



# ROAR

November 2009

Volume 09 Issue 11

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



### WE HAD A GREAT YEAR!



Please remember that our association is only as good as member involvement and enthusiasm. So, please attend our monthly meetings and, remember that you are welcome to join the board at its monthly meetings as well. Thanks much to the members, committees, directors and officers that made 2009 successes possible.

#### LET'S SALUTE OUR BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD

The longer I ride and am among bikers, the more I realize that we have something unique. When I first started riding it was apparent that a motorcycle was a great conversation starter. Whether stopping for lunch or just filling the bike up at a filling station, people were more willing to talk and ask about the bike, say that they rode, that they had rode or just wanted to ride, someday. Having a bike invites instant recognition and dialogue.

"Down the road" I realized that bikers really like and respect each other. Yes, there is always the squabble, bad feelings and sporadic anger; however, we

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## A SECRETARY'S LIFE! NO NEED TO RIDE SOLO!

By Joan DeRango

2007. Sturgis, South Dakota. So many "I Ride Solo" T-shirts. Why? Why would someone want to ride alone? I enjoy riding, but it has been fun meeting and getting to know so many other riders. I listened to some of the conversations of the people who had on the shirts, and it seemed that they liked the freedom of choosing where to go and when to go and not worrying about other people. They liked taking off and going wherever the wind took them.

I've been riding for ten summers now and every summer, except one, has been with a club. On occasion, while working outside, I hear the roar and

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#### Upcoming Events

##### November

- 3 General Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting

##### December

- 1 General Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting

##### January

- 6 General Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting

# TOP CATS 2010 ELECTION UPDATE

*BY GARY BRANDT*



The official 2010 slate of candidates was submitted and approved by the Board at the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. This year we are once again honored to have members whose passion and skills drive them to contribute to the success of the organization.

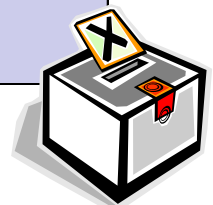
The election will be held at the December 1<sup>st</sup> general meeting. This year there are no contested races. The process adopted for this year calls for a voice vote, of the entire slate at once. A written ballot is not necessary due to the lack of any contest.

## ***Our candidates for office are as follows:***

<b>President:</b>	<b>Carl Marcyan</b>	<i>(Incumbent)</i>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Mike Bradbury</b>	<i>(Incumbent)</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Tom Nichols</b>	<i>(Incumbent)</i>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Muriel Brandt</b>	
<b>Director 1:</b>	<b>Wayne Kirkpatrick</b>	<i>(Incumbent)</i>
<b>Director 2:</b>	<b>Larry Scalzitti</b>	
<b>Director 3:</b>	<b>Stewart Johnson</b>	

***Dennis Dougherty*** remains on the board as Director, with one year remaining on his elected term

***Gary Brandt*** remains on the board as Past President with one year remaining, due to the president's incumbency





## KAUTION KORNER

### BEING SAFE WHILE DRIVING IN WORK ZONES

BY MIKE BRADBURY

Were you aware that there are only two seasons in Chicagoland? Winter and construction. You probably have heard this old joke before. One of those seasons does pose motorcycle riders with some unique characteristics that challenge us in riding as safely as possible. Actually both "seasons" do, but for this article I am focusing on how to handle some of the situations we encounter with road construction and the associated perils and adjustments. We need to be thinking of this when dealing with those conditions so we ride our motorcycles as safely as possible. As our riding season is ending and winter is beginning, it is still helpful to review how to handle road construction to be as safe as possible when driving our motorcycles.

There are a few challenges in handling your motorcycle safely on roads with ongoing road construction. The first is road conditions with grooved surfaces and bumpy transitions. Grooved surfaced roads are best handled by keeping your bike position constant. Do not cause lateral movements with your bike as this makes the bike harder to handle or worse, can cause wobbling at higher speeds. Keep your lateral bike positions as minimal as possible. Bumpy transitions, which usually exist between construction with or without grooved surfaces and existing roads, are best handled by slowing way down before going over the bump and facing the transition as squarely as possible. Also bumpy transitions may require driving the bike over a ledge or dropoff so cutting your speed way down is highly recommended. This will increase your control over your bike and create a more stable transition. It also serves you better when riding 2-up with a rider too. Some of us want to keep those riders on the bike so slow down!

Another concern is sight lines and visibility. When you drive through an area of road construction, there are many barriers that cause your visibility to be impaired. You cannot "look ahead" like usual so your reaction times are reduced. Your overall

sight lines are reduced as well. Try to focus beyond the foreground into your greater depth of field. While this sounds easier than it is, it does help and may require a little practice to get use to. Slowing down will increase your response time as well to make you more safe.

Road construction can also cause lane shifting. I have seen where the lanes shift left to right or right to left, sometimes using a road's shoulder and sometimes causing you to use the other lanes of the road that are typically for opposing traffic. This movement is governed by road signs and barriers but even at the lower posted speeds can cause serious shifting. Add vehicle traffic in a commuter pattern and you have can have a big problem. The main message here is to keep alert. Look ahead and plot your course accordingly. Slowing down and following the posted speed limits or even travel slower as you see fit and are comfortable with in handling your motorcycle will make you safer.

Lastly, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) alongside Illinois State Police (ISP) and the Illinois Tollway has some tough laws in place to buckle down on speeders in work zones. Legislation that was signed into law back in 2004 targets



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## LOOKING BACK AT 2009

*In the words of our fellow Top Cats*

### Iron Horse Ride

I had decided to attend the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Grass Class but I knew that I also wanted to ride that day. Seeing that the Top Cat calendar was open, I decided to lead a ride to somewhere after the class. With a little research on activities being held that day which would be of some interest to fellow Top Cats, I discovered that the Austin Saloon was holding their annual Iron Horse Ride that day at Sundance Saloon in Waukegan. So the event was chosen with a start time immediately after the Grass Class.

*And in the end...*

I believe there were 8 bikes that participated in the ride some with a passenger. We had two guests as well. The ride was short; so short, that I joked that the pre-ride meeting was longer than the ride itself. Actually, the ride was about 35 minutes in length. The rally was a typical rally. Food tents, beer, leather, biker accessories, beer, leather, bands, beer, leather, etc...The weather was beautiful, couldn't have been better. (TC Mark Heller)

### Wisconsin Dells

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. (TC Gary Brandt)

*And in the end...*

Another Early June has now passed which can only mean one thing - Top Cats were rained on! This was the third year in a row that a special ride was set up for the same weekend and the riders rode in the rain!

Weather aside, a group of 17 motorcycles and 24 Top Cats left Volo for a sunny ride to the House on the Rock. There were plenty of nice country roads for all to enjoy. (TC Gary Brandt)

### Top Cats Picnic

Pat Michaud made her preview run as Road Captain for this event! It was a great day and a great ride!



### Galena #1

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.... (TC Tom Nichols)

*And in the end...*

30 mile an hour wind gusts, the sun never really coming out from its cloudy hiding place, 2 Beamers and 1 Gold Wing, and a lot of "twisties" was the order of the day. The icing on the cake... having lunch and kicking tires at the lounge overlooking the "Old Miss" with leader, Tom Nichols (Road Captain), and tail gunner, Tom Malia (Senior Road Captain). Good people. (JPC Joe Fiedler)

*(Continued on page 5)*



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## Anita Zafke Memorial Ride



It was a somber afternoon in many respects. Storms were rolling through the area. I

made the decision to suit up and take protective clothing and ride regardless of the weather. I wanted to recognize Anita and support recognition for safe roads for all drivers - whether on two wheels or four. (TC Pat Michaud)

## Sturgis

The Top Cats Sturgis Adventure is more about camaraderie of good friends, beautiful riding, and solving little problems common to any long distance ride. It really isn't about the carnival in down town Sturgis..But Sturgis IS something every biker must experience at least 2 or 3 times. (TC Bard Board) A week of sites, sounds, weather, and Top Cat Camaraderie through four states to the Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, South Dakota...



*And in the end...*

For the next several days we visited the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse and Spearfish Canyon. Although those places were reruns, going with different people made it seem new. Some days people went their separate ways and returned back to the hotel in the evening so we could talk about the day over dinner. "I **really** was having a good time!" As always, like all the Top Cat rides, hating to

see them come to an end, we headed home with two new friends. We spent two days on the road, a great ride, fun stops, good eats and conversation. (TC Muriel Brandt)

Overall, it was a great trip, a great group of people who are more like brothers and sisters now, and many stories yet to be told over beers in the coming months. (TC Bard Board)



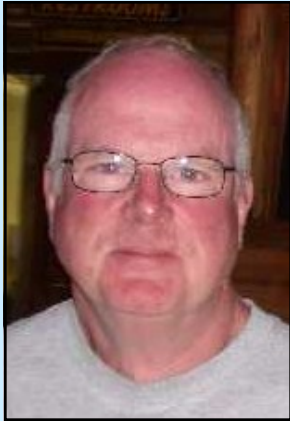
## Illinois Route 66 & Lincoln Historical Run

Picture = 1,000 words

## Folks going to Spokes

My route started us on Highway 14 going northwest so we had to suffer all the traffic lights through Cary and Crystal Lake. I heard we made 20 green lights before our first red light but I wasn't counting. I did have a few minor group separations by Woodstock but they were no big deal. I kept checking my rear view mirror and watched our speeds to keep us together as best as possible. We continued on, traveling Highway 14 through Harvard and crossing the state line into Wisconsin shortly thereafter. The road was fine with little traffic as the group motored on in tight Top Cats fashion. Highway 14 became 67 as we

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## ***Stewart Johnson***

### ***A Top Cat you should REALLY know!***

***Quiet? Mild-Mannered? Small Cranium? Oh NO – to all of them!***

Try to get a helmet off of his head during a rescue attempt and you will know that his cranium is BIG and filled with a great deal of knowledge... And once you talk to him for a little bit, there isn't anything mild-mannered or quiet about him! He is a force to be reckoned with! (as noted by Mary Walters)

### ***When life throws him some hard challenges, he faces them...and RIDES!***

So read on... In Stewart's own Words...

I like adventure and I like experiencing new and different things. The things I've done attest to that. I grew up in a small town in Iowa. Very close to where Buddy Holly's plane went down. In the 1970's, I received a BBA from the University of Iowa and an MBA from St. Louis University. Twenty years later, I completed the necessary courses and tests to become a licensed CPA. In the interim, I sold printing for Uarco Business Forms (a Barrington company) and later, medical products for Abbott Laboratories. That was tough because I had to quickly learn medical terminology. It was like learning a foreign language. After I became a CPA, I worked for McGladery & Pullen and other small accounting firms. There was a time I delivered large motor homes from the manufacturer to the dealer and there was a time I operated powerful farm machinery on a 2,200 acre farming operation. I've visited nearly all the states and have been to Europe on 4 different occasions. I earned a private flying license while in high school but only logged 150 hours. I like private aviation and often attend the EAA Air Adventure. I'm attracted to black Labrador retrievers and have had 3 of them. I don't have any children and unhappily became a widower. I lost my wife to breast cancer in 2005. After not being a member of the workforce for a couple of years, I've discovered I needed something to do so I'm in the process of buying into a small accounting practice.

Almost 60, I like roller coasters, I like to go snowmobiling, I've ridden in a glider in central California, and have taken flight in an ultralight. I can bicycle about 30 miles and of course, I really like motorcycling. Top Cats have been great. I'm privileged to be a member and be associated with such fine people. I have become a better rider and have learned how to be much more safety conscious.

Why do I want to participate in such a dangerous recreation? Because it's exhilarating. To me, it's like going to Disneyland. It's adventure. This is how it all started. I'm definitely a gear-head. As a kid, my dad made a motorized car for my brothers and me. It was propelled by a gas washing machine engine mounted on a reel lawnmower axle without the blades. After that came the go-carts and mini-bikes. We had a Montgomery Wards Silver Pigeon motor-scooter. Who can even envision what that is?

Most of my early motorcycling was done on a Honda 90 owned by the airport operator that I worked for at the time. No riding during college but afterwards I rode a blue Honda 450 and later upgraded to an or-

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## the World According to Andy

### TO THE WIFE, FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CHUCK PRETTYMAN

Please do not worry, we found Chuck alive and well and working as a greeter at the Wal-Mart in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Yes, another tragic tale of our precious elderly working in their golden years to subsidize a dwindling pension due to the current economic factors.

Even though he tried to disguise himself to keep from embarrassing himself and family, Amy readily recognized him and offered her assistance. Chuck being the gentleman that he is turned down the offer and said to tell all he will be home for the holidays!!!



### *A Top Cat you should REALLY know!*

*Continued from page 6)*

ange Yamaha 750. Big displacement for that day and age.

I guess everyone has an incident to talk about. It was on the Yamaha. An immediate downpour happened and I was going too fast to make it around a sharp exit ramp. Because of the rain, I couldn't slow down. I went over the curb and was thrown from the bike. Cuts and scrapes but no major injuries. I'm glad I was wearing a helmet and riding jacket. For some reason, I got the bike fixed and continued to ride.

Marriage interrupted motorcycling for 30 years. I really missed it. I thought a Corvette would fill the void but it only enabled me to get speeding tickets. After losing my wife, I made an impulse purchase of the Vulcan 1600. I didn't even have a motorcycle license. I rode single for a year just to get accustomed to riding again. That was fun for a while, but I wanted to meet some people like me that I could ride with. Thanks to the Top Cat website.

## Taking Care of Our Own...

**By Traveler**

One thing any veteran learns very quickly is the principle of looking out for each other. Whether it's in your rifle squad, cockpit, gun crew or tank,



we learn to take care of our own. We also tend to carry that principle with us for life into the civilian community, into our careers, and into our social life. There isn't a soul in the motorcycle community who doesn't embrace that same valuable code.

On 11 October, 2009, Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2, conducted their annual Never Forget Thunder Run and Toys for Tots ride. The purpose of this ride is twofold; provide an early opportunity for riders to donate toys to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign and to raise funds to pay for newspaper subscriptions for veterans residing in the North Chicago VA Hospital.



Over the past eight years, this event has encountered every type of weather imaginable and it looked like record low temperatures for the ride this year. As with every past ride, this one turned out to be successful in spite of the gruesome cold weather. Why? Simple, "Taking care of our own" is a creed that resides in the hearts of bikers

throughout the world.

Let me explain.... Faced with a potential shortage of manpower to conduct this annual charity ride, Rolling Thunder humbly put the word out to fellow motorcycle organizations that they could use some help. That was all it took to overcome the manpower shortage and the record cold....

The bank sign read "27°" and the wind chill temp had to be 4° to 8° on the ride to the registration area at the VA Hospital 0700 that morning. A few bundled up members of Rolling Thunder were huddled around their ride registration table, a fellow member's motor home, praying that they'd



have more than a handful of riders show up.

As the sun reluctantly peeked through the frigid overcast, temperatures seemed to almost immediately rise when the sound of motorcycles echoed throughout the hospital grounds. Through the hospital gates rode members of the Blue Knights, in cars and on bikes, from as far away as Milwaukee. Three chapters of Blue Knight brothers and sisters arrived to help.

Shortly after their arrival, members of Top Cats arrived early by car with the same question, how can we help? Not one of these riders asked for hot coffee, not one asked to go in the hospital to warm up, not one asked to go home. Every one of them asked what they could do to help.

With the registration table staffed and organized and parking attendants in place, the only thing

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missing was....riders. Once again, the sun seemed to get brighter when the calm of the hospital grounds was shattered by

the sound of a group of bikes arriving. To most of the folks who witnessed the arrival of this first group of riders, it was no surprise to see the Top Cats flags waving in the breeze as they rode in, dismounted and immediately asked what they could do to help.

Shortly after the arrival of the Top Cats, the American legion Riders, Post 703, Lake Shore HOG, and other local groups arrived. The intent of each group was the same. How can we help, as opposed to, where are the doughnuts, became the greeting of the day.



As everything finally came together, and the local police escorted the group of nearly 100 brave brothers and sisters along with the Marine Corps Reserve vehicles and a bus full of veterans from the hospital who decided to join the parade, guess what? There was a strange weather phenomenon occurring....it seemed to warm up to summer like temperatures.

I'm sure that the warmth that every rider felt was generated more by the appearance of American Flags displayed along the route, the camaraderie of fellow riders, the spectators waiving at the parade, and the feeling we all get when we have the opportunity to....take care of our own and demonstrate our gratitude to our American veterans.

I recall parking at the Lake Villa VFW where the ride ended and watching through tears of pride as the American flag and the POW/MIA flag, waiving from the bikes of two volunteer riders, lead a bus load of veterans, followed by the Top Cats, into the parking lot.

As this ride concludes, we remember our servicemen and women whose names are etched in marble, who reside in VA hospitals, who stand



beside you at work, who ride next to you in black leather, and who serve today aboard ships and at bases throughout the world, let's not forget their families and friends for their sacrifices as well. I think they'd want it that way...

May God bless each and every American who ever felt their lips tremble and their eyes tear at the sight of our flag, the memory of a fallen serviceman, or the sound of Taps.... Particularly, the brothers and sisters who demonstrated, once again, that "Taking care of our own" is also a valued tenet of the brotherhood of motorcyclists

Post Script: Sadly, the riding community lost a great friend, leader, and resource nine days after this event. Howard "Howie" Jens passed away on 20 Oct 2009. Howie was one of the first Blue Knights on site to help with the Rolling Thunder ride that frigid morning. As the past president of a Blue Knights chapter and the past director of Lake Shore HOG, Howie, not only brought strong leadership to our sport but, his warm smile brightened every venue. Howie showed us all how to "Take care of our own."



*(Continued from page 5)*

traversed into and through Walworth, Fontana, Williams Bay, Como and finally to Lyons Wisconsin. (TC Mike Bradbury)

*And in the end...*

The ride was superb, (in my humble opinion) with nice roads, food and Top Cats all together. With the exception of Bob Carmody from Chicago, the added plus is we all seemed to beat the rain to arrive home in time for the Bears game against the Pittsburgh Steelers! And they won too!!! (TC Mike Bradbury)

### Ride for Dreams

And in the end... Many People will remember the Top Cats Generosity!



*We were just notified by Jillian at NISRA about the success of the fund raising efforts this year for the Ride for Dreams event. As a motorcyclist, and a NISRA Foundation Board member, thank you for all that you have done and continue to do!*  
Kevin J. Murray

*Wow! Outstanding job and so very much appreciated by all of us volunteer foundation Board Members. Each year the Top Cats prove their name and this year you have really gone over the top! Thank you very much for all of your hard work, dedication, loyalty and compassion for the special people that we serve.*  
Allen Bronton, AIF

### Saugatuck

We'll leave on Saturday morning from the Twin Lakes Park District facility at the northwest corner of 14 and 53 in Palatine and ride out to

Saugatuck, MI. The trip is just 3hrs riding time (not including rest stops). That afternoon we'll stop and ride the dune buggy's across miles of sand dunes. This is not a slow, lazy tour but a wild, rollercoaster ride. Later that evening we'll attend the FREE and uncrowded live Blues in the Vineyards event at the Fenn Valley Vineyards and partake in the awesome Chef Jim Hoyt's BarBQ on the vineyard grounds. Then we head back to the hotel.

*And in the end...*

We left the Burger King in a light drizzle and rode ½ mile to the dune buggy rides where all 7 of us climbed into a 14 seat dune buggy and went for a wild ride through the dunes and listened to the drivers corny jokes. Then we headed to the hotel and checked in. We decided not to go to the Blues Fest at the vineyard grounds due to the rain and spent the evening at Googs Food & Pub which was ½ block from the hotel. We did what Top Cats do best... we ate, drank and ate some more... On the way home, we stopped at a Starbucks in Wilmette and talked about our journey and other topics and as my wife and I sat there in the company of Eileen and John I realized what I've said time and time again is really true. It's not the number of people who show up for a ride but the quality of the people. (TC Tom Heller)

***Now that we've reviewed 2009...Let's Start thinking about another GREAT Top Cat Year for 2010!***

***As Gary Brandt said in his Dells article..***

So, now its time to start thinking about next years possible destinations, however perhaps a little later in the season would be better.....**but then again, maybe not!**

***Because in Mark Heller's words...***

This ride (Saugatuck) will be remembered as one of my favorites because of the company I had.

Isn't that the truth about them all? IDEAS???



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from page 1)

genuinely care for each other and look forward to meetings, rides and social events for the opportunity to give each other a biker's handshake, shoot the bull, break bread

and down a drink together. When one of us passes on, there is an outpouring of respect and, yes, love for the departed biker. Such is the case of our brother, Howie Jens. Not a Top Cat, but nevertheless a terrific guy and retired peace officer. Howie, was an officer in the Blue Knights and a former Director of the Lake Shore HOG Chapter. I knew Howie well from HOG. He was fun loving, loved his family and a person interested in the welfare of others.

We have all experienced biker brothers and sisters that have "pulled off the road", and you know the empty feeling that they are never to return. Our respect and love for each other is unique and to be appreciated. We all have something special that a precious few have the honor to experience. Howie, hope to see you on the road at a higher elevation.

## A SECRETARY'S LIFE! (Continued from page 1)

look up in time to see a line of bikes pass by. I feel the tug at my heart as I wonder where they are going, wishing I could join them and smiling inside as I remember all the great times you've experienced riding with a group. What is it about group riding that is so appealing? For me there are many reasons. There is the ability to tap into the wealth of knowledge from a variety of sources. Information such as the essentials for long distance riding, safety tips, the latest and greatest in bike accessories and where to get them at a discount, routes to all types of destinations and of course the best of diners, drive-ins and dives to enjoy along the way. Sometimes it is nice to just "sit back and enjoy the ride" knowing the Road Captain has planned a great route with appropriately timed, adequate equipped rest stops and of course a great food stop somewhere along the way. Then there is always the thrill of riding in a group of independent bikes, spaced just right, all moving in sync. Leading it, being surrounded by it, or watching from the back, there is just no feeling quite like being a part of the group.



*Take this coupon to Buffo's and get \$5 off a large cheese pizza...*

Compliments of Top Cat's own Lenny Innocenzi!  
**Buffo's Italian-American Restaurant**  
431 Sheridan Road  
Highwood, Illinois 60040  
847-432-0301

## 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](mailto:wombat@dpdougherty.com)



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### OCTOBER 6TH, 2009

#### VILLA SOPHIA RESTAURANT - WAUCONDA

Submitted by Joan DeRango

#### Meeting called to order- Carl Marcyan

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Carl welcomed back Pat Michaud. Pat thanked all the members who have visited, sent her emails or called her over the past few months. She appreciates everyone's well wishes.

#### Guests were introduced:

Nick Bender – Son of Virgo Bender, and the second member of Top Cats. Carl thanked Nick for his military service and everyone wished him well on his upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Jerry Kelk, Brian Shahinian and Jillian Giese of NISRA, Tomm Smith, Jr. Wauconda Fire District

#### Charity Event – Joan DeRango/Eileen Perry

Joan and Eileen recognized all the members who helped make the 2009 Charity Ride a success. Committee members, members who donated items for the raffle, Bob Carmody, Don Shaffer and all members for extraordinary ticket sales, Dennis Dougherty for the ride route and all the Road Captains, members who helped set up and clean up on the day of the event, and everyone who helped in any way. The efforts allowed Top Cats to present NISRA with a check for \$15,000.00. Brian Shahinian accepted the check on behalf of NISRA and explained to the membership the funds would be used in three ways:

1) Summer Day Camp Scholarships. Scholarships offer disabled adults and children that would not be able to afford the costs of the camps the opportunity to participate.

2) Summer Day Camp Staffing. The costs of the summer camps have increases significantly over the years due in part to the number of teachers required. In the past the ratio of teacher to student was 1 to 4 or 5; now the ratio is 1 teacher to every one or two students.

3) Vehicle Replacement Program. Vehicles are used to transport participants to and from programs.

#### Vice President Report and Presentation by Guest Tomm Smith, Jr. – Mike Bradbury

Mike introduced Tomm Smith, Jr. of the Wauconda Fire District. Tomm shared with the membership details of type of support provided by the Fire Department at accident scenes. The Wauconda Fire Department covers 50 square miles within Lake County with 3 stations. Response is always the battalion vehicle – fire or squad and an ambulance with a minimum of 2 paramedics. Fire engines are also medically equipped. Once at the scene the Battalion Chief assesses the situation and calls for additional support. This could be other departments or even airlift support depending on the needed.

Mike reminded the members that he has decals, miniature flags and Polo shirts available for sale.

#### Secretary's Report – Joan DeRango

Nothing to Report

#### Membership – Eileen Perry

Nothing to report

#### Activities – Greg Smith

Greg reported on upcoming events including

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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

(Continued from page 12)

the Fall Colors Ride with brunch at the Cotton Exchange. Wayne spoke about the Rolling Thunder Toys for Tots ride on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Details for all activities can be found on the website.

### Past President Report – Gary Brandt

Gary reported to the membership that at the last board meeting Mary Walters and Stewart Johnson were elevated to regular Top Cats members. Both were recognized for the level for their participation in Top Cat events and contributions to the club.

### ROAR – Website – Dennis Dougherty/Mary Walters/Andy Konsewicz

Mary encouraged members to submit stories for publication in the ROAR. The ROAR is looking for any articles that represent the personality of the club and its members. Submit articles to Mary.

### Treasurer's Report – Tom Nichols

Tom was not in attendance. Carl communicated to the membership that the club is financially sound.

### Safety/GRASS/Road Captains – Wayne Kirkpatrick/Don Shaffer/Ric Case/Gary Brandt

Wayne thanked Greg Smith for the use of the meeting room at his company for the Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> GRASS class. There was one attendee and two new instructors. Wayne complimented Joe Romanski and Joan DeRango for successfully presenting a portion of the GRASS class for their first time.

Wayne cautioned the membership to be careful of using Stabil when winterizing their bikes because of its effect on plastic when the gas contains ethanol.

This month's safety tip was presented by John Lunde. John talked to the membership about avoiding the "turtle effect" when riding in the cold weather. Dress appropriately. John also spoke about the tip he wrote about in this month's ROAR – knowing where you are on the road. See October's ROAR for details on this important safety tip.

The Road Captains were called to the front of the meeting room to make the following presentations:

To Senior Road Captain: Mike Bradbury and Dennis Dougherty

To Road Captain: Joe Rominski and Pat Michaud

The 50/50 was won by President Carl Marcyan.... Was the fix in?

Meeting Adjourned.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### OCTOBER 13TH, 2009

**D&J BISTRO - LAKE ZURICH**

**Submitted by Joan DeRango**

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

Board Members Absent: Eileen Perry, Tom Nichols

Guests: Bard Board

Meeting called to order- Carl Marcyan

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Should Top Cats trademark or copyright the club's logo?

The board agreed to investigate the process and costs involved in either trademark or copyright the club's logo. Carl will contact an attorney to first obtain a definition for the differences between trademark and copyright and then inquire about the process and costs associated with each. Dennis will use Legal Zoom to investigate as well. Findings will be presented to the board to for discussion and final decisions on how to proceed.

Safety & Awards – Kirkpatrick

Wayne reported the last GRASS class for 2009 was held in October.

Carl contacted members of the Union League Club who are motorcycle enthusiasts. He suggested to them and is organizing a group riders safety class available through Top Cats (GRASS) to occur during the winter months when Top Cats next offers the program.

Wayne reported the Awards Committee is researching options for presenting Road Captains with pins depicting the number of rides led. They are currently working through some of the specifics such as the definition of what constitutes a

ride and how to best award pins for accumulated rides. Once all the specifics have been finalized the awards committee will present their recommendations to the Safety Committee.

Vice President – Bradbury

Future speakers: Larry Scalzetti is set to speak at the net general meeting about his business LRN2RYD. Dennis will work with the representative from Nolan to determine if he will be available to speak at the December meeting or another date if December is not an option. Mike is looking for suggestions from members regarding ideas for future speakers.

Mike continues to work on leads for flag vendors.

Mike presented the board with a handout depicting various styles of shirts in a variety of materials. After reviewing the options the board decided to present to the membership T-shirts with the club logo on the back and polo and denim shirts with the logo on the front. Mike will put together a sheet to be presented to the membership at the next general meeting.

ROAR/Website/etc – Dougherty

Dennis reported there has been no significant progress on moving forward with updating the website. Carl informed Dennis that John Sweeny may be available in mid-November. Dennis will attempt to get in contact with John in November to determine if he will be available to work on the site otherwise the expenditure to hire an outside source could be as much as \$3,000 to \$5,000. Since the funds allocated for website updates in the budget for 2009 have not been spent Dennis suggested the board may consider holding those funds aside and adding additional funds from the 2010 budget to reach the \$3,000 to \$5,000 esti-

*(Continued on page 15)*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

(Continued from page 14)

mate.

October ROAR is now available. A number of reasons contributed to the delay. The ROAR editors and publisher are committed to maintaining the beginning of the month deadline. The board asked that if delays occur notification be sent to the board and members letting them know the publication will be forthcoming.

The board updated Dennis on the progress made with Villa Sofia. Overall the board felt the October set up was much better, service improved by having an extra server assigned to the room and by having place settings already on the tables. The only issue was the noise distraction in the back of the room when the door to the bar was open. To address the issue Dennis will ask Villa Sofia to arrange the room so the front of the room will be at the end of the room where the bar door is located.

Dennis presented the board with a variety of font options. A motion was made by Mike Bradbury to make Times New Roman in small caps Top Cat's official font. Gary Brandt offered a second to the motion. All members were in favor so the motion was passed.

### Membership – Perry

Eileen was absent – nothing to present

### Secretary—DeRango

No Updates

### Past President's Comments-Brandt

Gary presented the Election slate. All positions will run unopposed. Carl Marcyan – President, Mike Bradbury – Vice President, Tom Nichols – Treasurer, Muriel Brandt – Secretary, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Stuart Johnson and Larry Scalzetti – Directors. Joan DeRango made a motion to accept the slate as presented. Second from Greg Smith. All members were in favor, the motion

passed. The slate will be in the November ROAR.

### Activities – Greg Smith

Greg reviewed upcoming events currently on the calendar. Greg is seeking suggestions for winter events. A number of ideas were brought up but nothing definite was decided.

Joan, Gary and Mike volunteered to research locations to host the Annual Dinner.

### Guest - Board

Bard presented the board with the most recent proposal from the Alex Johnson Hotel. The room prices were discounted by approximately 35% for standard pricing. The current proposal would require members to reserve rooms by January 15, 2010 to obtain the discounted rates. The board asked Bard to negotiate a reserve by date of June.

Discussion ensued about various ways to encourage members to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> Sturgis Rally during the Top Cats 15 year anniversary. Special attention will be paid to designing post rally ride options, shorter ride out options, and organized ride home options.

### Treasurer-Tom Nichols via email to Marcyan

General account has a balance of \$7,496.42. Charity balance \$3,712.86.

### Old Business/New Business

Invoices need to be generated during the last week of October for 2010 membership dues. Tom Nichols will produce

Gary Brandt presented Dennis Dougherty with his Senior Road Captain rocker.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.



## KAUTION KORNER

(Continued from page 3)

drivers who flout work zone speed limits and endanger the lives of construction workers and other drivers. The enforcement of this legislation has been effective in reducing work zone fatalities by over 50 percent. If you are caught speeding in a work zone, at minimum you will be looking at a fine of \$375. The law states that first-time work zone speeders, including those caught on camera, will be hit with a fine of \$375, with \$125 of that sum going to pay off-duty State Troopers to provide added enforcement in construction or maintenance zones. Two-time offenders are subject to a \$1,000 fine, including a \$250 surcharge to hire Troopers, and the loss of their license for 90 days. Tickets received in a work zone require a mandatory court appearance.

This summer, 5 vans will be deployed across the state. The specially equipped vans are staffed by trained ISP officers and can take photographs of drivers speeding in IDOT and Tollway construction and maintenance zones. Tickets are reviewed and approved by ISP and will be issued by mail to vehicle owners. To date, over 8,000 citations have been issued across the state. In addition, drivers who hit a worker are subject for up to a \$10,000 fine and 14 years in prison.

According to Acting Executive Director Michael T. King of Illinois Department of Transportation, "Speeding, impatience, and driver inattention are the leading factors in work zone crashes, so we need drivers to slow down and stay alert in work zones for their own safety as well as our workers." Whew!!! The main message here is to follow the posted speed limit of 45 mph in a road construction zone! It will make you safer and save you a boatload of money.

Please be careful when driving on roads with ongoing construction. The biggest tip I can offer to deal with all of these conditions is **SLOW DOWN**. We'd like to see all of our members and anyone else on a motorcycle be as safe as possible as they ride on and on and on.....

## 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.





## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, November 03, 2009	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, November 10, 2009	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, December 01, 2009	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, December 08, 2009	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, January 06, 2009	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, January 13, 2010	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan

### Support the TOP CATS Sponsors



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### Membership Has Its Privileges!

All suppliers and vendors who support the Top Cats by providing discounts to Top Cats members will be listed in ROAR.

**Sign-up your favorite merchant today!**



**TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS** is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts with similar interests. Members consist of responsible Leaders, Presidents, Chairmen, Owners, Proprietors, Partners, principals, CEO's, and other 'Top Cats' of large, medium and small organizations, institutions, and companies.

For more information about the Top Cats visit our website at [www.TOPCATS.org](http://www.TOPCATS.org)

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ROAR is the official publication of the **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS** and is published on the 1st of each month.

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