



ROAR

Official Publication
of Top Cats — Illinois

President's Corner...

by Gary Brandt

Greetings Top Cats

The theme for this month's article is "Getting the Business Back in Top Cats". Over the past few years, for many reasons, we have lost our business connections. If we review the following statement that appears in our bylaws, you can see where we have fallen short.

"TOP CATS- Illinois is a forum for the exchange of ideas affecting motorcyclists; fosters member development through networking, business, educational and social opportunities; and acts as motorcyclists'

rights and interests advocate."

There is no doubt that we have plenty of opportunity for networking. Our meeting attendance has been excellent and the member interaction each month seems strong. But we are lacking something. That something is the knowledge of what our fellow Top Cats bring to the table outside of our riding activities. Not that the purpose of the Top Cats was to increase sales for any particular member, in fact the opposite is true. However, we have expertise in many areas and we have lost the linkage to it. If that expertise leads to a

benefit for a member, that's a bonus.

In any case, some steps are being taken to steer us back toward our business roots. Our new, powerful web site can become a vehicle for our members to display their businesses and give us all a peak into what they offer. Watch for more information. If you are a business owner or have other skills that may be a benefit to your fellow Top Cats, this will be your opportunity to communicate. Perhaps you can provide guidance on business or personal issues. This is where the educational component could be exploited.

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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

President	Gary Brandt cgb002@comcast.net
Vice President	Bob Carmody bcarmody@email.com
Treasurer	Tom Malia tmalia@cfaip.com
Secretary	Mike Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net
Past President	Chuck Prettyman topcats2003@aol.com
Director	Greg Smith vethog@comcast.net
Director	Andy Konsewicz andy@Konsewicz.com
Director	Eileen Perry eprhia@comcast.net
Director	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com
Founder	Carl 'Virgo' Bender 1941-2001

COMMITTEE LEADERS

Activities	Muriel Brandt meo1957@comcast.net
Charity	Tom Nichols thomas.nichols@comcast.net
Membership	Brian Rainey —
Email	Muriel Brandt meo1957@comcast.net
Safety	John Lunde —
Website	Brian Rainey brian@armourresearchsociety.org
Hotline	Muriel Brandt meo1957@comcast.net
ROAR Editor	John LaMonica jlamonica2@comcast.net
ROAR Publisher	Mark 'Ducky' Heller mark@mbheller.com



General Meeting Minutes...

September 2, 2008

Top Cats General Meeting, September 2nd

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

One guest, Brian, was introduced to the club.

The Top Cats club picnic was held recently at Moraine Hills State Park. Thanks were given to Mike Bradbury who organized it, Terry Kumro and Cindy Raybern for all their work to make it happen, and Lenny Innocenzi for his hamburger donations from his restaurant, Buffos in Highwood Park. The picnic had food, games, and activities including water balloons provided by Muriel Brandt which were a nice way to cool off during the hot and sunny summer weather. The picnic was a good time and will be held again in 2009.

Chuck Prettyman, Past President and head of the Elections Committee, is soliciting candidates to fill positions for 2009. The executive positions to be filled for 2009 are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary which are held for only 1 year and can only be filled by the same person for 2 consecutive years. One Director position is open too.

Gary Brandt (President) presented checks to our Ride for Dreams raffle winners. Cindy Raybern won the \$3,000 prize and was there to accept. A check will be issued later. Lisa Neuman was the win-

ner of the \$5,000 grand prize. Ric Case, speaking on her behalf, said she wanted the club to know that she was thankful and grateful for winning.

Thanks and appreciation was given to Tom Nichols, our chairperson for the Ride for Dreams and all who assisted with the ride. Tom and others, giving their time and efforts, made this year's event happen and with everyone's help, enabled the Top Cats to donate \$8,500 this year to N.I.S.R.A.

Eileen Perry and Joan Durango are holding a meeting for anyone who wants to help or has ideas for next years charity ride on September 9th at Gino's East located on Highway 22 in Lake Zurich. Come to discuss the ride with your ideas and ways to keep it good and make it better.

Gary Brandt (President) presented a check from the Ride for Dreams for \$8,500 to Brian Shahinian from N.I.S.R.A.

Brian thanked Top Cats for this year's \$8,500 donation. Top cats have given \$210,000 in total donations from the club over the past 11 years. Our donation is used in 3 ways. 1/3 goes to scholarships. N.I.S.R.A. provides scholarships to 71 out of 229 participants in their programs. 1/3 goes to the transportation fund. N.I.S.R.A. recently was able to replace their 15 seat van for a safer vehicle. And the last 1/3 goes to staffing. N.I.S.R.A.

serves 13 communities and Brian said they are very appreciative of our support.

Eileen Perry (Membership Director) announced 4 new Top Cat members since the last meeting. Paul and Jill Hansen, Mary Walters and Pat Michaud are all new members. Eileen presented Pat with her new membership flag and patch.

Greg Smith (Activities Director) announced future activities.

September 6th is the Mexican Fiesta Ride, Mike Bradbury, road captain. This is a 1-1/2 hour ride to dinner at Las Palmas in Mundelein. Ride leaves from the Shell at Highway 176 and 60 by 4:30 PM.

September 12th – 15th is the Southwest Wisconsin Ride lead by Fred Zimbric, road captain. This is a 3 day, 4 night ride to Prairie Du Chien with lodgings at the Biltmore Hotel. Fred has day rides planned for Saturday and Sunday through the area and Wildcat Mountain.

September 15th is the Cast Iron Ride with Carl Marcyan, road captain. Carl is changing the ride to go by various airports on the way to where the Cast Iron ride ends in Huntley. The Cast Iron ride starts at the Vintage Spoke Museum in Rockford.

September 20th is the Ride for Cheese with Mike Bradbury,

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August 12, 2008

road captain. This is a ride to Monroe Wisconsin and the Green County Cheese Festival. This is an all day ride of about 200 miles. Lunch is at the fair. Bring your cooler bags in case you want to buy some cheese.

September 28th is The Fall Colors ride lead by Joan Durango. Meet at the Citgo on the corner of Bonner and Rte. 12 in Wauconda with a departure time of 9:30. The ride is a colorful tree lined route to a lunch in Northern Walworth County of Wisconsin and will return to the start point at approximately by 3:30 PM.

Ric Case presented our meeting Safety Tip(s). We all must be extra careful traveling at night. Bouncing lights in front of you indicate bumpy roads ahead. Eyes reflecting from your head lights indicate wild life is in your path. Lower your speed to a

walking pace and be wary. Chasing dogs will triangulate on your position so slowing down will disrupt them. There are 3 types of shoulders we encounter beside the road. They are blacktop, grass, and gravel. Be aware and be prepared. Crowned roads are better turning to the right then left. When turning left your lean angle is eliminated, so slow down. Rick also offered that traveling by interstate highway can be safer because you avoid the intersections in local travel. Watch for beat up cars. They may loose parts and they also tell you that the driver is careless in their driving style. Avoid driving in a truck's blind spot. Be visible.

Don Shaffer added that trailer trucks have an extra blind spot in the front from the truck up to 20 feet ahead of it.

The floor was opened to member comments.

The accident scene management course is open again and is being held sometime during the 3rd week of October. An email will be sent out with information.

Illinois state veteran motorcycle license plates are available from the Secretary of State. See their website; www.cyberdrive.com.

The next G.R.A.S.S. class is being held on Sunday, November, 9th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Mike Bradbury



Wisdom from the Ole' Saddle Sage

As told to Chuck P'man

“Keep your bike in good repair.

Motorcycle boots are NOT comfortable for walking!”

SAFETY...

by Terry Kumro



Sooner or later you are going to wonder about how to handle severe crosswinds – probably while fighting them. Surprise, surprise – you don't have to do anything and the motorcycle will handle most crosswinds just fine – with only normal responses from you.

There are a couple of things that you can do to make the experience less stressful, however. For example, you can quit white-knuckling your grips. When you hold on tight you also tend to stiff arm your controls. That, as we've talked about before, merely allows front-end instability to propagate into the rest of the motorcycle. Relax your grips and droop your elbows. Allow your bike to be a bit unstable. Drive in the CENTER OF YOUR LANE. Lean forward and down to reduce your profile, and snug up your jacket.

What about traction? You neither gain nor lose any significant traction when the wind blows from your side unless you are in a curve. While you are leaning into the wind, all of the weight of the bike remains on your tires (fancy that) and there is very little lateral force scrubbing that traction away.

How much lean do you need? Whatever the bike dials in for you. Should you anticipate those gusts? Should you just respond quickly to a gust in order to remain in control and continue traveling in a straight line? No, and no. Your bike will NOT travel in a straight line. That is as long as you allow it to do its thing. Your bike will be modestly blown off course with a gust and the results of that movement is EXACTLY the same as any other minor course change. You will need modest counter-steer input to correct it – the CG (center of gravity) of your bike will then be on the side from which the wind came and the result is that it will lean towards the wind.

Anticipating wind-shear IS important under a couple of scenarios: the approach of an oncoming large vehicle suggests that severe buffeting will occur when you pass it, and entering or exiting stretches protected from the wind such as tunnels or bridges with relatively high retaining walls. In these cases you will certainly want to position the bike away from the source of the wind-shear and insure you maintain a firm grip.)

Is a heavier bike less likely to be blown around than a lighter bike? No necessarily. What is primarily determinant of how great the effect of a crosswind will be on your bike is its profile. Baggers and Goldwings are typically more harshly affected by crosswinds than a lighter, low profile bike.

Can you mitigate some of that instability in any way? Yes. There are cowling additions that can be designed (some are available off the shelf – called “belly pans”) that streamline the airflow under your bike and help (modestly) reduce crosswind handling problems.

Your side profile area is what determines how your motorcycle reacts to crosswinds. Just as there is a Center of Gravity, there is also a Center of Wind Resistance. If that Center of Wind Resistance is in front of your Center of Gravity, crosswinds will tend to push you off course, while if it is behind your Center of Gravity the motorcycle will try to steer INTO the wind. Therefore, mounting a high profile LIGHT object (a stuffed animal, for example) onto your trunk lid or your pillion can have a dramatically corrective effect rather than worsen the bike's steering reaction to those crosswinds.

Crosswinds can be murder if you are leaning way over in a curve. Don't, if you can avoid it. As a result of a crosswind, your bike will move off course and normal modest, counter-steer will lean it into the wind. A strong gust will blow you out of track. So, correct your steering, gently, and keep going...

I admit that sometimes a gust can be ferocious! I was on the bridge at Chamberlain, South Dakota in the rain once when a crosswind blew me into the adjacent lane! But the bike was in no danger of falling down and it was easy to get back in lane. Had the gust been a sustained blast I would have been leaned over nearly 45 degrees. It was not sustained, thankfully.

Note...there are TWO times when a gusty crosswind changes your bike's direction of travel: when it hits, and when it stops. Both require that you allow the bike to respond and use normal, modest counter-steering. (When it quits you will be leaned over and, as a result, your bike will move towards where the wind WAS coming from until you straighten up.

If crosswinds involve huge short gusts, go park the bike. If the crosswinds are moving and sustained, pucker up and keep going.

Terry Kumro



Board Meeting Minutes...

September 9, 2008

Top Cats Board Meeting, September 9th

Attendees; Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Bob Carmody, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Andy Konescwicz, Tom Malia, Eileen Perry, Chuck Prettyman, and Greg Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM at Gino's East in Lake Zurich.

A motion was passed to approve the August board meeting minutes.

Gino's East has told us that we will have to pay a minimum of \$75 a night in food and beverage costs for giving us our room for our monthly board meetings. If we all eat dinner there, we will easily cover this cost.

Gary Brandt, (President) proposed that we need to create ways to allow members to promote awareness of their businesses to the general membership. This would be for club members only. Ideas discussed and accepted included ways to link or list a member's business on our website. We can create a section in the website with business descriptions. Another way to do this is to advertise in the ROAR. Another idea is to allow members to speak at general meetings for 5 minutes or so about their business when it is motorcycling related. Sending emails to members was rejected. Lastly, this effort may necessitate the addition of another committee chair to manage this. The board response was positive. Gary and Andy Konescwicz, (Web Site Director) will work together on these ideas and report progress to the board.

The membership dues and costs were discussed. A motion was passed to keep dues the same for 2009.

The charity ride for 2009 was discussed. Joan Durango and Eileen Perry are co-chairpersons for next year's committee. Eileen reported that the meeting they had on September 3rd was small but produced some ideas and suggestions. Eileen and Joan are going to divide the ride's work into smaller sections to make the ride easier to manage. The date of the ride was questioned. It cannot be held late August for 2 weeks because it would conflict with Sturgis. September is a bad month due to weather and it being so late in the riding season. The end of July is still the best time to have it. Other suggestions were to change or eliminate the raffle. We need to educate the membership more about N.I.S.R.A., and more member participation and assistance is needed.

Eileen Perry, (Membership Director) presented Joe Rominski for new member applications. He is applying for regular membership. He is an attorney in Libertyville. Wayne Kirkpatrick, (Safety Director) is his sponsor. He will meet his G.R.A.S.S. class requirement when he goes with Wayne on their motorcycles to Chillicothe, Ohio for Wayne's G.R.A.S.S. class presentation and training session. A motion was passed to accept him as regular member.

Gary discussed sending the club's condolences to fellow club member, Stewart Johnson, for the recent loss of his dad. Andy Konescwicz, (Web Site Director) will contact Stewart to express our regrets.

Check Prettyman, (Past President and Election Committee Chair) discussed the slate for our 2009 officers and the lack of having the president and secretary positions slated. Wayne Kirkpatrick, also on the election committee, nominated Carl Mar-

cyann as president and Mike Bradbury as vice-president. Tom Nichols was nominated for Treasurer and Dennis Dougherty as Director. Mike will talk to his candidate for secretary and let Wayne know if he is interested. Mike will call another candidate and see if he is interested.

Mike Bradbury, (Secretary) reported little progress on completing the project to document our officers and directors descriptions of what they do to fill their positions. He will have it finished by next board's meeting.

The floor was opened to general comments. It was discussed that we need to look for a person to expand the current activities committee of Greg Smith and Muriel Brandt. This would be a chance to nurture and develop a future activities director and committee. Greg & Muriel have done an outstanding job, The need exists to begin developing their successors. Greg has a candidate and will develop this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Bradbury

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**

Activities Calendar



Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, October 07, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30p m	Brandt
Tuesday, October 14, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30p m	Brandt
Tuesday, November 04, 2008	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30p m	Brandt
Sunday, November 09, 2008	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30a m	Case
Tuesday, November 11, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30p m	Brandt
Tuesday, December 02, 2008	General Meeting-Election	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30p m	Brandt
Tuesday, December 09, 2008	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30p m	Brandt

President's Corner Continued

We have seen cases where we have done good things as a result of a member's background. We have first aid kits, banners, food items, insurance information, and legal information. The potential is exciting. However it's really up to each of you to come forward with your information and ideas. The tools will be there.

Remember our motto: Top Cats, Bikers who mean business.
Gary Brandt

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 you club/motorcycle oriented ad together, including a picture if you wish and send it to bcar-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.