



ROAR

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS - ILLINOIS

Inside This Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



Greetings Top Cats!

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME RIDING?

Greg Smith, your Director who is in charge of activities, has been very busy. Over the past months he has encouraged the planning of upcoming rides and coordinated dates. Thus far we have a good number on our event schedule and accepting more. Our goal this year is for the Club to have thirty or more sanctioned rides; we are about half way there. Contact Greg with ideas for rides and potential dates. Remember... Top Cats has a corps of Senior Road Captains who are ready, willing and able to mentor you and assist you to set up your ride.

This time of year is important for all of us to consider skills, techniques and protocols that will help you safely through this riding season. To get us "back in the saddle" the Safety Committee is presenting at our next general membership meeting on April 7th a mini-seminar on safety issues and concerns. Wayne Kirkpatrick, Director and Safety *liaison*; and Don Schaffer, Chair of the Safety Committee have planned a very interesting and enlightening evening. Guest presenters include Randy Braun our resident insurance guru who will fill you in on insurance needs, and Joe Rominski Esq. one of our attorney members will enlighten you on recent trends in the law and riding.

As a special attraction for this meeting we have invited motorcycle troopers of the Illinois State Police to present to us their own program focused on motorcycle safety and awareness. Master Sergeant Musiol of the motorcycle unit is looking forward to

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ACCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT CLASS

By Don 'Numbersman' Schaffer

What does a Yankee biker do when there is snow and ice all over the roads? Brush up on skills to take better care of the idiots who are actually trying to ride or drive on the ice.

On February 28, 2009, Top Cats, and guests, gathered in a training room generously provided by the Great Lakes Naval Hospital. Top Cat Bill Lowry and his wife Mary, Certified Instructors of the Accident Scene Management Bystander Assistance Programs©, volunteered their day to teach us how to better manage the scene of an accident until professional first responders arrive. The ASMI class is an excellent extension of the short segment included in the Top Cat's Group Riding and Safety Seminar.

(Continued on page 5)

Upcoming Events

April

- April 7 General Meeting
- April 14 Board Meeting
- April 19 Kick-Off Ride
- April 24 3 Day Vet Ride

May

- May 3 GRASS Class
- May 5 General Meeting
- May 9 Galena Ride
- May 12 Board Meeting

SAFETY KORNER

INSPIRATION FROM IDIOTS - SAFETY TIP AND SOCIAL COMMENTARY

By Chuck Prettyman

Heading north, while Daytona Bike Week enthusiasts traveled South through the Carolinas and Tennessee, was both entertaining and enlightening. Maureen, my bride, suggested that the large number of trailers and riders heading south MUST be destined for Daytona Bike Week. That comment in itself was a new revelation for me, since I never imagined that she had any interest in the event.

Sunny Florida had to be the allure since it was thirty-four degrees (34) and raining throughout South Carolina continuing all the way north into Indiana. After seeing a multitude of bikes hauled on trailers, a line of headlights that could only mean motorcycles, started to come into focus. YES, here they come....about thirty riders in the pouring rain (still 34 degrees). All Metric, only a couple two-up and all dressed in...no; you're wrong, not matching Honda wear, but rain suits, helmets, snowmobile suits, and serviceable cold weather gear. Braveheart and company was an admirable site.

A few singles and a couple of pairs followed. Behind them, IDIOT # 1 came into view. A small, really small, Suzuki car (you know, the convertible) was towing a heavy equipment trailer designed to tow earth moving equipment. The trailer was three times the size of the car, and easily four times the weight.

More conventional trailer packages were the norm for a while, until IDIOT # 2 came into view. It was still raining, still thirty-four degrees and here comes a low-rider with ape hangers and Rambo in a sleeveless leather jacket. My first thought was that this guy has a long way to go before getting any Florida sunshine. And upon further consideration, I thought that maybe he was not one of the Daytona bound. Possibilities that occurred to me included the idea that he had been recently released after his lobotomy and he had only the clothes he brought with him when he entered the Cranial Research Institute. The headband could very well have been a bandage?!

And I tell you this why? It is most obvious AFTER having an accident that trailers need to be maintained and that helmets are good to have, So, the obvious topic then becomes prevention; and prevention can be achieved by planning. Take the trailer dude. He may make it...or he may crash and burn since the odds are much greater that the trailer will overwhelm the tiny Suzuki and cause damage or great harm to more than just Idiot # 1. If one tows a trailer, one should ensure that the size and intention of the design is compatible with

the intended use. We saw a surprising number of enclosed, single bike cruiser sizes, bike trailers that included a fiberglass cover. Never saw one before, but saw 8-9 in one day!

On the trip mentioned before, we were pulling a trailer with two bikes (better than riding when taking two large Labradors). Before starting the trip, we checked the tire pressure, which was way low, replaced a tail-light bulb, and re-packed the bearings. I won't give advice on the packing, since there are variations on tying down the cargo, but a test drive will show the weakness or viability of one's efforts.

In this story, Idiot # 2 had a greater opportunity to cause great bodily harm to himself and anyone nearby when he finally succumbed to hypothermia. It is difficult to imagine why this person started his journey without sleeves, because it had been raining since the previous afternoon. It is suggested that when anticipating cold and rain, one includes the following gear in the luggage: weather proof boots or boot covers, pants and jackets that are water proof, and warm gloves that are water-proof or can be covered (or use a thin latex under-glove), an optional helmet or thermal protection for the head, and glasses to prevent driving rain directly into one's eyes.

You all knew that? Well, sure you did...but reminders keep us ALL alert – and telling others lets them know that you care!



Don't be left hanging!!!

Be sure to pack carefully and adjust your shocks as needed!



RIDE FOR DREAMS NEEDS YOU!

By Joan DeRango

The Charity Ride date is set for July 26, 2009 starting and ending at the Volo Auto Museum. The ride committee has been formed and plans are well underway. The committee wants to keep *all* members informed about decisions made as well as let you know where we need your help. Look for articles in ROAR (like this one) and updates at all general meetings. Expect calls or emails from committee members to follow up on offers to help or requests for help if we think you may have a useful skill or contact.



"We need fun raffle items for our mini-raffle drawing... we need members to obtain/donate these mini items."

A Thank You to...

The *Ride for Dreams* committee would like to pass on a very warm thank you to our Top Cats members who have made donations or found donors for our NISRA fundraiser:

- Jeff Tietz has provided a large discount on a scooter
- Frank Coletto has used his wiles to procure a donation of Cubs tickets worth \$500.
- Larry Scalzitti has donated a 'Learn 2 Ride' lesson
- Mike Bradbury has used his smile to get 4 Sox tickets w/parking pass
- Tom Nichols has donated a blue tooth headset

These members have made donations early... and have given the committee a boost of energy as the work moves forward. Please help the NISRA efforts by talking to people you know. When you are shopping at your regular store, going to practice your golf shot, or getting your oil changed, ask for a donation. Get to know about NISRA and talk about how the donation will be used. It is worth the time and effort you would be making! Many thanks in advance!

Raffle Details

Budget for Raffle prizes set at \$5,000.00

\$2,300 Scooter

\$1,000 Flat screen TV

\$ 700 Weekend Get-a-way

- Ticket prices will be \$5.00 per ticket – possibly 5 tickets for \$20.
- Must sell 2,000 to 2,500 tickets to meet fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the raffle.
- Members will be strongly encouraged to assist with ticket sales but not required.
- Members will participate in ticket sales at events and locations to be determined.
- No Silent Auction – smaller donated gifts will be raffled off on Ride Day to keep riders at the event and buying more tickets until the big prizes are awarded.

"We must sell 2,000 to 2,500 tickets to meet our fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the raffle."



ACCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT CLASS FEBRUARY 28TH



Pics by Wombat



ACCIDENT SCENE MANAGEMENT CLASS *continued*

The ASMI class takes participants through the steps to be taken at a motorcycle accident scene, but the principles apply to any emergency scene. The course is based on a first things first flow of logic. It teaches would be rescuers how to control the scene to prevent further injuries, assess the situation, contact EMS and treat injuries.

The introductions of participants showed why the class is needed. At least a third of those present has been at an accident scene within the last few years. The experience level of the participants resulted in some good discussion points.

Education as to the type of injuries likely to result in a motorcycle crash showed how easily an untrained person can cause injuries far greater than those sustained in the crash. While the course does not substitute for a First Aid class, it has a lot of basic information that can keep a victim alive in the first critical minutes. The sections on assessment of injuries not only help with the decision on actions to be taken, but also help speed up the job of first responders when they arrive.

The Club encourages every member to take classes such as ASMI, CPR and First Aid. After all, each of us hopes that if there is an accident, our companions have been educated in keeping you alive.

Here are a few suggestions for things to keep in your Accident Supply Kit.

- Glo-Sticks that can easily be used to attract attention to the scene
- A vest with reflective materials—to allow oncoming traffic to see you.
- Scissors to be used to remove clothing—if needed.
-



Please keep in mind that these are SUGGESTIONS. Check with an ASMI certified instructor for where to purchase and what to purchase for an accident response kit.

One last piece of advice for Top Cat Members: Ask Stuart Johnson to explain the correct way to remove a helmet... He knows how important that can be!

Quality and Quantity

By Mary Walters

When you hear the phrase, "What a great day!", what comes to mind? Motorcycles heading down a beautiful stretch of highway? Stopping for a picnic lunch near a lake? Boating? Fishing? Taking a leisurely walk? There are so many options open for us all.

But what if you were confined to a wheel chair? What if you couldn't step more than a few inches at a time? What if you needed assistance to climb, or swim, or eat? Then the options for 'a great day' become much more limited. In the past, if you were challenged in these ways, you spent most of your time at home with a few friends or family who were willing to be your arms or legs.

Today, though, there are many options open to Americans with disabilities and NISRA, Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association, has made sure that these options are available. Since 1976, They have been creating year round recreational activities for children and adults. NISRA offers summer camps, weekly programs, and special events.

Would you like to know more about them? Check out WWW.NISRA.ORG or get involved with the **Ride for Dreams**, which will be held on July 26th. The Top Cats Motorcycle Club is sponsoring this benefit ride and will use the proceeds to support NISRA. The focus of the event is to create a *quality* experience AND to reach a large *quantity* of people – for both the day of the ride and for NISRA's programs and participants. Eileen Perry and Joan DeRango are leading the efforts for the event. Let's all get involved and make sure that there will be many more people this year saying, "What a great day!"

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IT TAKES A VILLAGE (OR A CLUB)

by Eileen Perry: Membership Committee

What makes a Club? The people and opportunities provided to its members, of course! The "Club" is not just the Board members, or the Committee Chairs and members, but **ALL** members.


As Top Cats, we all have the good fortune to belong to one of the best, if not *THE* best, motorcycle club in the area. One of the often expressed goal of our Club is to increase our membership numbers this year. That goal is not a function of the Membership Committee alone. To do so, we need each of you to help move us toward this goal. Tools will be provided soon to help you help 'us' all. At the next general meeting, we will have membership applications. They will include a history of Top Cats as an organization (thank you Wayne and Dennis). Please take a few with you. Pass them along to friends or acquaintances that you believe would be interested Top Cats' candidates. We are also enhancing the Top Cats website and will have all prospective new membership information available there soon.

When you go on any ride – or attend any Club event –or meet people you think might share our interest, extend a hand of friendship and tell them what a great thing we have going. Introduce yourself–maybe go outside your 'comfort zone' –but don't miss an opportunity to be an advocate and/or ambassador for Top Cats to help make our Club stronger. You can tell pretty quickly whether guests are interested in the Club –or just along for the ride or publicity. Don't assume they won't be interested. Be sure to extend an invitation or give a guest an opportunity to fully evaluate us.

When I joined Top Cats, there were specific Club members that had the 'duty' of welcoming guests and visitors at each monthly meeting. They did a GREAT job – but we ALL should shoulder and share in that responsibility. We should all welcome visitors and friends at meetings, rides and every time we are presented with the opportunity to do so. By extending yourself for just a short time – you encourage others to do the same and we will grow in numbers, friendships and opportunities. Get involved – whether it be for 5 minutes at a ride or meeting –or stepping up to lead a ride or host an event. You'll be glad you did.

What can we do to further increase your interest or provide the resources that you need? Let us know. As we work together, we will see the changes... as individuals... as a Village... as a Club.

WANTED



Top Cats Historian

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

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

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

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued



meeting us and giving his safety tips and the history of his unit. It will be interesting to learn about their equipment, the selection process and the training his troopers must experience before they are assigned to the unit.

The April 7th meeting is a DO NOT MISS event. Make sure to attend and bring along a motorcycle pal as a guest. As always the meeting starts promptly at 7:30 P.M. at the Village Bar and Grill in Buffalo Grove.

On another note I proudly report that yet again we had perfect attendance at our last board of directors meeting. In addition, the entire board arrived on time to start the meeting promptly at 7:30 P.M. working on your behalf until about 10:00 P.M. Please make sure to give your favorite board member a hug of appreciation. Thank you Officers and Top Cat Directors!

See you all at the April meeting.

Ride on!

Carl

“The Top Cat”

WISCONSIN DELLS ADVENTURE!

By Gary Brandt

Our ‘First’ rides of the season have sometimes been REAL ‘firsts’. There was Door County and the fog and fish boil. Then it was the Hoosier Ride and the trip next to a tornado. This year our early June ride will take us to the Wisconsin Dells, home of the disappearing Lake Delton. You never know what we will encounter this year.

The Dells may be known as the land of water parks and cheesy gift shops, but this part of Wisconsin also has many excellent riding options. We will leave on Friday morning, June 5th, and take back roads up to the Dells. Estimated time of arrival is late in the afternoon. The starting location will be the BP/McDonalds at the corner of Rt12 and Rt120. We will meet at 8:00am. Weather permitting, our route will take us to the famous House on the Rock. An extended lunch stop is being planned.

The motel that has been selected has many opportunities for leisure activities. The Mayflower is in a good location near Lake Delton, on Rt12. There is a bus to the casino if the weather is bad, and a very nice pool. We have reserved 15 connecting rooms at the Mayflower Motel for the evenings of June 5th and 6th. These rooms are located in an outbuilding of the Hotel and we have ensured that there is parking in front of the rooms. Call the Mayflower at 608-253-6471 to reserve your room. First come first served. Make sure you tell them you are with the Top Cats or you will not get into the special building. The cost per night is very reasonable at \$58 plus tax.

On Saturday we will leave in the morning for a ride to the town of Wisconsin Rapids. We will stop there for lunch. The ride will be a total of 190 miles and rivers, lakes and lots of country roads await us. We will leave for home after breakfast on Sunday. As always, expect a nice enjoyable pace.

Dining in the Dells is quite diverse, from the world famous Paul Bunyan Cook Shanty to Mr. Pancake and the original Monks Bar. There is everything from fast food to fine dining and did I mention the Casino? The plan is to let people choose whatever option fits their taste on both nights, but we will try and form groups as we get to know peoples’ decisions for the night. Don’t delay! Make your reservations today!!

Wisconsin Dells Adventure!



The Mayflower Motel has a great location and many opportunities for leisure activities. Get your reservations in soon - June 5th and 6th!

The World According to Andy



Now that riding season is close on our heels and the Top Cats are definitely a ride to eat club, I want to give out some tips on health and nutrition that will prepare us as riders and hopefully dispel any myths that you may have heard.

Let's start with the nutrition issue. I know all those experts out there are saying to cut down on meats and to eat more vegetables and grains. Experts? Let's think about this logically. What do cows, pigs, and chickens eat? Well for a start, cows do nothing but eat grass and corn all day long. How bad is that? What better way to get healthy than to eat meat that is saturated with vegetables and leafy green plants? Need your fiber, calcium, and protein fill for the day? Eat more chicken and pig. They are fed daily on a regimen of whole grains, protein and oyster shells. Oyster shells! This is one way to get your supplements as well.

Another myth I would like to dispel is eating fried foods. Maybe in the past this was not a healthy alternative, but today food is fried in **vegetable** oil! In fact, these foods are saturated with vegetable oil and what better way to complement meat than with a healthy portion of **VEGETABLE** oil?

A subject that is near and dear to all Top Cats' hearts is alcohol consumption. The question is, "should we drink less or should we drink more?" All I can tell you, is that if you want another way to get your daily intake of fruits and grains, drink **MORE!** Wine is made from grapes, vodka from rye and/or potato, and beer has a medley of fine hops and grains. One word of advice, though, would be to wait until the riding day is over before ingesting mass quantities of these fine fruits and vegetables. **CHEERS!!!!**



What would a health talk be without looking at the subject of exercise? You may think exercise is good for you, but think about these two things. Exercise makes muscles bigger! If you do a lot of sit ups, it will only make your stomach that much bigger! Also, you may have heard that swimming is good for you. If you are gullible enough to go for that story, then explain whales!!!

Finally, let me bring this all together with a word on body to fat ratios. I came across a formula that was used in a study done by the Wisconsin Department of Health. This study says that if you have a body and you have fat, then your body/fat ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies then the ratio is two to one and so on. This is simple and easy to calculate without the need for some expensive calculator or software program.

I hope that this information has been helpful and will steer you to make the right health decisions for the new riding season. Please consider these tips as we get ready for our opening ride that will be going to the famous Cotton Exchange in Waterford Wisconsin. I heard that some of the Wisconsin Department of Health researchers hang out here – maybe we can help them in their research!

Until next time....BON APPETIT.

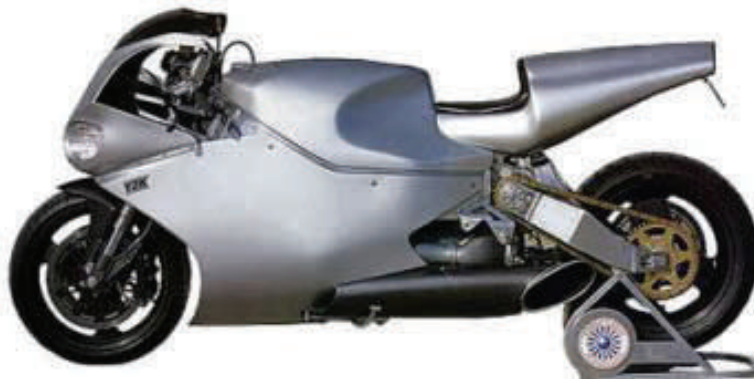


SOMETHING DIFFERENT

By Mike Bradbury

MTT Turbine SUPERBIKE

Powered by a Rolls Royce-Allison turbine engine which was originally fitted in 1 ½ ton Bell 206 Jet Ranger Helicopter. It demonstrated over 320 HP, 425 ft/lbs of torque and a top speed of 227 mph, The MTT Turbine SUPERBIKE, also named the Y2K Turbine is definitely something different.



This bike, made by Ted McIntire of Marine Turbine Technologies, has been named the “Most Powerful Production Motorcycle” by Guinness World Records.

The motorcycle also boasts carbon fiber fairings, a rear mounted camera with LCD color display, forward-and rear-looking radar detector with laser scrambler, one touch “Smart Start” ignition, and many other cool gadgets. This bike seems to be pretty popular in Hollywood. It starred in the movie “Torque” and even Jay Leno owns one!

Here are some other specifications and information on the MTT Y2K:



- The MTT Y2K's exhausts put out a 650°C exhaust.
- The 2 speed automatic gearbox is controlled from the handlebars.
- The Y2K features a carbon fiber seat fairing and fuel tank unit.
- Rear vision is handled by a rear view camera relaying images to a screen mounted in the dash.
- The Helicopter Turbine engine can run on diesel

...All of this makes this bike ***Something Different!***

BOCCE BALL, CATS, AND CRUISERS

By Mary Walters

The B's and C's all earned A's as the Top Cats and Jerseypine Cruisers got together to play some Bocce Ball in Highwood. There were over 50 participants equally representing both clubs. The hard work that put this event on the calendar is appreciated!! Top Cats members are grateful and so are the Cruisers. Joe Fiedler, Editor of the their monthly newsletter sent a copy of the comments that he is printing this month and he asks that we include a thank you in our publication for those efforts.

"Bob Wagner and Greg Smith (Top Cats) both deserve kudos for all their hard work and diligence in arranging everything. What a great job along with Lenny "The Bocce Ball Baron" Innocenzi (Top Cats) who did a great job explaining, demonstrating, and giving helpful tips on the rules and the "how tos" of the game in a such a relaxed fun way that it made everyone feel comfortable and uninhibited enough to give it a try. In addition Lenny's restaurant, Buffos, supplied the excellent food for the event and there was more than enough to go around."

Lenny also spent a bit of time talking about the Bocce Ball history in Highwood. The original site was developed and maintained as an outdoor court until the 1960's by volunteer groups of Highwood. The building was then designed and built completely by volunteers and today is staffed and maintained by donations and volunteer hours. It is a physical testament to what people can do when they are committed and have a common cause.



How do you play Bocce Ball, you ask? Well, to start off, a small ball called the pallino is thrown down the court. Members of each team must throw larger balls and try to place them as close to the pallino as possible. The Picture above shows a good placement of balls. When Lenny and his friends were playing, this is what you saw.... When most of the rest of us were on the courts, the pallino (small ball in the picture) was standing alone-with at least 4-5 feet to the next ball.

Pat Michaud and Jan Wilcox showed natural talent that grew as the evening progressed. Don Schaffer also proved that focus does matter!! His natural pose looked something like Auguste Rodin's 'The Thinker'. It worked! He was usually on the winning team!



In doing some research, it seems that there are not many Bocce Ball courts in Illinois. The internet only lists five. Maybe we could make it a club mission to find the Bocce-ball courts in America... and keep a running list. This could be the 'time -filling' activities that we do while developing our team talent??!! Lenny, would you be willing to take the position as *Team Coach*?

In the meantime, Joe Fiedler also had a few ideas that we could work on for next time:

"Come up with a way to communicate with the player of the team across from you. As we become more "seasoned" we are way too familiar what "hearing challenged adults" means. Maybe hand signals\gestures ...being this game is of Italian origination, (and we are bikers after all). This could offer some very interesting results. Or how about cue cards...THROW THE BALL...BLUE POINT WHITE THROWS (REVERSED) ...WHERE'S MY BEER. And also, how about laser measuring devices for each lane...I'm too old, fat, and out of shape to use a ruler...and am afraid if I bend over that far I will be like the commercial....I'VE FAL-LIN AND CAN'T GET UP."

Joe and the Jerseypine Cruisers added a good bit of humor to the event. And both groups have made it clear that we can enjoy working with other clubs to create a 'force greater than our own'. A 'Top Cats' thank you to all who made this day a memorable one. And a special thanks to the Cruisers! There weren't any individual prizes awarded, but as a whole this event deserves the "Great Way to Begin the 2009 Riding Season" award!



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 3, 2009

Submitted by Joan DeRango

Meeting was called to order at approx. 7:30 by Carl Marcyan.

Opening

A newly purchased American Flag and the Top Cats Flag were displayed at the front of the room. To begin the meeting Carl Marcyan asked the general membership to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests

Marty Walsh – guest for a second time. Guest of Carl and Chris Marcyan

Dionne Mainer – Referred by Mark Heller

President's Update

- New member Chris Marcyan was announced as Sergeant at Arms.

The Club is still looking for a Club Historian to help capture past information about the club and its members in anticipation of the 15 year anniversary. This person would also maintain ongoing historical information about the club. Any interested member, please email Dennis at wombat@dpdougherty.com

- Carl thanked Bill and Mary Lowry on behalf of the club for conducting the Accident Scene Management class for over twenty Top Cats.
- Carl reported and thanked member Randy Braun for reviewing current club insurance coverage and recommending any changes.

Dennis Dougherty and Brian Rainey were recognized for their efforts in updating the technical aspects of the club's website.

Secretary Update

Joan DeRango informed the group that the minutes for the February general meeting as well as the February board meeting were published in the ROAR.

Treasurer's update

Tom Nichols had a previous commitment and was unable to update the membership in person. He updated Carl Marcyan prior to the meeting that the club was financially sound. The 2009 club budget will be submitted and reviewed at the next board meeting.

Safety Committee – Schaffer/Kirkpatrick

- GRASS class will be held on March 15th. New location. Please see Wayne for location instructions and building entrance procedures.
- Safety Tip from Wayne – As you drive, observe the various blind spots you find in the vehicles you're riding in and note them. Be aware of the different spots in cars, trucks, SUVs etc. Remember where they are and avoid "sitting" in them during the riding season or at any time.
- Don't miss April's meeting! It will be a safety themed meeting.
- Gary Brandt informed the group that there are plenty of open riding slots in May. The calendar is filling up so if you are planning a ride please get them on the calendar. Seniors need to be mentoring rides this year so see Gary for mentoring opportunities.

Tom Malia provided the group with this month's safety tip. Read March's ROAR for the safety tip details.

Membership – Eileen Perry

- New member – Chris Marcyan.
- Current membership is at 81 paid. That number is pending attendance by members at March's GRASS class.
- The committee is working on polling the membership to identify their expectations of the club. More details to follow but in the interim please email suggestions to Eileen or speak with a board member.
- Cindy Raybern has been working on membership cards. She was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Eileen will insure the cards will be available at next month's meeting.

ROAR and Website Updates – Dennis Dougherty

- Dennis Dougherty reported the club's website has gone through a number of technical updates "behind the scenes". You won't notice the differences at this time but the background changes will allow us to make the site more interactive and functional for the club. Dennis has received input from the board and is seeking input from members on what you would like to see



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 3, 2009

Continued

on our site. The goal is to have a very different site by the end of the year. Enhancements will be implemented on a quarterly basis. The first "release" will happen by the end of March. This is a work in progress and all suggestions are welcome. Please share your ideas with Dennis or any board members.

- Dennis introduced Mary Walters as the new editor for ROAR. She is excited about the opportunity to give back to the club through ROAR. Mary has been working with Dennis and Andy to come up with some new ideas for regular columns and topics. Again, we need membership input. A survey will be sent to members to be sure that the paper reflects the interests of the membership.

Vice President Update – Mike Bradbury

- Mike is working on determining what types of products to make available to members for purchase. The purpose is to build our unity as club and to promote interest from new members. We currently have decals and shirts – but what else would you like to see? Please talk to or email Mike with your suggestions. Master Sergeant of the Illinois State police as a guest speaker at April's meeting.

Charity Ride Update – Eileen Perry and Joan De-Rango

- Joan and Eileen have met with the representatives at Volo regarding details for this year's Charity Ride. They received many great ideas and contacts that the Charity Committee is working on.
- Joan appealed to the membership for their help in soliciting prizes for this year's raffle. The "smaller" items will be raffled off during the time when people have returned from the ride and are relaxing, eating lunch, and waiting for the grand prize drawing. The committee hopes with the additional raffle items we can entice more people to buy tickets this year. Finally, we need members to volunteer to sell the tickets at events in the area. Look for more information and sign up opportunities at the next meeting.

Activities – Greg Smith

- Mar 22, 2009 – Bocce Ball at the Highwood Bocce Ball Court. The event will be held as a joint outing with the Jersey Pine Cruisers. Please pay Muriel if you have signed up.
- Apr 19, 2009 – Kick off Ride. Andy Koniewicz is the

Ride Captain. The ride will be to a brunch and more details will be forthcoming. Check the website for details.

- April 24th is a 3 day Veteran's Tune-up Ride for the Fisher house. The Fisher family donated a number of houses near military hospitals to allow families to stay in these homes while their military men and women recuperate. The \$20 cost of the ride goes to the upkeep of the homes. The ride is in Columbus Ohio on Saturday the 25th. The ticket also includes entrance to the AMA museum.

- April, June, July and August are filling up quickly with rides. May is open so Greg encouraged Road Captains to consider planning a ride for May. Road Captains will provide more details of rides scheduled for June, July and August. Please refer to the calendar for rides and the ride details.

Business Networking – Stefan Levy

Stefan spoke to the group about the various electronic means of networking the members of Top Cats. Since the club's founder has passed away, the club has not continued networking as was the previous practice. Stefan encouraged the membership to consider what benefits they may have to offer the group and what benefits the group may have to offer them. He is looking into establishing a group on LinkedIn – a business networking site.

New Business

- Nick Bender, lifetime member and son of Top Cat's founder Virgo, has contacted the club and is looking to rejoin us at April's meeting.
- Frank Coletto won the 50/50 for the first time ever. Meeting adjourned at approx. 8:40 p.m.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10, 2009

Submitted by Joan DeRango

Board Members Present: Carl Marcyan, Mike Bradbury, Tom Nichols, Joan DeRango, Dennis Dougherty, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Eileen Perry, Greg Smith and Gary Brandt

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Cindy Raybern

Meeting was called to order by President Carl Marcyan at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order- Carl Marcyan

- Carl noted this was the 3rd meeting of the “new” board and once again there was perfect attendance. He promised to buy dinner if perfect attendance continued through the end of the year.
- Carl reported that Randy Braun provided a quote for increasing the club’s general liability insurance from the current two million dollar cap per year to three million. The additional cost would be \$100 annually. Gary motioned the club increase the general liability coverage to three million for the cost of \$100.00 annually. All board members were in favor, there were no objections. The motion passed.
- Carl reviewed the Club’s Charter and By-laws and discussed in detail the current status of the club. Initial steps are being taken to make improvements to the club while maintaining the original intent of the club’s purpose. Examples include an improved website, more interesting general meetings and a more substantial ROAR. To continue our progress Carl would like to have a club member speak at every general meeting to continue improving our networking. Mike Bradbury volunteered to speak at the next general meeting. Cindy suggested highlighting a member in every issue of ROAR. Dennis reported that one of the recommendations for the improvement of ROAR and the website is to feature a club member with each issue of ROAR and to have a member’s only section on the website where members can post information about themselves and/or their businesses.

Past President’s Comments – Gary Brandt

- Gary presented the club with a pictorial outline of “What Members Want” from his perspective as past president. The handout identified six basic tenets of

why people join a club and what we as a board and future boards need to do to enhance and support these tenets in order to retain members as well as attract new ones. The board discussed at length the document presented by Gary. In the end, it was decided that the document needed to be updated slightly to add an emphasis on the club’s 501 (c) 7 status. After updates are developed, the board will need to decide whether to adopt the tenets and use them to move the club forward. A copy of the document presented is available upon request.

Treasurer-Tom Nichols

- Tom supplied the board with the proposed 2009 budget. Each line item was reviewed and adjusted after discussion by the board. Tom will update the budget based on decisions made at the meeting and will represent it at the next board meeting for final approval.
 - Joan reported that she has taken on the responsibility of updating the signers on the club’s checking account at Bank of America. It has been a bit of a challenge but she expects to have the updates complete before the next board meeting.
- Tom reported the results of the survey regarding products the club members are looking to purchase. Survey results indicated most members want various types of shirts – short and long sleeved T-shirts, denim shirts, and women’s cut shirts. Greg Smith and Carl Marcyan will check with their various contacts to obtain pricing on a variety of shirts for the club.

Membership-Eileen Perry

- Eileen presented the application of Martin Walsh. After review of the application Martin was accepted as a regular member of Top Cats.
- A motion was made by Gary Brandt to accept the membership roster emailed and membership renewal for 2009 has closed. 2008 members who did not renew will need to reapply for membership. The motion passed unanimously.
- The renewal process continues to be a struggle due to members not renewing on time. Various options were discussed to encourage members to pay by the due date. The final decision was to send the notices in the beginning of October so members can pay early and be more able to adhere to the deadline.
- Goal of a 10% increase in membership for 2009 was established.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10, 2009

Continued

- Eileen is working on revising various handouts given to potential members making them more professional. Dennis has already updated the Top Cats brochure.
- Name tags will be available at the membership table for guests to wear to allow board members and other Top Cats can easily introduce themselves to guests.
- Gary will put together a Road Captain brochure kit that includes a few ride waivers and Top Cats brochures for each Road Captain. This will better insure that we will obtain them from guests on our rides.

Carl would like to have some type of membership information sign at the general meeting table. Mike will investigate some type of table skirt. Eileen will investigate options for signs.

Secretary-Joan DeRango

- The Bocce Ball event is on track for March 22nd. Approx. 55 people from both Top Cats and the Jersey Pine Cruisers will be attending.
- Charity ride is in need of raffle items. A letter is available for members to take to various businesses to obtain items for the ride's raffle.
- Wayne reported that NISRA's annual recognition event will take place on April 17th. The Top Cats have attended in the past. Board members are encouraged to attend the event. Wayne will coordinate the response from Top Cats. The cost is \$27.00 per person.

Greg Smith reminded the group that Top Cats had previously attended an annual fishing event that helped get members connected with NISRA. Joan will contact Jillian Giese to see if we can incorporate a ride with a NISRA event.

Vice President-Mike Bradbury

- Brian Rainey has yet to make contact with B.J. and Slick to obtain the cast used to make the leather patch. Mike Bradbury will pursue this issue.
- Sergeant at Arms will become the "keeper of the products". Mike will investigate obtaining a locking cabi-

net to safely keep products at our general meeting website.

- Mike will work to create source book that lists the vendors used and products they supply. Product supplies need to be kept to a minimum and potentially only ordered on a periodic basis.

At the next general meeting inquiry will be made to determine who may want a new name tag.

Safety/Road Captain – Wayne Kirkpatrick/Gary Brandt

- March 15th will be next G.R.A.S.S. class. Twenty six participants are expected. The location has been moved. See website and/or email from Wayne for details.
- April's general meeting will have an extended safety segment concentrating on the consequences of drinking and driving. Randy Braun will be speaking on insurance and Joe Rominski on the liabilities. Also at the meeting will be the Illinois State Police motorcycle troopers.
- Waukegan Police Motorcycle officers will speak at our May meeting.

When the general meeting reminder is sent information regarding the special events will be included.

ROAR/Website/Long Range Planning – Dennis Dougherty

- Dennis presented the board with a written presentation of recommendations/ updates to ROAR, the website, Email, club laptop, club historian position and suggested actions and next steps. Detail on some of the agenda topics was heard, but due to the importance of the topics to be discussed and the limited time available it was recommended that the board read over the presentation and be prepared to discuss and decide on direction at the next board meeting.

- This topic will be first on the agenda next month.

A motion was made and passed to upgrade the club's current computer software. Dennis will be responsible for the upgrades.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10, 2009

Continued

Activities – Greg Smith

15 rides already scheduled for the year. Goal for the year is 30 rides.

No rides currently scheduled for May. Carl will organize the president's ride for May.

Old Business/New Business

None

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

A TOP CAT You Should Know...

Good food... welcome atmosphere.. time to sit back and laugh... Does this sound like a comfortable place to relax? It should, because that IS what you will find at Buffo's... This great place to eat and visit has been around since 1977, when Lenny Innocenzi and his family opened Buffo's doors. When you walk in, there are smells that are inviting, people at the counter to take your order with smiles, and the Innocenzi family history that lines the walls. If you are lucky enough to be there when Lenny has time to talk, you will hear family stories with a Lenny twist that will keep you laughing long after you leave. Or you might find the 'regulars' talking politics with Lenny – and you can join them. It is a place that you will find yourself returning to regularly – for the food and the company!

Lenny is serious about his family, too. He and his wife, Joy, have been working at the restaurant and raising 3 children since their marriage in 1980.

Lenny has been a member of the Top Cats for the past two years. He is dedicated to being an active member and was once heard saying, "why bother if you can't be involved?" The Top Cats Club is fortunate to have his energies and attitude working within the club. In the past, Lenny has had gatherings at Buffo's and most recently he organized a Bocce Ball event that turned out to be a great deal of fun for all that came. You can read more about that event on page 10 of April's ROAR.



Pizza for everyone
Edgewood Middle School seventh-grader Jack Hoffman (left) collects a pizza lunch for himself by writing a handwritten letter to Lenny Innocenzi (right), owner of Buffo's Pizza Restaurant in Highland, Illinois. Innocenzi was so impressed with the letter, he decided to bring pizza for the entire class and discuss the restaurant business.

Lenny with a local student who wrote him a letter. Lenny bought pizza for the whole class... and talked to them about the restaurant business.

Food, motorcycles, and family aren't the only interests that keep Lenny busy. For those of you who KNOW cars – and for those who just like looking, Lenny has a 'Cruz'n Night" twice a month from May through October. You will be able to see very unique antique, hot rod, and muscle cars. Come on foot, two, or four wheels and plan on making some new friends!

Now, for those who don't know - 'Buffo' is Italian for Clown. And although he is a "Biker Who Means Business", when you get to know Lenny, you will agree that this name is truly appropriate!



RIDES & EVENTS

DATE	RIDE/EVENT	LOCATION	DESTINATION	TIME	LEADER
Tuesday, April 07	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, April 14	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, April 19	Kick Off Ride	BP 176 & Rt. 12	Waterford WI	8:30am	Andy Konsewicz
Friday, April 24	Tune-Up Ride for Veterans-3 Day	Hinsdale Oasis on I-294	Columbus, OH	8:00am	Wayne Kirkpatrick
Sunday, May 03	G.R.A.S.S. Class	TBD	TBD	8:30am	Ric Case
Tuesday, May 05	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, May 09	Galena Ride	Caribou Coffee Rt72 & Rt59	Galena	8:00am	Nichols
Tuesday, May 12	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, June 02	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Friday June 05	Wisc Dells Adventure -3 day	BP Rt12 & Rt120	Wisc Dells	8:00am	Gary Brandt
Tuesday, June 09	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Friday, June 19	Little Sturgis-3 Day	Rt14 and Rt176	Davenport, IA	9:00am	Gary Brandt
Saturday, June 27	Lakeshore Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Mike Bradbury
Tuesday, July 07	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Saturday July 11	Top Cats Picnic	TBD	TBD	TBD	Bradbury-Michaud
Sunday, July 12	G.R.A.S.S. Class	TBD	TBD	8:30am	Ric Case
Tuesday, July 14	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Friday, July 17	Route 66/ Lincoln Ride-3 Day	Starks Corner	Springfield, IL	8:00am	Dennis Dougherty
Sunday, July 26	Ride For Dreams	Volo Auto Museum	Volo	9:00am	Dougherty-Malia
Wednesday, July 29	Sturgis-Multi Day	TBD	Rapid City, SD	TBD	Boand

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

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