



# ROAR

May, 2012

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## Inside This Issue



## PRESIDENT'S MINUTE

One of the perspectives you get when riding the "Two-Spot" as President, is a view of the "big picture" whether it's in a group ride, at a meeting or, during some of our events. My perspective, lately, has been an exciting and interesting one.

Thanx to the great people we have in our Club, we are seeing a momentum of progress in areas where we never realized we could improve. And the great thing is, we're seeing it across the board with everyone involved. Complacency has become a thing of the past!!!! Just take a look at your fellow Top Cats after a meeting and, you'll see 30+ minutes of socializing. Look at who is showing up for committee work, Board meetings, rides, social functions and you'll know exactly what I mean. That, my friends, is a strength that results in exciting accomplishments like.....

**NISR Recognition Banquet.** Go to a banquet for \$35/ head on a week night? For most folks the answer would be...uh, no thanks. For Top Cats...the answer was Hell yes! Where do I pay?



If you haven't attended a NISRA event lately, get in line for the next one; helping at their annual Fishing derby or perhaps an annual BBQ?

**Raffle Bike Detailing.** Not many folks would give up some weekend time to get dirty by detailing our 1970 Triumph raffle bike.



Not the case with our energetic Charity Committee. Everyone had a polishing cloth or a drink or both in their hands and, most importantly, a smile on their face.

**Selling Raffle Tickets.** OK, ask any group to volunteer to get up before dawn, drive 40 miles and set up the Top Cats' booth and raffle bike in a live stock shelter at a swap meet for 6 to 8 hours and.... you will probably hear a deafening silence. Not so with our gang. Not only did our Charity Committee and members spend the day at the annual Walneck's Swap Meet in Woodstock, they sold over \$800.00 worth of tickets.

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## Upcoming Events

- MAY**
- 1 General Meeting
  - 5 Satellite Ride to EMR
  - 6 Millie's Breakfast Run
  - 8 Board Meeting
  - 15 Franks and Fries
  - 20 Little Angels
  - 24 Rolling Thunder
- JUNE**
- 2 NISRA Fishing Derby
  - 5 General Meeting
  - 10 GRASS class
  - 12 Board Meeting
  - 15 Little Sturgis
  - 19 Franks and Fries
  - 29 President's Ride

## **KAUTION KORNER**

# Minimize Night Riding Risks!

By: Tom "Top Cat" Malia



Motorcycle riding is an inherently dangerous endeavor. To reinforce this assertion, consider the results of some recent government studies. Data from the Governor's Highway Safety Association and the US Department of Transportation indicates that in the last 10 years, total vehicle fatalities in the US decreased by almost 22%. Unfortunately, in that same period, motorcycle fatalities increased by 51%. On a more local level, motorcycle riders in Illinois comprise about 3% of registered vehicles, yet make up 16% of the fatalities.

I would furthermore suggest that for a number of reasons riding at night can be much more hazardous than riding during daylight hours. As a result, a number of riders, myself included, endeavor to generally avoid riding after dark. However, there are times when either by plan or by unanticipated events, you wind up having to ride in the darkness. It is the intent of this article to outline some things you can/should be doing to minimize your night-riding risk.

The simple fact that it is night means your visibility is dramatically reduced. But for those of us getting up in years, our night vision is even further diminished. As we age, we require four times as much light to see the same level of detail that we saw in our younger years. As a result, we simply do not see well at night. And obviously the older automobile drivers around us simply cannot see us as well either.

To enhance your visibility to others you should wear a bright colored riding jacket and helmet. Special tape is now readily available that reflects back over 90% of any light that strikes it instead of scattering the light in other directions. Attaching this to your helmet or machine has a remarkable impact on your visibility to others around you. A three year study in New Zealand found that riders wearing some type of reflective or fluorescent clothing had a 37% lower risk of crash related injury versus those not wearing such clothing. This same study concluded that

riders wearing a white helmet, as opposed to a black helmet, experienced a 24% lower risk of injury. This enhanced visibility is also helpful in low-light daytime conditions like fog or rain.

New technology lighting is now available that allows the rider to better see the road ahead and to make a rider more visible to the motorists around them. LED lamps are brighter and whiter in color and provide a superior light pattern over standard incandescent lamps. Compared to the yellow light of a traditional halogen bulb, the LED lamp produces a "Daylight Color Impression" that appears more natural to the user. Such headlamps provide a focused beam of light in front of the motorcycle. The headlamps on BMW's newest bikes are tied to a gyroscope which senses the direction and extent of the bike's turns and adjusts the direction of the headlight accordingly so that the light is actually aimed around the turn rather than straight ahead. Aftermarket brake lights and flashers that with one stab of the brake pedal set off a flashing brake light and other conspicuous rear lighting are a good idea. You might also consider fog-lights that illuminate a wider area to the forward lateral quadrants.

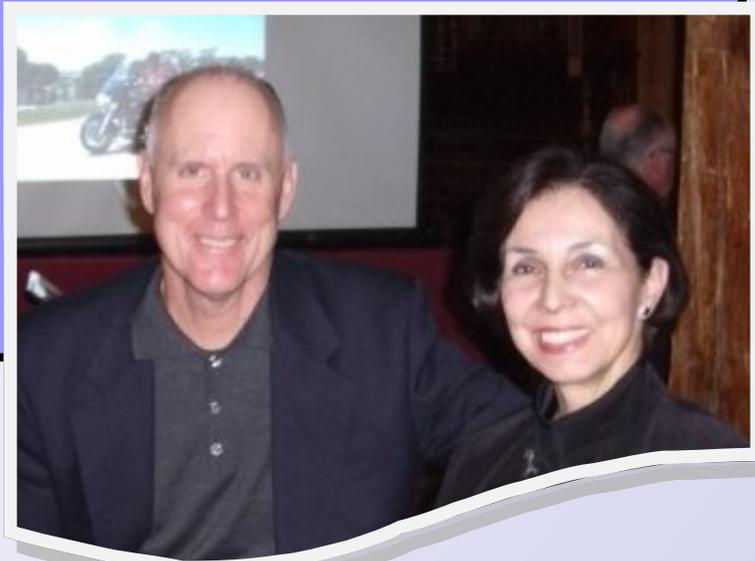
But remember that more than half of motorcycle deaths are a result of one-vehicle crashes. The skill and the mental focus of the rider is the most critical factor in minimizing the risk of any riding situation. Do not allow such lighting technology to give you a false sense of security.

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## Top Cats You Should Know!

**Larry Johnson**  
As told to Terri Loden



Which Top Cat does exactly three crossword puzzles every morning and has a wine cellar full of his homemade wine?

Why, Larry Johnson, that's who!

He's been doing this since his college days, so I'm betting he's pretty good at it. He is also one of 125 pilots in the world who are in the DEA's Air Wing Division and worked for the DEA for 22 years. He retired a few years back, and has been enjoying his passion for motorcycle riding and traveling to historical locations on his motorcycle.

Some of his travels have been solo and some have included his wife, Joy, on the back of his iron horse. Since she has retired from General Manager in the hotel industry, they have lots more time to enjoy riding and seeing the country.

Of particular interest to Larry was riding to Tombstone, Arizona and experiencing the historical significance of "The Gunfight at the OK Corral." He loves being out West or any place that has a *law enforcement* past. Funny how riding a motorcycle can combine and expand on any interests one might have.

Both Larry and his wife, Joy, have taken Larry Scalzitti's Learn to Ride course so we know that they are well equipped to ride! And, he always wears his silver cross/neck chain for good luck.

But, wait! There is something else brewing in the Johnson household. Never one to rest on his laurels, he and Joy are just now starting a business together.

He is combining his background in Security and DEA training to form a Security Patrol Contracting business. Joy will handle the accounts and day to day business and Larry will patrol Homeowner's Associations. We wish them much success on their new venture!

When asked what one tip he would give a rookie motorcycle rider his answer was: "Turn your head/eyes in the direction you want to go."

Good advice for all of us.

### **May Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Happy Birthday to**

Muriel Brandt May 5th

**Happy 37th Anniversary to**

Robert and Ilene Mann May 17th

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



Active conscious scanning is particularly critical at night and this includes the mirrors and frequent head checks. Do not over-drive your headlights. Time-and space safety-zone maintenance and situational awareness are even more critical at night. You do not want any unknown intruders in your safety zone. You are the one who controls access to your zone so control what you can like lane positioning and following distance. When slowing and stopping in traffic, keep a careful watch to the rear and flash your brake lights as traffic approaches. While sitting at a light or riding in heavy traffic, be sure to focus on possible escape routes as part of your safety-zone maintenance.

A smudged face shield or windshield during the day might only be a minor annoyance. However, they become a serious risk factor after sunset. Be sure everything you look through is clear and scratch-free.

Protecting your eyes with sunglasses is a good idea during the day, but replace them with clear or light-enhancing lenses at night.

Animals, particularly deer, are a more serious risk factor at night. When riding in a wooded area, where animals are likely to be more prevalent, covering controls, adjusting speed and position for maximum space and warning time and consciously and aggressively scanning wider than you may otherwise are some useful strategies to reduce animal-strikes risks. Despite advertising claims regarding deer-whistles, all the scientific studies I have seen indicate that such devices are not at all effective-day or night.

One way to reduce night-riding risk is to ride divided highways whenever possible. These roads are designed to eliminate or minimize cross traffic, provisions have been made to reduce or eliminate animal crossings and virtually all the vehicles around you are traveling in the same direction and at approximately the same speed.

Another night-riding strategy to reduce risk is to consciously seek out another vehicle to follow. Not only do the headlights of the vehicle in front of you lengthen your sight lines and illuminate the roadside verges further ahead, but unexpected brake lights or uncommon maneuvers by this lead vehicle, provide early clues about unusual hazards lurking in the darkness ahead. However as useful as this lead-vehicle-strategy is to provide early warning for some road hazards, it will probably do little to warn of some hazards such as gravel or wet leaves that automobile drivers are typically not very concerned about.

As Greg Zaffke reminded us recently, the proliferation of distracted drivers means it is never a good strategy to stop by the side of the road and anticipate that drivers will see you and avoid a collision. If you must stop, particularly at night, find a place where you can absolutely get well off the road.

In the daylight you can frequently monitor a driver turning left in front of you to make some assessment as to the attentiveness of that individual. Thus you can make some adjustments (slowing, covering your brakes, identifying an escape strategy, etc.) to intelligently compensate for the potential risk. At night, you are unlikely to be able to see such drivers and thus you should proceed through the intersection anticipating the worst.

I am sure we have all seen the statistics that as the evening progresses the percentage of impaired drivers on the road increases. This is particularly true on week-ends. If motorcyclists are frequently not “seen”

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in daylight by seemingly alert drivers, imagine how your situation deteriorates at night facing alcohol impaired and/or distracted drivers.

Frequently your night riding may be unplanned, meaning something went wrong-you or someone in your group had bike problems, your distance/speed planning was simply wrong, you may have made a wrong turn, you may have been caught in a traffic jam, etc. As a result, your riding day is longer than planned, meaning you are likely both unusually tired and hungry. These factors, potentially combined with frustration over whatever caused the change in your plans, might mean you have a less than ideal mental focus on the task at hand.

While all of the above outlines the risk of night riding, it is also the case that the rewards of motorcycle riding are diminished at night as well. The beautiful scenery you normally ride to enjoy is either not visible at all or greatly reduced. And you would be an idiot to be riding that fun, twisty, country road at the same speed you would be enjoying in daylight.

Remember accidents are caused by an accumulation of risk factors. So if you find yourself in a situation where you think you must ride at night, stop and make a careful assessment as to whether you really must keep riding. Do not give way to the "Press on Regardless" philosophy; consider carefully whether a more prudent course would be to simply find a nearby motel. If you conclude you must keep going, make an intelligent assessment of the added risks and adjust your riding behavior accordingly.

## Top Cats....

Getting focused...

Moving out...

Finding new roads....

And

Putting together rides to create a  
Great Summer....

# 2012

The rides have just begun!





## TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

**YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS**

**BY : LARRY SCALZITTI**

Hope everyone has had a chance to get their bikes out and start piling on the miles! We have been blessed with a very mild winter and lots of opportunities to ride. In previous years we'd only be able to daydream about riding so much in February and March.

We had a nice crowd at the Kick Off Ride. Thanks to Greg Smith for planning and executing a terrific day. Thanks also to the strong riders that traveled to Ottawa with us despite the cooler temps and chilly winds.

The month of May should provide us with plenty of excellent riding weather. We still have open dates on the ride calendar, so don't be shy. Plan a ride and let your fellow Top Cats join in the fun of riding along with you. We have May 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> wide open. Also for those not traveling to Washington DC in late May, we could have a ride or rides over the Memorial Day weekend. Pick a date, they are all open - May 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.

Here's what's scheduled for the next few week. Please note we're still looking for ride leaders for events marked TBD. If you're interested, please let the Activities director (Larry Scalzitti) or chair (Tony Loden) know.

**Saturday, May 5th – Satellite Ride to the Epic Memorial Ride (TBD)**

**8:30 – 10:30 am**

For those Top Cats that would like to participate and take the back roads (Rt 14) up to Delevan, WI and assemble with the rest of the riders as an organized club for the 3rd Annual Epic Memorial Ride from Delevan to Lake Zurich, IL. Open to all members and guests.

**Sunday, May 6th – 3rd Annual Brunch Run to Millie's (Loden)**

**9:00 am – Midafternoon**

Meet at the Shell Station at Lake-Cook and Route 12

with KSU scheduled for 9:30am. This year the plan is to mix things up and meander a bit westward and travel the county back roads through Illinois and southern Wisconsin to take in the sights and sounds of typical Americana. Once we get hungry, we will stop for brunch at Millie's Restaurant in Delevan, WI. From there the group will return back to the friendly confines of Northern Illinois later in the afternoon. Open to all members and guests.

**Tuesday, May 15th – Franks and Fries (Scalzitti) 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Join us on our search of that perfect Hot Dog! This month we return to a Top Cat favorite, the iconic Dog and Suds. You can't beat the frosty mugs of Root Beer and the nostalgic look of the place. Meet up with your motorcycling buddies to look at our rides and talk motorcycles. Dog and Suds is located at 11015 N Main St, Richmond, IL 60071.

**Sunday, May 20th – 25th Annual Little Angels Pledge Run (Loden)**

**8:30 – 10:00 am**

For those Top Cats that will be participating, we have a reserved spot at the front of the group. This satellite pick-up ride will take the back roads up to Woodstock Harley and assemble at the starting point of the ride. We meet at the Shell Station, Lake Cook and Rand Rd, Palatine with KSU at 8:30am. Open to all members and guests.

**Thursday, May 24th – 29<sup>th</sup> - Annual Rolling Thunder DC Run (Kirkpatrick)**

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

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## **Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - NISRA Fishing Derby Ride (TBD)**

8am – 2pm

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

## **Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – Top Cats General Meeting (Kirkpatrick)**

**Meeting starts at 7:30 pm**

Please join your fellow Top Cats for dinner prior to the start of the meeting.

The eSkape Entertainment Center is located at 350 McHenry Road in Buffalo Grove, IL.

## **Multi Day Ride Reminders:**

Annual Little Sturgis/Davenport 3-day weekend ride are now available by calling the Radisson Quad City Plaza Hotel at (563) 322-2200 and asking for the "Top Cats" group rate checking in on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The room rate is \$109 per night. Reservations for this ride must be made no later than Wednesday, May 16.

Rooms are still available for the Top Cats Annual ride to the 2012 Sturgis Rally scheduled to leave on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> and returning Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Reserve your room at the Alex Johnson by calling the Hotel Alex Johnson directly at (605) 342-1210. All reservations must be guaranteed by a valid credit card. The base contract room rate for a double queen, king or executive suite is \$199 per night plus applicable taxes (about 12.7%) with junior or better suites slightly higher.

A quick laugh...

Provided by Tom Malia

## **PROTECT YOUR DAUGHTERS, MAKE WISE DECISIONS!**

A Little 10-year-old girl was walking home, alone, from school one day, when a big man on a black motorcycle pulls up beside her. After following along for a while, turns to her and asks, "Hey there, do you want to go for a ride?"

"NO!" says the little girl as she keeps on walking.

The motorcyclist again pulls up beside her and asks, " I will give you \$10 if you hop on the back."

"NO!" says the little girl as she hurries down the street.

The motorcyclist pulls up beside the little girl again and says, "I'm feeling generous today!

I'll give you 20 Bucks and a Big Bag of Candy if you will just hop on the back of my bike and go for a ride with me."

Finally, the little girl stops and turns towards him and Screams Out...

"Look Dad, You're the one who bought the Honda instead of the Harley!

You are just going to have to deal with the fact that no one wants to ride with you and ride by yourself!"



## FIRST CALL????

By Traveler



When we hear "First Call" it typically indicates the first chance to get in on something. When we hear "Last Call" it typically indicates the pending loss of an opportunity to do something that we enjoy. It's no different when it's applied to our annual trek to the Black Hills and Sturgis Bike Week. This is...First Call and Last Call is right around the corner!

and rally expenses appears to be generating the excitement we traditionally experienced as a club over our annual rides to Sturgis.



This year is the 72nd Anniversary of the legendary Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and, possibly one of the most exciting Top Cats' group rides to Sturgis.

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



The increasing interest of our members in this iconic Black Hills Rally, combined with better negotiated travel

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

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As this edition goes to publication, we are close to 60 days away from our cut - off date of 3 July for making or cancelling hotel reservations at the Alex Johnson Hotel in Rapid City, SD.



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



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



Here's the info for hotel reservations...

## **Wed. Aug 1**

### **City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN.**

Rates: \$74.00 / night

Phone: [\(507\) 345-1234](tel:(507)345-1234) / [\(877\)345-5577](tel:(877)345-5577).

Cut-off Date: **15 July 2012**

## **Thurs Aug 2**

### **River Lodge, Pierre, SD.**

Rates: \$59.00 / night

Phone: [\(605\) 224-4140](tel:(605)224-4140)

Cut-Off Date: **15 July 2012**

## **Fri, Aug 3 – 8 (?)**

### **Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD.**

Rates: Negotiated Contract @ \$199.00

Phone: [800-888-ALEX \(2539\)](tel:800-888-ALEX)

Cut-Off Date: **3 July 2012**

**NOTE:** No refunds for the total number of days booked if canceled after 3 July 2012.

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



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

## 12th ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S RIDE

By Traveler



The outlook is exciting for the 12th Annual President's Ride, 30 June to 1 July. Speedways, museums, motorcycles and back roads are the key ingredients in our trip to Indianapolis.



### **Dates:** 30 June

Depart: Hindsdale Oasis for a 230 mile ride to Indianapolis at 8:00 AM

Arrive: Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art 3:00 PM (+1 time change)

### **1 July**

Depart for Indianapolis Motor Speedway: 8:00 AM

Arrive at Speedway: 8:40 AM

Lunch: Sunday Brunch 12.95 ea, Cibus at the Brickyard 1:00 PM

Depart Indianapolis Speedway for a 230 mile ride to Hindsdale Oasis ~2:00 PM

Arrive Hindsdale ~ 6:00 PM

**Concept:** Ride to Indianapolis Indiana to visit the Steel Ponies Exhibit at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art on Saturday, 30 June 2012. Stay overnight at the Fairfield Suites, dinner on site at TGI Fridays. Sunday morning, visit the Indianapolis Speedway for a special tour, then brunch at the Brickyard Resort on the way home Sunday.

### **Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art:**

The Steel Ponies Exhibit will explore the art, history and cultures that have developed around the motorcycle. The exhibit will feature more than 20 motorcycles, each with a unique story illustrating the rich subcultures that have sprung out of the motorcycle.

Steel Ponies will feature Evel Knievel's bike he used in many of his famous jumps, a chopper featured on American Chopper made for the Chippewa Nation among several other historical and custom bikes. The spirit of the West is perfectly embodied in the motorcycle—the open road, freedom and individual expression.



The exhibit will explore the popularity of motorcycles as an art form and an expression of identity through custom builds. Guests will see examples of symbols from the West and Native America.

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Reserved and secured parking for motorcycles, unguided tour, cafe, group rates of \$6.00 ea.

**Indianapolis Motor Speedway:** The special 1.5 hour guided tour of this facility is rich in IMS history and landmarks. Knowledgeable Hall of Fame Museum staff members serve as hosts for the Grounds Tour, providing tour participants with a narrated historical journey through the decades at the “Racing Capital of the World” along with visits to notable IMS landmarks normally open only to officials, drivers and teams during events.



Grounds Tour guests will visit the timing-and-scoring suite in the Pagoda, the Media Center, Victory Podium, Gasoline Alley garage area and the world-famous “Yard of Bricks” at the start/finish line. **BRING YOUR CAMERA!!!**

terminating with a stop at the “Yard of Bricks.”

Guests also will tour the Hall of Fame Museum and enjoy a ride around the famed 2.5-mile IMS oval in one of the Museum’s comfortable tour buses, cul-

minating with a stop at the “Yard of Bricks.”  
Motorcycle parking, The special Grounds Tour package, track Lap and Museum entry is \$25.00 ea.

**Hotel:** A limited block of rooms has been reserved for Top Cats at the Fairfield Inn & Suites directly across the street from the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. Rates are \$119.00 / night. Parking, normally \$23/night, is free. There is a TGIF restaurant within the hotel.

Hotel reservations must be made with Mary Walters, [mawalters57@gmail.com](mailto:mawalters57@gmail.com), by 18 May 12, so we can forward a list of attendees to the hotel. If you do not make reservations soon, you will be on your own for hotel rooms. Room cancellations can be made up to 28 June 2012.



**Sunday Brunch:** Cibus at the Brickyard, on Speedway grounds, \$12.95 each. Onsite parking if needed. Reservations for 15 Top Cats. Golf Resort restaurant with a great reputation for Brunch.

## Daydreaming...

By Traveler



We all recognize and accept the fact that riding a motorcycle requires an acute sense of remaining alert and prepared. We all must admit, however, that there are occasions, like riding all day through the flatlands of Kansas, where your mind wanders. When that happens, strange thoughts surface in a biker's mind like....

- Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.



- If you're too open-minded, wouldn't your brains fall out?
- Don't worry about what people think, they don't do it very often.
- It ain't the jeans that make your butt look fat.

- Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.
- Isn't it easier to ask forgiveness than get permission?
- For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.
- If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.
- Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.
- A conscience is what hurts when all of your other parts feel so good.
- Eat well, stay fit, die anyway????



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- A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
- Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
- No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
- Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

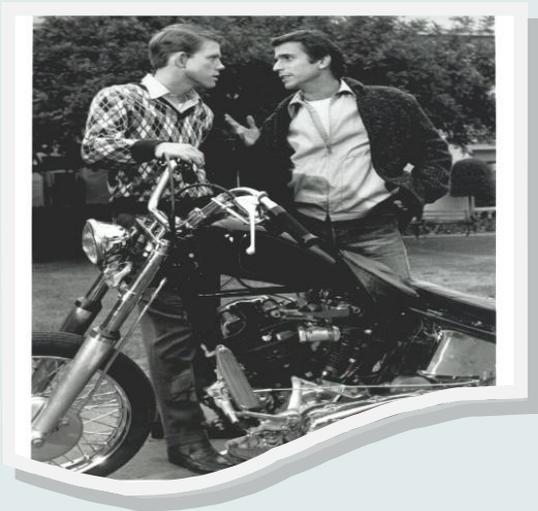


- By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.
- If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.



- Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
- Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
- There is always one more imbecile than you counted on in your group ride.

- If Wal Mart lowers prices every day, why isn't their stuff free by now?
- Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.



And.....no matter where you go,  
there you are.....

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### APRIL 3, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Meeting began at 7:30 and membership was asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick**

- ◆ Thanks to Larry Johnson, Ron Freudenburger, Fred Creed for their help with the event at Woodstock Harley Davidson. Their actions reflect on the entire club
- ◆ Guest Speakers who will be presenting tonight:
  - CHIRO ONE Andrea Williams and Dr. Philip Shaw
  - Ned Meisner – Financial Management
  - Randy Braun – Insurance



**Past President's Comments:** Mike Bradbury is out of town and will make report next month.

**Vice President's Report : Gary Brandt**

- ◆ Gary reported that the By-Law Committee has completed their review of the by-laws and has presented their work to the board. And that the board is presently looking at the changes and making final clarifications.

**Guest Speakers:**

**CHIRO ONE and Andrea Williams and Dr. Philip Shaw**

- Dr. Phil Shaw explained the importance of chiropractors and their work. He explained how chiropractors can work with bikers to maintain their health and ability to ride healthy.
- Central Nervous System and, muscle tissue and bone structures are very interrelated and need consistent attention to maintain health and balance. Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each system and helping build and maintain homeostasis is the goal of CHIRO ONE.
- Manual Manipulation is the main method used by CHIRO ONE, but massage therapy is **not** available at this office.
- For more information contact: 847-850-7740

**Business Speakers:**

**Financial Management, Ned Meisner, Financial Planner.**

- Holistic Financial Planning allows Ned to do what he enjoys most...helping people.
- Looking at the whole picture of a person's life is important in making goals and strategies for their financial future.
- He can be contacted at: Nedmeisner@meisnerfinancial.com

**Insurance, Randy Braun**

- Having someone that you can talk to about all situations is an asset when looking at insurance issues.
- Randy is definitely an easy one to trust with questions – and you can be confident with the answers you receive.
- Be sure that your uninsured or underinsured motorist insurance is in place and has coverage that is at minimum 250,000/person 500,000/accident.
- Contact Randy with questions at: Randy@rbtarget.com

**Secretary's Report: Mary Walters**

No changes or updates for the club from the secretary.

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## **ROAR:**

A comment sheet was passed out to the members to ask for their help in developing topics for the ROAR. Any ideas can be directed to Terri Loden or Mary Walters.

## **Treasurer's Report: Stuart Johnson**

- Wayne reported that Stuart could be in Majorca.... With our money?
- Wishing all of our Tax Accountants good health and restful nights after April 17<sup>th</sup>!

## **Awards / Membership: Greg Smith**

- Greg reported that there are no new applications at this time.
- Name tags are in! See Greg to get your name tag....
- Road Names need to be developed for all members. Others can make suggestions and then the club can vote!  
For tonight... How about Naming Fred Creed – AMP??!!  
Unanimously, Fred is now known as AMP.... Congratulations you loud, resounding, Top Cat

## **Safety / Charity: Ric Case /Don Schaffer**

- Occupational Safety Tip: INCOME IS TAXABLE! Carl Marcyan also cautioned that *cash* income IS taxable!
- Carl summarized his article that is in the April ROAR. He drew a visual picture of a terrible accident involving two semi-trucks and used this to express the importance of being ready for any changes in traffic. Carl discussed the possible options we have as riders when there is a change in traffic patterns.
- Stay awake, stay aware, and be ready to take evasive action – breaking is always the best choice.
- Don reported that you don't have to be in major traffic to be involved in an accident. Things can happen in parking lots just as easily as in major traffic and can be equally devastating.
- Wayne also added to the safety tips: When there is one emergency vehicle on the road, there will most likely be another. Be aware and watch for all vehicles.
- Wayne also mentioned that when traveling, having a plan B in place for the possibility of a lost phone is advisable! Purchasing another SIM Card or being sure to have a data back-up with your service provider are two options.

## **Activities / Website: Larry Scalzitti, Tony Loden**

### **Charity**

- Tony reported that the raffle tickets for our Charity event are available. Our members can begin to sell them at \$10 each.
- Posters and flyers are also ready to be distributed
- Online Pre-Registration will be available until July 21st.
- One free ticket will be given to anyone who registers early and buys four tickets.

### **Activities**

- April 14<sup>th</sup> is a detailing party to get the Triumph ready for the raffle.
- April **22d** will be the kick-off ride led by Greg Smith.

(Continued on page 20)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Call to order: 7:30

Present: Larry Johnson, Mike Bradbury, Ric Case, Mary Walters, Greg Smith, Gary Brandt, Wayne Kirkpatrick

Excused: Stewart Johnson and Larry Scalzitti

Guest: Tony Loden

**President: Wayne Kirkpatrick**

- ◆ Wayne reported that the President's ride has been confirmed and we can begin to book the 14 rooms that have been reserved. He passed around the flyer for the ride and asked for comments or suggestions to be given in the next few days so that there can be an e-mail blast sent out and plans can start.
- ◆ Larry Scalzitti asked that the by-law review be tabled tonight because he and Stuart will not be in attendance. It was decided that we will get started tonight and adjourn by 9:15 tonight. The process will continue again if needed at a later date.
- ◆ For the May General Meeting, Tom Malia and Don Shaffer will talk about GPS systems.
- ◆ The June General Meeting will be Dennis Dougherty who will talk to us about the website and its capabilities and accessibilities.
- ◆ The board will also make sure that there is a back-up process so that there will not be a delay in getting information onto the website.
- ◆ The mail pick-up also needs to be addressed so that the paperwork for the club is addressed more efficiently
- ◆ The insurance premium is \$1,042 dollars for this year due: 1July, 2012. It will cover the officers and directors liability one major charity ride per year and members travel to and from the meetings and Board events. It was put to a vote and the board unanimously agreed to pay it again for this year.
- ◆ The name tags have been purchased, and cost \$78.00. They were bought in conjunction with Rolling Thunder. The board voted and unanimously agreed to pay this bill.

**Vice President: Gary Brandt**

- ◆ The board will review and finalize the by-laws as soon as possible. Thanks again to the committee who did a great job!

**Secretary: Mary Walters**

- ◆ There were only two members who responded to the questionnaire last month.
- ◆ Master Rosters will be sent out to Board members this week.
- ◆ Membership has access to the Roster on the website with names and e-mails.

**Treasurer: Stuart Johnson**

- ◆ No report, but Wayne stated that Stuart responded to an e-mail and will make the May meeting. He will reconcile the accounts and pay the bills for this month and report in May.

**Past President: Mike Bradbury**

- ◆ No report at this time.

(Continued on page 17)



## ***Director, Activities: Larry Scalzitti and Tony Loden***

- ◆ Tony reported that all of the activities have been updated on the website.
- ◆ Posse report was done by Tony and he stated that the meeting went well. The groups compared notes on the events and made sure that there weren't any events that occur on the same day.
- ◆ Larry sent a message asking that ride ideas be developed by all members.
- ◆ We will be purging the website and ROAR of all businesses that are not supporting the Top Cats.
- ◆ Reviews on the website will be done over the next few months. Please send any suggestions to Larry Scalzitti.

## ***Director, Membership: Greg Smith and Jeff Tietz***

- ◆ Glenn Williams, friend of Fred Creed, has applied and his name was put before the board for Associate membership. Greg Smith moved for acceptance, Gary Brandt seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- ◆ Ed Beurley has applied, attended GRASS and a meeting, and has paid his dues at this time. He was approved via electronic vote, as a Regular member.
- ◆ Road Names should be continued... but not as a formal Board issue. The membership can develop ideas and bring them to the attention of the club.

## ***Director, Safety and Charity: Ric Case***

- ◆ Mike and Ric have been putting together ideas about how to reward Road Captains and incentives for recruiting new Road Captains. They will present these ideas to the board at the next meeting.
- ◆ Exporting GRASS to other groups: American Legion Riders, and Phil Stander have requested a safety riding class and have scheduled a time for their members on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Wayne will present the class for this group.
- ◆ Safety will be contacted in the future if groups would like a class, and a record will be kept of the groups that access the TC GRASS information.
- ◆ Larry Johnson asked if the class would put Top Cats in the position of liability. Wayne explained that there is always that possibility, but the judgment would be unlikely to go against the Club as we teach people how WE ride, not how to ride..

### ***Charity:***

- ◆ The detailing meeting will be on Saturday, April 14, 2pm to 6pm at Wayne's house.
- ◆ All other details are moving forward.
- ◆ Wayne talked about the Posse meeting and the acceptable decibel levels of pipes. The gentleman who did this for the Posse may be asked to come to the Charity event.

## ***Director, Products and Website: Larry Johnson***

- ◆ The product development is underway and some of the items that were clarified included the styles, colors, and numbers of each. An order is presently being developed and with the ideas that Noelle Rigsby had detailed, there would be around 65 shirts ordered. The order would be around \$1,000.
- ◆ Discussion from the board centered around the numbers needed. With 60 members in the club, the total number of shirts may be decreased for the final order.
- ◆ The board will hold off on making the final approval until the account reconciliation is done by Stuart.

The review of the By-Laws began at 8:22. The changes and adjustments will be completed in the next months and the copy will be finalized by Gary Brandt. The meeting was ended at 9:20 by Wayne Kirkpatrick.

## OIL SPOTS

By Traveler



The following excerpts are compliments of AIM/NCOM Motorcycle E-News Service brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester.

### MICHIGAN RIDERS WIN HELMET FREEDOM

Proving that persistence pays off, motorcyclists in Michigan bounced back to win helmet freedom of choice when their new Governor, Rick Snyder signed the bill into law (Public Act #98) that repeals the 37-year old mandatory helmet law.” announced Angel Richardson, Legislative Director for the Michigan Confederation of Clubs and a member of the National Coalition Of Motorcyclists (NCOM) Board of Directors. “The repeal is effective immediately!,” she continued. “

Michigan now joins 30 other states in amending their mandatory helmet law in favor of adult choice. “The new law modernizes Michigan's outdated mandatory helmet law, which was a holdover from bygone days leaving

Michigan in the minority as one of only 20 states left enforcing an empty federal mandate,” said Vince Consiglio, President of ABATE of Michigan.

The proposal to update Michigan’s mandatory helmet law was introduced in the Senate by Senator Phil Pavlov (R) St. Clair. Allowing motorcyclists to ride helmet-free could also generate more than \$1 billion in direct and indirect revenue, according to a recent Michigan Consultants study.



The new law gives Michigan the strictest requirements for riding helmet-free of any state. To ride helmet-free in Michigan, motorcyclists must:

- ◆ Be at least 21 years old.
- ◆ Have at least two years of riding experience or undergo special safety training.
- ◆ Carry at least \$20,000 in additional medical insurance.

### NEW VIRGINIA LAW ALLOWS MOTORCYCLISTS TO RIDE SIDE-BY-SIDE

Motorcyclists are eager to legally cruise side-by-side now that Governor Bob McDonnell has signed legislation permitting them to ride two abreast in a single driving lane in Virginia.



House Bill 97, sponsored by Delegate Tony Wilt (R-Harrisonburg), passed overwhelmingly and will now allow two-wheeled motorcycles to drive alongside each other in one lane.

The bill allows riders to use their own judgment in determining when it is appropriate to ride beside someone, but does not require them to do so,” said Del. Wilt. “One goal is to eliminate the harsh punishment placed on riders for doing something as innocent as pulling aside another rider while stopped or taking off together after being stopped.”

Virginia will become the 49th state to accommodate two-abreast riding when the new law takes effect July 1. Vermont remains the only state to prohibit the practice.

(Continued on Page 19)



## MOTORCYCLE SAFETY ACT BECOMES LAW IN WISCONSIN

Governor Scott Walker signed AB55 into law, reports ABATE of Wisconsin, which not only clarifies penalties for right-of-way violations but also establishes motorcycle awareness training in Drivers-Ed courses.



All right-of-way violators that cause serious injury or death on Wisconsin's roadways will be subject to up to a one thousand dollar fine and up to a nine month license suspension and must complete a DOT approved right-of-way awareness class before being reinstated. Also, AB55 adds a mandatory minimum of thirty minutes of motorcycle awareness training in all drivers' education classrooms throughout the state.

## BIKERS ROLL WITH "COLORS" LAWSUIT

Police claim that a group of bikers was pulled over for wearing improper helmets, but an attorney for the bikers claims they were stopped by state troopers because of their colors.

U.S. District Judge Jerome Simandle in Camden, N.J. said two members of the Pagans Motorcycle Club and one Tribe M.C. member can proceed with their lawsuit stemming from a July 30, 2009, traffic stop in Burlington County, including malicious prosecution. During the stop, New Jersey state troopers ordered riders of six motorcycles to remove their "colors," the members' patched jackets, but the bikers refused -- leading to a federal lawsuit alleging actions by the troopers violated their constitutional rights.

"The court has basically said, 'Yes you have a right to wear a patch, these logos,' " said Norristown attorney Boyd Spencer, who represents the Eastern Pa. Confederation of Clubs.

The bikers were ticketed for not having approved helmets, and were told to remove their colors if they wanted to leave. The whole traffic stop, which lasted more than an hour, was captured by mounted cameras in the police cruisers.

"Now you're all going to take your jackets off, because on this highway, these are the only colors," one of the state troopers told the group after nearly 50 minutes had passed, referring to State Police blue and gold uniforms.



None of the bikers removed his colors, and at a later municipal court hearing, the helmets were found to be legal and a prosecutor dismissed the charges.

"We're looking ... for the court to rule the obvious: These people have a right to wear their colors," said Spencer, who is the Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) attorney for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and serves as legal counsel for the local Confederations of Clubs. "This is a widespread practice of police officers harassing people with (club) patches on," asserted Spencer, who contends his clients were stopped and detained by the troopers because of their colors. "It's not an isolated incident."

(Continued on Page 18)

General Minutes Continued....

### *Activities continued*

- April 29<sup>th</sup> is an opportunity to go to Morrie's, an antique motorcycle shop, to **help** sell **bike raffle** tickets.
- See the Website or the ROAR for details on these and other activities... and there are many to choose from already!
- 110th **Harley Anniversary** Hotel Room status: 8 out of 15 rooms are left for the 2013 event.

### *History / Products: Larry Johnson*

- Larry stated the Top Cat information that is archived at the Barrington Library can be accessed through the Top Cat Website.
- Larry asked that everyone get involved in documenting the rides through photography. Wayne wanted to go on record stating that the Club **WILL PAY FOR YOUR FILM!**
- Noelle Rigsby is collecting the information so that the product inventory can be made available to the membership soon.

### *50 / 50 : Ron Freudenberger*

*The winner is..... Don Shaeffer!*

*Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 by Wayne Kirkpatrick.*



### **DATA SHOWS HIGHEST RISK FOR NEW MOTORCYCLISTS**

Safety studies show the most dangerous time for motorcyclists is their first year riding, peaking in the first month. Their first 30 days are about four times more risky than their entire second year.

A study by the Highway Loss Data Institute shows 22% of nearly 57,000 collision claims from 2003 to 2007 occurred within 30 days of a new policy taking effect. The claim rate then dropped by one-third in the second month and by almost two-thirds after six months.



### **PREDICTING FUTURE CYCLES**

The Motorcycle Industry Council has reported a 7.2% gain in first quarter motorcycle sales across 18 leading brands, and a staggering 50% increase in scooter sales – suggesting that the recent spike in gas prices is inspiring more Americans to take to two wheels.



Market prognostication is an iffy proposition at best, but the MIC is boldly offering their first ever estimate for future motorcycle sales, though it's not an entirely rosy outlook. Regarding the remainder of 2012, MIC president Tim Buche says "Even with low interest rates making this a great time to buy for many people, overall economic uncertainty is leading us to predict we'll have fewer sales in 2012."

The MIC does offer a positive observation: "Spending on maintenance and repairs has been rising since April 2010, according to the business advisory, suggesting that the market for consumers taking care of bikes they've long owned, or improving used bikes they've recently purchased, could continue to improve." The MIC also states that tire sales confirm that riders are putting more miles on their motorcycles, suggesting that while new bike sales might be weak, interest in the sport isn't waning.



# Analysis of a Near Miss

By: Numbersman



Most of us who have been riding for any length of time have had a close call or two. You escape the crash, and hopefully spend some time thinking about what happened, and why. Analysis of the incident can be extremely valuable in your future health. I invite all Top Cats to submit a short article that tells about you're the one you lived to tell about, how and why it happened, and what could have been done to avoid it. Let's make a regular column of this.

I'll start this one off with an incident that happened to me on the home-bound leg of a Top Cats ride toward the end of last summer. We had broken off into small groups, each heading home. I was riding point, with Tony and Terri in the two spot. The weather was great, warm and sunny. We were in the left lane of a 4 lane road, going east through a commercial shopping area. Traffic was moderate.

Suddenly I see that the car ahead of me is at a dead stop to turn left into a shopping center. I swerved a bit just to the left of the car, knowing that if I went too far past him on the left I would be hit when he turned. I grabbed a handful of brake and did a maximum braking stop with my front wheel about a foot beyond and to the left of the car's rear bumper. Thank you, ABS brakes, no lockup and I was able to stay upright without a problem. At that point I was happy to be alive, but I really didn't know how it happened. Then the analysis started.

At the next light, Tony said that Terri had yelled in his ear, "Don, stoooooop". If Terri saw the problem and was alarmed, that told me she saw it early enough so I must have done something wrong. I needed to concentrate on riding again so I tucked away a mental picture of the scene, and continued on home. Here is what I have been able to reconstruct after a lot of thinking:

- 1) It was a warm afternoon and we had been riding all day.
- 2) I had eaten a big lunch about an hour and one-half before the incident.
- 3) The traffic in the area, though not heavy, was rather helter skelter with drivers going straight through while others were turning in and out of the shopping center.
- 4) Something had distracted me, because I was looking to my left into a parking lot just before I re-checked the road ahead and saw the car.

Problem number one is riding tired. Then complicate that by having too much blood busy digesting lunch rather than operating the brain (Think about the old joke that says a man has both a brain and a penis, but only enough blood to operate one at a time). This is a combo that can impair you as surely as a shot of booze. Add in unpredictable traffic and a distraction, and you have the elements for a self made disaster.

I never figured out what had caught my eye in the shopping center. It could have been a driver who did something stupid, a horn being sounded, an antique car, an underdressed or over-endowed female, or even a SALE sign. It makes no difference because the result was the same, I did not clear the road far enough ahead, nor did I adjust my speed properly to anticipate cars turning into parking lots.

Makes you think of a lot of lazy afternoons when you had the same problem, doesn't it?

President's Minute, Continued...



If you haven't sold any raffle tickets to our classic 1970 Triumph Bonneville 650, yet you'll be embarrassed to be the only one who hasn't.

**Annual Kick – Off Ride.** This one is always a risky ride regarding the weather so it isn't an easy ride to plan and execute. In the past there weren't many, if any, road captains who would step up and grab the chance to lead this one in potentially cold, wet weather but....not anymore! We were the beneficiaries of Greg Smith's leadership and Jane Smith's navigation on our annual Kick Off Ride, 22 April.

My point is simple....the chemistry that we now have in our Club is not only enjoyable to experience but, it makes everything so much easier to accomplish, and so much more fun, when we do it with our brothers and sisters! See you at our next event?

Let's roll,

*Traveler*  
President  
Top Cats - Illinois

## Top Cats...

Coming together ...  
Creating  
New adventures...  
New stories...

And  
Moving into a Great  
Summer...

**2012** is here!





## 2012....

Record our Top Cat History!  
Take pictures... Write Stories....  
And Submit them to the ROAR!

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..

## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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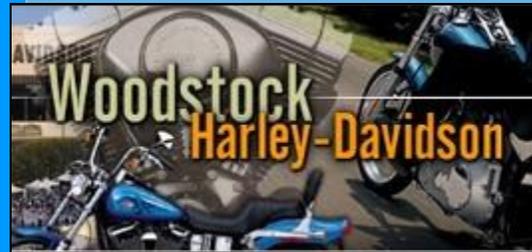
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Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at City Limits Harley-Davidson



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
Tuesday, May 1st	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, May 6th	Millie's Breakfast	Lake Cook and Hwy 12	Delavan, WI	9:00 am	Loden
Tuesday, May 8th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, May 15th	Franks and Fries	Richmond	Dog and Suds	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Sunday, May 20th	Little Angels	Lake Cook and Hwy 12	Woodstock HD	8:30 am	Loden
Thursday, May 24th	Rolling Thunder	Hinsdale Oasis	Washington, D.C.	7:00 am	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, June 2nd	NISRA Fishing Derby	TBD	Lindy's Landing	TBD	TBD
Tuesday, June 5th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, June 10th	GRASS Class	Keller / Williams	Palatine	8:30 am	Case
Tuesday, June 12th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Thursday, June 15th	Little Sturgis	Hwys 14/176 McDonald's	Davenport, IA	8:30 am	Marcyán
Tuesday, June 19th	Franks and Fries	Round Lake Park	Big Jacks	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Saturday, June 30th	President's Ride	Hinsdale Oasis	Indianapolis	8:00 am	Kirkpatrick

All ride information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at [www.TopCats.org](http://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](http://www.TOPCATS.org)

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