



ROAR

May 2009

Business Name

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS - ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



Greetings Top Cats

Thank you, Top Cats, for the terrific turnout we had at our April membership meeting. The Safety Committee did a great job reminding and informing us of: reasons to avoid alcohol while riding and driving; insurance needs and coverage amounts; motor vehicle and traffic laws and a monthly safety tip. Gary Brandt, Randy Braun, Joe Rominski, Esq, Chuck Prettyman, Donald Schaffer, and Wayne Kirkpatrick are to be all commended for an excellent program. Thank you gentlemen for the time you invested in preparation and presentation.

Another feature of our April meeting was the Troopers of the Illinois State Police's motorcycle unit. All three were passionate about motorcycling and did a fantastic job of providing us additional safety suggestions for the upcoming riding season. They told me that they were very impressed with our Club and our safety program that preceded their presentation. Please keep in mind the BikeSafe program that Trooper Liz Diaz will be involved in for the State Police. This is an opportunity to ride one-on-one with a motorcycle Trooper who will spend time providing riding tips. As soon as I hear from Trooper Liz, I will pass along specific information.

Right after our April meeting two significant events took place on the same day, April 17th, Top Cats were invited to provide motorcycle escort to the 16th PsyOp Battalion. They have been deployed to Iraq and other undisclosed locations. Twelve Top Cats together with thirty other bikers led the troops from the Army Reserve Center in Ft. Sheridan to O'Hare. It was an emotional experience; I spoke to a young soldier who

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WHAT'S UP WITH THIS MENTOR STUFF?

By Gary Brandt

The Top Cats have always considered *safe group riding* as a cornerstone of what we do. From our GRASS classes to our monthly safety tips, the focus never changes. Not all clubs use road captains, or at least not trained ones. The Top Cats decided long ago that one way to help insure the safety and enjoyment of our rides would be to have road captains with specific training and protocols to follow.

However earning a road captain rocker does not mean we stop learning. In fact, it's the opposite. In reality, earning that title is only the first step. Initially, we only ask that a candidate lead a single ride. With this minimal requirement, there are many things

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Upcoming Events

MAY

- 3rd : Austin's Round-up
- 5th: General Meeting
- 9th: Board Meeting
- 9th: Galena Ride
- 17th: Brunch Ride

JUNE

- 2nd: General Meeting
- 5th: Wisconsin Dells Ride
- 14th: Board Meeting
- 19th: Little Sturgis
- 27th: Lakeshore Ride

SAFETY KORNER

BRAKING TIPS & TECHNIQUES

BY TRAVELER

Anyone can twist a throttle and go fast but fewer riders can brake efficiently. Braking is the most important skill any motorcyclist can have. Experience, statistics, and investigations and reports tell us that most motorcycle incidents could have been minimized or avoided

You've probably heard a story of someone who "laid down" their motorcycle because a car pulled out in front of them. They may have made it sound like an intentional lay down. The reality is that the rider most likely panicked and locked up one, or both of the wheels, and dumped it. If you lock up the front wheel, it doesn't matter how good you are...your bike is likely to go down.



entirely if motorcyclists had used their brakes properly.

(This article will focus on hydraulic or mechanical brakes more than anti skid braking system (ABS) techniques or linked braking systems. Those advanced braking systems are designed to electronically prevent wheel lock and to maximize the efficiency of simultaneous front and rear brake employment. Most of our motorcycles are still equipped with hydraulic brakes. We will also assume that our motorcycles are in good mechanical condition, with good tires and brakes and that road conditions are good.)

So how do you avoid a crash or minimize a potential crash in an emergency situation? Practice emergency braking regularly. FACT total braking capability.: On most motorcycles the front brake provides about 90% (nominally) of your

A good technique for front wheel braking is to squeeze (don't grab) the brake lever, applying firmer and firmer pressure as you squeeze it. You will be surprised how hard it is to lock the front brake up in this manner. But in an emergency situation it may be hard

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SAFETY KORNER

BRAKING TIPS & TECHNIQUES

BY TRAVELER

CONTINUED

to keep your cool, and you may end up grabbing too much front brake and locking up the front wheel. *If you lock up the front wheel, simply release the lever immediately and reapply it, or you will likely go down. If you happen to lock up the rear brake, do not release it...stay on it.*

When the rear wheel locks oftentimes it starts to slide out to one side or the other. If your rear wheel is not tracking behind your front wheel and you release the rear brake, you will probably high side when your rear wheel regains traction. If your rear wheel is sliding out, and you keep it locked, it will track back in line with the front wheel. You can still steer with your rear wheel locked and sliding. Remember that the motorcycle must be straight up when performing maximum emergency braking...that's not to say you can't use your brakes while in a curve...skilled riders and racing schools teach how to lightly use both brakes in a curve, but maximum braking must be done with the bike straight up.

The simple summary for emergency braking is...squeeze the front brake lever simultaneous with the rear brake pedal without locking up either wheel, squeeze the tank with your knees and lean back to put weight on the rear wheel. Skilled riders will also downshift simultaneously to use engine braking to help stop.

The best way to become proficient is to practice. Practice braking at different speeds, but make sure you start slow and in a parking lot or on private property away from traffic. If you typically ride with a co-rider, then practice emergency braking with a co-rider after you become proficient at solo emergency braking. It is critical to teach your co-rider to brace during emergency braking and also squeeze with their knees and lean back to keep from pushing the rider forward. A co-rider's weight on the rear wheel also enhances rear wheel braking efficiency.

Once you've become comfortable with emergency braking with a co-rider, move on to practice braking with your bike loaded for a trip, with or without a co-rider, so you become proficient at braking under the same conditions that you normally ride.

If you practice braking, become proficient, and are ever in the unfortunate situation of having to brake in an emergency, you will revert to your training and practice and maximize your ability to stop safely. Even if a crash is inevitable, with good braking techniques you can minimize the damage to you, your co-rider, and your bike.

If, however, the first time that you have to use emergency braking is in an actual emergency...***you are way too late to become proficient, Dude!!!!***

A Dogs Prayer



Dear Lord: Thank you for bringing me to Timmy's house and not to Michael Vick's!!

AMEN!



WHAT'S IN A ROAD NAME?

Lizard


As told to Mary Walters

Well, I finally got someone to tell me about the origin of their road name... It seems that these stories are well guarded secrets and may only have a chance of being told after a long hot day in the sun followed by a long cool night in a drinking establishment.

But there was one story that is printable for the general reader of the ROAR... The story of "Lizard". Terry Kumro has been wearing this name for longer than he cares to admit. It all started on a fine summer road trip years ago. The riders were resting around a campfire after a great ride and enjoying one of the most important features of campfire culture – making fun of the other campers. Terry, who had been carrying an axe for a good portion of the evening, became the focus of the jokes. The 'Lizzy Bordon' tale was renamed and retold as the 'Lizard Bordon' tale.... And the rest is history.

This may be the one and only "What's in a Road Name?" column... since there are so few willing to give up their story. Maybe, though, this summer's rides will produce some new stories and we can create some new names??? The rides already are promising a good deal of fun. Let's see what else develops this season!

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*

16th Psychological

Operations



was busy taking pictures of the motorcycles that had been lined up just before we left for O'Hare. She told me that she had been in the Army only one year and graduated from high school a few years ago. I thought to myself that this young soldier was the same age as my daughter and going to war! Many thanks to Wayne Kirkpatrick for organizing this opportunity



That evening four Top Cats Officers (Gary Brandt, Eileen Perry, Wayne Kirkpatrick and I) with significant others (Muriel, John, Pat and Ana, respectively) attended the NISRA Annual Award Dinner in West Dundee. Many of the NISRA clients participated and received awards too. It was clear that this was a memorable event for all the NISRA children who attended, whether or not they received an award. The evening event was as emotional as the morning escort. Quite a day.

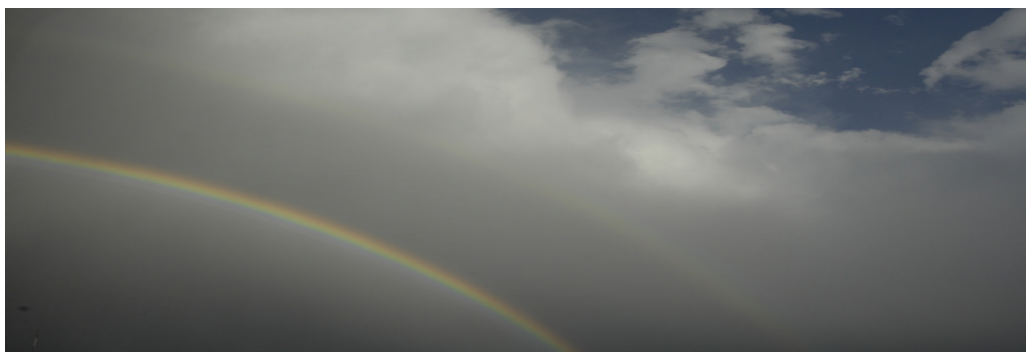
So Top Cats, it is good to remember that life is more than the pursuit of pleasure. It is also about helping our fellow man and women. I guess this is part of the pursuit of happiness that is written into our Country's Constitution.

Ride on!

"We have a great leadership team of smart, dedicated and motivated Top Cats. Join us for an outstanding 2009"

Carl

"The Top Cat"





WHAT'S UP WITH THIS MENTOR STUFF? *continued*

that a New Road Captain may not encounter. So for this reason, the club has embraced the belief that continuous improvement is always important. Also, The Top Cats have developed a second type of road captain, *The Senior Road Captains*. While not necessarily experts on all aspects of planning a ride, we ask them to be mentors. Top Cats also ask that they provide assistance not only to prospective road captains, but to current and fellow senior captains as well.

There are many definitions of what a mentor is, but this one sums up what we as Top Cats are looking for:

Mentor: *noun*: a WISE and TRUSTED GUIDE and ADVISOR

Now, one can always debate the wise part, but the bottom line is we all need to have a second set of eyes or an alternative way of looking at things. It's often not about what's right or wrong, just other ways of how to do something.

Harley Davidson has recently established a mentoring program and the industry has, for many years, found mentoring to be highly beneficial in developing and maintaining skills. Top Cats has embraced that

concept for nearly a decade now to provide our membership with skilled leaders and safe, enjoyable, rides.

Remember: ***Good Road Captains never stop learning!***



CALLING ALL TOP CATS!!!!

Just a reminder now that riding season is upon us:

Please send me any and all stories and humorous events that happen on all Top Cat rides this year. I am working on a project and hope to share them with the membership at a future date. You can send them to me at andy@konsewicz.com

Where else could you see such exciting gathering such as this?!!



the World According to **Andy**



Old Age Is (NOT) Some Kind Of Joke!!

At the last Topcats meeting, I noticed that collectively as a group, we are getting old. It's not a bad thing, it just is. I think if we add the ages of all the Topcats, the number we would come with would come close to rivaling the amount given to the financial institutions to bail them out. So here are some signs of old age that you may want to watch out for:

- Your sweetie says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and you answer, "Pick one; I can't do both!"
- You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.
- An "all-nighter" means not getting up to pee.

- "Getting a little action" means you don't need to take any fiber today.
- Your idea of weight lifting is standing up.

Thinking about this gave me some ideas on how we can make the Topcats Picnic games even more fun. So Mike, let's try these games this summer outing:

- Red Rover, Red Rover, the doctor says bend over.
- Simon says..... say something incoherent.
- Hide and go pee.
- Pin the toupee on the bald guy.

Finally I like to leave everyone with a great exercise that will get you on the road (no pun intended) to becoming a healthier and more importantly a fit motorcycle rider:

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, with plenty of room at each side. Hold a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags.

Then try 50-lb potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level presently.)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.



Remember, taking care of yourself will give you the stamina to keep up with the younger Turks in the club!!!



HUMOR FOR BOTH SIDES

Top 10 Reasons Why Gold Wing Riders Don't Wave Back

10. Wasn't sure if other rider was waving or making an obscene gesture.
9. Afraid hand might get frostbite if removed from heated grip.
8. Has arthritis and the past 400 miles have made it difficult to raise arm.
7. Reflection from etched windshield momentarily blinded him.
6. The espresso machine just finished.
5. Was actually asleep when the other rider waved.
4. Was on a 3-way conference call with stockbroker and accessories dealer.
3. Was distracted by odd shaped blip on radar screen.
2. Was simultaneously adjusting the air suspension, seat height, programmable CD player, seat temperature, and satellite navigation system.
1. Couldn't find the "auto wave back" button on the dashboard.

Top 10 Reasons Why Harley Riders Don't Wave Back

10. Afraid it will invalidate warranty.
9. Leather and studs make it too heavy to raise arm.
8. Refuse to wave to anyone whose bike is already paid for.
7. Afraid to let go of the handlebars because they might vibrate off.
6. Rushing wind might blow the scabs off new tattoos.
5. Angry because just took out second mortgage to pay luxury tax on new Harley.
4. Just discovered the fine print in the owners' manual and realized H-D is partially owned by Honda.
3. Remembered the last time a Harley rider waved back, he impaled his hand on spiked helmet.
2. Arm might get caught in leather tassels on handlebar.
1. Hand is full of parts that fell off.

A TopCat You Should Know

By Mike Bradbury

I was asked to write a little bit about myself for a ROAR article. You would have thought that everyone has heard enough about me (I can see you all nodding in agreement) but here is a little bit more. There's plenty of space in the ROAR for you to write articles about yourselves sometime too. I figure you'll get tired of reading about me and I will read about you someday.

I grew up in Waukegan and have lived in this area all my life. I met my future wife, Kathie in 1986 and fell in love at first sight. We got engaged in 1987 and were married in 1988. Kathie gave birth to my twin daughters, Erika and Taylor in 1989. We have lived in Mundelein since 1992 and have a full life with work, horseback riding and my being a Top Cat.

I am a Materials Manager for Service Tool International, Inc. in Elk Grove Village. My company designs and builds tooling, dies and equipment for international food processing companies and the Canning industry. I manage the Purchasing of "made-to-order" highly specialized tooling to micro tolerances in multiple types of exotic materials.

My first bike was a 1996 Honda Shadow A.C.E. with the 2-tone off-white cream and red paint job. I drove it everywhere by myself and with friends I knew who rode motorcycles. I "tricked" it out with saddle bags and other stuff. I did all sorts of pub crawls, charity rides, day rides, weekend rides, etc. I had a great time learning about motorcycling and the different types of rides and riders.

I learned about TopCats from Emil Kornecki and others and became a Top Cat in January, 2005. I became a road captain in 2007, was voted club Secretary in 2008 and Vice President in 2009. I like to have a club to ride with and yes, use as guinea pigs for an occasional ride I put together. I have always enjoyed being a part of a great club and doing whatever I can to support that. We are some of the nicest people I know and I always am proud to say I am a part of what we do.





GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 7, 2009

Submitted by Joan DeRango

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

Opening

The meeting began with the general membership standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests

Tony and Terri Lowden – guest of Wayne's from Palatine HOG

Rob Wojcicki, Head Road Captain, McHenry HOG

John Sweeny, Assistant Director, Lake Shore HOG

Joe Fiedler, President Jersey Pine Cruisers

Sergeant Rick Kozik, Trooper Ben Chikaraishi ,
Trooper Liz Diaz – Illinois State Troopers – Motorcycle Division.

President's Update-Marcyan

With the riding season just around the corner the focus of this evening's meeting is Safety.

Secretary & Treasurer's Updates

Deferred until next month to allow more time for the Safety Committee and State Troopers' Presentations.

Membership – Cindy Raybern

New member – Marty Walsh

Membership cards were distributed. For anyone not receiving their card please see Eileen Perry at next month's meeting.

ROAR– Mary Walters

The March ROAR is new and improved. Mary Walters, Andy Konsewicz and Dennis Dougherty have implemented a new format, improved content, pictures and consistent monthly columns and authors. The membership is encouraged to write and submit articles for ROAR. All ideas are welcome. If you have an idea but need some help putting together an article contact Mary Walters and she'll work with you.

Andy asked members to send him humorous stories of events that occurred on Top Cat rides throughout the season. He's working on an idea for sharing the humor with the club. Email stories to Andy.

Bocce Ball Update – Joan DeRango

Over 50 people from both clubs – Jersey Pinecruisers and Top Cats attended the event. A great time was had by all. Thanks to Top Cats member Lenny who hosted the event, provided food, coaching and an informative history of the Highwood Bocce Club. The event raised \$225 for our Top Cats' charity fund.

Vice President Update – Mike Bradbury

Mike has researched the availability of products for members to purchase that will contain the Top Cats logo. He'll be working with Dennis to potentially put the list of products on the website. For now if you are interested in a specific product see Mike. Currently on hand are decals for your bike or car, flags, some T-shirts and the DVD of the 2008 Top Cats year in review. See Mike after the meeting if you are interested in any products.

Charity Ride Update – Joan DeRango

Additional raffle items are needed. Ed Lipinski's wife donated a Mary Kaye gift basket worth \$120. These are the types of raffle items the committee needs. Please notify Joan or Eileen of raffle items you wish to donate.

Committee member Frank Coletto has secured a donation of 20, 30 second public service announcements from "The Drive" radio station – 103.9 FM that will be used to advertise the Charity Ride. This is in addition to Cubs tickets, a \$500 corporate donation and a commitment from Randy's Cycles in Huntley of a monetary donation. Frank has set the bar high but the committee is confident that the remaining Top Cats members will meet the challenge and work to raise the bar even higher.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 7, 2009

Continued

Activities – Greg Smith

15-16 rides already on the calendar. We are halfway to our goal.

Apr 19, 2009 – Kick off Ride. Andy Konsewicz is the Ride Captain. The ride will be to a brunch in Waterford, Wisc. weather permitting.

The 16th Psychological Operations Battalion at Fort Sheridan is being deployed to Iraq for 14 months on April 17th. The battalion's commander has requested a motorcycle escort for the battalion. An email will be sent with details.

April 24th is a 3 day ride Veteran's Tune-up Ride for the Fisher house. The ride is in Columbus Ohio on Saturday the 25th. The ticket also includes entrance to the AMA museum.

See the ROAR and/or the website for details on upcoming rides.

Member Focus – Mike Bradbury

This month's member to know is Mike Bradbury. Mike talked to the group about his favorite topic – himself. Mike is a Materials Manager for an original equipment manufacturer in the canning industry; Service Tool International in Elk Grove Village. His company designs and builds tooling and progress dyes that stamp the ends of cans. The company also builds equipment and integrates the tooling into the equipment to establish and end to end process for stamping the ends of cans. As a tool and dye industry and manufacturer they have been hit hard by the economic downturn. Mike's primary responsibility is to process route which means he decides how things are made and the steps required within the process. He works with a variety of exotic materials such as ceramics, carbide, high speed steels, and powdered metal. Mike is also responsible for managing production suppliers for the company.

Safety Committee – Schaffer/Kirkpatrick

Next G.R.A.S.S. (Group Riding and Safety Seminar) class is May 3rd and will be held at Don Schaffer's office. Please see the website for details.

Safety committee is composed of Senior Road Captains for policy setting and review purposes. Don is the chair of the committee, Ric Case is in charge of G.R.A.S.S. and Gary Brandt handles all Road Captain

duties.

The safety committee put together a 3 part safety seminar for the membership.

Part I - a video clip depicting the impacts of mixing alcohol and speed. Gary introduced the video to the membership not so much to lecture the membership but to reinforce the beliefs of Top Cats to make safety a priority. The video was extremely graphic but served as a reminder that drinking and riding don't mix.

Part II - Randy Braun spoke to the membership about the importance of reviewing your insurance policies to insure coverage is sufficient to provide for you and your family if the unfortunate event of an accident would occur.

Part III - Joe Rominski spoke to the group regarding legal aspects of safe riding. Make sure your DL has the motorcycle endorsement, information such as address is current and the license has not expired. License stickers are current. Your registration and proof of insurance information is easily accessible. Reinforced Randy's point of making sure your insurance coverage is sufficient. Physical laws – running lights must be on at all times, modulating lights are legal, turn signals are not required but a rider is required to signal their turn, eye protection is required if you do not have a wind screen, helmet laws vary from state to state so be aware of each state's requirement if you are traveling out of Illinois, no age requirement for a passenger but if riding a passenger they must have a seat and foot pegs and their feet must be able to reach the pegs, only one mirror is required, lane sharing (riding side by side) is not illegal in Illinois but staggered riding is Top Cat's riding protocol, lane splitting is also illegal in Illinois, Scott's Law requires you to move to another lane and slow down when passing an emergency vehicle or construction zone. Violation of Scott's Law can be extremely expensive and require a mandatory court appearance.

Changes in DUI laws in Illinois – 6 month suspension if you take the breath test and fail, 12 month suspension if you refuse. Previously Judicial Driving Permits could allow for restricted driving during the suspension period. These are no longer available and in their place is the Monitoring Device Driving Permit (MDDP). If the permit requires a BADE device be installed on the vehicle.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 7, 2009

Continued

These cannot be installed on a motorcycle so a DUI would result in not being able to ride your motorcycle for a minimum of 6 months. If you have a MDDP and are caught driving a vehicle without the device the results are felony charges with 1-2 years prison time.

Safety section concluded with the Safety Tip from Chuck Prettyman regarding the importance of insuring not only that your bike is ready for the riding season but that your bike trailer is ready as well.

Presentation by the State of Illinois Motorcycle Police

Each representative introduced themselves to the membership and told us all a little about themselves.

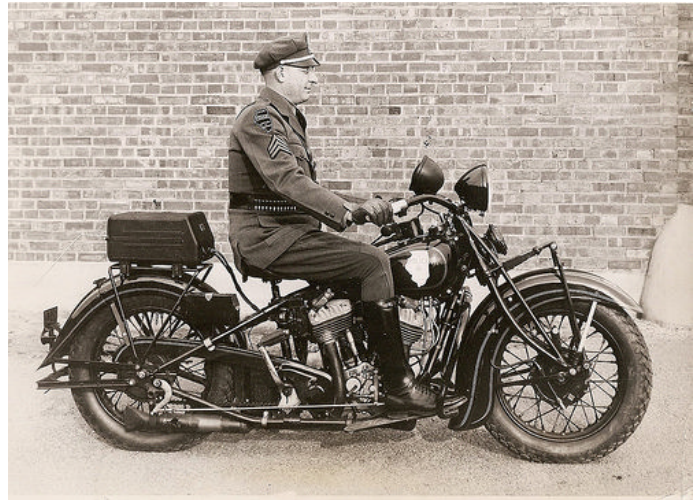
Sergeant – spoke on the Illinois State Police program. When it started, the training requirements and overall general information about the program.

Ben spoke about his experiences of having recently attending the required training course.

Liz spoke about a potentially new program that will be offered by the Illinois State Police in the future – Bike Safe. Liz recently attended a training session for Bike Safe in North Carolina and will be teaching this program to other troopers.

A question and answer session followed.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:40 p.m.



20 April 1936 ~ 300 motorcycles and 200 hundred autos of the Illinois State Highway Police are being equipped with radio receiving sets and transmitting stations, each with a range of about 70 miles, are being erected throughout the state. The above photo shows the receiver on the rear carrier of the motorcycle; a loud speaker is on the handlebars, facing the driver behind the headlight



Illinois State Police motorcycle officers listen as Jay Keeven, Region 4 Commander, speaks about motorcycle safety at Frieze Harley-Davidson in O'Fallon.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 14, 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: Stefan Levy, Randy Braun, April Williams

Meeting called to order- Carl Marcyan

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Guest Speaker – Stefan Levy and April Williams

Stefan introduced April Williams to the board. April talked with the group about the features and functionalities of the networking website – LinkedIn as well as Tweeter. Although different applications each offer Top Cats an electronic means of networking not only among members but with others in the business and motorcycle community. LinkedIn and Tweeter have both positive and negatives and the board felt it was important that we had a more clear understanding of how Top Cats members can benefit by becoming members.

Guest Speaker – Randy Braun

The renewal policy for the group is in. Director's and Officer's liability coverage remains the same. The general and charity ride coverage was increased to 1 million per occurrence with a 3 million aggregate at an additional cost of only \$6.00 for the year.

ROAR/Website/Historian – Dennis Dougherty

ROAR - Everyone seems to be pleased with the new format for ROAR. Dennis asked for the boards continued enthusiastic support of the ROAR and in promoting the submission of interesting and timely articles by all members. To avoid any issues that could be created by editing various board members will act as liaisons between the author and the ROAR editor. Dennis will confirm liaisons and communicate them to the membership and editor. Carl requested an email be sent to all members when the ROAR is published.

Website – Enhancements to the website have been progressing at a slower pace than anticipated due to a variety of reasons both technical and personal. Dennis

has committed to continuing to work on the enhancements but an additional outside resource may be required to assist in the development of the site. A web developer wanted ad will be placed in ROAR and an email will be sent to the presidents of POSSE to seeking assistance from their website support. Dennis advised the board that webmail is currently available for use. The board will begin to use the webmail functionality initially to distribute the email notification for ROAR as well as other events.

Historian - No one has come forward to volunteer for the Club Historian position.

Long Range Planning – Dennis Dougherty

Deferred until Dennis and Carl have an opportunity to talk off-line

Past President's Comments – Gary Brandt

Gary has updated the Top Cats Tenants "wheel". The updated tenants will serve as a basis for direction. Gary will put together a book for all officers and directors within the next 60 to 90 days outlines the responsibilities of the club's directors and officers as well as the tenants of the club. A section of the website will be accessible to board members only and the information will be placed there as well.

Activities – Greg Smith

April – Ride to Ohio as well as the kick off ride.

Currently there are 16 or 17 rides on the calendar. The goal for the season is to have 30 rides total.

A discussion ensued about whether another's club ride should supersede our own planned rides. As an example, should we have a ride scheduled on our calendar on the same day as another club's charity ride especially if we are requesting they support ours? As a matter of practice we need to be conscious of not scheduling major rides that conflict with another local club's charity ride event.

Discussion ensued on how to handle conflict with regard to the scheduling of rides on our own calendar. Currently



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2009

Greg and the activities committee deal with conflict by insuring "like" rides are not held on the same day. For example, if a 3 day ride is scheduled and another road captain would like to schedule an extended day ride for the same weekend the request would be denied but if they planned a single day ride during that same weekend to a local event that ride would be approved. The board agreed that this process has worked in the past and is a good basis to keep going forward. They also agreed that Road Captains need to be respectful of others plans. When a Road Captain wants to plan a ride that MAY be in conflict with another they discuss their plans with each other to insure no one feels their ride is being "stepped on". In the event the conflict cannot be resolved amicably by the Road Captains the board will make the final decision.

Membership-Eileen Perry

No new membership's applications to review at this time. Carl asked Eileen to put together and present a specific recommendation on how to create incentive for members to renew timely at the next board meeting.

Cindy Raybern will be moving this summer so additional help will be required to assist Eileen on the membership committee.

Treasurer-Tom Nichols

Tom made the suggested changes to the 2009 budget. After all budget adjusts were made we have a budget excess of approx. \$1,700.00. Tom would prefer to have the excess at a level closer to \$3,000.00 so he encourages everyone to be frugal with their spending if possible.

A Profit & Loss summary for activity from 1-1-09 through 4-13-09 was distributed.

Secretary-Joan DeRango

The Bocce Ball event was successful. Everyone had a great time and the surplus of \$225.00 was donated to the Top Cats charity fund.

Charity Ride committee continues to meet regularly and we are on track with all tasks.

NISRA dinner will be held on Friday April 18th – 8 Top Cats will be in attendance.

No specifics have been received from NISRA on ways to reconnect with the NISRA kids. Joan will follow up

again with Jillian Giese of NISRA.

All the appropriate documents have been obtained from both Tom and Carl and Joan will deliver them to the bank before the next board meeting.

Tom informed the board that Roses will donate \$1,000 and 8 cases of IDC Root Beer to the charity ride event.

Carl's law firm have committed once again to WFMT advertisements.

Vice President-Mike Bradbury

Mike has obtained the dye from Slick and B.J. Slick is willing to create additional patches or most anything we may want. A motion was made by Gary to use the patches as incentive for bringing in new members. Greg second, all approved. The motion was carried.

Mike did not receive any feedback on the products discussed at the general meeting. Mike feels a limited general offering where we take orders is the best way to proceed with offering products to the club.

Mike has talked to three sources regarding obtaining better quality flags. No single source will guarantee that any material will last for any specific period of time on an outside moving source. Tom will check past expenses to determine where the quality flags we had been purchased previously.

Mike had scheduled the Waukegan Motorcycle Division to speak at the May general meeting but since we just had the State of Illinois Police at the April meeting he recommended we push back their visit until later in the year. Mike will work to find another speaker for May's general meeting.

Safety/Road Captain – Wayne Kirkpatrick/Gary Brandt

May 3rd is the next scheduled G.R.A.S.S. class. Instructors have been scheduled. A ride to Sundance is scheduled after the class.

Gary is putting together packets for all the Road Captains that contain club material and waivers.

Gary reported that the mentor program is going extremely well this year. A couple people have expressed interest in becoming Road Captains.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES MARCH 10, 2009

Continued

Old Business/New Business

Dennis asked for feedback from the board on allowing members to advertise their businesses in the ROAR and/or allowing other vendors advertise as well. Feedback was positive making a note that if a vendor's information is placed in ROAR their business must be consistent with the values of the Top Cats.

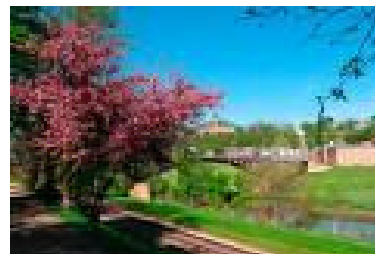
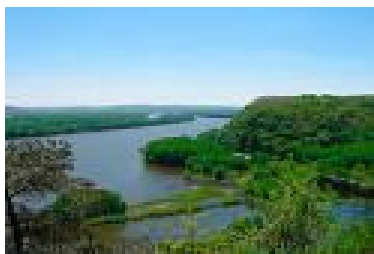
Mike is working to find a locked container to be used for products. Progress is being made and hopefully we will have something in place by the next general meeting.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Galena Ride Preview!

By: Tom Nichols

Join me on a romp through the back roads of Northwest Illinois. The tour will include, but is not limited to, Blackjack Trail, Stage Coach Drive and a whole assortment of various back roads. This will give you a chance to work that upper body a little and get those early season cobwebs dusted off. We will break up the day with a scenic luncheon at Chestnut Mountain overlooking the Mississippi River. More back roads and home again, it's about 320 miles in total and we should make it back to Hoffman Estates area by about 5:30. So be at the Caribou Coffee on the SW corner of RT 59 and RT 72 at 7:45 on May 9th. Departure will be at 8:00 a.m.





Something Different

By: Mike Bradbury

Jeff Parker and Brian O'Keefe are known for creating variations of moving vehicles based on fluid drive technology. Their company, Hydraulic Innovations, LLC based in Bloomington, MN. has produced 3 wheeled vehicles, dirt bikes and chopper motorcycles all with hydrostatic diesel powerplants.

This design pictured here, built in 2004, uses a 3-cylinder, 32 horsepower Kubota tractor engine transferring power linkage free directly to the rear wheel and has been featured by an article in Brit Chopper Magazine, Summer of 2006 edition and in the July 2006 Cycle World magazine.

The throttle and the front brake level works like usual except twisting the throttle grip actually opens a bypass valve that allows the hydraulic fluid to recirculate. The foot lever on the right is neutral when in center and moves the bike forward when pushed down by toe and backwards if heeled down. Theoretically you could go as fast in reverse as you could forward except for the slight difficulties trying to handle a 700 lb. bike driving backwards may cause.

The 1123cc diesel engine gets 65 to as high as 85 mpg. The bike has one tank for fuel and another for the hydraulic fluid with the fluid pumping to the rear wheel by hoses rated at 5000 psi.

Here is an example of their latest design of a dirt bike called the *Racoon* that can climb anything. Note the wheel design and the lack of brakes? And the clearance the open wheel design offers. My guess is they stop with the throttle control from the looks of the image I found on their website. See them on the web at www.hydraulicinnovations.com for more information and movies showing their creations and how they were built and what parts were used and more.

This all adds up to definitely something different!
MMB





RIDES & EVENTS

DATE	RIDE/EVENT	LOCATION	DESTINATION	TIME	LEADER
Sunday, May 03, 2009	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	Ric Case
Sunday, May 03, 2009	Austins Iron Horse Roundup	Northbrook	Waukegan	after G.R.A.S.S	Mark Heller
Tuesday, May 05, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, May 09, 2009	Galena Ride	Caribou Coffee Rt. 59 & 72	Galena	8:00am	Tom Nichols
Tuesday, May 12, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	7:30pm	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, May 17, 2009	Brunch Ride	Shell Station, Rt12 and Lake Cook	Hebron	9:00am	Greg Smith
Tuesday, June 02, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Friday June 05, 2009	Wisc Dells Adventure-3 day	BP Rt.12 & Rt 120	Wisc Dells	8:30am	Gary Brandt
Tuesday, June 09, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Friday, June 19, 2009	Little Sturgis	Rt14 and Rt176	Davenport, Iowa	9:00am	Gary Brandt
Saturday, June 27, 2009	Lakeshore Ride	TBD	TBD	8:00am	Mike Bradbury
Tuesday, July 07, 2009	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Saturday July 11, 2009	Top Cats Picnic	TBD	TBD	TBD	Mike Bradbury
Sunday, July 12, 2009	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	8:30am	Ric Case
Tuesday, July 14, 2009	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Friday July 17-19, 2009	Route 66/ Lincoln Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Dennis Dougherty
Sunday, July 26, 2009	Ride For Dreams	Volo Auto Museum	Volo	9:00am	DeRango-Perry
Wednesday, July 29, 2009	Sturgis	TBD	Rapid City, SD	TBD	Bard Boand
Saturday, August 08, 2009	Wisc State Fair Ride	Rt. 176 & Rt. 60	Wisc. State Fair	8:15am	Mike Bradbury
Wednesday, July 29, 2009	Sturgis-Multi Day	TBD	Rapid City, SD	TBD	Boand



ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 & LINCOLN HISTORICAL RUN JULY 17, 18, 19

By Dennis P. (Wombat) Dougherty



2009 is the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. What better time to make a trip to Springfield to recognize our 16th president. To make the trip even more fun, we will pick up old Route 66 southeast of the city and follow it all the way to Springfield, seeing many historical sites along the way.

We will depart from Starks Corner on Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. and take a leisurely stroll down the Mother Road. We will see many Route 66 icons along the way and stop for photo ops at a select few. Illinois has some of the better preserved sites on Old Route 66. Lunch will be at the Old Log Cabin Restaurant founded in 1926, the year Route 66 opened. (I highly recommend the Log Cabin burger with a bottle of Route 66 "Route" beer).



Shortly after lunch we will be stopping in Pontiac to visit the Illinois Route 66 Museum. It was recently relocated from Dixie's Truck Stop in McLean and has many great exhibits. We have made arrangements for special parking under a huge Route 66 mural. In addition, there is a great war museum next store for those interested in getting up close and personal with uniforms and gear from World War I through the Iraq war. Upon reaching Springfield we'll check into the Howard Johnson Inn & Suites and meet for dinner shortly thereafter. (See hotel information below).



On Saturday morning, we will make the short trip over to the Lincoln Tomb. After paying our respects, we will head downtown and park near the new Lincoln



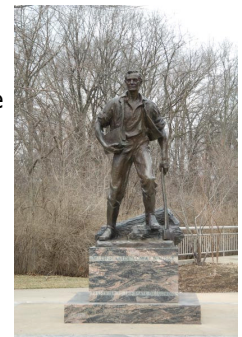
Presidential Museum. At that point, everyone can choose from the many Lincoln (and other) historical sites to visit. While a recommended tour and maps will be provided, everyone can make their own choices of what they want to see and how long to stay. All of the



major Lincoln sites are within walking distance of our parking location. All Lincoln sites with the exception of the presidential museum are free. Many accept

donations. We will depart downtown Springfield around 4:00 to head back to the hotel and dinner.

We will set out from Springfield on Sunday morning and ride about 30 minutes to the Lincoln historical site at New Salem. New Salem is where Lincoln spent many of his formative years prior to getting into politics. There are many homes, businesses and other sites in this recreated log cabin community from Lincoln's early years. After visiting this unique interpretive site, we will head back to Chicago along many scenic roads in the Illinois heartland. We will follow the Illinois River scenic river road most of the way, stopping for a riverside lunch in Peoria. We should arrive back at Starks Corner in the late afternoon.



Fifteen rooms have been reserved for the Top Cats at the Howard Johnson Inn & Suites in northwest Spring-

(Continued on page 2)



ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 AND LINCOLN HISTORI- CAL RUN

(Continued from page 1)

field. When reserving your room, tell them you are with the Top Cats (group code: CATS) to get our special rate of \$65 for two queen beds or \$84 for a larger 'suite' on the first floor. All first floor rooms open onto the parking lot, so you can park your iron steed right outside your door. A light continental breakfast is included and there is a pool on site.

Make your reservation early (217-541-8762) to ensure you get a room on the first floor at the Top Cats special rate. The rooms will be held for us until June 15th.

This will be an easy, leisurely, ride with visits to many historic sites along the way. Fun should be had by all. Not only is it a walk back in history, for many it will be a journey back to our youth... After all, when was the last time you travelled on Route 66 and visited the Lincoln sites.... grade school?!

A few surprises are in store, so pay close attention to what you see and learn on the Mother Road and while touring Lincolnland.

Drop me an email at wombat@dpdougherty.com and let me know if you are planning to join the ride. As the departure date draws closer I will be sending out some 'pre-ride' material to help make the trip more fun and interesting for all those looking to "Get Your Kicks on Route 66"!



FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners! As part of our ongoing philosophy to support our members and goal to provide a more value-rich publication, we are now offering free advertising space in ROAR for Top Cats business owners.

Each business owner can submit advertising content and graphics up to 2 X 3.5 inches (Business Card size) for their company.

We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it.

This offer is for Top Cats business owners only. We are not accepting advertising for other businesses at this time.

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org.

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

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org