



ROAR

Official Publication
of Top Cats — Illinois

President's Corner...

Greetings Top Cats

It's finally here, another riding season. It is always hard to predict what type of year we may have. However 2008 is already shaping up to be another excellent season. The calendar has many new rides and a few re-vamped old ones. Of course the traditional favorites will still be there.

There are over 17 rides scheduled through August. There still remain a few open weekends in those months, so if you have some ideas, don't hold back. September and October are wide open. The fall can be a great time to ride, so let's make sure we take advantage of it, and of course the price we pay with the winter that follows.

Many Top Cats have ordered tickets for the Harley Davidson 105th anniversary event in August. It starts on the 28th and runs for 4 days. Perhaps we can attend some of the festivities as a group. This is a good opportunity for aspiring road captains to earn their rockers.

In case any of you were not aware, our monthly board of directors meetings are open to all members. If you are ever curious about how the board operates or have some input for us, you are more than welcome.

Our board meeting location has been changed. We now meet at Gino's East in Lake Zurich. It's easy to find, just a block west of Rt12 on Rt22. Our

old meeting location (Mexico Lindo) seems to no longer be in business. Remember that your board meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with a few exceptions, at 7:30PM. Verify the meeting date using the web sites event calendar.

Our yearly membership renewal is now complete. From year to year we remained fairly stable with 92 members. It is refreshing to see so many newer members being a part of many activities.

Remember to proudly fly your Top Cats flag on your bike. We are the area's premier motorcycle organization, let's demonstrate it.

Gary Brandt

Notice:

Items for ROAR need to be submitted by the 18th of the month to be included in the next ROAR issue.

John LaMonica

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THE BIKERS WHO MEAN BUSINESS

TOP CATS—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. The content and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Top Cats—Illinois.

ELECTED OFFICERS

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TOP CATS LADIES “BRUNCH AT THE GARAGE”

On Sunday, April 20th, City Limits Harley Davidson in Palatine will be opening their “garage doors” and rolling out the red carpet for the Ladies of Top Cats Annual Brunch.

This is the time of year to meet your old friends and bring your new friends to catch up on all the Top Cats news from the long winter and find out what new things are coming up for the summer riding season.

While you are enjoying your omelet, that was made right before your very eyes, there will be a Fashion Show. Everyone always needs a few new things for the upcoming summer and this will give you lots of new ideas for things you just can’t “ride” without.

“Brunch at the Garage” is for all Top Cats women, passengers and riders. Guests are more than welcome to join us, so grab a friend to come and enjoy the Brunch and Fashion Show.

Watch your mail for more details. Please R.S.V.P. by April 16th. Cost for the “Brunch at the Garage” is \$15 per person. You can mail your check to: Sandy Vernon, 5863 R.F.D., Long Grove, IL 60047. My phone number is 847-634-6402 if you have any questions.

Spring is here, the open road is calling... see you at City Limits!

Sandy Vernon



Chicagoland's Premier Summer Motorcycle Ride Event

That's right, the Tops Cats Ride for Dreams is an event we can all be proud of. Our new partnership with the Volo Auto Museum clearly makes this event much more than a quick ride through the country. No other ride offers so much to do in the same location. The ride combined with admission to the world famous Volo Auto Museum, combined more vendors, along with food and drink compares to no other.

We have the opportunity to be the example all other rides will try to match. That can only happen with all of you understanding that this is really something that can be big. It's much more than simply selling tickets or planning a route. Imagine hundreds of bikes lined up in the parking areas, and bikers everywhere. Vendors selling their goods and hundreds of auto museum visitors walking back to take a look.

But being the best or growing the event does not mean the burden increases. If we all pitch in just a little, with the new support we are getting from the leaders of the museum this can be just as much fun to organize as it is to participate.

Make sure you mark your calendar for July 27th. This year each Top Cats should do their best to bring along two guests. They do not have to be riders. Let's fill up the place and make it worthwhile to the folks at the Volo Museum.

BE A PART OF HISTORY.....BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIG.....HAVE FUN !

Gary Brandt

General Meeting Minutes...

March 4, 2008

President, Gary Brandt called our meeting to order at 7:34 PM. No new members were present. An ex-club member named Pat was recognized and encouraged to keep coming.

The turnout was low at the February general meeting. The cold weather played its part but now is the time to come to meetings, be a part of the club and plan for your riding season.

Stickers are on sale for \$3 in decal and vinyl styles. Buy some and stick them on a window, car bumper, helmet or elsewhere. It's always good to promote the club and our interests and displaying our club symbol is a great way to do that.

John Lunde talked about the Top Cats Awards Banquet which was held on February 10th at the Seville's Banquet Hall in Streamwood. Despite (or because of) the cold temperatures, the dinner was a good time. Some fun awards and some serious ones were given out. Two awards were left to present. Tom Nichols received the award for Most Miles Ridden in a Year with 22,000 miles in 2007! Tom also was presented an award for the Best Top Cats Ride of 2007. Tom's ride last October, the Tour the Northwest Illinois Roads Ride tied with Greg Smith's Galena Overnight as the Best Top Cats Ride of 2007 as voted on by the membership. Congratulations to both Tom and Greg for being awarded for putting on two great rides!

Mike Bradbury, current secretary, presented Keith Zawila with his rocker for Past Secretary for serving as the club Secretary for 2006 and 2007. Keith was thanked for his past two years of hard work and service.

Brian Rainey announced new members at the meeting. Stewart John-

son was presented his club flag and welcomed as a new Top Cat. He thanked the club and looks forward to riding with us. Stewart found us on the internet and wants to have more people to ride with. Brian and Colleen Massheimer were presented their new membership flags and were welcomed into the club. Brian spoke of he and Colleen riding with the club the last two summers and having a good time. They both ride Hondas; a VTX1300 and a VTX1800 and already have plans to ride on some of the Hoosier Run overnight ride in May.

Tom Nichols, Charity Ride Committee Chair, was at the Volo Auto Museum recently to talk to the ownership about this year's charity ride. The museum has a lot to offer to people who come to do the charity ride. The owner observed the club in last year's ride and praised our handling of the event. He thought we worked hard and worked together well. Planning for the ride will continue for the next couple of months. Any who wants to assist and volunteer their help should contact or see Tom Nichols.

Greg Smith presented Club Activities to the meeting. The Club Kick-Off Ride is on April 13th and is being led by Andy Konsewicz. According to Andy, we are going somewhere different this year than Oregon, Illinois. It's going to be a surprise. The ride will be a lunch ride of between 200 and 300 miles to a new destination. It was suggested that the ride could be renamed Andy's Mystery Ride.

Larry Scalzatti discussed his ride, called Larry's Long Distance Ride. Or Larry's Saddle sore Ride. Or Larry's All Day Ride. Due to some legal issues, the ride name was changed. Larry is leading a ride on April 19th, entitled Larry's Annual All Day Ride. The rain or shine ride will

be a one day ride between 400 to 500 miles. Larry handed out a flyer with ride information. He recommends you bring your I-Pass or borrow a friends.

Dennis Dougherty spoke about the Sunrise Ride on April 27th. Greg Smith has agreed to Road Captain but someone may need to make sure he's awake to make the 4:45 am start time. The group will be allowed special access to Moraine Hills State Park at 5:30 to see the sunrise. A breakfast will follow with some riding in Wisconsin. If raining, check the hotline.

Brian Rainey is leading a ride on May 3rd called the K3 River Ride. The route will be along the Kankakee River with scenery including some of Al Capone's Southside hideouts.

The Hoosier Run Ride, from May 30th thru June 1st has 10 rooms booked with 5 more available. Plan ahead and book your room now.

Wayne Kirkpatrick talked about the ride to Sturgis while Bard was away. We need Top Cats to reserve rooms at the Alex Johnson now. The Alex Johnson is considering special events and arrangements if we meet a minimum of rooms booked. Only 4 people have signed up so far so we need your bookings to help. Any reservations can be cancelled in June if you change your mind.

Tommy Guns Dinner/Theater is coming up on March 16th. See Greg tonight if you still want to come.

The Little Sturgis Ride has 9 rooms booked and 4 left. Boo now, this is a popular event for lodgings and the rooms will go fast.

General Meeting Minutes...

March 4, 2008

Greg closed Activities with an invitation to all who are interested in leading rides or becoming a road captain to see him.

John Lunde, Safety Committee Chair advised the members on future Accident Scene Management Courses. The future dates are March 8th, April 12th, a refresher type course on May 9th and an advanced course on May 10th.

Many people assist behind the scenes to make G.R.A.S.S. class. Wayne gave a special thanks to Ric Case, Jim Heniff and Don Shaffer for their help with the last G.R.A.S.S. class. Wayne also warned of the current abundance of potholes or "bomb craters" as he referred to them.

Wayne presented our safety tip. He talked to a Warner Reilly recently who had set a land speed record on a non-fairing Sportster at the age of 68! We all have gone fast on our motorcycles. Some of us have probably gone 100 MPH. Wayne presented Warner's tips and things to watch out for when traveling at 100 MPH on your motorcycle. The first tip was to check your tire ratings. Most street tires are not rated for high speeds. Your tire conditions should be taken into account as well. The second thing to watch for is wind speed and forces. At 100 MPH, the wind forces are very strong. Reaction time is the next factor to be taken into account. Your reaction time doesn't change at faster speeds. It's the same at 50 MPH as it is at 100 MPH. Allow for more time to react. The last thing to watch for is your focal point. We are all naturally inclined as drivers to look ahead at a 35 mile per hour rate of speed. We must look a lot further ahead when doing 100 miles per hour.

Ric Case announced that the next scheduled G.R.A.S.S. class was May 4th. A ride afterwards will be done, weather permitting.

Chuck Prettyman presented a second safety tip for our meeting. His safety tip is about hearing protection. Helmets only reduce sound levels to 103-106 decibels. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) claims hearing loss will start occurring after repeated exposure to sound levels at 90 decibels. As motorcycle riders, we will lose our hearing in 30 years if we drive our bikes 2 hours a day. Also the frequency of hearing loss you will experience is the same as regular conversation. You should wear hearing protection. There are different types of hearing protection; custom made, wax, rubber and foam. The foam is the least expensive. They all work just as good as each other. Wear ear plugs and protect yourself from hearing loss.

Wayne announced that the new Awards Committee needs volunteers. Volunteers can help with deciding on what awards will be handed out. A committee is needed to judge awards and help give them out.

At this point, Gary opened the meeting to general comments.

Randy Braun asked everyone to consider reviewing their insurance and if it meets their needs or not. Randy insures some members in the club and he will happily answer anyone with questions or concerns about the motorcycle insurance.

John LaMonica, ROAR editor, announced that the deadline to submit articles has been moved from the 11th to the 20th of the month.

Everyone is encouraged to write about their motorcycle experiences and share them with the club. Articles are always needed and contributions are welcome.

More photos are always needed to add to the ROAR and the website. Submit any photos you have to Dennis Dougherty, our chairman and coordinator for club picture collection and storage.

Dan Strickler informed the members that Motorcycle Safety Foundation classes are filling up quickly.

Keith Zawila, Past Secretary, announced that he was teaching certified safety courses in May and June. They are rider safety courses that allow you to ride your own bike. H.O.G. members are qualified for a \$50 certificate if they attend any certified safety classes. See Keith for more information on his classes.

Larry Scalzatti also teaches safety courses you can learn more about at www.learntoride.org.

The 50/50 Raffle prize for \$57 was won by Muriel Brandt. Congrats!

Gary auctioned off some Club merchandise. A coffee mug and a set consisting of a mouse pad and coaster, all with club logos, were sold.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Bradbury

Tommy Gun's

Photos by Dennis P. (Wombat) Dougherty





SAFETY...



Kaution Korner by Tom Malia

This article, written by Gerry Schulte, initially appeared in "BMW Owners News", the magazine of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America (www.bmwmoa.org). It is excerpted here with permission.

We are approaching the time of year again, when thunderstorms randomly threaten the skies. Fortunately, the amount of time most people are exposed to lightning is very small. By your actions during these times, you can drastically minimize, or tragically maximize, your risk of being struck. Knowledge is power; it can also save your life.

STATISTICS

Lightning is the most dangerous and frequently encountered weather hazard that most people experience each year. It is the second most frequent weather related killer in the United States (second to floods and flash floods). On average, ten percent of strike victims die; 70 percent of survivors suffer long-term debilitating effects along with burns and impact injuries from the actual strike.

While nearly all people take some protective action during the most dangerous part of storms, many leave themselves vulnerable as thunderstorms approach or depart. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the main area of the thunderstorm. That is about the distance you can hear thunder from the storm. At that distance, it may be difficult to even see a storm, and it is possible to be

struck with clear skies overhead. This is referred to as "blue sky lightning."

Many lightning casualties happen at the beginning of an approaching storm because people try to wait until the last minute before seeking shelter, but more than 50 percent of lightning deaths occur after the thunderstorm has passed. In fact, most people struck by lightning are not even in the rain. For this reason, the National Weather Service says, "When thunder roars, go indoors."

RISK REDUCTION

The vast majority of lightning casualties could be easily avoided by following the few simple guidelines discussed in this article. The first line of defense against lightning is to stay on top of weather predictions along your travel path. Periodically monitoring a NOAA weather radio will help keep you up-to-date on any approaching storms,

The safest location during lightning activity is a large enclosed building, with a roof, walls and floor, such as a home, school or office building. Picnic shelters, sheds and other partially open or small structures are NOT safe. Enclosed buildings are safe because of wiring and plumbing. If lightning strikes this type of building, the electrical current from the flash will typically travel through the wiring and/or the plumbing into the ground. This is why you should stay away from showers, sinks, hot tubs, etc, and electronic equipment such as TV's, radios

and computers. Stay away from windows and keep outside doors closed, as well.

Metal, hard-topped vehicles are safe from lightning for the same reason. If they are struck by lightning, the charge will travel through the steel of the car, around the passenger compartment and to the ground. For this reason, keep the doors and windows closed, and do not touch anything metal in the car during a storm.

Being on a motorcycle during a thunderstorm is worse than standing on the ground, because of the metal in the bike. The best defense while riding is to be aware of the weather around you. Seek shelter when you first hear thunder, see lightning or dark threatening clouds developing. Count the seconds between the flash of lightning and the sound of thunder. You should already be in a safe location if this time is less than 30 seconds. Stay inside until 30 minutes after you last hear thunder. This is known as "The 30-30 Rule."

The lightning safety community reminds us that there is NO safe place to be outside in a thunderstorm. If you see or hear a storm coming, and you can turn around and get away, DO IT! If you are caught out in the open for any reason, the following last resort tips, though they will not prevent you from being hit, may slightly lessen the odds:

- Wait out the storm under an overpass or bridge. Not touching steel girders is obvious, but also do not

SAFETY...

Kaution Korner by Tom Malia

lean against any concrete pillars or beams; structural concrete is usually reinforced inside with steel. Try to remain on dry surfaces if possible. If the overpass is struck, it should be well grounded by design.

- Do NOT seek shelter under tall isolated trees. They may help you keep dry, but their height significantly increases the risk of being struck. Rain will not kill you, but lightning can! Stay twice as far away from a tree as it is tall.

- Lightning typically strikes the tallest object in the area. In an open field, that may be you! Keep as low as possible, but do not lie on the wet ground. Instead, get into the "lightning desperation position", i.e., crouch down into a squat while keeping your feet together. This makes you as small a target as possible. If there is a low area or dry ditch nearby, this will get you even lower.

- Lightning seeks the path of least resistance on its way to the ground. Since the human body is mostly made of water, it is a very good conductor. Wet ropes and metal objects, such as fences, poles and motorcycles are also excellent conductors. The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances, and can spark from them to you. Keep a safe distance, 50 feet if possible. Drop any metal items you may be wearing or carrying, such as backpack frames, golf clubs, tools, etc. Large metal objects can conduct lightning. Small metal objects can cause burns.

- If high voltage wires cross the road, you may want to seek shelter directly underneath these wires. Electric companies design these wires and towers for lightning strikes. In the event of a strike, the current will be carried safely into the ground. However, do not get too close to the large metal towers that hold up these wires.

- This may sound a bit morbid, but if a group of people are caught out in a storm, they should spread out at least 15 feet apart, so the lightning will not travel between them if hit. In the event of a strike, the others will be there to help.

IMPORTANT: These recommendations are a last resort. You are NOT safe in these places, just marginally

safer than in the open.

Lastly, the vast majority of lightning victims survive their encounter, especially with timely medical treatment. Individuals struck by lightning do not carry a charge, and it is safe to touch them and provide medical treatment. Call 911 and start mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. If the victim has no pulse, begin cardiac compressions. In cold, wet situations, put a protective layer between the victim and the ground to lower the risk of hypothermia.

For more information, go to www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors.htm.

Something Different

by Mike Bradbury

Proof that even a hog can be green, here is a first! An all electric motorcycle and to top-it-all an electric Harley-Davidson! Yes, Harley-Davidson going green! [Vogel](http://www.vogelbilt.com), (<http://www.vogelbilt.com>), an inventor-entrepreneur and a Harley enthusiast, has modified a Harley-Davidson chassis so that it houses 560 pounds of lead-acid batteries and a 79 hp electric motor that can achieve 85 mph. The bike is less powerful than a stock Harley and can travel about 60 miles, at 55 mph, on a single charge. The electric bike can be plugged into an electrical wall outlet and recharged in three hours. Vogel has been

manufacturing the electric motorcycles since 2007 and will sell them for a price tag between \$29,000 and \$40,000.

This bike may not get you through a whole day ride without a charge, but it sure is something different!





m The Past



Board Meeting Minutes...

March 11, 2008

Attendees: Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Tom Ma-lia, Eileen Perry, Greg Smith

Absent: Chuck Prettyman, Bob Car-mody

The meeting was delayed by a minor disturbance when some of the board showed up early. Our usual location, the Mexico Lindo restaurant in Lake Zurich was dark but the front door was wide open and no one was there! After a call to the police, we hastily moved to our alternate location, Gino's East of Lake Zurich. Many thanks were given to Jim Heniff for finding and approaching other places to conduct club meetings. Having an alternate meeting site ready for the club was due to his efforts and it came in handy.

The meeting was called to order by Gary Brandt(President) at 7:35PM at Gino's East.

Arrangements for the meeting sched-ule were made with Gino's East and the Board agreed to Gino's East as our new meeting location for the rest of 2008.

The final numbers for collecting club dues were reported to Gary by Bob Carmody (Vice President) and the collection for all current club mem-bership dues is complete for 2008. The total membership was reported as 92.

Wayne Kirkpatrick (Director of Safety) presented a proposal for an award for a leather patch with the Top Cats symbol to be awarded to members who bring in new members to the club. This was an award that existed before. It could be presented when the new member is recognized at the general meetings. The Mem-bership Committee Chair would pre-sent new members and this award at

the same time. The Board is in favor of the idea and will review the matter again after Wayne presents the costs to produce these awards at a future date.

Eileen (Director of Membership) asked the Board for direction on what to do with application files for the club. These files are both current and historical applications and liabil-ity waivers. Also included is the club founder's, Carl Virgo, original infor-mation. The Board directed Eileen to keep these files for now but there is interest in general to minimizing in the amount of club stuff.

Gary proposed having a picnic for volunteers of our "Ride for Dreams" charity ride. This would be a picnic for volunteers as provided by list from Tom Nichols (Charity Ride Commit-tee Chair). This would be a way to recognize and appreciate volunteers directly connected with the ride. Af-ter some discussion, the Board con-sensus was that the idea is a good one. Gary will discuss with Tom Nichols for a plan to present to the board for the next meeting.

Greg Smith (Activities Director) re-ported on future activities. There are 17 rides currently on our schedule. This is better than last year at this time. A future date in September was discussed for a club picnic. We need someone to lead and manage this. Previous membership interest has been shown for a club picnic and ride. Those members will be con-tacted for support and possible assis-tance. Club funding for a club picnic is included in the budget and will be discussed with the budget review later. A volunteer to lead this will be sought and hopefully found to get this going. This will be discussed further as things develop.

Wayne reported that the last G.R.A.S.S. class on February 26th

was the best in years with out-standing turnout. We had (2) Mo-torcycle Safety Foundation instruc-tors there as guests as well.

Wayne presented two matters for consideration to the board. The first was for a request to present a G.R.A.S.S. for an Allstate riders group. This was a request from them placed through Membership committee chair, Brian Rainey. One idea proposed by them was for having a ride to Starved Rock and then presenting a G.R.A.S.S class there. While a little back-wards, the idea has merit. Allstate has shown interest in a future cor-porate charity donation too. Future developments will be reported by Wayne.

The second proposal is to have a group riding "refresher" presenta-tion at the start of the club Kick-Off Ride, led by Andy Konsewicz on April 13th. The board consensus was this was a good idea. Wayne will put something together and ar-range with Andy.

The digital files and web site ac-cess for the ROAR and meeting minutes were discussed by the board. What was agreed to in prior meetings was that the membership access only was for current ROAR and all past ROARS would be ac-cessible by membership and the public. Mike Bradbury (Secretary) confirmed that all records for the past ROARS and the meeting min-utes were passed on by Keith Zawila, Past Secretary for 2007.

Gary wants all board members to submit a list of ideas in the next couple of months for what we think the future club accomplishments should be.

The board reviewed the 2008 budget. A revised final budget was

Board Meeting Minutes...

March 11, 2008

developed. Gary will email a final version to the board for their final approval and authorization.

A discussion on the club charity ride followed. The ride is to be seen as an event, not just a charity. There will be a cash prize this year, not a bike raffle, which was the same as last year. Gary reported that there will not be conflicts with other club rides as of the last Posse Meeting with other club presidents. There is a ride the same date in Chicago which is out of our area and would not affect us. Gary also reported that, unfortunately, no one is currently visiting other club meetings to talk about our charity ride. Gary would like to

see board members promote the ride more. To that end, Gary would like board members to speak at the next (3) general meetings. The board should become communicators about the ride to help build interest.

Gary challenged the board to attend G.R.A.S.S. classes and help build more support for G.R.A.S.S. We have seen changes with upgrades with new technologies such as converting to Power Point and everyone can benefit from attending G.R.A.S.S. more. Top Cats is well known for its group riding safety and G.R.A.S.S. is why. We all need to support it.

Wayne proposed a yearly assessment of our Safety program in gen-

eral, for which the Board consensus was in agreement.

A GPS (global positioning system) and/or mapping software presentation for future general meetings were discussed. A presentation of 15 to 20 minutes was seen as helpful and in the membership's interest. .

A motion was passed to accept the minutes from February's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully,

Mike Bradbury

Can You Hear Me Now?

By Chuck Prettyman

You don't want to hear that from family or friends because you have partial hearing loss. However, that can happen as one of the consequences of our sport...riding motorcycles.

Helmets are designed to save your cranium, not your hearing. Hearing loss can be a slow process. It is estimated that two hours of riding every day can cause serious hearing damage...in 30 years. Hell, that's a long way off for most and never to be experienced by some.

Let's mitigate that by adding a few variables. Drag pipes, Screaming Eagles and Reinhart can contribute to the assault on your hearing. You don't ride every day (for 2 hours) but you ride three times a week for 5 to 6 hours. Alone? A few friends maybe? Add a couple bikes and, if you're not in front, the assault on your hearing increases.

The frequency range of a stock set of pipes is the same that is required for voice differentiation. That's the part of your hearing that recognizes voices, allows one to enjoy the dialog in a movie and conversations within groups. Have you ever had difficulty hearing someone when several conversations are going simultaneously? Ear protection should be part of your "gear" when planning a ride. It can take several forms; there is the permanent, custom earpiece made for you (and the retirement plans of the maker). Then there are rubbers plugs with fins, wax that can be molded to fit each ear and reused several times. They are self-fitting and sold at pharmacies or drug stores. The least expensive is the foam device that can be compressed, inserted, and allowed to expand. They are also rated as effective as the more costly alternatives.

To prevent hearing loss, noise levels should not exceed 75 decibels. OSHA recommends 90 decibels as the max allowed. However, that number was a compromise settlement to appease manufacturers.

Helmets do offer some protection by reducing decibel levels to a range of 103 to 106 based on tests of leading full-face helmets.

Recommended: buy some ear protection, have spares for a passenger and use it. It also helps to make the ride more enjoyable and your endurance better.



Motorcycling Eyewear!

By Mark 'Ducky' Heller

The importance of motorcycle apparel cannot be overemphasized. This is true even to the eyewear trend line. It's the crucial thing that protects our precious eyes. Without it, glare, dust, smoke and other hazardous elements can freely penetrate our eyes.

Good motorcycle eyewear have some things in common. The first is that they have UV protection. They must protect the eyes from the harmful rays of the sun. The most advisable is to have a UV 400 filter. Second, they must have shatterproof lenses. This means that they are durable and hard to break. Even if hard debris hit the eyewear, the latter is not capable of being easily destroyed.

The best way to ascertain the best fit is to personally try it. The eyewear must have a snug fit on the nose and around the eyes. Choose a lightweight eyewear so that they will not be that burdensome.

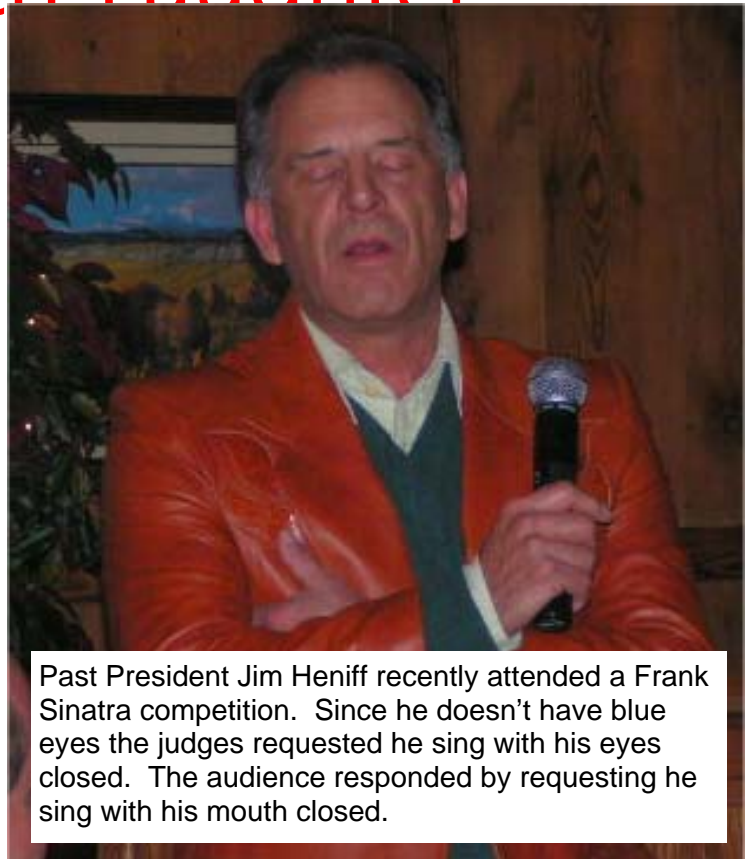


The eyewear shown above is perfect for those partly sunny days!

ROAR'in With Laughter



Top Cat Tommy DeRosa is seen here at a dress rehearsal, auditioning for a part in a new Mel Brooks film to portray Charlie, the human condom. Production was halted because of the high expense due to only being able to use the costumes one time only.



Past President Jim Heniff recently attended a Frank Sinatra competition. Since he doesn't have blue eyes the judges requested he sing with his eyes closed. The audience responded by requesting he sing with his mouth closed.

Activities Calendar



Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, April 01, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Tuesday, April 08, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Sunday, April 13, 2008	Kickoff Ride	Shell Station, Lake Cook Rd/rt12	Surprise	8:00am	A. Koncewicz
Saturday, April 19, 2008	Larry's 6th annual all day ride	Costco Parking Lot	Many Places	7:30am	Larry Scalzitti
Sunday April 20, 2008	Ladies Brunch	City Limits Harley Davidson	n/a	10:00am	Sandy Vernon
Sunday, April 27, 2008	Sunrise Ride	BP Amoco Rt 176 & Rt 12	Surprise	4:45am	Greg Smith
Sunday, May 04, 2008	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	R. Case
Tuesday, May 06, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Saturday, May 10, 2008	PADRE Ride	Watch Web Site for Details	TBD	TBD	Mark Heller
Tuesday, May 13, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Saturday, May 17, 2008	Galena Ride	Carribou coffee rt.72 & Sutton	Galena	8:00am	Tom Nichols
Sunday, May 18th 2008	Little Angels	Woodstock Harley Davidson	Woodstock	TBD	J. Lunde
Sunday, May 25, 2008	K-3 River Ride	Watch Web Site for Details	TBD	TBD	B. Rainey
Friday, May 30, 2008	Hoosier Run	Rt 14 & 176	Southern Indiana	8:30am	G. Brandt
Tuesday, June 03, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Saturday June 07, 2008	Rustic Road Motorcycle tour	Southeast Wisc	Wisconsin	TBD	Mike Bradbury
Sunday, June 08, 2008	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	R. Case
Tuesday, June 10, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Friday, June 13, 2008	Little Sturgis	McDonalds-rts 14/176	Davenport Iowa	9:00am	G. Brandt
Sunday, June 22, 2008	Milk Run	Watch Web Site for Details	TBD	TBD	E. Schertz