



# ROAR

February 2010

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



Attended the ABATE annual state meeting in Springfield, IL the weekend of January 15<sup>th</sup>. The biker community never fails to amaze me; how willing all the participants were to share their experiences, knowledge and insight about running a club, creating newsletters and dealing with political issues, just to name a few. ABATE is essentially our

biker lobbying group that has at least 30,000 members in Illinois. It packs political clout and keeps government, too eager to intrude on our personal liberties, at bay. Although we all should be active in our club as well as ABATE, we know that time does not always allow for such wide range involvement. At least support ABATE and what it stands for; protecting you and me from intrusive federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances that add to our every day problems. The loss of freedom is incremental, when it is taken away in little bits, it is hard to detect until we realize that we have given up a lot. By the time we realize it, it may be too late to change the result. The ABATE legislative folks are ever vigilant, on our behalf, in their monitoring of governmental and legislative discussions and actions. They take action and get results. Your dues to ABATE are a very small price to pay for big time results.

A representative from the American Motorcycle Association, Imre  
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### Upcoming Events

#### 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

#### APRIL

- 2 General Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting
- 18 Kick Off Ride



## STURGIS MEETING ALERT

By Gary Brandt

Attention all Top Cats. The 2010 Sturgis Rally is one you will not want to miss. Aside from being the 70<sup>th</sup> rally, it is also the 15<sup>th</sup> time the Top Cats will have attended as a group. Immediately following the February 2<sup>nd</sup> general meeting there will be a special graphic presentation detailing this years ride including all of the options you have. Gary Brandt and Wayne Kirkpatrick will be doing the presentation and answering your questions.

**KAUTION KORNER****STAGGERING CONSIDERATION***By Tom Malia*

As you all know, the Top Cats has for years, used the staggered formation for conducting its group rides. This did not happen by accident --this was a decision made by our initial safety committee and this policy/practice has been reviewed over the years by subsequent safety committees resulting in various refinements being implemented to further enhance the safety and other objectives of utilizing this riding formation. This Top Cat's-Staggered-Riding-Formation is taught at our G.R.A.S.S. Classes and reinforced – hopefully - by the Road Captain on all of our organized rides.

However, as with any policy/practice, I always think it is a good idea to keep an open mind for credible input which might suggest that such policy/practice is incorrect. Considering such input could lead to rejecting the policy, refining/improving the existing policy/practice or reinforcing the correctness of the earlier decision that created the existing policy/practice. Any one of these outcomes, it seems to me, makes such consideration worthwhile.

The point of this article is to comment on a posting on Stayin' Safe's web-site regarding the appropriateness of using the staggered formation in motorcycle group riding. Stayin' Safe professes to be America's premiere on-street motorcycle training program and was the vision of internationally-recognized motorcycle safety expert Lawrence Grodsky. The post, authored by Eric Trow, a Stayin' Safe Principal and Senior Instructor, starts out with the comment: "To stagger or not to stagger. That is the question most frequently posed by participants in our Stayin' Safe advanced rider training program." This article, from what I would think to be a very credible source, then goes on to make three primary assertions which I will repeat here and then provide my views or food for thought on each assertion.

*Assertion #1: While riding in a staggered formation may have certain advantages such as increasing visibility of the group, compressing the length of the formation, and discouraging other drivers from weaving in and out of the group, I believe the practice should be limited to multi-lane, divided highways. And even then, it should only be a "loose" formation in which it is understood that each rider can take full advantage of the width of his lane as necessary to avoid objects on the road, create space or increase visibility. On a divided multi-lane highway, the bulk of the group is less of an issue for drivers desiring to pass — they simply select another lane in which they can pass. And, being a divided highway, the group of riders has less worry of left-turning vehicles.*

*Response #1: I would agree with this proposition that riding in a staggered formation on a multi-lane, divided highway is very appropriate. However I would add the following considerations. Maintaining the proper, i.e., speed appropriate, spacing between riders is critical to achieving the desired looseness or flexibility in the formation the author references. Preserving the "no-man's-land" or margin-for-error around each bike is every rider's responsibility. Further, riders ought not to be overly focused on preserving the integrity of the motorcycle formation. If an automobile driver attempts to merge into your lane-presumably to make an exit-allow them to do so. If a merging driver is running out of room on the entrance ramp, allow them to cut-in. If the road captain is changing lanes without properly clearing traffic at the rear of the formation- back-off and allow the traffic to interrupt the formation. This can readily happen if the formation is overly long or visibility is poor. In any of these situations, the integrity of the formation can readily be re-established by the automobile exiting the high-*

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

way or by simply changing lanes. A rider's decision to not back-off, so as to prevent another vehicle from entering the formation, could cause an unnecessary change in the flow of traffic. Any such change on a crowded interstate is potentially dangerous. And even worse, the vehicle driver may decide, due either to frustration or ineptness, to invade the formation even though he/she does not have adequate room to safely do so - creating potentially serious repercussions.

**Assertion #2:** *Staggered riding should never be used on twisting sections of tarmac.*

**Response #2:** I am reminded of the expression "Never Say Never". I am sympathetic to the author's position here, for the reasons outlined below, and would remind Top Cats that your road captains can readily change-via a hand signal-the riding formation from staggered to single-file in any situation where he/she deems such a change to be desirable. When riding particularly windy roads, I would encourage road captains to go to single-file to allow riders to freely use their entire lane to drive what might be called a "racing line"—not that anyone is racing, but it is good practice for a situation where you might want to go faster and it provides a greater margin for error to deal with un-anticipated changes in the road surface or the radius of the curves....and in my view it makes for more fun riding!

**Assertion #3:** *On two lane roads, I just don't see how staggered riding provides more safety for riders on straight sections of roadway. The trade-offs are too significant over any benefit. With regular opportunities for oncoming vehicles to turn left, vehicles to enter the roadway from either side, animals to waddle out from the shoulder and potholes, gravel, or other debris to be in a rider's path, I simply don't see the advantage of any rider being locked into a particular position within his or her lane. Can he move if he has to when the car backs out of a driveway? Will there be another bike in his way following just off his rear tire when he needs to dodge a pothole or create space from a turning vehicle?*

**Response #3:** I think we can all relate to the con-

cerns the author describes, but I would respectfully disagree with his conclusion for the following reasons. First, the most frequent cause of motorcycle fatalities is a vehicle driver turning in front of a motorcycle because they do not see the cycle.



I think a staggered-wider-formation would be more visible to an oncoming vehicle driver. I would rather make an effort to be more visible, to hopefully cause the driver to not turn in front of me, rather than have more room to maneuver once someone has turned in front of me. Second, the longer the rider formation, the more difficult it is for vehicle drivers to deal with the formation-whether they want to switch lanes, pull-out into traffic or pass the formation. Having frustrated drivers around you is potentially not good for a rider's health. Finally, one of the benefits of a properly executed group ride is that the majority of the riders do not need to be intimately familiar with the route. However, the longer the formation-particularly in congested urban riding-the greater the odds the group will get separated causing an un-necessary distraction for the riders.

Thus I would support the continued use of our staggered riding formation and would remind riders of the following to enhance our group riding safety:

1. Point out objects in the roadway to minimize the chances of a rider down the line making a surprise move.
2. Do everything reasonable-through clothing and lights on your bike-to enhance your visibility to other drivers.
3. As mentioned earlier, do not play king-of-the-road on your puny motorcycle...if someone wants into your lane/formation, let them in.
4. Do not be a lemming—there is more to safe group riding than simply following the

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## the World According to Andy

In this new era of "Political Correctness" (PC) there is a lot of room for confusion between the sexes so I would like to clarify some terminology that will help us get along with our respective male and female counterparts.

### ***When speaking to a man, please remember the following:***

1. He does not have a "BEER GUT" - He has developed a "LIQUID GRAIN STORAGE FACILITY."
2. He is not a "BAD DANCER" - He is "OVERLY CAUCASIAN."
3. He does not "GET LOST ALL THE TIME" - He "INVESTIGATES ALTERNATIVE DESTINATIONS".
4. He is not "BALDING" - He is in "FOLLICLE REGRESSION."
5. He is not a "CRADLE ROBBER" - He prefers "GENERATIONAL DIFFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS."
6. He does not get "FALLING-DOWN DRUNK" - He becomes "ACCIDENTALLY HORIZONTAL."
7. He does not act like a "TOTAL ASS" - He develops a case of "RECTAL-CRANIAL INVERSION."
8. He is not a "MALE CHAUVINIST PIG" - He has "SWINE EMPATHY."
9. He is not afraid of "COMMITMENT" - He is "RELATIONSHIP CHALLENGED."
10. He is not "HORNY" - He is "SEXUALLY FOCUSED."
11. It's not his "CRACK" you see hanging out of his pants - It's "REAR CLEAVAGE "

### ***And when speaking to the fairer sex, please follow these simple examples:***

1. She is not a "BABE" or a "CHICK" - She is a "BREASTED AMERICAN."
2. She is not a "SCREAMER" or a "MOANER" - She is "VOCALLY APPRECIATIVE."
3. She is not "EASY" - She is "HORIZONTALLY ACCESSIBLE."
4. She is not a "DUMB BLONDE" - She is a "LIGHT-HAIRED DETOUR OFF THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY."
5. She has not "BEEN AROUND" - She is a "PREVIOUSLY-ENJOYED COMPANION."
6. She is not an "AIRHEAD" - She is "REALITY IMPAIRED."
7. She does not get "DRUNK" or "TIPSY" - She gets "CHEMICALLY INCONVENIENCED"

**Editors' Note:** As always, Andy brings a unique and stimulating perspective to motorcycling and life in general. However, the thoughts and opinions expressed in his column do not necessarily reflect those of the ROAR editors or the Top Cats in general.

*(Yeah, we felt we just had to say it to be appropriately PC).*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

Szauter, Government Affairs Manager, spoke for about an hour focusing on international laws and proposed United Nations standards for motorcycles that will have an impact on us in the near future. One such proposal is to *prohibit* motorcycles, already on the road, that do not comply with soon to be enacted, stringent emissions standards, from use. Yes, those stories about the UN taking over the world apparently may be true; at least the motorcycle world. This gentleman gave an excellent presentation. We may be able to convince him to attend a Top Cats meeting during the riding season and present to us. I hope we can.

Another great speaker was Rod Taylor who is legal counsel for ABATE Illinois. He gave several presentations dealing with the legally related aspects of motorcycling as well as basic common sense tips concerning arrests and traffic laws. Another person we should have present sometime during this 2010 Top Cat year.

Stay warm and get ready to ...

Ride On,

Carl

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## KAUTION KORNER

(Continued from page 3)

leader...keep your mind engaged at all times.

5. Have at least a rough idea as to where the group is going---do not panic or do anything foolish if you are about to get separated from the group.
6. Maintain your stagger even at slow speeds...remember a bike is less stable- more likely to wander- at slow speeds...give your fellow riders room.
7. The one rider in the formation that is most likely to do something rash, is the road captain who suddenly realizes he or she is about to miss a turn in their carefully developed route. If you are in the #2 slot, give your leader extra room.

***Safe riding - and all that that implies - should be a full time task for all of us!***

### ***... and now a Friendly Reminder from your Communications Team...***

#### **IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING EMAIL RESPONSES**

Emails that you receive are normally sent using a group mailbox, TCATSRSPV. Replies often need to be sent to the actual person who wrote the email. You need to read the **entire email and determine** who the reply goes to. Do not assume that you simply reply to that email directly. While TCATSRSPV makes every attempt to forward them to the proper people, it is often days after and may not happen at all.

**READ THE EMAIL.....FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS**

## **Top Cats' 15th Anniversary Black Hills Blast**

*By Traveler*



How does a rider celebrate a Top Cats' anniversary in an appropriate way? Ride 4,000+ miles out west and back in less than two weeks, with a group of your best friends, that's how! Gear up, tune up, pack up and get ready for our 2010 anniversary journey to the Black Hills and beyond!

We have a little more than 180 days until we saddle up so at this point in time, you ought to be doing your research on time, budget, routes, hotel reservations, and what you're going to pack. To help you put your trip together and plan your time, here is the concept for our 15th Anniversary Black Hills Blast.

As with everything related to the sport of two – wheeled travel, flexibility is the foundation of executing a multi – day group ride. That's why we're referring to this as our concept, rather than a hard, fast plan. We understand also, that some riders' schedules might not allow them to make the entire trip or to ride with a particular group. Over the 15 + year history of Top Cats, we typically have riders return home on their own or meet us out at Sturgis and...that's OK. We usually buy them a drink in sympathy of all the fun they missed riding solo.

This year, we'll have three groups of Top Cats for planning purposes...two groups riding out to Sturgis and one group riding back home via the Santa Fe Trail. Group 1, led by Bard Board, is leaving on Wednesday, 4 Aug and Group 2, led by Gary Brandt, is leaving on Thursday, 5 Aug. Both Groups are arriving at the Alex Johnson in Rapid City on Friday, 6 Aug.

Group 3, led by Wayne Kirkpatrick, will form up at the Alex Johnson Hotel, in Rapid City and depart on a five or six day ride home via the Rocky Mountains, Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, The Great Sand Dunes, Angel Fire, Red River, and the Santa Fe Trail. Five or six days? Yes, recall the thesis that good rides are based on flexibility? This ride will be about 2,000 miles over 5 days with the option, on any given leg of the trip, to cut the ride short and head directly back home for those who have to be back by a particular date / time. We'll buy you a drink in sympathy.

Now, why ride the Santa Fe Trail back? Just because it's a cool thing to do. Imagine this conversation....

*How was your ride to Sturgis?*

***“We had a great ride, great time, and great friends”.***

*When did you get home?*

***“We left on 11 August and got back on 15 August how about you”?***

*Wow, what took you so long? We left on 11 August, got on I- 90 and got home 13 August.*

***“We took a few days and rode the Santa Fe Trail home with side trips through the Rocky Mountains, Cripple Creek, Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, The Great Sand Dunes, Angel Fire, Red River, and the Santa Fe Trail”...***

See what I mean about the cool factor?

Interested by now? Well come along on my pictorial pre-ride and see for yourself....

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## 11 Aug, Wednesday

Rapid City, SD to Colorado Springs, CO via RT 385, 85, and I 25 (470 miles)



Picture 1 RT 385, South Dakota



Picture 2 RT 85, Wyoming



Picture 3 Colorado Springs, CO, Pikes Peak

## 12 Aug, Thursday

Colorado Springs, CO (Local Tour) (150 miles)  
Garden of the Gods



Picture 4 Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs



Picture 5 Garden of the Gods

### Pikes Peak (Optional)



Picture 6 Pikes Peak, 14,000+ feet

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Picture 7 Pikes Peak Very Challenging Ride

### Cripple Creek



Picture 8 Cripple Creek, CO



Picture 9 Cripple Creek Casinos

### Phantom Canyon Trail (Optional) Extremely Difficult for Touring Bikes



Picture 10 Phantom Canyon Trail - Difficult!



Picture 11 Phantom Canyon Trail

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## 13 Aug, Friday

Colorado Springs, CO via Million Hwy to Red River, NM (229 miles)

### Million Dollar Highway



Picture 12 Million Dollar Highway, Colorado



Picture 13 Million Dollar Highway, Morning Fog

### Great Sand Dunes National Park, Colorado



Picture 14 Great Sand Dunes, One Mile Away



Picture 15 Great Sand Dunes Half Mile Away

### Red River, NM



Picture 16 Red River, NM, Ski Resort



Picture 17 Red River, NM

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## 14 Aug, Saturday

Start Home via Santa Fe Trail to Vicinity Wichita, KS, (~400 miles)

### Angel Fire, NM



Picture 18 Remote Town of Angel Fire, NM



Picture 19 Angel Fire Viet Nam Veterans Chapel

### Santa Fe Trail



Picture 20 Santa Fe Trail, Southern Cimarron Route



Picture 21 Santa Fe Trail, Miles of Nothing

## 15 Aug, Sunday

Wichita, KS to Springfield, MO, Optional Departure Home Day (260 miles)



Picture 22 Santa Fe Trail, Kansas



Picture 23 Santa Fe Trail, Missouri

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## 16 Aug, Monday

Springfield, MO to Chicago, IL (450 miles)



Picture 24 Final Stretch Home



Picture 25 Chicago-Sturgis-Colorado-New Mexico-Oklahoma-Kansas-Missouri-Illinois

Excited? Well now is the time to schedule your vacation, and start making reservations. We'll have all of the hotel information in future ROAR articles but, for the riders who want to take advantage of the negotiated rates at the Alex Johnson for Top Cats this year, call now and make your reservations for 6 – 10 August. Alex Johnson Hotel 1 800 888 – ALEX (2539) or go to [www.topcats.org](http://www.topcats.org) and download our reservation application.



**TOP CATS**  
**15th Anniversary**  
**BLACK HILLS BLAST**  
**August 2010**

**For more information contact:**

**Bard Board**  
**Wayne Kirkpatrick**  
**Gary Brandt**



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### JANUARY 5TH, 2010

VILLA SOPHIA RESTAURANT - WAUCONDA

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm by Carl Marcyan, Top Cats President

#### Opening

The membership was asked to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Introduction of Guests/President's Comments -Carl Marcyan

Carl introduced guests Kory Atlas from Lake Shore Harley, Illinois State Trooper, Sergeant Rich Kozik, and Colt Marcyan.

New 2010 Board Members were introduced: Larry Scalzitti and Stewart Johnson as directors and Muriel Brandt as secretary.

Carl thanked Joan Derango for her efforts as 2009 secretary, Eileen Perry for her tenure as director, and Greg Smith for his two terms as director.

Joan Derango and Mike Bradbury will be co-chairs for the 2010 Charity Ride with Stewart Johnson acting as Board liaison.

Carl presented a check to the Illinois State Trooper Sergeant\_Kozik in the name of the Top Cats for \$1000.00 for the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation. Sergeant Kozik mentioned the upcoming July 31, 2010 Foundation Ride and encouraged Top Cats to participate. He also noted that the State Police will proceed with it's on the road, personalized motorcycle safety program and the Top Cats would be the first to participate.

Several topics that are important for 2010 were outlined: These included, web site improvement, upgrading and maintaining our safety class, copyright protection for our club name and logo, improving ride opportunities, obtaining speakers for meetings, recruiting new Top Cats, keeping

ROAR first class, road captain awards and participation at this year's Sturgis rally.

#### Vice President's Report & presentation-Mike Bradbury

An update was provided on products. The initial shipment has been received and is being delivered. Several choices are available for Top Cats logo shirts, hats, etc. Please see Mike if you are interested.

Mike introduced Kory Atlas from Lakeshore Harley who spoke about bike care during winter months. A few of the highlights he mentioned included making sure you have a battery tender, adding an Extra 5lbs air in tires, and adding stabilizer to fuel.

Before going out for 1st time after winter remember BLT. Check Brakes Lights and tires.

Mike discussed the upcoming annual banquet and awards dinner for February 13. Invitations will be mailed soon.

Wayne Kirkpatrick explained the types of awards that would be given out that night, such as road captain stars, membership year pins, Founders Cup, and Vice President's award.

#### Treasurer's Update-Tom Nichols

Tom mentioned that 1/3 of membership has not yet paid their dues and asked if everyone could please send them. He had nothing else to report.

#### ROAR - Dennis Dougherty, Andy Konsewicz and Mary Walters

Dennis asked for more articles for Roar. He reported that efforts to upgrade the website continue. He is looking for a web editor to freshen the

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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

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contents. Dennis will continue to do the technical part

### **Secretary's Report-Muriel Brandt**

No report this month.

### **Safety/GRASS/Road Captains-Wayne Kirkpatrick/Don Schaffer/Ric Case/Gary Brandt**

Wayne reminded everyone of the March 7<sup>th</sup> G.R.A.S.S. class that will be held at the Keller Williams building in Palatine.

Gary added that following the normal .GR.A.S.S. session there will be a Road Captain class

This month's safety tip was given by Dennis Dougherty. The topic was "Keep your head in the game". He mentioned several safety books and DVD's that make good reading during the winter months. One activity would be to attend the G.R.A.S.S.

Wayne asked for nominees for Awards for banquet. He also passed out a nomination form for many awards and asked for them to be returned at the end of the meeting or emailed to him.

### **Activities-Larry Scalzitti/Greg Smith/Muriel Brandt**

Larry discussed *Stay in Safe*, a Wisconsin back roads tour, which would be a great ride/learning opportunity in late May. Watch for details

Larry asked for new road captains and ride ideas even if you can't lead a ride.

Greg announced that the Kick-off ride will be April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Top Cats will be meeting for breakfast and attending the motorcycle show. Details are on the

website.

Greg also asked previous Road Captains to schedule their rides. There are several rides already on the web site.

Gary Brandt added that at the end of next month's General Meeting there would be a power point presentation for anyone interested in going to Sturgis this summer. Gary and Wayne will be explaining how the Top Cats attend the rally.

### **Membership/ Stewart Johnson,**

Stewart presented Larry Johnson as our new member.

### **Top Cat Deploying**

Carl mentioned that Top Cat Nick Bender is in the process of deploying overseas and asked all Top Cats to drop him a note and keep him in your thoughts.

### **50/50 Raffle Sgt at Arms-Chris Marcyan**

Joe Rominski was the winner of the 50/50 raffle

John Lunde motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Bradbury. Meeting Adjourned at 8:44pm



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### JANUARY 12TH, 2009

**D&J BISTRO - LAKE ZURICH**

**Submitted by Muriel Brandt**

**Present:** Carl Marcyan, Gary Brandt, Mike Bradbury, Larry Scalzitti, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Dennis Dougherty, Muriel Brandt, Stewart Johnson, and Eileen Perry

**Absent:** Tom Nichols

Meeting was called to order at 7:32pm. By Carl Marcyan, Top Cats President

Carl recognized new Board Members, Directors, Stewart Johnson Larry Scalzitti and Muriel Brandt, Secretary.

Carl discussed objectives for the 2010 year. These included keeping the club moving forward during a tough economy, maintaining Roar as a first class publication, and getting the ball rolling on our Annual Ride to Sturgis.

Wayne Kirkpatrick (director) talked about adding depth to the club by adding more people to each committee.

Carl addressed the issues of our General Meeting location (Villa Sophia) and suggested giving them a few more months to see if they could better accommodate the group. It was suggested that we have back up locations.

Carl continues to look into copyright protection for our club name and logo.

Carl commended Mike Bradbury (Vice President) for getting interesting speakers for our General Meetings.

**Secretary- Muriel Brandt**

Muriel requested minute approval within two days.

**Treasurer- Tom Nichols (absent)**

Carl presented the final financial documents for 2009 and a first pass budget for 2010. There was some discussion and questions regarding several figures. Stewart was asked to talk with Tom and clarify for the next board meeting.

**Membership- Stewart Johnson**

Stewart asked if something could be put in Roar to remind members to pick up 2010 membership cards.

Eileen Perry will continue to lead the membership committee.

**Charity-Mike Bradbury**

Mike along with Joan Derango will co-chair this year's Charity Ride.

Larry Scalzitti (director) offered his booth at the motorcycle show to promote the Charity Ride.

**Roar/Website-Dennis Dougherty**

Dennis discussed the proposed changes to the website. He received board approval to proceed with Phase I changes which include the same functionality as the current website but with updated software and a more professional look and feel to the website. -In addition, he made some cosmetic changes to the existing website and now members can look back to activities from 2007 to present. The intention is to have the 'new' website in place by the beginning of riding season. -. The potential expenses were discussed and the board approved a budget of \$2,500 for website expenditures in 2010

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

(Continued from page 14)

Dennis requested that all ROAR articles be submitted by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month to give the team more time to complete the publication..

Dennis asked for the Board's help in seeking a content manager for the website.

### Safety and Awards-Wayne Kirkpatrick

The calendar with information on G.R.A.S.S. class for March was updated on the website.

Wayne announced that the year pins will be available for members at the Awards Ceremony. Also 15<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary coins will be available for purchase.

Wayne suggested that the board help decide the process and requirements for handing out the new coins as awards. This discussion was deferred to future meetings,

### Past President-Gary Brandt

Gary was asked to follow up with Tom Nichols for Top Cats who have not yet renewed their membership, and divide up the names for each board member to contact.

### Activities-Larry Scalzitti

Larry discussed some new ideas for rides including a monthly hot dog ride. Larry talked about the winter activity which will be the Easy Rider movie night on January 31. Larry talked about the upcoming ride/learning opportunity, called Stay in Safe, which he is planning at the end of May. Larry made a plea for more Senior Road captain participation.

Carl added that Lenny Buffo offered to host a Bocce Ball event if there was any interest.

Gary Brandt motioned to adjourn at 9:56pm, seconded by Mike Bradbury.

## HELP WANTED WEB EDITOR

The Top Cats Board of Directors is looking for a creative and highly motivated individual to take on the role of Web Editor for the Top Cats website. No previous experience or technical 'website' expertise is required.

The Top Cats Web Editor will work with the board and various website 'content' owners to ensure that the information on the website is up-to-date, fresh and relevant for the club.

In addition, the editor will work with the board, the membership, and the webmaster to identify and implement enhancements to the website including new functionality and content to bring additional value to the members and help to position the Top Cats website as the gold standard for motorcycle websites in the Chicagoland area.

For more information contact any board member or:  
Dennis P. (Wombat) Dougherty:  
[wombat@dpdougherty.com](mailto:wombat@dpdougherty.com)

## 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)

# ROAR

Please Patronize the TOP CATS Supporters



Meeting place of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS



Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at City Limits Harley-Davidson



Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock & McHenry Harley-Davidson



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**



[www.lrn2ryd.com](http://www.lrn2ryd.com) 847-438-6588 [scalzitti@mindspring.com](mailto:scalzitti@mindspring.com)  
Basic Rider Course - Experienced Rider Course - On Street Courses





## RIDES & EVENTS

| Date                  | Ride/Event       | Location        | Destination     | Time   | Leader        |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|---------------|
| Tuesday, February 02  | General Meeting  | Villa Sofia     | Wauconda        | 7:30pm | Carl Marcyan  |
| Tuesday, February 09  | Board Meeting    | D & J Bistro    | Lake Zurich     | 7:30pm | Carl Marcyan  |
| Saturday, February 13 | Annual Banquet   | Milrose         | S.Barrington    | 6:00pm | Mike Bradbury |
| Saturday, February 20 | Motorcycle Show  | TBD             | Rolling Meadows | 7:30am | Greg Smith    |
| Tuesday, March 02     | General Meeting  | Villa Sofia     | Wauconda        | 7:30pm | Carl Marcyan  |
| Sunday, March 07      | G.R.A.S.S. Class | Keller Williams | Palatine        | 8:30am | Ric Case      |
| Tuesday, March 09     | Board Meeting    | D & J Bistro    | Lake Zurich     | 7:30pm | Carl Marcyan  |
| Tuesday, April 06     | General Meeting  | Villa Sofia     | Wauconda        | 7:30pm | Carl Marcyan  |
| Tuesday, April 13     | Board Meeting    | D & J Bistro    | Lake Zurich     | 7:30pm | Carl Marcyan  |
| Sunday, April 18      | Kick Off Ride    | TBD             | TBD             | TBD    | TBD           |
| Sunday, May 02        | G.R.A.S.S. Class | Keller Williams | Palatine        | 8:30am | Ric Case      |
| Tuesday, May 04       | General Meeting  | Villa Sofia     | Wauconda        | 7:30pm | Carl Marcyan  |
| Tuesday, May 11       | Board Meeting    | D & J Bistro    | Lake Zurich     | 7:30pm | Carl Marcyan  |

### 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](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)

### 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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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at [ROAR@TOPCATS.org](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)