



ROAR

June, 2012

Volume 12 Issue 6

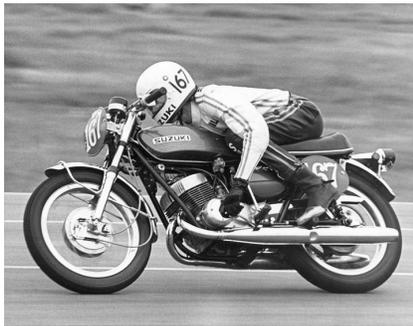
The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

Inside This Issue



PRESIDENT'S MINUTE

Our season is in fifth gear right now with one more "up shift" to go this year. My only fear is that, if the state of Illinois finds out how much fun we are having, they would declare it illegal or try to tax it. So...let's keep the renewed depth of camaraderie and unbridled joy to ourselves....



This became one of those rides that will forever tag Tony as the RC who lead us into the perfect storm, or the RC who lead us out of the perfect storm, depending on how wet you got. It will also be one of those rides that will live in memory far longer than the sunny, scenic, "nothing really happened" kind of ride. Every now and then...a challenging ride like this really becomes a confidence builder.....

We recently tested and confirmed our skills, our safety program, our road captain program and our perseverance on the 3d Annual Aunt Millie's Ride. As the weather turned gruesome and skies became dark and threatening, our ride to Delevan, WI looked like it was in jeopardy. However, our mixture of highly skilled riders and co riders, who were well – equipped and experienced in riding in inadvertent inclement weather, combined with our road captain's (Tony Loden) weather radar GPS and ability to find "holes" through the storm, got us to Aunt Millie's wet but safe and not drenched.

In the next few months, our bylaw revision project should be complete and we will be updating you on the improvements reflected in our revised bylaws that will provide for more member participation, better planning stability, officer and director prerequisites, progressive membership status, and a refined election process. The end result will be more stability in Board positions with improved continuity in management, an active membership base,

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Upcoming Events

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

JULY

- 3 General Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting
- 17 Franks and Fries
- 22 Ride for Dreams
- 28 Il State Police Ride
- 31 General Meeting before Sturgis

August 1 = Sturgis!



KAUTION KORNER

Cornering: Give Yourself a Brake

By: Dennis P. "Wombat" Dougherty



"In single vehicle motorcycle accidents, motorcycle rider error was present as the accident precipitating factor in about two-thirds of the cases, with the typical error being a slide-out and fall due to over-braking or running wide on a curve due to excess speed or under-cornering."- The Hurt Report on Motorcycle Accidents

We all appreciate the thrill and zen of being one with your motorcycle as you are gracefully gliding through the twisties on a gorgeous day. When all goes well and everything is under control it doesn't get much better. However surprises can occur, especially in blind turns when you can't see what's on the other side. You need to be in total control of your steed when entering a turn and prepared to execute safe 'emergency' maneuvers if nature, the environment, or some other vehicle 'throws you a curve'.

The plain and simple fact is that proper cornering technique is a learned skill that requires practice...lots of practice... to get it right. There is a lot of physics going on in a cornering situation that is very different from straight and level riding. The impact of speed, turning radius, incline, and unforeseen obstacles amplify the need for careful pre-planning, anticipation, and precision execution to make it truly safe.

On the street, your goal is to maximize traction at all times. This gives you traction 'reserve' to react to surprises. Cornering uses traction. Braking uses traction. So, using both uses unnecessary traction. Ideally, a smart *street* rider would not brake in a turn unless it was absolutely necessary, i.e. some surprise debris or animal in the road or something that would require you to slow down. Tires only offer so much traction. Being leaned over in a turn and suddenly braking could indeed cause the front wheel to lock and the rider to lose control. So the best strategy is to get all your braking done *before* the turn and smoothly roll on the throttle to help manage traction all the way through the turn.

. Cornering Technique

Different techniques and braking strategies are recommended for cornering when on the road or on the track. This article is focused on typical and basic street riding and cornering while underway.

The MSF teaches one of the more common approaches toward proper cornering technique; *SLOW, LOOK, PRESS, and ROLL* for cornering without braking. It is simple and easy to remember. As you approach a turn, call it out to yourself to help keep you focused on what to do and safely navigate the curve.

SLOW - to a proper entry speed *before* initiating the turn. Use *both* brakes while upright for maximum braking effect. Avoid braking in the turn. If you need to brake in the turn, it most likely means that you didn't slow to a suitable entry speed.

(Continued on page 4)



Top Cats You Should Know!

Fred Creed

As told to Terri Loden

.Hello Top Cats!

This month we are going to learn a little more about one of our most vocal and memorable members. Three guesses who that might be and the first two don't count.

Yes, you were right! It's the one and only Fred Creed whose nickname in Top Cats is "Amp."

Fred is an Independent Manufacturer's Rep for building materials but his career in sales started out waaay back in 1967 when he was negotiating a purchase of a Triumph Bonneville motorcycle and the salesman was so impressed with his salesmanship skills that he offered him a job. So, he got the bike and the job in the same day! It was definitely a step up from his bartending days and communal living arrangements with the band *Spanky and Our Gang* and Mama Cass Elliot. If only those walls in that house could talk.

His motorcycle days ended shortly after when he met his wife Julaine and fell in love and married. He sold his bike and began his new life of matrimonial bliss which he still continues to this day.

But something happened to Fred around the year 1996. He began to feel that stirring in his soul again. That longing for the open highway on two wheels instead of four. That unsurpassable feeling of freedom that you can only get when riding a motorcycle. So he decided that it was easier to ask permission than forgiveness and asked his wife if he could buy a motorcycle again. Happily, she said yes if he agreed to wear a helmet and get insurance. He promptly went out and bought his first Honda Goldwing and

has never strayed from the brand since.

His most memorable ride to date has been riding the "Tail of the Dragon" two years ago with our own Stuart Johnson and Amy Tobler and Andy Kon-siewicz. What a roller coaster ride that was he has said! It was so much fun riding 320 curves in 11 miles at night, that he got up the next morning and did it again!

He always keeps his lucky charm, a whistle, on his keychain and says it has never failed him.

When asked what one tip he would give a rookie motorcycle rider he answered: "Smile and enjoy the moment."

His license plate reads FFOG which translates to Full Figured Old Guy. I think instead it should read FFNG for Full Figured Nice Guy.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Roar@TopCats.org

Anniversaries for June!
Kathie & Mike Bradbury
June 10th



LOOK - Prior to entering the turn, look through the turn and continue to do so as you progress through the turn. Keep your head up and eyes looking forward. Learn to read the landscape encompassing a turn. Tree lines and power lines can tell you a lot about what's coming at you, including curve radius, and exit point. Anticipate what's up ahead, plan your actions, and ride accordingly. Be prepared for surprises.

PRESS - Press the handlebars in the direction of the turn to initiate counter-steering and lean the bike to start the turn. Bikes must lean to turn. If you are going too fast, are facing a decreasing radius turn, and/or you think you are going wide, you should press and lean more into the turn to tighten up your turn. You may be surprised how far over your bike can lean, even after you hear the first grinding sounds of metal against roadbed. If this happens, don't let it surprise you and panic. It's better to trade some metal with road to keep control than to play a game of full contact 'chicken' with another vehicle or obstacle, become airborne over a cliff, or run off the road out of control.

ROLL - Roll on the throttle. Some say from the moment you initiate the turn and continue with power on throughout the turn. Others say as soon as you see your exit point, especially if it is an unfamiliar turn. Power can help increase traction, but it can also increase turning radius. If you start to roll on the throttle too early and encounter a decreasing radius turn or an assortment of obstacles in your way, then you may have to take some other action, like increasing lean angle, to successfully complete the turn without braking. In either case, power should be applied to help maintain traction and not for acceleration. Don't accelerate until you can safely negotiate your exit point.

When You Must Brake in a Turn

No matter how hard we pre-plan and execute our cornering strategy, we *all* brake in the corners at some point. When that happens, you can (and almost always should) apply both brakes to optimize deceleration and control.

The MSF 'recommends' that you square the bike up first, and brake in a straight line, especially in an emergency maximum braking situation. (It is something that takes practice to be good and safe at). This gives you the most tire/road contact and lessens the sideways forces on your tires. However circumstances may not allow a squared-up, straight line stop in all cases. So what do you do?

First and foremost remember that you DO NOT have as much traction when the bike is leaned over. There is generally a smaller contact patch between tire and road. Some of that traction is being used to counteract the forces pushing your bike out of the corner. Using the brakes when leaned over requires much more 'touch' than when going straight and much caution is required when doing so...once again...practice it to get good at it and be safe. Yes, use both brakes. Using the rear only, especially in a turn, is a good way to lock the rear wheel. High siding in a turn can get *really* ugly!

Roll off the throttle but not so much that the engine braking contributes too much to the braking force and you lock the rear wheel. I would pull in the clutch and close the throttle to give better rear brake feel/control and it makes for one less thing to think about as well.

Remember that braking in corners will make the bike stand up and want to go straight out of the corner. Be prepared to increase the pressure on your downside handlebars to increase/maintain the proper lean angle so the bike remains on your original course in the corner. It also uses up some of your available traction, so caution is needed here as well.

Also remember that you are going to have to tilt the bike back upright if you are going to come to a complete stop. This is a natural reaction for most. But get to know that feeling so you can do it in one fluid motion and not panic and drop the bike. If you don't have full control and the bike is in a lean when you come to a stop, don't injure yourself trying to right the bike. Hop off as safely as possible and deal with the scuffs and scrapes later.

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Tips & Tricks for Safe Cornering

When riding in a group, take cues from riders and other vehicles in front of you. Watch what they are doing as they move through the curve ahead of you. If you are following them at the same speed and you see them brake in the turn ahead of you, it most likely means they entered the turn too fast. Use your brakes to slow down if you haven't entered the turn yet. If you have, roll off your throttle to avoid using the brakes and be prepared to increase your lean angle.

As mentioned earlier, read the road ahead. Usually Mother Nature and the DOT give you some hints about what's around the bend. Power lines, tree lines, road contours, incline, bank angle, all are indicators of what's up ahead. Learn to look for those signs, understand what they mean, and use them to plan and execute your cornering strategy.

Take an advanced riding course such as *Stayin' Safe* to raise your skill level in cornering. Tom Malia, Larry Scalzitti and I took the course a couple of years ago in western Wisconsin. We did over 2,000 curves in 500 miles over 2 days. We certainly came away with improved technical cornering skills related to entry and exit strategies, but more importantly we increased our knowledge of how our bikes handled during cornering and the limits of our own comfort zone with speed management.

Practice! Practice! Practice!

I can't say enough about this. The absolute WRONG time to learn about proper cornering technique is during a turn, especially a blind one, downhill, with decreasing radius, and obstacles on the road. No matter how many years you have been riding, we can all use some polishing up on our basic motorcycle handling skills... especially the ones that can go wrong quickly and hurt you. Practice good cornering technique on some familiar roads and turns. Test the limits of your handling skills of small radius turns (both slow speed and road speed), emergency braking, and obstacle avoidance during cornering on an empty parking lot. Use every turn you make as a lesson in proper cornering speed management and execution.

When in a curve, it's better to err on the side of too slow than too fast. You can't go through a turn too slow... Remember, *when approaching a curve, give yourself a brake!*

Ride Safe!

Note: Additional content sources and quotes include the MSF and various websites and blogs.

President's Minute, Cont



an experienced – based Board member qualification process, and a clearly – defined election process less vulnerable to inefficiencies and abuse.

The months ahead will offer some great opportunities to hang with, and ride with, many of our new members and our old members as well. In typical Top Cats' fashion, our new members quickly feel like old mem-

bers in our environment of brotherhood / sisterhood that Top Cats seem to naturally embrace. So, when you see a new face, just treat them like an old timer and make them feel as welcome as you feel.

Let's roll,

Traveler
President
Top Cats - Illinois





TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

BY TONY LODEN

May... Oh what a month. The scheduled rides started with cold and drizzle, turned to thunderstorms and rain followed by extreme summertime warmth.

For the first time in 66 years, March was warmer than April in Chicago. And if that's not bad enough, forecasters are now predicting warm temperatures which will stretch through the duration of summer in the U.S. The summer extended forecast for June through August, calls for warmer-than-normal weather for about three-quarters of the nation. The above normal warmth is expected to be south of a line stretching from the middle of New Jersey to southern Idaho. That puts Chicago on the warm side of that line and potentially in a severe weather corridor as that line fluctuates both North and South. Looking back, last May until April of this year was the hottest 12-month period on record for the nation with records going back to 1895. This year so far has seen the hottest March, the third warmest April and the fourth warmest January and February in U.S. weather history and it was one of the least snowy years on record in the lower 48. We might call it a Backward Spring right after the Winter That Wasn't.

Looking at our events calendar, the month of June looks kind of shy for Top Cats club rides and events. Other than our annual trek to Little Sturgis in Davenport over Father's Day weekend, there's not much to report on except for the Presidents ride leaving Saturday, June 30. I sure hope that some of the Senior RC's have some tricks up their sleeve or July will not be much better. There are plenty of open weekend dates, or even dates during the week; just talk to Larry Scalzitti or myself and will make sure to get you on the calendar. We will even make the e-mail blasts look cool and professional, so don't be shy.

Speaking of rides you do not want to miss out on, the block of rooms for the Annual Little Sturgis/Davenport 3-day weekend ride have now expired but there may still be some availability by calling the Radisson Quad City Plaza Hotel at (563) 322-2200 and asking to see if they would still honor the "Top Cats" group rate checking in on Friday, June 15th. The room rate was \$109 per night.

Bard also says that there are still rooms available for the Top Cats Annual ride to the 2012 Sturgis Rally scheduled to leave on Wednesday, August 1st and returning Wednesday, August 8th, 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.

Here is a look ahead to some of the upcoming events from the June and July Calendar...

Saturday, June 2nd – NISRA Fishing Derby Ride & Volunteer Day (Rigsby)

8:00 a.m. – Midafternoon Join Gene Rigsby for the annual NISRA Fishing Derby and Volunteer day. We will meet at Mill Street Inn in Wauconda for breakfast before heading out on a short 60-mile ride through the back roads of Lake and McHenry counties ending at the Lindy's Landing pier in Wauconda, Illinois. Top Cats will help set up and serve lunch to the NISRA participants.

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Sunday, June 10th –

8:30 a.m. – Noon

G.R.A.S.S. Class

Top Cats Senior Road Captains host GRASS class at the Keller Williams offices located near the NW corner of Route 14 and Route 53, in the Harris Bank building (the tall white one). Open to all members and guests. Second Floor, enter in rear of the building.

Friday, June 15th –

Sunday, June 17th

Little Sturgis - Davenport (Marcyan/Loden)

Enjoy the best attended, continuous, overnight ride on the calendar!!! We leave on Friday, June 15 and return on Sunday, June 17. The top cats have set aside 12 rooms at the Radisson in downtown Davenport. This year the Saturday morning ride is still being tweaked, but don't worry, we will return in plenty of time to enjoy the rally. Don't miss a fun filled weekend. You may still be able to reserve a room at 563-322-2200 if you are interested in attending.

Tuesday, June 19th –

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Franks and Fries (Scalzitti)

Once again our dog connoisseur Larry Scalzitti is still in search of that perfect Hot Dog... We're doing it again this month to search out that perfect dog, meet up with your motorcycling buddies, look at our bikes and talk about motorcycles. This month we will be tasting the dogs at Big Jack's, 7 N. Hainesville Rd. Located in Round Lake Park, IL.

Saturday, June 30th –

Sunday, July 1st

Presidents Ride (Kirkpatrick/TBD)

The outlook is exciting June 30th to July 1st... Speedways, museums, motorcycles and back roads are the key ingredients as we ride to Indianapolis Indiana to visit the Steel Ponies Exhibit at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art on Saturday, June 30th. 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 Brick-yard Resort on the way home Sunday.

Tuesday, July 17th –

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Franks and Fries (Scalzitti)

Once again our dog connoisseur Larry Scalzitti is still in search of that perfect Hot Dog... We're doing it again...to search out that perfect dog, meet up with your motorcycling buddies, look at our bikes and talk about motorcycles. This month we will be tasting the dogs at him Franks For The Memories, 645 E. Hawley Street, Mundelein, IL.

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

12th ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S RIDE

By Traveler



Ride 30 June – 1 July



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,(\$119.00 / night) 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.

Preparation Time Line

18 May: Last day to get on the hotel reservation list by contacting Mary Walters (mawalters57@gmail.com) (262) 344-6228 or Wayne Kirkpatrick(wkirkpa177@aol.com) (847) 915-8428.

28 June: Last day to cancel hotel rooms without charges.

Weekend Ride Schedule

Saturday, 30 June: Back roads ride to Indianapolis to visit the Eiteljorg Museum and Steel Ponies Exhibit.



Spend the evening dining and staying at the Fairfield Inn & Suites.

Sunday, 1 July: Special tour of the Indy Speedway complex and Museum. Lunch at Cibus at the Brickyard (\$12.95) and a leisurely back road ride home.

If it takes to get on the ride is an email, phone call, or in-person comment to **Mary** or **Wayne** to get added to the hotel reservation list.





Remember:
Save the Date!
Sunday,
July 22th, 2012



Every year the Top Cats - Illinois hold a major fundraising event for our favorite charity - NISRA: the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association. All riders are invited to join us on July 22th for our Ride for Dreams...a fun-filled day that features a leisurely 100 mile ride through the countryside. The event begins and ends at Woodstock Harley-Davidson, in Woodstock, IL. Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch after the ride, music, and an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets. Be sure to put this on your calendar! To date, the Top Cats - Illinois have contributed more than \$226,000 to NISRA from the proceeds of this event.

The Top Cat's Motorcycle Club has been supporting NISRA, Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association, for 16 years! Our Annual Motorcycle Ride has been developed in order to give Riders an inspirational day working for a very amazing group of people.

NISRA welcomes participants of all ages and ability levels in programs. Preschoolers, children, teens, adults and senior adults can experience the benefits of involvement in recreation activities. Their programs have close staff-to-participant ratios to assist people with disabilities in achieving their greatest success. Many of the programs enhance socialization and foster independence. Activities for youth-at-risk promote cooperation and social skills in a therapeutic and challenging setting. In keeping with the goals of each program, our #1 objective is to offer fun!

For More Information visit: WWW.NISRA.org or WWW.TOPCATS.org



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

MAY 1, 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.

Guests - Kathy Kramer – friend of Bard Board

President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

GPS Class by Tom Malia and Don Schaffer

Group Riding – American Legion Riders – Presentation done by Wayne Kirkpatrick on

4/22.

Bike Ticket Sales are going very well – and the bike looks beautiful!

Past President's Comments: Mike Bradbury

Mike is traveling and Wayne reported that Mike had no report

Vice President's Report: Gary Brandt

No Report for this month

Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

No Report for this month

Treasurer's Report: Stuart Johnson

Stuart was IN ATTENDANCE – and wished all of the tax service providers a good recovery
There is a \$3,000 balance in the account for the Charity event as was needed for providing the supplies for the preparations.

The banquet cost only \$34 to the club thanks to the efforts of Noelle and Gene Rigsby and their

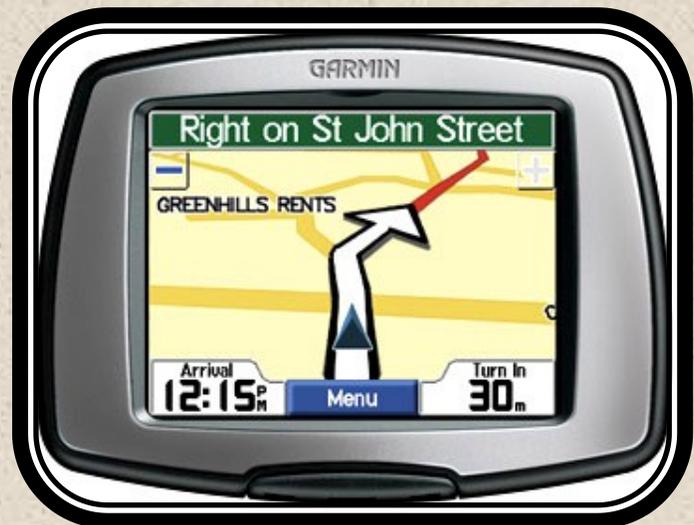
The kick-off ride included paying for the dinners of three guests – two of them then joined the club!

GPS Briefing: Tom Malia / Don Schaffer

Don Schaffer began the presentation with a MAP – a paper version. He suggested a Gazateer with a good deal of detail.

He walked the group through a visual presentation on how to use the tools of the GPS mapping program.

Tom then spoke to the membership about how to use the GPS after



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loading a route into the system. Some of the GPS systems can be used in many alternate ways. MP3 players, picture player or videos of a destination can all be parts of the systems that you purchase.

He stated that it is important to spend time making sure the route programmed in accurately if it is a serious ride. Tom explained common mistakes or software idiosyncrasies.

Awards / Membership: Greg Smith

Two new members – but they will be introduced at the next meeting, when they are in attendance

Greg was given a new road name... Ice man for the cold rides that he has led over the years!



Safety / Charity: Ric Case /Don Schaffer

Road Captain Incentives are in the works!

Next GRASS Class will be held on June 10th.

The ROAR has Tom Malia's article on Safe Riding!

Activities / Website: Larry Scalzitti

Online information is updated and accurately reflects the details of the rides

Bard Board spoke about the information that members will need to plan their Sturgis trip.

Don Schaffer spoke about his Memphis ride and the BBQ and Blues experience that will be a part of the ride.

Blue Nights Chapter 12, has a ride on June 3rd leaving from City limits at 9am. See Randy Braun for other details

President's Ride was presented by Wayne Kirkpatrick and the members were asked to make plans.

Rooms will be reserved up until May 18th.

History / Products: Larry Johnson

Noelle has been putting together an order for products and hopefully there will be items for the membership to see next month.

50 / 50 was not pulled tonight. Not enough time for ticket sales.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 by Wayne Kirkpatrick





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MAY 8, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Call to order: 7:30 by Gary Brandt

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

Excused: Wayne Kirkpatrick and Stewart Johnson

Vice President: Gary Brandt

- Web site password back up process was addressed and Larry Scalzitti was asked to provide the information to one of the other board members.
- Web Site briefing to members will be done at the General Meeting in June by Dennis Dougherty. There is confirmation that the Insurance for 2012 is paid.

Secretary: Mary Walters

ROAR is developing new ideas and moving ahead. We have to stick to the deadlines so that the new edition is up on the website every month by the 1st. Mary will continue to work on this with the members who submit regularly and will continue to work to ensure a quality product in the time frame required.

A question arose as to the reliability of those providing the Kaution Korner and Safety Tips and the board was assured of the responsible way that all Road Captains have handled their monthly submissions.

Copies of the Master Roster were passed around and updates were discussed. The master data base will be sent out tomorrow to all of the board members.

Treasurer: Stewart Johnson

There is no update from Stuart for tonight. Tax filing was questioned and will be verified with Stuart.

Past President: Mike Bradbury

No updates from the past President for tonight.

Director of Activities: Larry Scalzitti

- There are open days for trips to be planned in the next two months. There are only two multi-day rides planned for May and June, but no other single day rides .

Discussion was had on how to get the Road Captains to begin planning ahead and getting the rides going.

Director of Membership: Greg Smith

- Membership has possible new members, but no official paperwork from them as of today.
- The question was raised about keeping the sign-in sheets for the rides. Would a PDF document that could be printed out help the road captains? Mary will create one and send it out to the Road Captains Awards and Road Names will continue to be developed during the summer.

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Director of Safety and Charity: Ric Case

Safety

- Road Captain Incentives are ready to be presented.
- Safety Tip / Kaution Korner quality concerns for the general meetings were addressed. Discussion centered on the idea that the tips at the meeting should be different than what is in the ROAR. The Committee will develop new ideas for short safety tips and address this with the members.

Next GRASS reminder – June 10th and the Blast will be out soon.

Charity

Status of Committee & Planning – all is good. Some bills need to be paid and Ric will address this with Stewart Johnson.

Director of Products and History: Larry Johnson

New Products Status

- Budget request was made for \$710. The numbers were based in the need to go with 10's so that the logo would be covered.
 - Greg mentioned that as the sales are made, the money will be returned with very little to be 'gambled'.
 - Larry Scalzitti made a motion to approve the \$710.00 for the purchase of the apparel.
- Greg Smith Seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. We will have new merchandise for sale SOON!



History

- The pixel size is a concern with the pictures that will be put on the web and used as part of the historical site. Larry will ask Dennis to address this with the club when he does his presentation.

Procedures need to be developed so that people know how to submit pictures to the website.

By Law Review Session began at 8:30: Gary Brandt

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 by Gary Brandt.

President's Minute, Continued...

What lies ahead for Presidents of Top Cats?



Well, Traveler found his place among the ranks in Virginia!

This photo –op occurred while Traveler was giving his daughter-in-law her driving test.... Or so he says....

I don't think this was the limo ride that he was planning on... but, it looked like he enjoyed the ride!

Top Cats...

Coming together ...

New adventures...

New stories...

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

BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS

KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY
Team Realty
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

800 E. Northwest Highway
Palatine, IL 60073
Direct: (847) 241-2237
Office: (847) 241-2200
Fax: (847) 241-2205
E-Mail: gbrandt@kw.com

Gary Brandt
REALTOR®



LRN2RYD™
MOTORCYCLE TRAINING

www.lrn2ryd.com

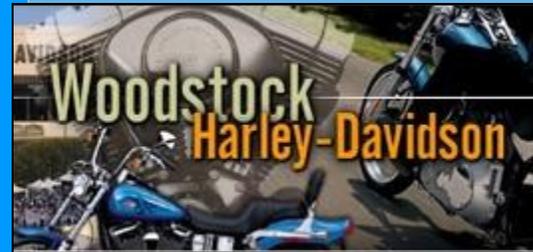
847-438-6588

scalzitti@mindspring.com

Support the TOP CATS Patrons



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



Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry Harley-Davidson

Membership Has Its Privileges!

All suppliers and vendors who support the Top Cats by providing discounts to Top Cats members will be listed in ROAR.

HELP WANTED WEBSITE EDITOR

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

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

For more information contact any board member or

Dennis P (Wombat) Dougherty at

wombat@dpdougherty.com

WANTED

Top Cats Historian

The Top Cats Board is looking for a member to become official historian for the club.

Over the next year we want to create a written and oral history of our club that we can share with existing, new, and potential members.

The club turns 15 in 2010. Many of our legacy members have or will be moving on. We want to capture their and others' stories of our humble beginnings as well as favorite tales of the road.

If you have an interest in becoming Top Cats Historian or being a part of this activity please contact Dennis P. (~~Wombat~~) Dougherty at wombat@dpdougherty.com



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Saturday, June 2nd	NISRA Fishing Derby	Wauconda	Lindy's Landing	8:00 am	Rigsby
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
Tuesday, July 3th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, July 10th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, July 17th	Franks and Fries	Mundelein	Franks for the Memories	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Sunday, July 22nd	17th Annual Ride for Dreams	Woodstock	Harley Davidson	8:00 am	Case and Crew
Saturday, July 28th	Il State Police Ride	Downers Grove	Springfield	7:00 am	Marcyán
Thursday, August 1st	Sturgis/ Sturgis Lite	Lake Zurich	South Dakota	7:00 am	Boand

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

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

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

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

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



ROAR



TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts with similar interests. Members consist of responsible Leaders, Presidents, Chairmen, Owners, Proprietors, Partners, principals, CEO's, and other 'Top Cats' of large, medium and small organizations, institutions, and companies.

For more information about the Top Cats visit our website at www.TOPCATS.org

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ROAR is the official publication of the **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**

and is published on the 1st of each month.

The content and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**

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