



ROAR

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PRESIDENT'S MINUTE

"Takers" and "Givers"..... Every organization, whether corporate, social, government, or even family has a distinct group of "Givers" and "Takers".



those people who simply sit back and enjoy the many benefits provided by the "Givers" and, never give of themselves.

One of the major virtues that Top Cats enjoys is that we have an overwhelming majority of "Givers" and a minority of "Takers". Ideally, we'd have all "Givers" and we would all realize so many more benefits of being a Top Cat.

Sound too idealistic? It really isn't. "Takers" in our organization can easily become "Givers" in so many ways by simply; serving on a committee, becoming a road captain, helping set up at general meetings, paying dues on time, participating in rides and events, assisting with 50/50 raffle sales, helping a road captain make lunch or hotel reservations, hosting a part of our Progressive Dinner ride, writing an article for ROAR, attending GRASS, volunteering as tail gunner, or even taking pictures of our events. I think we'd agree, if society had more "Givers" than "Takers", we'd have a pretty great cultural environment. Just think how great Top Cats would be if we had all "Givers" and no "Takers".

Each of us can easily determine which category we belong in but, if you are not sure, and you want to assure that you are contributing to the best possible club around, then be a "Giver" and do something for the Club, for your fellow Club members, and for yourself. You'll be amazed at how good that feels.....

Let's roll,
Traveler
President
Top Cats - Illinois



"Givers" are those who make that organization function. They give of their time, their ideas, their resources and, above all, their friendship.



"Takers", on the other hand are typically

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 3 Accident Scene Management Class
- 6 General Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting
- 25 GRASS Class

APRIL

- 3 General Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting

ANY IDEAS?
CONTACT THE
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

KAUTION KORNER

Traveler's Top Ten Tips for Twenty-Twelve First Edition...

By Traveler, of course...



Ten survival tips. Why only ten? I have a variety of over 50 safety tips that I have stashed away over decades of riding and, now seems like the time to start sharing them with as many riders as possible...ten at a time. Some of these, I realized, were actually dated from the late '60s. But, as you'll see, they are still relevant, topical, and wise advice for us to follow regardless of age, experience, or skill levels.

1. Always assume that you are **invisible**. Never assume that drivers see you.

2. Be **considerate**. Never ride so aggressively that it antagonizes other drivers. Remember, the right – of way belongs to the vehicle with the most lug nuts and motorcycles have none.

3. Dress for the crash not for the prom or the fashion show. Your protective riding gear should be **functional** first and fashionable second.

4. Ride like a pessimist. Anticipate the **worst case** event at every intersection, every passing situation, every turn, every curve and....plan on your evasive / corrective action.

5. Leave your **ego** home. Never take it with you on a solo ride or a group ride. An ego can be a horrible co-rider.

6. Stay **alert**, alert, and alert. Scan ahead, scan behind, never get too comfortable and start day dreaming.

7. Mirrors only say "No!" Your **mirrors** will show you a vehicle overtaking you but, they must not be relied on to clear a lane before making a lane change. Always clear the lane by

looking first.

8. **Search** for and avoid; big potholes, road debris, oil spots, semi – trailers, dump trucks and mini vans.

9. Use **both** front and rear **brakes** together. Two brakes will stop you, one brake will just reduce your injuries a bit.

10. **Never trust** deer whistles, a GPS, a fuel reserve light, a can of fix – a – flat, or a left turning, on – coming vehicle.

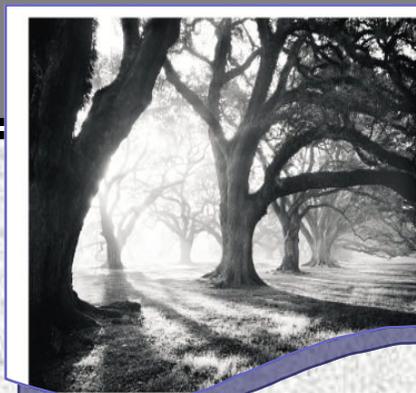


Finally, old, grey – beard, riders, don't get that way by riding **stupid**. They get that way by riding **smarter** than the traffic around them.



Being afraid of your own shadow....

By Larry Johnson



...is not considered to be a positive attribute of one's personality. But, being concerned about *someone else's* shadow can enhance your chances of reducing risk and riding your motorcycle more safely.

Last Friday (January 6th) I could not resist the temptation of the full sun and 53 degree northern Illinois temperatures to once again pull the cover off the Road King and hit the back roads of Illinois "*one last time*" this winter. I imagined my bike moaning "really, are we going out in the cold *again?*"

Zigging and zagging north and west on back roads from where I live on Countryside Lake, I find myself in McHenry County at the intersection of Johnsburg Road and Route 31 braking for a fresh red light. I decide to zig north (to my right) on Route 31, so after stopping and not seeing any traffic approaching from the south I pull onto northbound 31. My routing is somewhat dictated by the map display on my GPS, so even though I am not following a programmed route, I am still using the display as a map. I routinely find myself zooming the screen shot in and out as I make decisions on where I will turn next. The more zoomed in the screen, the more details (roads, businesses, landmarks) it displays.

I sheepishly admit I am probably "fiddling" a little too much with my GPS (translation – distracted driving) as I head north, and am subsequently not driving with my rear view mirrors like I should be.

However, the position of the GPS is adjacent to the left side rear view mirror, so my peripheral vision picks up anything in the mirror.

About a mile north of Johnsburg Road I decide I will make a left hand turn onto Barnard Mill Road, which I am rapidly approaching in about a quarter of a mile, to ride through the small town of Ringwood. Ringwood was originally settled by a small group of families from Vermont in 1837. It now has a population of 836 and is the home of *Rohm & Haas*, a Dow Chemical Company subsidiary, *Huntsman International*, a global manufacturer and marketer of chemicals, and international thermal technology company *Modine Manufacturing*.

As I make the decision this sunny day to signal the left turn I see a split second image in my left rear view mirror of what appears to be a shadow on the blacktop immediately behind me. It's not unusual for large birds, or low flying airplanes to cast a brief moving shadow like that onto the pavement. What I do not anticipate, after a check of both mirrors and side to side movement in the lane, is to be startled by some idiot on a blue and white colored rice burning crotch rocket about 50 feet behind me! (my apologies, so as not to offend; ... an uninformed, speeding, young person, riding a high powered, light weight, sport bike type motorcycle, manufactured on the continent of Asia). I quickly activate my left turn signal along with an arm signal, earlier than I normally would, and initiate my turn onto Barnard Mill Road as he zips past me in the right side of my lane.

Riding along thinking no other vehicles were anywhere near me, had I not acted on the subtle clue provided by the shadow and conducted a rearward search, I may have executed my quickly approaching left turn just as this fear no evil, speeding silo of testosterone could have passed me on the left where we no doubt would have had the unfortunate meeting of the metal!

As this incident proves out, bad things usually happen fast, and being constantly aware of what's happening all around you in your "bubble" will greatly increase your personal safety and the *enjoyability factor* of every ride.



TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

BY TONY LODEN

Ah, spring! With the passing of March 1st, we have now entered meteorological spring, March 1st to May 31st, which means warmer weather is just around the corner. This season brings increasing daylight, warming temperatures, and the rebirth of flora and fauna and another riding season!

The true season of “spring” begins in the Northern Hemisphere on March 20, 2012, at 12:14 A.M. (CDT) with the vernal equinox.

The word equinox is derived from the Latin words meaning “equal night.” The spring and fall equinoxes are the only dates with equal daylight and dark as the sun crosses the celestial equator. At the equinoxes, the tilt of Earth relative to the Sun is zero, which means that Earth’s axis neither points toward nor away from the Sun.

Now for the bad news, according to Matt Friedlein, Meteorologist at the National Weather Service, looking ahead, the entire Midwest region will likely see both above-average temperatures and heavier precipitation in the next three months, according to the models. It will be wetter and more mild than normal.

One reason the Chicago area has experienced such a mild winter season is that the region is experiencing positive phases of a large-scale phenomenon known as the North Atlantic Oscillation and the Arctic Oscillation. This is the movement of the cold air pool as it resides over the North Pole that tends to slide South over North America, Greenland or Europe. This year the oscillation fell over Europe causing the extreme heavy snows and colder temperatures in that part of the world. The past two winters here at home have experienced atmospheric pressure trends mostly in the negative phase, leading to the extreme cold and heavier snow in the past.

Let’s all hope that the weather patterns provide for beautiful weekends and the heavier precipitation occurring during the week... Only time will tell.

Turnout has been tremendous at the past non-riding events and it appears that the comradery of this club is alive and well; however the month of March is quiet for club activities...

Here is a look ahead to some of the upcoming events from the Calendar:

(Continued on pg5)



**Saturday, March 3rd –
8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

Accident Scene Management (Basic Course)

If you've done it before, this is a great way to refresh your skills and for those that have never participated, this is a great way to learn new skills and to get your patch for your vest. The cost is \$55 per person and we will be at eSkape in the back.

Sunday, March 25th –

GRASS Class with the RC module

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.

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.

Tony

The Barrington Area library has finished archiving about **150** 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..



Please let us know your special dates...
so that we can celebrate with you!



OIL SPOTS

By Traveler

CONGRESS MOVES TO ABOLISH MOTORCYCLE-ONLY CHECKPOINTS

Motorcycle-only checkpoints have revved up concern in Congress. Wording was recently inserted into the House highway bill that would bar the U.S. Department of Transportation from providing grants to local governments for such discriminatory inspections.

The action arose over motorcycle-exclusive roadblocks set up in Georgia and New York under federal safety grants that single out motorcycles for police to check the bike and rider for proper paperwork, helmet, exhaust and equipment violations.



Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), who sponsored H.R. 904 to ban federal funding of motorcycle-only checkpoints, applauded the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee saying; "It is encouraging to see that the transportation reauthorization bill will encourage more efficient use of taxpayer dollars and smart motorcycle safety policy."

"Motorcycle riders are right to be outraged at being singled out for safety inspections," added Rep Tom Petri (R-WI). "Nobody is suggesting flagging cars down for unscheduled inspections, and there's no good reason why motorcycles should be treated differently. It's unnecessarily intrusive, and not a smart way to use limited police resources."

Section 5007 of H.R. 7, the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012" reads:

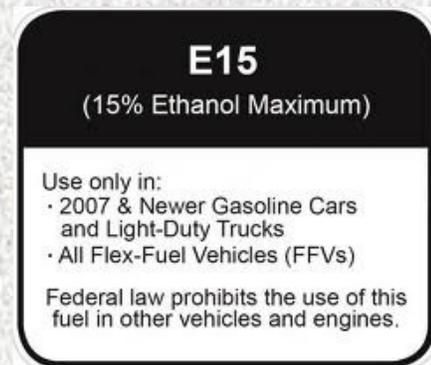
PROHIBITION ON FUNDS TO CHECK HELMET USAGE OR CREATE CHECKPOINTS FOR A MOTORCYCLE DRIVER OR PASSENGER.

The Secretary may not provide a grant or otherwise make available funding to a State, Indian tribe, county, municipality, or other local government to be used for any program to check helmet usage or create checkpoints for a motorcycle driver or passenger.

The House bill will now go to the full House floor before going to the Senate for consideration. The Senate will consider their own version of the highway bill, and a final version will be ironed out in a conference committee.

HOUSE COMMITTEE SEEKS FURTHER STUDY OF ETHANOL-BLENDED GAS

The House Committee on Science, Space and Technology passed H.R. 3199 on Feb. 7th to require a comprehensive study of the implications of ethanol-blended gasoline.



Although the Environmental Protection Agency approved E-15 (15% ethanol fuel) in October 2010 for use in most cars, it is not approved for any motorcycles and the hotter-burning formulation can cause premature wear and could void manufacturers' warranties.

The bill, introduced by committee Vice Chairman Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), would require the EPA to seek independent scientific analysis on the effects of E15 gasoline on engines.



VIRGINIA MAY LEGALIZE TWO-ABREAST RIDING

The Virginia General Assembly is considering the repeal of a 40-plus year-old law that makes it against the law for two motorcyclists to ride side-by-side in the same lane.

Virginia and Vermont are the only two states in the U.S. with such a law on the books, while 48 other states either don't ban the practice or have specific laws allowing it. There's no indication those states have more crashes or problems related to two-abreast riding, according to the Virginia Coalition of Motorcyclists.



The law is an old one, possibly sparked by the menacing image of motorcycle gangs of the 60s. But since the law was passed over four decades ago, motorcycle registrations have shot up and charitable motorcyclists now ride in large groups for fund-raisers or to raise awareness, when riding two-deep is common.

FLORIDA SEEKS STIFFER PENALTIES FOR NEGLIGENT DRIVERS

ABATE Florida members from around the state were out in full force at the state capitol on Feb. 13th asking lawmakers for safer roads and to support legislation for stricter penalties for drivers who kill bikers on the road.

"Kill a motorcyclist they get an \$82 fine, that's all they get; failure to yield. You do that in a car, hit somebody else in a car, you get vehicular manslaughter," said James "Doc" Reichenbach, ABATE President.



Reichenbach, who also serves as Chairman of the Board for the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), testified on behalf of ABATE's Stiffer Penalties Bill, S.B. 1754, which passed the Senate Transportation Committee on Jan. 27th by a vote of 7-0, and now goes to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

During the rally in Tallahassee, the names of bikers killed in wrecks last year were read aloud. Fifty-six bell chimes were sounded; one for each lost life. The bikers spent the rest of the day talking to lawmakers, then headed home hoping when they return next year, there are fewer bells to ring and fewer bikers lost.

MYRTLE BEACH RALLY CONFUSION PROMPTS ABATE BOYCOTT

Myrtle Beach Harley-Davidson has moved the dates of its official spring rally into late May, effectively adding 10 more days of Harley-related events on the Grand Strand Rally and sparking confusion among bikers, businesses and rally promoters over when the rally will take place.

Horry County (S.C.) ABATE has decided to stage a boycott, not of the spring bike rally, but of the local Harley dealerships involved in rescheduling the Cruisin' the Coast rally to May 18-28, carrying it over into Memorial Weekend when sportbikers traditionally begin arriving for Atlantic Beach Bike Fest aka "Black Bike Week".

"The dust just got settled with Horry County, and now this has upset the county council all over again," said Gary Balcom, ABATE chapter coordinator, recalling that in 2008 Myrtle Beach passed a litany of laws aimed at ending the rallies altogether, including a city-wide helmet law that was later ruled unconstitutional. "It's a bad idea and was not discussed with anyone else," said Balcom.



Top Cats You Should Know!

Russ Peiffer

As told to Terri Loden



Move over Kasey Kahne! Come this Memorial Day weekend you WILL have competition. So, eat well, exercise, clear your mind, do whatever you do to be in top form because Russell Peiffer will be making his debut at Nascar racing. A little birdie told me that our very own Russ will be fulfilling a mid-life-long dream!

I talked to Russ recently to interview him for this article and asked him what he was going to be doing this Spring. He told me he would be at the Chicago Speedway at the Nascar races this Memorial Day weekend premiering his skills as a race car driver. While not a huge stretch from motorcycle riding, it definitely adds a different dimension to the word 'speed' or just going out for a 'cruise'.

Russ is an engineering technician who analyzes what problems occur when Nox sensors are not performing properly. They are the sensors that are instrumental in making diesel engines work. He lives in Gurnee with his wife, Theresa, their two children, Alyssa, 15 and Josh, 10. Their family also includes their dog and three cats.

At what point in your life did you decide to move into the world of motorcycle riding?

“When I was growing up in Iowa I had a trail bike and mini bike. First a 60cc Yamaha mini Enduro, then a 175 Enduro. I started riding as a teenager for trail riding and hill climbing.”

How long have you been riding?

“Ten years. I've also completed the MSF experienced rider course.”

What do you most enjoy about motorcycle riding?

“I find it is the best escape from everyday responsibilities. The feeling of freedom and wind in your face is a de-stressor for me.”

What is the most interesting place you have been while riding your motorcycle? Why is this your choice?

“One place comes to mind and that is Sedona, Arizona. The scenery was beautiful and very peaceful. Although we had hoped to make it up to the mountains near Flagstaff, the weather was prohibitive and we decided not to make

the trek at the time. There's always tomorrow!”

Do you have an item or lucky charm that you never go riding without?

A pair of pants. :)

What is one interesting fact about you or your life that most people may not know?

About 7 years ago my wife, Theresa, suggested that I go in for a colonoscopy because of a family history of colon cancer. While I hesitated, she persisted that I make an appointment and go forward with it. The surgeon found the polyp and had a biopsy done. It came back malignant. They removed it and I did not have to have chemo. I am 7 years cancer free now.

If you could give one tip to a rookie motorcycle rider, what would it be?

Take your time and enjoy the ride. Relax, rejuvenate, clear your mind. That's what it's all about.

Yes,, that's what it's all about. I'm sure all the Top Cats wish you success at your attempt to realize your dream this Memorial Day weekend. Who knows? There might even be some Cats there to cheer you on.



For this month, here is a picture of the Peiffer's cat... Next month, when we highlight Theresa, we'll be sure to have family and race pictures!



Top Cats You Should Know!

Bard "Judge" Board

As told to Terri Loden



We now have learned a little more about our newer members of Top Cats, Russ and Theresa Peiffer...

It is now time to meet one of our older, er, more experienced riders. One of the Founding Fathers of Top Cats... Ladies and gentlemen, Bard Board is in the house!

I had the pleasure of interviewing Bard for this article recently while he sat in his living room in Carefree, Arizona gazing at the mountains in the distance and enjoying the 74 degree temps. That is to say, HE was gazing at the mountains in the balmy temps. I was in my office in Rolling Meadows, Illinois gazing at a dreary sky and trying to keep warm in 32 degree weather!

One of the things that came to mind while speaking to Bard was the phrase, "Still waters run deep." His life and motorcycle adventures far surpass what most mortals have dreamed of much less actually done. He is no stranger to the roads less traveled. Although now retired, he still spends as much time as he can on his motorcycle while also living life to the fullest.

Here are some of the highlights of my conversation with him:

What is your occupation? What previous career choices have you made?

"I have 34 years with the Flying Tigers and Fedex in international sales and management. The Flying Tigers were known as World War 11 famous fighter pilots, then, started an all-cargo airline in 1972. In 1979, Fedex bought them out and I retired in 2005."

At what point in your life did you decide to move into the world of motorcycle riding and why?

"In 1967, my first year of college, I started riding Triumph 500's. At the time, it was the cheapest and most fun transportation."

How long have you been riding? What motorcycle accomplishments or awards have you achieved?

"I've been riding for 45 years and have various licenses and Top Cats awards." In 2006, I rode with the GlobeRiders around the world for 3 1/2 months. They are an Ad-

venture Touring group and we traveled through Siberia, Inner Mongolia, Russia, and parts of Poland. One incident stands out in my mind about that trip. While we were in Russia, there were cows standing all along the roads. One of them decided he did not like our disturbance in the peaceful surroundings, and started to chase after a rider. It actually kept pace with the motorcycle until he overtook the rider and crashed head-on into him and his bike! The rider was fine, but the bike was totaled. Lo and behold, a group of Russians came down the road in a truck and put the bike in the back and drove the man to a location where they hand tool iron parts. The hospitality of the Russian people in such a remote place was unbelievable. They opened up their shop and tried to remake parts for the bike so that the gentleman could continue his journey. I also found that of all the cities I have been in, I would have to vote Krakow, Poland as the best. Its culture, beautiful sights, wonderful people, and the cosmopolitan feel makes one feel that they have been transferred back in time. Yet the city has a very modern feel to it."

What do you enjoy most about motorcycle riding?

"The feeling of freedom that comes when you are traveling on two wheels. The sights, sounds, and smells that accompany the ride. Also, having the ability to explore remote places in a way that allows those very things."

DO you have an item or lucky charm that you never ride without?

"I always carry a Sacajawia one dollar coin with me. Sacajawia was an Indian guide for Lewis & Clark. The U.S. minted a \$ coin about 10 years ago. In Asian countries when someone does you a good turn, you give them a gift. So, I took a roll of these coins with me. When people were cordial to me, I gave them a dollar as repayment. Also, a Kennedy .50 cent piece would also be significant to give as favors in remembrance of the agreement Kruschev and Kennedy came to during the Cold War. Something the Russian people really found memorable.

This was the question I was most interested in asking him:

(Continued on page 14)



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Meeting began at 7:35 and membership was asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Thanks to the Peiffer's for the Super Bowl Party! And to the Loden's for talking them into hosting.
- ◆ There are plans being made to have guest speakers at the General Meetings. Possibilities for future guest speakers include Dennis Dougherty. He will be coming in to present and discuss the website and future changes and developments.
- ◆ Fred Creed reported that Rich Kozik is battling cancer. He is one of the Illinois State Police Officers who has worked closely with Top Cat's over the years and Fred suggested that a card and flowers be sent to let him know that our thoughts are with him.



Past President Report: Michael Bradbury is traveling and has nothing to report at this time.

Vice President's Report: Gary Brandt

The By-Law Committee met and is working diligently to analyze and revise the By-Laws so that they will represent and serve the membership. They are ½ way through the revisions and there is a good possibility that the process will be completed by March.

Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- ◆ Nothing to Report.

ROAR

- ◆ Terry Loden is going to be creating articles based on interviews from our members. There was a questionnaire on the tables for the members to fill out with general information that will be used and supplemented with in-person interviews. Look in each future edition of ROAR for a biography of one or two of our members! Get to know your fellow riders.

Treasurers Report: Stuart Johnson was not present. No report at this time.

Wayne Kirk Patrick reminded everyone that renewal membership is due at the end of the month of February. Payments can be made online or by mail.

Awards and Membership Report: Greg Smith

Membership

- ◆ Discussion has developed the idea to repay membership for their work on behalf of the club. One idea is for those who bring in new members, free oil change will be offered.
- ◆ Nametags are available to the membership. The application forms are available and should be filled out and returned to Greg Smith. Two lines are available.

Awards: There were a few awards that were not handed out at the banquet and Gene Rigsby made the presentations:

Most often late to a ride: Jim Chevalier

Loudest Pipes: Chuck Prettyman

(Continued on page 11)



Safety Report: Ric Case

- ◆ January 22nd, 2012 meeting went well. All things are set and ready for the new riding season. The Grass Class was well attended by all Senior Road Captains and Road Captains.
- ◆ Don Schaeffer presented Chuck Prettyman with a bronze star for leading his 5th ride. He also asked for Road Captains to step up and begin planning a ride for the new season. A short afternoon ride or a trip to New York – all are acceptable.

Kaution Korner is available to be read in the February ROAR – and the topic is Blind Spots... and being in one. Be aware of where you are and make sure that others can see you. Ride Safely and alertly at all times. For the full article, see the February edition of the ROAR.

Charity Committee:

- ◆ The committee is meeting regularly on the third Tuesday of each month and will change to the fourth Tuesday when the Frank's and Fries rides begin. The grand prizes include a 1970 Triumph Bonneville or a trip to Sturgis for 2013. The group is moving forward and is working to improve the registration on line and possibly adding an option of buying raffle tickets online as well.
- ◆ The charity committee will welcome anyone who would like to be involved.

Activities: Larry Scalzitti

- ◆ Larry introduced Cindy Casas, an Accident Scene Management Nurse. She will offer a class to the membership on March 3rd, 2012. See Larry for details and to reserve a spot in the class.
- ◆ Cindy began by giving a short overview of what to expect if you take the class:
 - A survey of anatomy.
 - Rescue techniques for all situations – so that you will be equipped to assist no matter what the size or gravity of the situation.
 - Discussion will include what is needed when compiling a first aid kit and keeping them with you.
 - Be sure you are invested and want to help others to make this class a valuable use of your time.
- ◆ Cindy also noted that accidents occur most often on dry pavement and between noon and 7pm when we are all out and could possibly come upon an accident scene.
- ◆ Larry Scalzitti and Wayne Kirkpatrick thanked Cindy and she was presented with a Top Cat's second edition coin.

Calendar: Tony Loden.

- ◆ There are many opportunities to join other members in activities for the winter months. See the Website for details and contact information.
- ◆ Tony invited Bard Boand to discuss the Sturgis event for this year. It is a very well planned trip there will be activities that will appeal to the many different interests in the club as well as leave time to explore independently. Contact Bard if interested by e-mailing him at Bard.Boand@ATT.net.
- ◆ Chuck Prettyman previewed a ride on June 3rd, 2012 of a charity event for people with handicaps who can benefit from equine activities.
- ◆ Summer Possibilities: Rooms for the Harley 110th events in Milwaukee for the summer of 2013 will be open on the 9th of February. HOG Members can block 5 rooms each.
- ◆ September 9th is a possible date for a Top Cats progressive ride. Anyone interested in hosting one leg of the ride should contact Tony.

Archives: Larry Johnson

All of the past editions of ROAR as well as past photos are now available by a link on the Barrington Library site. Efforts are being made to create a link on the Top Cats Website.

Products: Larry Johnson and Noelle Rigsby

Noelle and Larry are working on providing Top Cat merchandise to the club. They are looking for any sugges-



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Call to order: 7:30

Present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Tony Loden, Larry Johnson, Jeff Tietz, Mike Bradbury, Gary Grandt, Ric Case, Larry Scalzitti, Mary Walters, and Gene Rigsby.

Excused: Stuart Johnson

President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Membership Renewal is coming due at the end of February. After that, the lists will be purged of anyone that has not paid as of February 29, 2012.

Guest speakers: There are a number of speakers being scheduled for the general meetings: Greg Zaffke for March; Chiro One for April; and a GPS presentation for May are just a few of the topics.

The August meeting is scheduled during the trip to Sturgis, so the board agreed to move the general meeting to July 31st, 2012.

The 2011 taxes are coming due and the requirements for renewal of our status will be completed by Stuart Johnson.

2012 insurance is also coming due and will be maintained with the same coverage as in previous years.

Rich Kozik is fighting cancer and after a discussion on flowers/card/donations, it was decided that we would send a card for now, as flowers are not allowed in Rich's hospital room. A donation can be made after it is more apparent what area would best benefit from the money.

Access to the website and other access information needs to be kept in at least two places so that there will not be any loss of information. Many options are available. Larry Scalzitti will contact Dennis Dougherty to identify the best way to address this issue.

Vice President: Gary Brandt

By-Law Updates. Gary stated that the group has been very productive and positive in their efforts. The group is working well together and is developing proposals in many areas including an updated mission statement.

The group has decided to make all changes based on 100% agreement by the team.

The group is targeting the March Board meeting for presentation of the final script.

Secretary: Mary Walters

The questionnaire / interviews were passed out at the last meeting and Terri Loden will begin putting together the articles that will be in the ROAR.

We will pass out the questionnaire on monthly topics at the March Meeting and continue to develop the ROAR.

The Master Rosters will be updated and sent to the board during the first week of March, after membership updates are completed.

Treasurer: Stuart Johnson

No report, but Wayne reported that the membership roster is being updated by Stuart and will be completed at the end of February. Final Roster will be sent to the board during the first week of March.

Past President: Mike Bradbury

No report at this time.



Director: Larry Scalzitti and Tony Loden

Tony reported that the DNS for the NISRARIDE.org is up for renewal and we need to address some of the issues.

Tony will contact Dennis Dougherty to discuss the possibilities for the website. Dennis will also be asked to attend a board meeting to discuss his knowledge and to field questions on the website and some new ideas for updating the site.

Gary suggested that we rename the domain RideforDreams.org to more accurately reflect the Top Cat efforts for this charity ride.

Tony has put together a graphic for the gift card that we can use for membership participation recognition. It was decided that the added fee of that type of card is not cost effective.

The Rooms for the 110th celebration of Harley Davidson have been blocked and it is expected that they will be claimed by April 1st by Top Cat members who are the attending meetings. The dates are 8-29 to 9-1, 2013 at the Aloft, Milwaukee.

Tony reported that the Progressive Dinner is coming along very well. Five members have been identified as stops. September 9th is the date. Subsidies will be made available for those who are hosting. This is a great opportunity to bring guests and develop membership.

Director: Greg Smith and Jeff Tietz

No new members at this time.

Jeff opened the question as to how we want to develop the membership of the club. For now, members will be encouraged to recruit.

Director: Ric Case

Road Captain incentives are being developed through the Road Captain committee, but the majority of time has been spent on the Charity Ride.

Recruiting Road Captains will be a focus of this summer. There are many members that are potential leaders for the 2012 summer.

Charity Ride report was given to the board and the committee is moving forward rapidly to finalize the plan for this year. Highlights include the following suggestions:

Top Prizes include: A 1970 Triumph Bonneville T-120 and a trip to Sturgis, 2013.

Ticket selling price of \$10 – with only 2,000 tickets sold.

Discussion is being held on the Venue with some great options.

Banners and window flyers are being developed and sites identified for display.

Advertising will be online as well as physical on-site ads.

Discussion of the Board focused on

The selling power of an antique bike

The venues to market the bike and sell the raffle tickets

Ric made a motion that we pursue the purchase of the 1970 Bonneville, and the designated trip for Sturgis with a cap at \$8,000.

Ric also motioned that we sell tickets at \$10 with a maximum of 2,000 tickets.

Larry seconded the motions and the board passed the motion unanimously.

The venue for the event is under discussion. Ric will send a final decision by e-mail to the board within the next two weeks.

Director: Larry Johnson:

Clothing options are being developed and organized.

Noelle Rigsby has talked with Mrs. Creed about some options for shirts and possible development of new options.

Larry asked if there were any suggestions for development.

The Barrington Library's archive is up and running and doing well.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

Bard Board... Continued

This was the question I was most interested in asking him:

What is the one interesting fact about you or your life that most people may not know?

His answer was: "My secret love affair with _____....." Alas, despite all the cajoling and pleading for the name of this mystery woman, he answered with the response: "A gentleman never kisses and tells." At least not now. When I mentioned that Tony and I would be joining him in Sturgis this year, he said he may reveal the name at that time! So, guess we'll have to wait till then to find out!

If you could give on tip to a rookie motorcycle rider, what would it be?

"Don't fall down without helmet and body armour." I'm thinking this was advice given from past experiences?

But, the best part of the interview was his parting thoughts on life and riding. It is a quote that he said he heard a while ago and shared it with me:

Life is not a journey to the grave traveled with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body... But rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out... And loudly proclaiming, "WOW! What a ride!"

Amen, Bard

Oil Spots Continued...

But there are other concerns, too, Balcom said. The large crowd would overwhelm local law enforcement resources, he wrote in an ABATE statement. "The last thing we want to see is any event getting out of hand," Balcom wrote.

The statement calls the date change "a slap in the face to the county council" and encourages bikers to boycott the two dealerships in Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach "and we hope that the biker community as a whole will come together with us on this boycott until such time as they retract their plan of overlapping dates."

WORLD-FIRST STUDY ON CAUSE OF SERIOUS MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS

A world-first study will examine the cause of serious motorbike crashes. Motorcyclists will be part of a \$1.3 million Australian study aimed at slashing the number of motorcycle accidents. The ground-breaking inquiry will compare the experiences of riders injured in crashes at specific sites with riders who have travelled through the same site safely.

Transport Minister Terry Mulder described the new research as one of the most comprehensive motorbike studies attempted globally. "By comparing the two groups, we hope to learn not only what went wrong for those involved in crashes, but also what went right for those who negotiated a particular crash site safely," Mulder said.

More than 1100 riders - half of whom have survived crashes - will be recruited over the next 18 months.

Experts, five of whom are motorcyclists themselves, will analyze factors such as speed, experience and the physical environment in accidents. Results are expected towards the end of 2013.

**General Minutes Continued...**

Other Business....

- ◆ Wayne Kirkpatrick suggested having a Safety Rally: A Rally would allow for a review of members' bikes to look for things that need attention and to ensure safer rides so that we have a memorable riding season.
- ◆ Don thanked everyone for their good wishes for Alice. She is doing well and settling into a therapy program.

50/50 was won by Jim Chevalier.... Not late this time!
Meeting adjourned at 9pm.





2012....

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Take pictures... Write Stories....
And Submit them to the ROAR!

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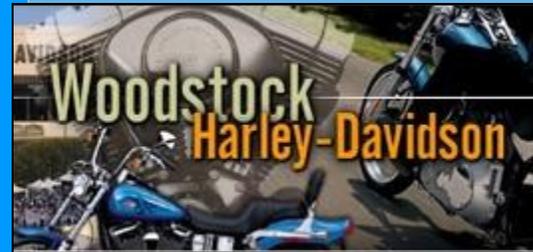
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Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at City Limits Harley-Davidson



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
Saturday, March 3	Accident Scene Management	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	8:30 am	Scalzitti
Tuesday, March 6th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, March 13th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, March 25	GRASS Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:00 am	Case
Tuesday, April 3rd	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, April 10th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick

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

F **FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for** **TOP CATS Business Owners**

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

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

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

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

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org



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