying it down again!! ...No beer and water fight entertainment. It is looking like the age theme is gently moving in and finding firm ground.

That evening we did the traditional cocktails at the Longbranch Saloon, dinner at LeMinestra's Bistro and a nightcap at the Longbranch. Pierre had been preparing for floods and the streets were still sandbagged adding a twist to the old wild west ambience of the town.



Friday was uneventful and took us through the Badlands where we found that our \$10.00 entry fee entitled some of us (> 62) to a free seniors life - time pass to our National Parks. But, some of our riders were too vain to use it again like no one would know how old they were otherwise. A new possible theme for this year - Reality Check? Attitude adjustment?



Following our pass through the Badlands, we had lunch at Wall Drug where rider age was again again apparent when, at every meal, at least four pair of reading glasses came out to read the menu.

(Continued on page 11)



RR&R
Continued



See what I mean?



Finally, we pulled in to the Alex Johnson Hotel and were greeted by hotel staff, old friends, and riders from past years...



For those who have stayed at the Alex in previous years, you would have noticed some major changes and upgrades to the facility. Not only were the rooms remodeled but, we had instant hot water and express elevators. There is also a new 10th floor bar, the Vertex accessible only by room card with a great vista of Rapid City. The views were great... and a few other views were taking on a new shape. New... remodeled... upgraded. A different theme for the trip! A different way to look at the circle of life?!

It had possibilities...
Here is the Upper Patio 11th floor



The Vertex Bar,
10th Floor



10th
Floor
Patio



Saturday was our traditional ride to Rushmore. Past Crazy Horse, not finished yet. Lunch at Custer, no change there. Through Custer State Park on the wildlife loop... and whoa... more buffalo than I have seen there in 30 past trips... 2 herds.



The highlight of this little trek was our encounter with the world's largest buffalo. Check out the size difference between the buffalo and the Buick...



Saturday night concluded with cocktails and dinner provided by the Alex as a token of apology for the hassle we encountered with negotiating room rates this year. The CEO of ISIS, the Alex Johnson management company, actually hosted the evening in addition to upgrading all of our rooms to Chairman Suites. They also terminated the individual who raised our rates. More on that later.

Sunday was a great, relaxed ride with old friends led by Robert and Connie Melvin on scenic old Rockerville Rd, mostly unknown to visitors, to Hermosa.



In Hermosa, Jim Didier took over and led us to his old swimming hole. This is a picturesque old skinny – dipping hole that is clear, cool, secluded and would have been a great picnic site. This is a place that young AND old can enjoy... Attitude adjusted.

After the contemporary nature experience, we headed to



the world's largest mammoth archeological dig. This place will also put a new spin on aging. It is a tremendous indoor dig site where 40+ mammoths have been found in what was a warm watering hole with steep sides that trapped them. All of the mammoths found so far have been males, which leads one to think that the females probably pushed them in when they were not looking! Some attitudes seem to be resilient, no matter how many years pass. Leads one to ponder the nature vs. nurture debate... and the great things that one can learn from across the ages.

Larry Johnson spent the afternoon at the pit looking for one of his missing pets from childhood. Larry was "not there to hunt" became a trip tag line for an insider joke that can be explained by Larry....



Our ride home that afternoon found us skirting, or trying to outrun a *mammoth* thunderstorm.



It was simply pure riding skill that kept us dry..... a time to be grateful for age and experience!

Monday was a great ride thru Spearfish Canyon with lunch in Deadwood. With attendance low this year, which made crowded roads and interest points not much of a problem, but very enjoyable – made even more so by being able to make the contrast with the previous years... Another chalk mark for the positive side of aging...



In Deadwood, Anna Vandergrift who previously worked at the Alex Johnson treated us to a tour of the new Deadwood Mountain Grand Hotel Casino complex. This facility is one that will be submitted in the proposal for our hotel in 2012.



Upper Deck



Front parking

The Mountain Grand is an old gold – processing facility with a great restaurant, nice bar, indoor secured parking, the casino on the first floor, a huge concert hall on the second floor and a brand new hotel connected via walkway immediately behind the casino complex.



Tuesday was spent in Sturgis. What can I say? We stopped at One – Eyed Jacks and bought our pins, patches, and t – shirts.



So many stories and Sturgis traditions that can be re-lived... And there were plenty of people doing just that – and probably making new traditions as well. But they all took a quick break when we had the crowd line up for our group picture.



As the photo was snapped, the group was awed by one of our United States Air Force B-1 Bombers. It was a window - rattling, bike - shaking, fly over of Main St, Sturgis. That alone made the whole trip worthwhile.



Wednesday brought somewhat of a sigh of relief as we, Bard, Larry, Jim, Birgit and Karsten all headed our separate ways to various points. After 2,000+ miles, we were ready for the sun to set on this, our 16th annual Top cats pilgrimage to the Black Hills....

While there are many more pages of adventures, pictures, tall tales and stories from this trip, It might be better to leave them for the telling on another year's trek to



Sturgis... Changes, aging, it's all a part of the journey. And although some changes and perspectives are challenging to the psyche, they are usually mixed with some other new, amazing and rewarding experiences... Time to start implementing the theme of this trip....*This aging thing has some great perks!*

So...Get out the readers, adjust the attitude, head out on the road and put some wrinkles on the \$10 lifetime National Parks Card!

And keep thinking Sturgis... the old AND the new!

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.

Mike thanked the charity committee for all their efforts on the NISRA/Charity event.



Traditions

Wayne spoke about the beginning of G.R.A.S.S. At a 1996 Board meeting after a ride that wasn't very well organized or executed, Top Cats came up with a procedure to teach people how we as a club ride. Virgo, Wayne Kirkpatrick and Ric Case began teaching Riding skills, Hand Signals, Group riding formation and accident scene management, which is now known as G.R.A.S.S. class which stands for Group Riding and Safety Seminar.

Ride for Dreams

Terri Loden talked about the bad weather having an impact on the turnout for the NISRA/ Charity event. No financial details were given.

Wayne asked anyone if they had pictures from the event to send them to him.

Vice President-Wayne Kirkpatrick

Wayne announced that the 2nd edition of the Top Cat coins were available for purchase. They have blue motorcycles on them instead of the 1st edition ones that are red.

Membership-Jeff Teitz

Jeff Teitz introduced new member David Von Bergen.

Safety Don Schaffer

Ric Case reported that the next G.R.A.S.S class will be held on Oct. 16th

Tonight's safety tip was given by Gary Brandt. He suggested going to the NHTSA website and clicking on the motorcycle link to get some good information about both motorcycle safety and other automotive information. This is a public site and all material can be copied and used in any way.



Gary spoke about tire safety and mentioned pressure, reminding everyone to check their tires not only at the beginning of the riding season but continuously throughout the season. Tires will lose traction when air pressure is low. Gary suggested when cleaning your bike to spin the tires and check for nails or other damage in tires.

Wayne Kirkpatrick added checking tires when they are cold to get an accurate reading.

Activities-Tony Loden

Tony Loden went over all the upcoming rides. He asked for more rides to be added to the calendar.

ROAR - Mary Walters

No report

Mike reminded everyone that Mary is still searching for someone to help her with the ROAR. Volunteers can contact Mike or Mary.

Treasurer-Stewart Johnson

No Report

Old/New Business

Mike reported that the August Board meeting would be canceled.

Mike asked for any volunteers to fill the Sergeant of Arms position.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WAS
CANCELLED FOR AUGUST**



TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS



ANKON TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

1-888-GET-WRLS

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

Contact: Andy Konsewicz
andy@ankontechnology.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!
Buffo's Italian-American Restaurant
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Highwood, Illinois 60040
847-432-0301



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Direct: (847) 241-2237
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President's Note—Continued

the club at the next level. If you have new ideas or dislike some of the current ones and think you can do better, now is the time to let your voice be heard. The election committee is being lead by Past President, Carl Marcyan and he will be working with other past presidents on this year's election process. Let Carl know if you are interested.

And finally, last Saturday evening my wife and I were riding my flaming street glide home in Ingleside and came upon the fresh debris of a motorcycle/car collision at the corner of Highway 59 and Wilson road. The 29 year old driver was killed and his 9 year old daughter is in critical condition at Advocate General Hospital in Libertyville. The automobile driver made a left turn and apparently, cut them off. Please, please, please keep in mind that a very high percentage (75 -80%) of motorcycle accidents happens in intersections. While you cannot guarantee anything in life, extra care, diligence and attention on your motorcycle when coming up to and going through intersections may help you avoid situations like this.

Drive and Ride Safely!

Mike Bradbury

Activities.... Continued

Tuesday, September 20th
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Franks and Fries (Scalzitti)

Big Jack's - 507 N. Hainesville Rd., Round Lake Park, 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.



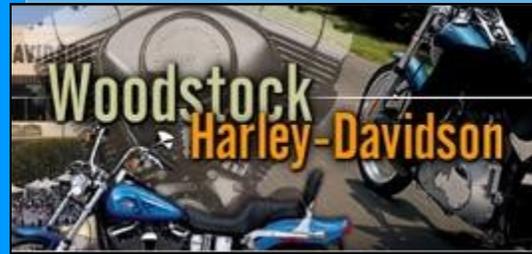
Also don't forget the monthly General Meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at eSkape Entertainment Center, located at 350 McHenry Road in, Buffalo Grove, IL.

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.

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
Tuesday, September 6th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, September 13th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	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

All ride information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at www.TopCats.org.

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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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org