



# ROAR

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan

### BRAND NEW YEAR, SAME OLD PRESIDENT



Ok, you will only have to deal with me for 12 more months. We do have "new blood" on the board and congratulate Larry Scalzitti and Stewart Johnson as new Directors and Muriel Brandt as our new Secretary. Our gracious thanks to Joan DeRango for a job well done as Secretary and co-leading the charge on the highly successful 2009 Ride for Dreams. Greg Smith and Eileen Perry will be greatly missed. Greg and Eileen have been outstanding board members

with Greg coordinating activities and rides while Eileen did a great job in membership and working with Joan on the Ride for Dreams. Thank you much to Mary Walters, Andy Konsewicz and Dennis Dougherty for a year of terrific ROAR's. Also, a great big thanks to the Officers and Directors who continue on from 2009. Each and every one of the old and new deserves a big round of applause.

For 2010 we are looking to accomplishing the following:

- Continual improvement and upgrading of our safety class (GRASS)
- Upgrading the website
- Maintaining ROAR as a first class publication
- Seeking and obtaining copyright protection of our name and logo
- Expanding and adding variety to day and long distance rides
- Offering variations of rides to and from the Sturgis 70<sup>th</sup> (15th year for Top Cats)
- Implementation of new awards and recognition of Road Captains

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## MOTORCYCLE CHOPPERS

By Andy Konsewicz from an article by [www.motorcycleviews.com](http://www.motorcycleviews.com)

Just what is a motorcycle chopper? Like the bobber, the chopper is created by removing or chopping off unnecessary components from a motorcycle. Who needs a windshield, front fenders, big headlights, crash bars, and big seats? Create a motorcycle chopper. Chop off those com-

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### Upcoming Events

#### January

- 6 General Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting

#### FEBRUARY

- 2 General Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Annual Banquet
- 20 Motorcycle Show

#### MARCH

- 2 General Meeting
- 7 G.R.A.S.S. Class
- 9 Board Meeting

# **KAUTION KORNER**

## **RIDING IN FORMATION: MIND THE GAP**

By Dennis P. (Wombat) Dougherty

The greatest thrill as a Road Captain is safely leading a large group of skilled riders on a sun-filled day across miles and miles of open country roads. Your senses are filled with the cacophony of sights and smells that one can only experience on a motorcycle. As much as my riding partner, Jan, enjoys sharing my Road Captain experience from the rear seat, she said being in front of the pack had two drawbacks. First, all the fun and riding action happens behind us, and secondly, being somewhat derriere-conscious, she was concerned of the profile she projected from the rear. Well, I couldn't argue with the first point. I tried to reassure her and not worry about the latter. No one would have trouble seeing my hand signals with her on the bike. Which brings me to my second greatest thrill as a Road Captain.... being a Tail Gunner.

As Tail Gunner you get to see the best and worst of peoples' group riding skills. There is nothing more inspiring than to see 25 bikes ahead of you maintaining the 1 and 2 second spacing between bikes (as prescribed in G.R.A.S.S. class) as we glide around the undulating curves and hills and dales of the countryside. On the other hand, there is nothing more frustrating than to see experienced Top Cat riders fail to maintain close formation, get lazy, and let the bikes in trail stretch out sometimes to two and three times what they should be. This is not only poor form, it is also unsafe.

Let's review why we ride with 1-2 second spacing, then what impact just a couple of seconds difference in separation can make.

The primary reason we ride with the 1-2 second spacing is SAFETY. At that distance

(which depends on speed) the rider following in the same track should have ample time to react safely to most road situations. Riders in the adjacent track 'own' a section of the entire lane in front of you if they need it to navigate the road safely. Maintaining those separations consistently provides a 'cocoon' of safety for the entire group.

Keeping the group together in close formation has other benefits as well. First, it discourages other traffic from cutting into our formation creating hazards for our riders. It increases the chances the group will make it through traffic signals intact. When that does not occur, the separated groups can reassemble easier down the road. It also shows respect for others following the group by maintaining a smaller yet safe 'footprint' of riders on the road taking up less roadway from other traffic.

### **How Close is Close?**

We all know how to calculate the separation distance while underway... pick a road sign or seam in the road and when the bike in front crosses it, count "one one-thousand, two one-thousand" for two second separation. If you cross the mark sooner than 'two one-thousand', you're following too close. If you cross it afterward, you are too far behind.

So what is the actual distance we are separated in feet, and how long is the entire procession of bikes? That depends on the speed we are travelling.

One MPH = 1.5 FPS (Feet Per Second) [1.46667 FPS actually]. The following table il-

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illustrates the distances at various speeds and time intervals.

Seconds →	1	2	3	4	5
Speed (MPH)	Distance Travelled				
10	15	30	45	60	75
20	30	60	90	120	150
30	45	90	135	180	225
40	60	120	180	240	300
50	75	150	225	300	375
60	90	180	270	360	450
70	105	210	315	420	525
80	120	240	360	480	600
90	135	270	405	540	675
100	150	300	450	600	750

At 30 MPH you should be 45 feet behind the bike adjacent and 90 feet behind the bike in front of you...about 9 bike lengths. At 60 MPH the distance doubles to 90 feet adjacent and 180 feet (18 bike lengths) behind the bike in front. It may seem like a long distance, but you're only two seconds from the fender in front of you!

On a ride that includes 25 bikes, following the 2 second separation rule, the length of the 'procession' would be about 1,210 feet at 30 MPH ...slightly less than a quarter of a mile... assuming an average bike length of 10 feet. At 60 MPH that distance will about double to almost half a mile... that's if everyone maintains the proper spacing.

Now if the separation increases by 1 or 2 seconds (or more), as sometimes happens at higher speeds, the length of the procession for example at 60 MPH can approach three quarters of a mile or more. An extra 1 or 2 second difference may not seem like much to an individual rider but collectively in a large group the impact can be significant. At that point the group can become fragmented and the integrity of the 'cocoon' can become compromised. This results in a less safe riding environment for the entire group.

**Bottom Line: Mind the Gap!**

Riding in formation is a learned skill and takes practice. It is a core riding skill that all

Top Cats are encouraged to master such that you can consistently maintain proper and safe separation at all road speeds and conditions when riding in our group formations. I've known riders who have ridden for over 30 years and can't track straight in a turn or hold a consistent speed. They can become real hazards in a group formation.

If you are new to group riding and uncomfortable maintaining consistent track, speed, and separation, let the Road Captain know. He will put you near the rear of the pack under the helpful eye of the Tail Gunner. The Tail Gunner will work with you to ride within your comfort zone for the day and not be disruptive to the safety of the rest of the riders.

During the ride, keep the formation close, from the head of the line to the end. When the gap widens, close it safely at the earliest possible opportunity. When I've had riders tell me they want to have a more leisurely ride paying less attention to spacing and want to ride at the back of the pack. I tell them that's fine, just don't ride with us on that day. We expect the entire group to follow our ride protocol and separation guidelines at all times, front to back.

Ultimately you are responsible for your own safety. Don't override your skill level and endanger yourself or others. Practice riding in formation with two or three other riders. In fact it's a good idea to follow the separation guidelines *whenever* you ride to continually develop and hone your skills. If you have any doubt about your skills or impacts to the safety of the group prior to a ride, have a chat with your Road Captain. He will get you placed into a safe position in the line to help you feel more comfortable and give you a chance to see how the more practiced riders maintain good group riding formation.

Ride Safe!



## **FIND GREAT TRAVEL BARGAINS ONLINE IN FIVE SIMPLE STEPS**

By Andy Konsewicz and taken from an article Sandy Berger Computer Living Corp.

With the onset of the new year and for many the start of thinking about the coming years vacation plans, here are some tips on searching for those travel bargains.

Shopping online for airline tickets, hotel rooms and rental cars could save you hundreds of dollars on your next vacation. The challenge is to know where to find the best deals. Dozens of new travel Web sites appear each year, all of them claiming to offer big savings, but no one has time to try them all. *Here's the smart way to find online travel bargains...*

### **Step 1: Go to the source.**

The special bargain prices offered directly by airlines, hotel chains and car rental chains on their company Web sites often are lower than the prices available through third-party travel sites. Type the name of an airline, hotel chain or car rental company into a search engine to locate its Web site, then look for a tab labeled "Special Fares," "Special Deals," "Special Offers" or something similar. Most of these sites also let you sign up for e-mail notification of future bargain rates, which is a great way to keep posted on travel deals.

**Example:** On Continental Airlines' Web site, click "Deals & Offers," then click "[continental.com](http://continental.com) Specials" for last-minute bargain fares, or "Special Offers" for ongoing promotional rates. (Continental is particularly likely to offer bargain fares to or from Houston, Cleveland and Newark, New Jersey, where the airline operates hubs.) Such special deals are most appropriate for travelers who can be flexible about when and where they go, not those who need to reach a specific destination on a specific date.

If you do not have time to check every major airline or hotel chain site, at least check the sites of the airlines that have the most flights out of your local airport and the large hotel chains that you like the most. *Note:* Try the same kind of search on car rental sites.

Cruise lines also feature attractive last-minute deals on their Web sites in the weeks prior to departure. Before accepting one of these deals, however, consider that unless you live in or near the cruise's city of departure, you will have to buy airline tickets as well. If last-minute airfare to the cruise's departure port (and back from its destination port) is expensive, your last-minute cruise bargain might not be so cheap after all.

### **Step 2: Try the "big three" Internet travel services.**

[Expedia.com](http://Expedia.com), [Orbitz.com](http://Orbitz.com) and [Travelocity.com](http://Travelocity.com) are the largest, most comprehensive travel Web sites. (While not one of the top three, [Kayak.com](http://Kayak.com), which searches multiple other travel sites, is worth trying, too.) You can use these sites to search for the best rates on a specific travel itinerary or scan their lists of last-minute specials. Though these sites are very similar in many ways, it is worth trying all of them. They frequently turn up different rates and different deals for the same itinerary.

Expedia, Orbitz and Travelocity tend to offer their very best deals less than one week in advance of the travel date -- but only if airlines, hotels and rental car companies happen to have excess inventory. When demand is strong, last-minute prices can be extremely high. If you have a specific destination and date of travel in mind, it is best to search these sites two months or more in advance. *During holidays:* If you can be flexible, you might be able to snap up last-minute bargains by looking just before the date you hope to leave. Otherwise, shop far in advance.

Consider searching these sites for package deals that bundle airfare, hotel and rental car -- or two of the three -- together. Expedia, Orbitz and Travelocity sometimes offer very attractive deals to those who buy two or three of these things at once, particularly when they are traveling to a popular vacation destination such as Orlando, Las Vegas or San Francisco. (Also search for

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airfare, hotel and rental car individually, to make sure that the package really is a good deal.)  
**Note:** The prices quoted by travel Web sites can change rapidly. If one rate is substantially better than any other rate that you have found, wrap up your rate comparison quickly and take the deal before it disappears.

### **Step 3: Search bargain-hunter travel site [Hotwire.com](http://Hotwire.com) if you are planning a last-minute trip.**

Hotwire works with airlines, hotels, automobile rental agencies and cruise lines to sell remaining inventory in the week or two before the travel date. Markdowns of 50% or more are common.

**Example:** The site sometimes offers rental cars for less than \$10 per day.

Other bargain-hunter travel sites worth a look include [Cheapflights.com](http://Cheapflights.com) and [LastMinuteTravel.com](http://LastMinuteTravel.com).

### **Step 4: Vet your hotel online.**

Hotel “bargains” are not truly bargains if the hotel is not a nice place to stay. Unfortunately, it sometimes is difficult to judge the quality of a hotel before you arrive. Ratings found in printed travel guides are often inaccurate or out of date. **Solution:** Visit Web sites [TripAdvisor.com](http://TripAdvisor.com) and [VirtualTourist.com](http://VirtualTourist.com) to read hotel reviews from other travelers before reserving a room online.

Do not let just one or two extremely positive or negative reviews sway you excessively -- these reviews might have been posted by a biased source, such as the hotel’s management or a disgruntled ex-employee. Pay most attention to the latest reviews, because older reviews could include out-of-date information.

### **Step 5: See if [Priceline.com](http://Priceline.com) can beat the best deal that you have located.**

[Priceline.com](http://Priceline.com) lets users make an offer, then either accepts or rejects their bids.

Once you have located the best price that you can find on airline tickets or a rental car from the Web sites mentioned above, bid perhaps 20%

less on [Priceline.com](http://Priceline.com). If your bid is rejected, accept the best offer that you have found elsewhere.

**Helpful:** The Web site [BidonTravel.com](http://BidonTravel.com) offers more strategies for smart Priceline bidding.

[Priceline.com](http://Priceline.com) is best used for airline tickets and rental cars, not hotel rooms. The Web site does not

tell you which company is accepting your bid until after you have completed the transaction. That usually is not a problem with airline tickets and car rentals -- it doesn’t make much difference whether Hertz or Avis rents you a car -- but it can make a big difference with hotel rooms. When you bid on a hotel stay at Priceline, you gamble that the hotel that accepts your offer is somewhere that you would want to stay -- not a worthwhile gamble, in my view.

**Note:** You have limited control over what you get. For example, you can’t choose flight times, and while you can choose the size of a rental car, you can’t choose the model.



### **CLOSING THE DEAL**

Use a credit card to pay travel Web sites. Credit cards provide a measure of consumer protection that debit cards and other forms of payment do not -- if unexpected fees or charges are tacked on to your bill, you can contest them through the card issuer.

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ponents and make the motorcycle lighter.

Bikers started raking the front end of their motorcycle choppers so the angle of the fork to the ground began decreasing allowing for a greatly increased wheelbase for the chopper.

The handlebars on the chopper were raised high and called ape hangers.

The front tire was made small and the rear tire was made fat.



Some bikers even removed the battery and used a magneto to reduce chopper weight.

The gas tank on the chopper became small as was the headlight.

Anything deemed unnecessary was removed. This made for a bike style that was unique and tailored to the rider.

Each rider decided just what needed to be done to his motorcycle to create the chopper he desired. Choppers have a long history. After soldiers returned home from World War II, they seemed dissatisfied with the motorcycles that were available to them from Harley-Davidson and Indian. They remembered the machines they had seen in Europe that



were lighter in weight and seemed to have more excitement. The soldiers started to hang out with their motorcycle buddies to regain some of the camaraderie they had felt in the service. These groups of buddies soon decided that their motorcycles needed changes. Motorcycle choppers were born.

First, they either removed or shortened (bobbed) the fenders on their motorcycles. This reduced the weight and made the bikes look better in their eyes. These bikes began

to be called bobbers. Changes kept occurring but it wasn't until the late '60s and early '70s that the bobbers gave way to the choppers.

After release of the seminal movie *Easy Rider* in 1969, a whole new movement began. Riders wanted a motorcycle like the one ridden by Peter Fonda in the movie. They wanted a chopper.

As always occurs, this rise of the chopper created by individual backyard mechanics, soon was followed by talented designers whose choppers were sought after. An individual didn't need to actually do the work, just express what he wanted to a chopper designer. Arlen Ness was one of the first such designers.

Chopper creation slowed a little as many motorcyclists started customizing their bikes instead of chopping them. Then in the 1990s the chopper seemed to become more popular. Choppers are not just indigenous to Harley-Davidson. Numerous choppers have been built from British and Japanese bikes.

Choppers started because riders were dissatisfied with what Harley-Davidson was producing. Rather than abandon the Motor Company, riders streamlined the Harley bikes by removing excess equipment and then modifying the engines, rake, and suspension. The result was a personalized chopper much like the bike in *Easy Rider*.



## the World According to Andy

I hope everyone had a good holiday and Santa got you everything you asked for. As for me, well, I don't think Santa really likes me. Simply for the fact that I never got **anything** I asked for. I understand things are also tight for Santa and maybe the Mercedes convertible was asking a bit much but a new 2010 CVO Street Glide in my opinion, not out of line. Secondly, I surprised Santa and got his picture and as you can tell by my photo, I am definitely on the naughty list.



I know you are all wondering what I really did get so I won't keep you in suspense. The first gift I received is called a "Phone Finger". You heard me. P h o n e F i n g e r!! They can call it what they want but it's really a condom for your finger. It's made of the same stuff a Trojan is and it rolls onto your finger same as...well you get the picture. They say it's suppose to keep smudges and boogers off your iPhone and I'm sure it can be used for a host of other things. Maybe I can get Tiger to give me some ideas on how he uses them.



The other gift I received is a nice high end razor from Gillette™. I was so mystified with this product that I had to go on their web site and this is what it says:

***"The Fusion Chrome Collection POWER RAZOR is perfectly balanced and weighted to feel like a natural extension of your hand, maximizing stability and control. Gentle micro-pulses help you reduce friction and increase razor glide\*. The built-in spotlight, the first of its kind, reveals details normally in shadow - such as under the chin and jaw line - to help you avoid missed spots and make every stroke count. The sleek, contemporary handle is an ideal combination of ergonomics and innovative design, handcrafted in polished chrome and wrapped in a matte black, thermo-resin grip".***



You read correctly, it has a built in spotlight. Who needs a razor with a spotlight? Who is out there shaving in the dark? Randomly missed hairs sprouting from their face because the lighting wasn't good enough to see they had missed a patch? When looking in your bathroom mirror, how much of your face in "normally in shadow"? Next time the Topcats are in the Dells or sitting outside the Holiday Inn at Little Sturgis and you hear a loud buzzing, don't be afraid that it's giant mosquitoes attacking, it'll just be me shaving in the shadows!!



## DUNGUD PROGRAM

### By Traveler

Over many years, the Top Cats have enjoyed the results of a lot of hours of work contributed by a lot of dedicated members. Typically, we plan, we do, we enjoy, and then we forget and move on to the next activity. In the wake of our many successful activities lie the often unrecognized efforts of many of our members, our committees, our road captains and our Board.

Well, to help kick off our 15th anniversary in 2010; we are energizing our Awards Program to help recognize all of those who have done good for the Club.

We have two categories of recognition; Category One which has eight standard categories of recognition.....

#### Tenure Awards

- 3 Year Membership Pin
- 5 Year Membership Pin
- 10 Year Membership Pin
- 15 Year Membership Pin



#### Road Captain Qualification

White Road Captain Tabs



#### Senior Road Captain Qualification

Black and Gold Tabs



#### Rides Lead Awards

- 5 Rides = Bronze Star Pin
- 10 Rides = Silver Star Pin
- 20 Rides = Gold Star Pin



#### Recruiting Patch

Leather Top Cats Patch



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## Sturgis Veteran

Sturgis Veteran Pin  
5 Year Sturgis Veteran Pin  
10 Year Sturgis Veteran Pin



## Vice President's Award

Top Cat of the Year Trophy



## Founder's Cup

Top Cat "Hall of Fame" Award



And Category Two, where the Club traditionally recognizes and presents annual "Fun" awards for such categories as...

- Most Scenic Ride
- Favorite Ride
- Most Dedicated Passenger
- Safest Rider
- Most Accessorized Bike
- Loudest Pipes
- Oldest Bike
- Volunteer of the Year
- Cleanest Bike
- Loudest Bike
- Quietest Bike
- Dirtiest Bike
- Late to Ride

Very soon, the Board will be identifying and selecting candidates for Category One Awards and, asking our members in good standing to submit names for our Category Two Awards. Your input makes this program work so well so...don't hesitate to vote / nominate when you're solicited.

The intention here is to kick off our 2010 15th Anniversary season by recognizing those members who "done good" for the Club in 2009 and to unveil our refined Club Awards Program at our Annual Top Cats Banquet and Awards Dinner scheduled for 13 February, 6:30 PM at the Millrose Restaurant in South Barrington. Check [www.topcats.org](http://www.topcats.org) for details.



## **ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE'S EMERGENCY CONTACT DATABASE**

**By Andy Konsewicz**

The State of Illinois is offering a new service connected to your driver's license. You can click on the link below and add two emergency contacts to your license data. Therefore, if you are incapacitated in some way, your license can be scanned and the emergency contacts retrieved so your loved ones can be contacted.

This database allows Illinois instruction permit, driver's license and identification card holders to enter their emergency contact information into a voluntary, secure database. Starting in August 2009, in the event of a motor vehicle crash or other emergency situation where a person is unable to communicate directly, law enforcement may access this database to help them reach the person's designated emergency contacts. If a person holds both an Illinois driver's license or permit and an Illinois identification card, the emergency contact information can be entered for both cards in one transaction. The information will only be associated with the record(s) selected by the participant.

Participants can add, modify, or delete their emergency contact information at any time by visiting this web page. Any modifications or deletions will overwrite all previously entered information. Previously entered emergency contact information will not be displayed, in order to ensure the privacy and security of the information. Participants can print the page containing their emergency contact information upon completion for their records.

Participants may select one or two persons as their emergency contacts, and are encouraged to share their participation with the emergency contacts they have chosen. It is the responsibility of the holder of the driver's license, instruction permit, temporary visitor's driver's license and/or identification card to enter accurate data into the required fields, as well as to update contact data should any data change after initial enrollment in the emergency contact database.

The Secretary of State assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the data entered by the holder of a driver's license (including commercial driver's license), instruction permit, temporary visitor's driver's license and/or identification card and disclaims any liability for damages, costs, and/or expenses, including, without limitation, consequential damages, arising or resulting from any inaccurate data or failure to update contact data.

You may access this service at the web site listed below.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/ecd/home.html>

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

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- Interesting speakers for our membership meetings
- Locating and bringing in new members of Top Cat quality

Our goal is to make the club relevant and interesting to you our members. Contact me with any thoughts or recommendations. This is your club and the Officers and Directors are here to serve you.

Hope your holidays were tremendous and that someone special bought you a new bike or at least a new T-shirt.

Stay warm and

RIDE ON!

Carl



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1ST, 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

Guests were introduced:

Larry Johnson

Joe Fidler –Jersey Pinecuisers

Mary Pettinato of Honor Flight Chicago

Wayne provided the membership with a Posse update. Posse is compiling a list of vendor websites for Charity Ride Committees to use as a source for potential vendors to participate in charity events. Posse discussed all club's event dates and will list them on their website. The list allows clubs to avoid scheduling conflicting events.

Carl informed the membership about the A.B.A.T.E. conference in Springfield. The conference will be held on 1-15-09 through 1-17-09. Carl will be attending. Anyone interested in attending should contact Carl.

Chicagoland's Toys for Tots ride will take place this Sunday 12-5-09. Due to budget restraints for the City of Chicago this could be the last ride starting in the city.

### Past President – Chuck Prettyman for Gary Brandt

Chuck presented this year's slate for the 2010 board. Carl Marcyan will run for his 2<sup>nd</sup> term as president, Mike Bradbury, 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Vice President; Tom Nichols, 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Treasury; Wayne Kirkpatrick, 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Director; Muriel Brandt, 1<sup>st</sup> term as Secretary, Larry Scalzitti and Stuart Johnson, both for 1<sup>st</sup> terms as directors. A voice vote was conducted and the slate

passed.

### Vice President Report and Presentation by guest Mary Pettinato – Mike Bradbury

The order for Top Cat's apparel was placed and items are expected to be delivered in time for next month's meeting.

Mike introduced Mary Pettinato from Honor Flight Chicago. Honor Flight Chicago (HFC) was founded to recognize our veterans- most specifically our WWII veterans – with a day of honor and gratitude from a grateful nation. HFC escorts WWII on a one-day trip to Washington DC, the home of some of our most revered monuments and memorials. Veterans are provided the opportunity to remember those who did not return, to reflect on the service and sacrifice they and others provided to our nation and to bond with the veterans who join them on this day of honor. Mary played a 10 minute video filmed over the course of the one day event. For more information on HFC, how to donate and/or volunteer check out their website at [www.honorflightchicago.org](http://www.honorflightchicago.org).

### Rolling Thunder Raffle – Joe Romanski

Rolling Thunder is raffling off a 2009 Harley Street Glide. The bike has a customer paint job and other extras with an estimated value of \$25,000. Tickets are 3 for \$10 and are available for purchase from either Joe or Wayne.

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

December's ROAR will be available shortly on the website.

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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

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Dennis informed the club that for the foreseeable future the website will keep its current format. Dennis will continue to search for someone with the technical knowledge to update the website.

Dennis is looking for a volunteer to keep the website current and fresh. No technical knowledge is required just someone passionate about maintaining a good public image via our website. Interested parties please see Dennis.

The club is still seeking a person to fill the club Historian position. The volunteer will work with Carl and Dennis to conduct interviews and capture the oral history of the club. Anyone interested contact Carl.

Please send all ride photos to Dennis. Dennis will use the photos to create this year's photo montage for the annual banquet.

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

This month's safety tip was given by Greg Smith. The topic was Winterizing Your Bike. Please see the December ROAR for information.

Wayne presented a display board of patches and pins that represent the board approved membership or road captain recognition items. Qualified members will receive the pins and patches at the annual banquet.

### Activities – Greg Smith

December – enjoy the Holiday Season

Jan. – nothing currently scheduled. Watch the website for potential events

Feb. – Annual banquet on Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. \$35/person – see website for details

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> is the International Motorcycle Show. Watch the website for details on the club's plan to meet and attend.

See website for details of planned rides for 2010

### Secretary's Report – Joan DeRango

Nothing to report

### Membership – Eileen Perry

Dues for 2010 are now due.

New members Tony and Terry Loden were introduced.

### Treasurer's Report – Tom Nichols – via email to Carl

Tom was not in attendance. Carl notified the membership that dues invoices have been mailed. Payments can be mailed to the club's P.O. Box or given to any board member. Please try to have dues paid by the end of the year.

### Old/New Business

Larry Scalzitti passed out the flyer for the Lake Shore Harley-Davidson's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook Off and 21<sup>st</sup> Annual C.O.O.L. Food Pantry Food Drive to be held on 12-12-2009.

New member Tony Loden won the 50/50

Meeting Adjourned.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### DECEMBER 8TH, 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, Eileen Perry and Gary Brandt

Board Members Absent: Tom Nichols

Guests: Larry Scalzitti, Muriel Brandt, Stuart Johnson, and Andy Konsewicz

#### Meeting called to order- Carl Marcyan

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Carl welcomed new board members and thanked current board for all the work completed during 2009.

Carl will host a Board member's dinner at his home on December 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. If you can attend please let Carl know.

Honor Flight Chicago will host a welcome home in April – 2010. Greg will research the date and put the event on the calendar.

#### Secretary – DeRango

Nothing to report

#### Treasurer-Tom Nichols

Tom was not present and but sent account balance information via email to Carl The Charity Ride account has a balance of \$3,707.86 and the general operating account has a balance of \$6,829.20. Carl was not certain if the operating balance includes membership dues paid for 2010.

#### Membership – Perry

Eileen presented Larry Johnson's application for regular membership. Larry's membership is being sponsored by Joan DeRango. Gary Brandt motioned to accept Larry's application – Eileen Perry seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

#### ROAR/Website/etc – Dougherty

December ROAR is available on the website. Dennis has sent an email to the board regarding thoughts about ROAR for 2010. A discussion ensued regarding ways to ensure the ROAR is published consistently on time. Ideas/suggestions to consider:

- Build a bank of articles so publishers don't need to wait for articles.
- Drop dead deadline of the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Go with what has been received.
- Have a board member (Stuart was volunteered) to help encourage members to write articles.
- Provide regular authors a predefined format for publishing. This will work for articles such as the minutes and president's corner. Dennis will work with regular authors providing them with the format needed.

Dennis will meet with Mary and Andy to discuss these ideas as well as what they feel is needed to keep the ROAR timely yet not jeopardize the quality.

Mike Bradbury informed Dennis he is adept at using publisher and offered his assistance in the future.

*(Continued on page 14)*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (CONT)

(Continued from page 13)

### Safety & Awards – Kirkpatrick

2010 G.R.A.S.S schedule has not yet been formalized.

Wayne volunteered to write an article about the new awards/pins. For the record – the Sturgis Pin invoice # is R43777.

Dennis participated in an Advanced Accident Scene management class. Dennis was able to talk with fellow participants about the Top Cat's safety program. Everyone there was quite impressed with the seriousness of our program.

A suggestion was made by Dennis to consider appointing an Accident Scene Manager at pre-ride briefings. The suggestion will be taken into consideration at the next Sr. Road Captain meeting.

### Past President's Comments-Brandt

Nothing to report

### Activities – Greg Smith

December and January – nothing currently scheduled.

Feb. – Annual banquet on Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. \$35/person – see website for details

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> is the International Motorcycle Show.

Greg continues researching ideas for a winter event.

Joan will obtain the date for NISRA's awards dinner and confirm the June 5<sup>th</sup> date for the fishing derby.

Carl asked Greg if he would continue in the role of Activities Coordinator with Larry Scalzitti as the

board liaison. Greg accepted.

### Vice President – Bradbury

The annual banquet date has been set for Saturday Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at the Millrose Restaurant and Brewery in Barrington.

Mike will pursue the representative from Nolan and contact Lake Shore Harley-Davidson as potential future speakers at the club's General Meetings.

### Old Business/New Business

Dennis , Wayne, and Greg reported on the American Cancer Society's Men's Health Rally being sponsored and held at Cabela's in Hoffman Estates on March 6 & 7. Dennis is coordinating the effort for the ACS. Volunteers may be needed to assist at the event. The board will consider a donation to the event which will result in our logo to be displayed at the event as a sponsor.

Carl reminded the board of his commitment to match any contributions to the Illinois State police heritage Fund through the end of the year.

Union League Club members may be interested in participating in G.R.A.S.S. An early date is preferred.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.



## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, January 05	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, January 12	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, February 02	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, February 09	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, February 13	Annual Banquet	Millrose Brewery	S. Barrington	6:00 PM	Mike Bradbury
Saturday, February 20	Motorcycle Show	Rosemont Convention Ctr	Rosemont	n/a	n/a
Tuesday, March 02	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, March 07	G.R.A.S.S. Class	TBD	TBD	8:30 AM	Ric Case
Tuesday, March 09	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan

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