



ROAR

Official Publication
of Top Cats — Illinois



President's Corner...

by Gary Brandt

Greetings Top Cats

By the time this gets to print, our annual charity event will be history.

Since this is being written a week prior to the event, it is not possible to comment on its success. It is possible to thank some of the key people who insured that we were able to once again hold the ride.

Our leader this year was Tom Nichols who did an excellent job despite many obstacles. Assisting him was Greg Smith who helped with the Volo Auto museum and some other key tasks. Of course there were

many others who performed many critical tasks. No attempt will be made here to identify them so that none are accidentally left off the list. Tom will handle that responsibility at a later date. With the current size of our club, it has been difficult to pull-off an event of this caliber. The manpower just doesn't exist anymore. But thanks to many of you, we will be able to support NISRA in some way and improve the lives of some less fortunate than us.

As an organization, we need to look at the future and determine the best course of action to continue to give back to the community.

We must get more participation if we are to continue this tradition. Each Top Cat needs to ask themselves if they did all they could to help.

Did you sell your allotment of tickets? Did you help with the set up or take down of the event site? Did you lead a group of riders? Did you obtain silent auction items? Did you help distribute flyers? Did you ask your friends and family to come to the event?

But the most important question is, did you do anything at all to help?

Gary Brandt

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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.

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Planning for '09 Elections

By Chuck Prettyman

Officers, Directors, and members of Topcats, start making your plans for the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and participation in committees for 2009. If you're not running, get current on who is or who you think should be on the next Board.

Each year the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary are open; those positions are for one year and the incumbent can stand for election a second term. Only two one-year consecutive terms are available in the "executive" offices.

Directors are elected for two-year terms and may run for two consecutive terms for a total of four (4) years.

If you are an incumbent and plan to retain your office, be mindful of the limitations. In addition, incumbents may run for a post other than one occupies and forfeit any remaining time if applicable.

Regardless if there is an incumbent who qualifies for a second one-year or two-year term, any regular member in good standing may submit an application to run for office. Said application can be written or phoned in to the committee of Past Presidents via Chuck Prettyman. (E-mail chuck.prettyman@att.net or 847-854-5929)

In the past few elections we have gotten away from the practice of past presidents selecting a slate from applicants and nominees and presenting that slate to the Board of Directors. The slate should be the result of interviews and discussions with the applicants and a consensus among the past presidents that the applicant is the most qualified of the candidates for a given office. One can imagine the

difficulty in getting a consensus with past presidents recusing themselves since they may be a candidate for office, and other past presidents taking a non-participatory role. Since the committee of past presidents sits at the pleasure of the President, it is the option of the sitting President to elect to have a slate versus a list of candidates.

Members: *At this time, those members who wish to hold an office in 2009 should give due consideration and request to be included as a candidate.*

A regular member in good standing is paid up and has had a pulse for one year since joining Topcats. A qualified candidate, however, has been active, attends meetings, participates as a chairperson or member of an ongoing committee, and is willing to put in the effort and work with fellow Topcats.

Timetable: *All names to be submitted by the September 2, 2008 general meeting.*

Interviews will be during the month of September. Submission of candidates names to the Board of Directors will be

October 8, 2008 pending the schedule of the meeting of the Board.

Candidates names will be published for the November ROAR.

Elections will be at the December general meeting.

Re: Absentee ballots: *Those wishing to submit an absentee ballot must make application and receive instructions from the committee of Past Presidents.*

If you have an opinion on the direction of Topcats...get involved!

Trempealeau 2008



Galena Ride 2008



General Meeting Minutes...

July 1, 2008

Gay Brandt (President) called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

New guests were introduced at the meeting. Ron, Keith and Jeff were all introduced. Also Jerry Milligan, a guest of Greg Smith's and Lisa, a guest of Ric Case were introduced as well as Larry's son, Patrick who was home on leave from his duties in Iraq.

Gary spoke about the next elections for club officers and directors. Now is the time for all who want to consider running for office or chairing a committee for next year. This is your opportunity to lead and contribute in supporting your club. See any of the current officers and directors if you have any questions. Elections will be held in November.

Eileen Perry (Membership Director) announced that Robert Rafetto is a new Top Cat member. Unfortunately, he was not present to accept his membership handouts.

Don Shaffer announced new road captains; Eric Schertz and Brian Rainey. Both have passed all requirements to be a road captain this year. Both led rides in June. Brian's ride was to the New Glarus Brewing Company in Wisconsin and Eric's ride was to Fair Oaks Farm in Indiana. Congratulations to our new Top Cats road captains!

Don Shaffer presented our meeting's safety tip. Don asked for vol-

unteers to step forward with air gauges to measure the air in a spare tire. The results ranged from 29 to 33 lbs. Not all tire gauges measure properly but in this example the range was not bad. Inexpensive and miscalibrated gauges can cause an incorrect reading in your tire pressure. Be careful and verify your gauges results.

Don also talked to us about the differences in tire wear with improper inflation and how that can affect you. You can prematurely wear out your tire with improper inflation. Always follow your motorcycle manufacturers recommended tire pressure. Improper inflation is unsafe. How long your tires last depends on the tire make, type of motorcycle and your driving style and habits.

Greg Smith (Activities Director) presented future activities:

- July 4th, the Great River Road ride to Trempealeau, WI. This is an overnight ride 2 nights and 3 days for the holiday weekend.

- July 13th, the Progressive Dinner ride. The ride has been pre-ride and is ready to run. Wayne Kirkpatrick is hosting the first stop for a light breakfast. Eileen Perry is hosting the second stop for lunch and the final stop for desert is at Eric Schertz and Linda Zimmer's house. Cost is \$10 per person and guests are in-

vited.

- July 27th, the Ride for Dreams. All members should help by selling raffle tickets and being involved. It is important to sell as many raffle tickets as you can. A sign-up for setup help is being passed during the meeting. Volunteers are to meet at 9:00 am on July 26th.

- August 3rd, the Wisconsin State Fair ride. Mike Bradbury (Secretary) told the meeting that this is nice ride through Wisconsin backroads to the Fair. We will park on private properties near the admission gate with more than 3 hours to have lunch and see the fair. They have agriculture, rides, etc. and all should be home by dinner.

- August 10th, the Mendota Sweet corn festival is new and was just added to the schedule.

- August 16th is the Top Cats Picnic. Mike told the meeting that this is a grilled lunch with hamburgers, sausage and bratwurst and all the fixings for members and their riders to attend at the Moraine Hills State Park.

- September 20th, the Ride for Cheese.

General Meeting Minutes...

July 1, 2008

Anyone have ride ideas or want to lead a ride? Why not become a road captain by putting a ride together and showing us what kind of ride you want to do? We do have weekends available including July 19th and 20th as well as some in August and September. See Greg now with your ideas.

Our first ride for 2009 is already set. The Little Sturgis Rally/Davenport weekend ride has rooms blocked already at the Ramada. Plan ahead and book your room now. For those who went this year, the high water from the river reached the second step of the stairway in the parking lot at the back of the hotel!

Jillian from the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association spoke on behalf of the Ride for Dreams. Jillian is involved with fundraising and told us that our donations go directly to aid with transportation, scholarships and Special Olympic costs. Our donations are very important to NISRA and help support these needs for the Association. Watch the video on the NISRA website. It is guaranteed to tug on your heart strings. The Saturday morning setup on July 26th needs helpers. Sign up on the sheet being handed out during the meeting and help support your ride.

Sandra Vernon told a story about Sarah, a user of the NISRA programs who Sandra has known for some time. San-

dra met Sarah while helping with the ride in the past. Sarah has grown now and has become a global messenger for the Special Olympics. Sandra recounted what a good feeling it was to see her grow up. The rides for NISRA gave Sandra a chance to know this very special person.

Chuck Prettyman (Past President) talked about members supporting the Ride for Dreams and emphasized that it is all of our responsibility as a Top Cat to support your club's charity ride. This is a part of what you do as a Top Cat. This is part of what it means to be a Top Cat and we should all help make it the best we can. Sell raffle tickets and help. Talk to your friends and invite them to do the ride.

Gary pointed out that we currently have 93 members. If each member brought a friend we would have 180 people doing the Ride for Dreams! We still need items to offer for our silent auction. Ask any friends who may own a business or anyone else that may have something that they can contribute for the silent auction. One item the club has to offer already is a Harley Davidson 105th Anniversary package with tickets, etc. Anything is worth considering so help find items for our silent auction.

Don Schaffer offered to email the membership a cover email that we can use to solicit ticket

sales from our contacts and friends by email.

The next G.R.A.S.S. class on July 20th is cancelled. See the website for the next class.

September 14th is the Cast Iron Ride in Rockford, Illinois. This ride starts at the Vintage Spoke Museum at 10:00 AM and was started by a group of riders with pre-Evolution Harleys and other brand motorcycles. See or contact Wayne Kirkpatrick for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Mike Bradbury.

Ride Opportunity

Sue and I are interested in a 3 to 5 day road trip somewhere with a couple of other Top Cats....we're just not sure where yet.

The past 2 years we made a round trip out to Branson, Mo and loved it. We did the trip in 5 days. It's a great ride and there is so much to do in Branson. We're also thinking maybe Memphis, TN (blues capitol) and Tunica, MS (like Vegas)...but we're open to other destinations as well.

If you haven't had your fill of overnight rides this year either, then contact me at

224-627-9137

mark@mbheller.com

We're thinking late August, or early September.

Loud Pipes Save Nothing

By Numbersman, Don Schaffer

I'm going to take on a subject that may not endear me to my fellow Top Cats, but you all know that I'm not inclined to try to please everyone. Recent crack-downs on aftermarket mufflers in Lake Geneva and Kenosha County have cause a lot of riders to complain that their rights are being trampled. If this were still the days when a few hardy souls followed the two wheel pursuit of happiness, I might agree that there is not a problem. However, when thousands of riders pass down thousands of populated roads daily, we need to think about whose rights are being stepped upon.

Has it ever occurred to anyone that many aftermarket pipes really are obnoxiously loud, pollute the air more than 20 cages, disturb people deep in sleep, cause dogs to howl and cows to stop giving milk (Lots of cows being milked in Kenosha County)? To be a bit more serious, we have bought our own problems by going overboard with the volume of our pipes and when we open up the throttle to say "Look at Me". Now we are stuck with the consequences.

This is no different than what we went through with our hot rod cars in the 1950's. Every kid on the street was putting on an exhaust cutout. Anyone remember those? Pull a knob and the cutout butterfly rerouted the exhaust from muffler to straight pipe. Made your Straight 6 Plymouth pussycat sound like a moonshiner's tricked out V8 on Thunder Road. A few runs up and down the streets and the cops got complaints, started enforcing muffler laws, and convinced the legislators to pass even stricter laws with stiff fines and confiscation of vehicles. Who won, the hot rodders or the complainers?

The complainers, of course, because they were right. My home town of Memphis passed the strictest exhaust noise ordinances and inspection procedures in the country. Those who had switched to mufflers that gave just a bit more growl had to pull them and go back to stock to stay out of jail. Yes, a lot of little guys who manufactured trick headers, mufflers, etc went out of business, just like motorcycle suppliers are going to experience now.

Stop and think of how the world would sound if the

same percentage of cars as motorcycles were driving with open pipes. We would all be deaf. There are only a few reasons that can be given for running loud pipes. Getting a few more horse power by opening up the intake and exhaust certainly works, but if you want more power you can get a bigger or more efficient engine. You can't add enough Stage kits to a Road King engine to get it up to the power of a stock V-Rod. Cars have had to make the Power vs Noise vs Pollution choice for decades, and have come up with great compromises.

The "Loud Pipes Save Lives" line is really shaky. Bikes have horns to honk at stupid drivers, and by the time you are close enough alongside a cage for the driver to hear your pipes, you are already dead if he pulls into you. I guess that comes down to the "Look at Me" factor, which is certainly attractive to riders who want to be noticed, but isn't that why we have a problem?

How many attempts to write discriminatory laws against motorcycles would there be if all bikes were running stock mufflers? Nowhere near as many. The complaint and excuse for the laws are almost ALWAYS noise, except for the few against doing wheelies on Edens Expressway. The AMA figured this out a long time ago. Fighting the noise battle may cause us to lose the right to ride and encourage the legislators who want to regulate us into following the Common Market rules on everything from mufflers to knee armor.

I must close with proper disclosures. Yes, I ride a Gold Wing that is quieter than a stock Vespa 50cc. Yes, my previous ride was NAD with a Dutch Bypass in place of the catalytic converter, but with stock mufflers. Yes, my old VT1100 had Cobra pipes that growled a bit. I enjoyed making some noise and turning heads, but I have grown out of it. That may make me sound like an old guy who just cruises around on a bike, but isn't a real "Rider". I think not. None of my friends accuse me of riding too slowly, leaning too little, or failing to enjoy the pure power sports aspects of riding. Maybe I've just come to the realization that if we want to keep riding, we have to infringing on the rights of non-riders.

New Glarus Ride 2008



Milk Run Ride 2008

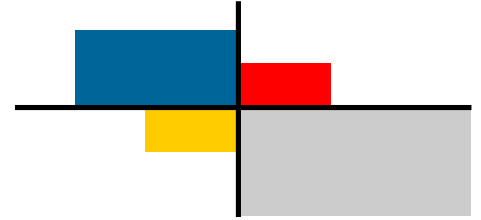


MILKING MACHINE 2000



SAFETY...

by Mark Heller



Well, I'm not on the safety committee but no-one turned in a safety article this month so I thought I'd share a personal experience with you to fill in the safety article's space.

This happened to me sometime in the mid to late 70's but I've never forgotten it. I consider myself lucky to be here today...I almost became a statistic.

I was living in Mt. prospect at the time, had been riding for about 3 years and I was riding the biggest bike I ever had...a Moto Guzzi 850 Eldorado. The Moto Guzzi in the mid 70's was a big bike, a touring machine not like today's Guzzi sport bikes.

I was southbound on Plum grove Rd in I believe Palatine approaching what I believe was Euclid ave. I was very familiar with the area, rode around there many a times. I couldn't tell you how many times I rode southbound through that intersection which I knew was a 2-way stop.

I knew that Euclid for eastbound and Euclid for westbound had stop signs and I knew that the southbound and northbound Plum grove Rd traffic had no traffic controls at all.

On this day I'm approaching the intersection with Euclid doing the usual 45 mph. A large truck was stopped along the curb, facing southbound, just before the intersection.

I'm cruising along and getting closer and closer to the intersection. There was absolutely nothing different that day than any other day...so I thought.

I'm not sure how close I was in feet to Euclid but I was just about on top of it. As I approached the intersection at a good clip I saw that a northbound car had been slowing and coming to a stop. Then suddenly I saw it...sparkling in the sun. It was the backside of a shiny new stop sign. I saw the backside of the sign for the traffic going the opposite way...the backside of the newly posted northbound stop sign.

My eyes immediately scanned right and I caught a glimpse of the new stop sign for the southbound traffic that had been obscured by the truck.

My eyes scanned left again and I saw the westbound car on Euclid begin to roll forward and enter the intersection. I applied my brakes; I really applied my brakes. I remember asking myself in the few seconds I had if I should lay it down.

There was no time to think. I remember realizing that I would never clear the intersection. If I entered the intersection I would be hit on my left side. I had a death grip on the handlebars and the nose on the bike took a dive as the tires squealed to a stop.

When the bike came to a stop, it was just barley into the intersection. The bike was upright and leaning far over to the left. I don't know how I managed to keep it upright, this was a very heavy bike for me and it was leaning over pretty far.

I remember that I was trembling and that I couldn't move right away. I remember sitting in the intersection for a while with cars honking and driving around me.

After a minute I moved my bike down the street and sat and collected my thoughts before moving on.

I thought I knew the intersection because I had rode through it on numerous occasions. The new stop sign was blocked by a parked truck. I wasn't prepared and it almost cost me.

It's just one more thing to look out for when you're riding...as if there wasn't already enough to look out for. Don't let your guard down.

Traditions

By Gary Brandt

The Top Cats, unlike other groups, have a two tiered system for identifying its road captains, regular and senior. So why have two classifications? Senior road captains play an important role in the development of our current and future road captains. It is how we insure that all of our rides are planned and executed per our high standards. There is much more to being a senior then simply being an excellent road captain or a great motorcycle rider. You must demonstrate leadership and be willing to help teach and mentor. We also expect above average participation and contributions as a Top Cat. Meeting attendance, charity ride help, and bringing in new members to name a few. It is common to see seniors serving the club as officers, directors, or committee leaders. It seems to go with the territory.

You can review all the requirements by looking at the Feb 2008 edition of our ROAR. Over the past several years there has been significant effort to insure our senior road captains live up the expectations. They have to re-qualify every year. Each year some come off the list for one reason or another. For 2008, 11 members qualified as seniors. You can review our list of road captains on our web site.

Ride Safe, This Is No Fun!
Besides...we like having you around.



Board Meeting Minutes...

July 11, 2008

Top Cats Board meeting, July 11th, 2008

Attendees: Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Andy Koneswicz, Eileen Perry, Greg Smith,

Absent: Bob Carmody, Tom Malia, Tom Nichols, Chuck Prettyman

Gary Brandt (President) called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

A motion was made and passed to accept the last meeting's minutes.

For the sake of last meetings absentees, all board members should contact the President in advance if they know they will be unable to attend a meeting. The meeting could be rescheduled if enough notice is given.

Charity Ride Updates;

- Flyers are available.
- 500 flyers were mailed to various places by Tom Nichols.
- Links to our charity were added to a couple of websites.
- Registration will be handled by Joan DeRango and Eileen Perry.
- Jillian from NISRA has a canopy tent we can use.
- Tom Malia has cashbox.
- Eric Schertz and the Eagle Scouts from a local Boy Scout troop will manage parking. They will earn a service badge for assisting. The scout leader will be at Saturday's setup.
- We have received continental breakfast funds from the sponsor. Coffee donor has backed out.
- Awaiting more vendor confirmations.
- Tom Nichols is looking for more silent auction donations. Eileen has a lead on some.

- Lunch is donated by Cadbury Schweppes – Illinois. Other sponsors are donating as well.
- Lunch will be redeemed by ticket. Volo admission is by wristband.
- People will be selling tickets in the general crowd at Volo.
- Mike Bradbury will emcee the event by wireless microphone.
- It's possible we could park some bikes in front of the entrance to the museum.
- Mike will bring large club flag for display

We talked about the ROAR newsletter and the recent activity to create it.

Brian Rainey has resigned as Website Committee Chairperson. Andy Koneswicz is assuming as interim chair for the rest of 2008. The website is 90% complete and 100% for the section on Safety. The tutorials are done and downloading information is easy.

More backups are needed for important positions. Gary asked the board to look for candidates by next meeting

Gary asked the board to look for potential candidates for next year's election. He considers it one of our jobs to foster interest and support for our replacements and other positions. Talk to members. This is something we will look at each month at our meetings.

A motion was passed to accept Mark Sullivan for regular membership renewal.

A motion was passed to accept Cindy Raybern for regular membership. She has been active in the club for several years. A motion was passed to accept Cindy Baker for regular membership.

A motion was passed to accept Jeff and Lisa Tietz for Family membership.

Eileen Perry (Membership Director) will review membership types and dues and will make a proposal to the board at the September meeting.

Greg Smith (Activities Director) discussed two (2) new rides. The Sweet Corn Festival ride is August, 10th and the Cast Iron Ride on September 14th.

We have openings for more rides.

Open dates currently are July 19th and 20th, August 30th and 31st, September 6th and 7th and September 27th and 28th.

2009 ride planning has started. The charity ride date is the last Sunday in July. The Little Sturgis/Davenport weekend ride is on the calendar with lodgings blocked already. Greg is looking for other rides for the calendar. Greg will talk to 2008 ride road captains in the next (2) months to solicit rides for next year.

The budget was reviewed and discussed. Gary is acquiring a donated laptop for the Safety committee. It is a Dell and he is loading it with Microsoft Office. The Safety Committee will use it for PowerPoint demonstrations and will be responsible for it.

The Board needs to complete a description of our positions, a generic job description including what we do. This needs to be done before the elections by September to show candidates and help people understand what we do. It can be general about a paragraph long. Gary will discuss this with those not present at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Mike

WANTED

The Top Cats are looking for someone to create the ROAR publication for the 2009 calendar year. If you have the interest and the ability to do this contact Bob Carmody at: bcarmody@email.com

Rustic Road Ride 2008



**Once they collectively found the Rustic Road sign;
they all got back on their bikes to continue the ride.**



There were 7 people on this bike until he hit the last pothole.



Classified Ads

Top Cats members wanting to post a classified ad may do so for free. The classified ad service is only available to members. Put your club/motorcycle oriented ad together, including a picture if you wish and send it to bear-mody@email.com. Your ad will run in the next available ROAR issue. Each ad will run once. If you wish to repeat the ad, send it again.

Activities Calendar



Upcoming Activities

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Sunday, August 3, 2008	Wisconsin Fair Ride	TBD	Wisc. St. Fair	8:30am	Mike Bradbury
Sunday August 10, 2008	Sweet Corn Festival Ride	Higgins & Barrington Rd.	Mendota, IL	8:30am	G. Smith
Tuesday, August 12, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Saturday, August 16, 2008	Top Cats Picnic-Members Only	Start Location TBD	Moraine Hills	11:30am	Mike Bradbury
Tuesday, August 19, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Sunday, August 24, 2008	Presidents Ride	Casino	Joliet	8:30am	G. Brandt
Thursday, August 28, 2008	HOG 25th	No Organized Ride	Miller Park	n/a	n/a
Friday, August 29, 2008	Harley 105th-3 days	No Organized Ride	Milwaukee	n/a	n/a
Tuesday, September 02, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Saturday, September 06, 2008	Mexican Fiesta Dinner Run	Rt. 176 & Rt. 83	Las Palmas	4:00pm	M. Bradbury
Tuesday, September 09, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	G. Brandt
Saturday, September 13, 2008	Sunset Ride	TBD	TBD	3:00pm	Dennis Dougherty
Saturday, September 20, 2008	Ride for Cheese Ride	Shell station Rt. 176 & 60	Monroe, WI	8:15am	Mike Bradbury

