



# ROAR

Official Publication  
of Top Cats — Illinois

## President's Corner...

by Gary Brandt

December 2008

### Greetings Top Cats

For my last article as President, it makes no sense to talk about the past two years and list a bunch of stuff that matters little. Suffice it to say that things seemed to go well and we are in a position to keep moving forward.

It is appropriate to say thanks to all of you who allowed me to serve as President. Also to those who served on the board the last two years and of course the past leaders who set the examples, a special thanks. Then there are

those of you who led committees or performed special tasks. You all did a fabulous job. It is my personal belief that it's not about us as individuals that matters, but the Top Cats as a whole and our organization being the best it can be. Let's keep it that way.

Clubs and organizations such as ours are funny things. While serving a very important social function for its members, they need to have structure and processes in order to maintain their longevity. This month, as we do every year, you will elect your next set of club leaders. These are members who

have that extra passion (and extra time) to make a difference. While we don't solve world hunger or drive the price of oil down, we do create an outlet for us all to release the tensions of our daily lives. For that reason our elections are an important part of us. Sometimes we have no contested positions, other times we have many who wish to serve. In either case, we should all be thankful to be a part of the process, thankful the process exists, and thankful the Top Cats are what we are; a safe, active organization we all can be proud of.

Thanks once again.  
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.

### 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

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Membership	Brian Rainey —
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# A Note From Membership:

Riding season is over for awhile - at least for most of us. Please remember that dues are due by December 31st. I appreciate your cooperation to be sure all members have paid and are enrolled by January 1, 2009. This year we are asking that all members/passengers sign a waiver. I know that many of you have already done so, but this will help the club be certain that we have a current form on file for all current members/regular passengers. For those who became members and paid dues in October, November or December, 2008, that dues payment will go towards the 2009 riding season. You will not get a notice mailed to you unless we need a ride waiver. Please mail all payments to Eileen Perry's address, and not to the Top Cats general P.O. Box.

We have a great club, one that is dynamic, growing, and blessed with great Road Captains that lead terrific rides. Please watch your mail for the renewal notice, and renew your membership today!

Eileen Perry

## Nothing Happens Without Someone Stepping Up !

**By Gary Brandt**

A special thanks to Mark Heller for his efforts this year with the electronic ROAR. We are nearing the end of our first 12 months and will be transitioning the publishing tasks to new members next month. Getting the bugs out of a new process can often be frustrating and time consuming, but Mark hung in there and did a great job.

Special thanks also go to Brian Rainey for his efforts earlier this year with our new web site. This was a time consuming project as well. We have a site that is capable of more than we can imagine. We can all look forward to continuous improvement in the years to come.

Wisdom from the Ole' Saddle Sage  
As told to Chuck P'man

“A bike on the road is worth two in the shed.”

# General Meeting Minutes...

November 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 PM.

Guests were present and recognized at the meeting. Carl Marcyan introduced his brother who has been on rides with us before. Jim Hudmon, who has been a member since 2002, introduced his son Rick. Devon Smith was also a guest at the meeting.

Gary Brandt (President) announced that \$900 was raised by our recent trailer auction for NISRA. An additional \$250 was donated to NISRA by one of this year's raffle winners from the Ride for Dreams.

Thanks and appreciation was given by Gary in the form of a gift certificate to Terry Kumro and Cindy Raybern for spending their Sunday to pick up the donated trailer.

Chuck Prettyman, (Past President) announced and introduced the slate for the 2009 club officers and open position for director. The slate was produced with thought and deliberation by the election committee which is comprised of past club presidents. The candidates are Carl Marcyan for President, Mike Bradbury for Vice President, Tom Nichols for Treasurer, Joan DeRango of Secretary and Dennis Dougherty for Director. The Director positions are a 2 year term, so only one position has completed their 2nd year and needed to be filled. All candidates stood before the group and remarked on why they were running for their position. The election will be held at the December general meeting.

Eileen Perry (Membership Director) announced that Bill Lowry has been approved as a new member for Top Cats. He was presented his club flag, pin, and patch and was welcomed by the group to Top Cats.

Our membership has seen growth this year as this brings our total current membership to 104.

Wayne Kirkpatrick thanked everyone for their support who rode with Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2 of Illinois on October 16th on their Toys for Tots and Never Forget charity ride. The ride started this year at the V.A. Hospital in North Chicago. The ride grossed \$3800 which will help the veterans with daily reading material at the hospital.

Woodstock Harley Davidson is having free food and a "remembrance" table which honors veterans on Saturday, November 8th

The Top Cats will be having our annual banquet on January 24th, which is a Saturday night. It will be at the Millrose Restaurant in South Barrington. Arrangements are being made and the schedule will be confirmed shortly. The website will be updated with the final date on our schedule soon.

All road captains need to start thinking of what rides they want to lead in 2009 and inform Greg Smith, (Director of Activities) know what dates you want so he can get them reserved on the 2009 schedule.

Bard Boand, (Senior Road Captain) asked for all to consider and respond to joining on the Top Cats Sturgis ride. Last year we had 13 riders with only 4 riders from the Top Cats. He will pull the ride from the schedule if support is too low. Let Bard or Wayne Kirkpatrick know if you are interested in doing next year's ride.

Andy Konsewicz, (Director) is organizing a group to see the Trans Siberian Orchestra in concert at the Allstate Arena on January 3rd. Andy is buying the tickets one time at the Arena (sorry Ticketmaster) in about 30 days, so email him if you are interested. So far,

about 10 people are going.

Wayne Kirkpatrick, (Director of Safety) pointed out to the group that we are an example of safe group riding to local clubs. He gave us an example where the club's 2008 safety initiatives are being adopted by JerseyPines Cruisers. One initiative was no right turns on red lights. This keeps the group from breaking up. The other initiative was staying in the same lane if a rider leaves the group while riding in a staggered ride formation. You then move forward at the next stop. This keeps us from shifting lane to lane when someone drops out of the group.

Top Cats is always looking for members who are interested in becoming a road captain. If you want to create, plan, organize and lead a ride for the club, then become a road captain. If you are interested, see Don Schaffer.

Our Group Riding and Safety Seminar, or G.R.A.S.S. is this Sunday, November 9th. It is at the Village Bar and Grill in Buffalo Grove. The doors open at 8:00 AM, continental breakfast at 8:30 AM and G.R.A.S.S. will start at 9:00 AM. The annual Road Captains meeting will be held right afterwards at 12:00 PM.

Bard Boand presented the Safety Tips for the meeting. To do this, he enlisted the support of Ric Case and Larry Scalzatti. For the 1st safety tip, they demonstrated another way to have proper spacing in group riding. Provided riders have their mirrors adjusted properly, if you are spacing yourself properly which is 2 seconds behind the rider in your lane and 1 second from the rider on your oblique or other lane, then you should be able to see the rider's eyes in their mirrors. This is another way to keep proper spacing in your staggered positions while group riding.

# General Meeting Continued...

The 2nd safety tip is for riders to all make eye contact with other drivers at stops. If all riders make eye contact with the other traffic, it is easier for the group stay together.

At this point, new member Jeff Tietz presented his new company, City Scooter. He had a 49cc Cobra scooter at the meeting for us to see and test ride. This is a new

company that sells scooters from 49cc to 400cc models and accessories, including helmets for both scooters and motorcyclists.

The meeting was opened for comments from the floor. It was asked if we could have an Accident Scene Management course presented to the club. While there are several outlets for taking a course like this, we are looking into it and will know more

next spring.

Wayne knows of a detailer who will come to your house and detail your motorcycle for only \$80. See Wayne for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Mike Bradbury, Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes...

**November 11, 2008**

Top Cats Board Meeting Minutes, November 11th, 2008

Attendees: Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Tom Malia, Eileen Perry, Chuck Prettyman

Absent: Bob Carmody, Andy Koneswicz and Greg Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM at Gino's East in Lake Zurich.

A motion was passed to accept the minutes from the last board meeting.

The December meeting is the last meeting for the 2008 Board. To aid with the transition, the new Board will be invited by email to attend this meeting.

The next Board meeting will focus on having a Safety Committee review and working with the new board members to help with the transition.

The board has considered and approved holding a vote by voice to decide the election at the December general meeting.

All business by the Board should be completed before the next Board commences so the new Board starts with a fresh slate.

Chuck Prettyman will contact N.I.S.R.A. to arrange our donation to them from the trailer auction and raffle winner.

Thanks and appreciation was given for the all of the support and efforts Don Shaffer gave to host the G.R.A.S.S. class at CJBS LLC in Northbrook last Sunday. The Village Bar and Grill at the last minute had a scheduling error with our meeting time. Don went the extra mile in hosting the meeting at his firm. A special thanks to Alice Shaffer in getting the snacks for event.

The board talked about possible new sites for G.R.A.S.S. The need to find a reliable meeting place was recognized. This is a matter that is left for the future board to consider and act on.

The updated club financials were reviewed. No concerns were expressed and the financial conditions were considered in a good state.

Devon Smith is applying for regular club membership. He is a Director for

a company called Global Supply Chain. A motion was passed by the board to accept his application.

The request for dues for next year will be emailed to our membership. Those who do not respond will get a 2nd reminder mailed direct. This is the same way we did it last year. A discussion ensued over whether to send the emails in December or after the holidays in January. The same time limit to pay is expected but the timing of sending the request in December was questioned. It was agreed that Eileen will send the emails in December.

Mike Bradbury was questioned on completing the descriptions for officer, director and committee chairs positions. The revised and final deadline is November, 17th. After Mike shows these to Gary and the board, they will be added to the document section of our website.

General comments were offered. Gary was recognized and thanked for doing a good job this year as President.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20



# Safety Article

By John Lunde

## Ready for Winter?

As the riding season comes to a close and we prepare our bikes for winter, have we considered what we as riders need to do as well to be ready for next spring?

Winter is the time for many to have engine, paint or accessory work performed on their motorcycle but winter is also the time to prepare yourselves for next season as well.

When was your last physical? Many of us still only see a doctor if they're feeling ill but regular visits to your doctor can help you to prevent future serious conditions.

Do you exercise and maintain a proper diet? Keeping yourself

physically fit is as important as maintaining your ride. Being limber and flexible helps your reaction time in emergency situations, cuts down on fatigue and makes adjusting your boots a heck of a lot easier!

How is your eyesight? As we mature, our eyes become weaker and the need for multi-vision eyewear may become a necessity. Don't let your pride prevent from wearing the eyewear that is required.

What shape is your riding gear in? Check your helmet for obvious signs of wear and age. Also, inspect jackets, pants, boots and gloves for fatigue and ripping. During a ride is not the time to find out your rain suit is split in half! Over the winter, various dealerships and bike shows will present the opportunity to upgrade or

replace your worn gear. A few hours to inspect and maintain your gear will go along way towards prepping yourself for next season.

A little more work is required to maintain your body however. Be it diet, exercise, physician consultations or something else; we owe it to ourselves, our family members and even fellow Top Cats to be in safe riding condition.

Taking care of yourself this off-season will help promote a better next-season!











# Thanks Gary...

for 2 great years of leadership, improvements, great rides and activities.

Your dedication, hard work and countless hours devoted to the Top Cats is recognized by all. We appreciate all you have done for the club as President and all the new and unique rides you planned and executed as a Sr. Road Captain.

You raised the bar in the execution of the office of President and your term will be positively reflected upon and remembered by all .









You'll have more time for pursuing your other interests....



You  
Rock  
Gary,  
You  
Rock!



**If you participated in the trip to Davenport, IA last June you'll remember the flooded roads and the detours. The theme for next year is better preparation.**

**Plenty of luggage packed with dry clothes, wet suits and scuba gear and the alternate means of transportation.**



**Now I can't imagine anyone actually going out to buy a motorcycle like this so I would suspect that he encountered a very pushy shoe salesman.**

**It's my understanding that he did get it at a special price since they couldn't find the matching left shoe.**





**We as motorcyclists know how important it is to be aware of your surroundings at all times. Why buy two rear view mirrors when just one big one will do? Make sure you cut out a hole in the middle so you can still see ahead of you.**

**Don't try this yourself...this guy is a professional idiot.**



**These are hectic times and sometimes our schedule is tight. We often find ourselves desiring to pursue two different recreational adventures at the same time.**

**This ingenious biker doesn't let that stop him, he found a way to do both simultaneously.**

# Activities Calendar



## Upcoming Activities

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Saturday, January 03, 2009	Transiberian Orchastra	TBD	Rosemont	TBD	Konesewicz
Tuesday, January 06, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Marcyan
Tuesday, January 13, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Marcyan
Saturday, January 24, 2009	Annual Banquet	Milrose	S.Barrington	6:00pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, February 03, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Marcyan
Tuesday, February 10, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Marcyan
Tuesday, March 03, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Marcyan
Tuesday, March 10, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Marcyan
Sunday, March 15, 2009	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	Case