



# ROAR

August 2010

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



### TOPCATS-ILLINOIS RIDES ON

Now in our 15<sup>th</sup> year, Topcats-Illinois has accomplished a great deal. Motorcycling is our passion and providing benefits to our biker and greater community is our goal. Each year we devote many,

many hours to raise funds for the Northern Illinois Special Recreation District. This year is no exception; Joan DeRango and Michael Bradbury as committee heads have led the way to very successful raffle sales and participation in our annual charity ride. Give a thank you to both of them for their tremendous efforts and great job!

Strong features of our club are the ongoing camaraderie and sense of history. Homage is paid to our founder, Carl "Virgo" Bender and the other charter members of Topcats, all were visionaries and successful persons either monetarily or otherwise. That tradition has continued. Getting to know each member, you realize the wealth and depth of knowledge each possess. Most of us do not hesitate to contact other members for advice, not necessarily limited to motorcycles. Our members are most willing to

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### *Upcoming Events*

#### **AUGUST**

- 1 GRASS Class
- 3 General Meeting
- 4 Sturgis A Group
- 5 Sturgis B Group
- 5 Frank N Fries Ride
- 15 WI State Fair Ride
- 17 Board Meeting
- 24 Frank N Fries

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- 7 General Meeting
- 14 Board Meeting
- 19 Ride For Cheese
- 21 Frank N Fries



The September meeting will NOT be held at the Villa Sofia. We are testing a new location at the following.....

Anthem Grill

704 West Euclid Ave

Palatine, IL 60067

847-963-8920

[www.anthemgrill.com](http://www.anthemgrill.com)





## KAUTION KORNER

### THE TRUE RAINMAKER

Gary Brandt

Normally the term Rainmaker applies to someone in the business world who brings in new clients. For the Top Cats it is a term often applied to road captains who seem to consistently find the rain clouds, wherever they may be. Okay, so it's only applied to one road captain, but who's keeping score.

From a safety perspective, riding in the rain opens up a whole new environment in which we must be prepared for. In any long ride, especially multi day events, the odds are higher you will ride through some rain.

The smart riders do not fear rain, they respect it. If you never go on trips due to this fear you will miss out on some great adventures. Besides, how many fun stories have you ever heard told about fair weather rides?

#### **The basics for riding in the rain:**

Make sure you carry some type of rain gear. There are many types out there. Comfort is important as you don't want the rain gear to get in your way of operating your cycle. It needs to fit you properly and be somewhat easy to put on. More often than not you will still get wet in some places even with rain gear. But being soaked to the bone is no fun, especially if you have to ride for several hours that way.

Eyeglasses or goggles that keep the rain out are very important. In a driving rain, at higher speeds, water will get behind most glasses. Visibility is often affected as much by wet glasses then the rain falling itself. Consider carrying rain goggles along with your rain suit. Waterproof gloves and boot covers can also help.

Driving for conditions seems obvious enough. We want to slow down and perhaps pull over. But you need to stay aware of the traffic around you. Going too slow could put you in harms way

with other drivers. If you can't ride safe with the traffic, you need to get off the road. Turning your flashers on is another way to make yourself more visible to other vehicles.

Remember that roads are slick and you only have two wheels under you. In the beginning of a rainstorm the oil and other debris on the road can cause extra slippery conditions. One dangerous situation was observed during the Dells ride last year. The town of Wisconsin Rapids used a roundabout at one intersection. As we entered the roundabout there were very large white lines painted on the road. Several bikes slipped as they rode over the paint. None fell, but the danger was there. The paint used at many intersections can also be slick so care is always needed.

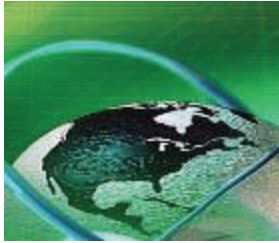
The past few years have seen many of us caught on a highway, in serious downpours with nowhere to go. Using the taillights of a vehicle in front of you can help, as long as you can stay a safe distance behind and stop if necessary.

If riding as part of a group, you need to make sure you keep within your own limitations. Once again, if it's safe to pull over, and it makes for you to do so, then you should, even if the group keeps going.

Here are a few web sites that offer some more tips on riding in the rain.

[www.soundrider.com/archive/safety-skills/rain\\_riding.htm](http://www.soundrider.com/archive/safety-skills/rain_riding.htm)

[www.whybike.com/motorcycle228.htm](http://www.whybike.com/motorcycle228.htm)



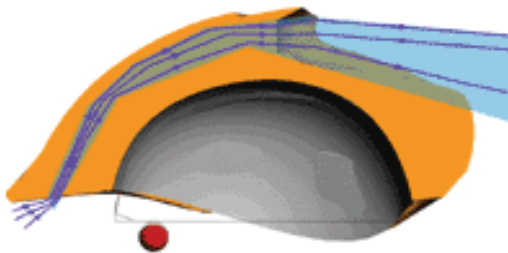
## Tech Talk

Technology That Can Impact Your Life

### HELMET WITH A REARVIEW

By Andy Konsewicz

In the latest issue of Popular Science I came across an article on a new type of motorcycle helmet that incorporates rear view technology by use of polycarbonate mirrors in the back of the helmet and an adjustable mirror just above the rider's line of sight inside the helmet. You decide if it's more of an advantage for sport bikes or does it make sense for cruisers. The rest of the information comes from the [www.reevu.com](http://www.reevu.com) website.



Reevu helmets were conceived to address a failing at the very heart of bike helmet design and operation - to overcome the sensory deprivation from loss of peripheral vision and hearing. The inventors saw this as an crucial aspect of motorcycle helmet design that needed to be addressed. The critical issue was that accident prevention is just as important as impact protection and that is where the patented Reevu rear view system plays its part. Historically, helmets have had 'clip on' mirrors and other such 'external' devices or bike accessories, all of which had inherent weaknesses and seldom made a significant contribution to road safety. Never before had serious consideration been given to integrating a rear-vision system into the shell of a helmet. Whilst the overall aim was to allow the wearer to achieve the same road awareness provided by a

rear view mirror in a car; the real challenge was to achieve this design within the very limited space of the housing of a helmet. After many years of painstaking development and testing Reevu now provides the world's only integrated rear view system. It does not rely on any electronic systems, cameras or screens. It uses an ingenious reflective polycarbonate device that 'bends' the view of the road behind and presents a clear image to the wearer. A first in road safety and a celebration of ingenuity.

#### **Now Reevu is bringing the benefits of its revolutionary rear view technology to the world of motorsports**

For the past year Reevu's rear view technology has taken the MotorSports industry by storm – creating a new and unique benchmark in preventative safety on roads, in all five continents around the world.

Years of development plus leading edge design skills have created the MSX1 helmet, the world's only rear view helmet that allows riders to maintain awareness of traffic conditions behind them in the same way as a car driver uses a rear view mirror.

The helmet looks fantastic and has amazing aerodynamics. It exceeds the most rigorous safety and construction standards.

A stunning package that looks great and dramatically increases safety for motorcyclists due to Reevu's rear view technology.

(Continued on page 8)

## ONE AND A HALF DECADES OF SUCCESS

By Traveler

### One and a Half Decades of Success!

By Traveler



Normally, as one reaches 15 years of age, they start to experience a maturation process marked by puberty, and a realization that, we must eventually grow up. **Not with Top Cats!** We just hit 15 and many of us we still don't know what we want to be when we grow up and...most of us still don't care.....



Carl "Virgo" Bender  
Top Cats Founder  
1941-2001

I often wondered if Virgo ever imagined that his backyard idea of forming a club of business – owning motorcyclists would evolve into one of the Chicago

area's leading groups of motorcycle enthusiasts for over 15 years. Well, it did, it is, and it forever will hold a high and admired ranking among local motorcycle clubs.

Over many years of drinks and conversation with Virgo on the road, in his backyard, or at his home, I came to believe that his real vision for Top Cats was to ride, to have fun, to network, and to eat, drink and be merry. I think we accomplished that over our weekend 15th Anniversary Celebration 16 – 18 July.

Our Anniversary weekend included riding, eating, networking, eating, drinking, eating, having fun, and eating. Let me tell you about it....

**Friday evening, 16 July,** Top Cats enjoyed an exquisite dinner at D & J Bistro hosted by our former Top Cat brother, Dominique Legeai. Fun, networking, eating and drinking marked this great evening.



Top Cats at D



Bistro having fun!

&J

(Continued on page 5)





(Continued from page 4)

## Eating and drinking!



## Networking!

The evening was typical Top Cats....fun, food, drink, and great camaraderie. It was a great prelude to our Saturday ride / BBQ Celebration. Our appreciation, once again, to Dominique who traditionally has hosted our Sturgis send – off breakfast.

**Saturday, 17 July**, was equally, if not more, fun than Friday night. Not only did we enjoy food, drink music, and socializing....we got to ride!

The day started with door to door rides lead by Carl Marcyan, Chuck Prettyman, and Wayne Kirkpatrick, picking up riders at their doorsteps on three different routes and leading them to the Prettyman Ranch for one fantastic party.



## Door To Door group I

The three groups of over 25 riders arrived at Prettyman's around 3:00 PM to enjoy drink, food, networking, and Gary Brandt and fellow musicians of the Elder Kaos band.



## Prettyman's Bike Corral

This gathering of Top Cats spanned the entire 15 + years of Top Cats with folks representing founding members to our newest members.



## Top Cats without leather



## Top Cats without helmets

(Continued on page 6)

## ONE AND A HALF DECADES OF SUCCESS

By Traveler

(Continued from page 5)

The food was not simply a BBQ, it was a feast fit for such royalty as the Kings, Queens, Responsible leaders, Presidents, Chairmen, Owners, Proprietors, Partners, Principals, CEOs and other "TOP CATS " of industry.



**What happens to the slowest hog in the herd?**

The day wound down with full stomachs, great libations, and an afternoon of finally getting to know your brother and sister Top Cats, all to the super tunes of Gary Brandt and the Elder Kaos.



**Gary Brandt and the Elder Kaos**

We will remain in debt to Chuck and Maureen Prettyman for hosting this wonderful day of celebration in typical Prettyman fashion...First Class all the way!

**Sunday, 18 July** found the Top Cats at one of their traditional gathering spots, the Broken Oar in Port Barrington, where we sat down, once again, to eat before our historic Ride to Eagle.



**Breakfast at the Broken Oar**

Back in 1995, Top Cats held our first charity ride then called the Fall Colors Charity Ride. The ride started at fellow Top Cat, Ray - Ray Petersen's bar, RSVP, in Barrington. The first route was laid out by Top Cat OJ (Jon) Simpson and was a meandering 70 mile route to Eagle, WI to what is now, Suhmer's Saloon.



**Top Cats' 2,000th Safety Brief**

(Continued on page 7)





## ONE AND A HALF DECADES OF SUCCESS

By Traveler

(Continued from page 6)

To commemorate our 15th Anniversary, we rode to Eagle after breakfast at the Oar, preceded by one of our now famous safety briefings.



### Precise Formations Typify Top Cats

The 70+ mile route to Eagle traced most of the original Fall Colors charity Ride route that contained every type of road imaginable less gravel roads but, we found that in the parking lot at the end.



### Suhmer's Saloon Parking Lot

Although renamed Suhmer's Saloon in 2002, the bar and hotel still had the parking lot that was our vendor venue and the second – floor veranda that held our DJ for the afternoon.



### Would You Say They're Having Fun?

After a great, scenic and historic ride, and a fantastic lunch, Gary Brandt raffled off the original Top Cat commemorative belt buckle won by Wayne Kirkpatrick.



### Top Cats' Commemorative Buckle

After 15 years of success it seemed appropriate to spend 72 hours, and 250 miles, celebrating by doing what Top Cats do best; ride, eat, drink, eat, party, eat, network, eat, and....enjoy the camaraderie of our fellow members....

Our collective and sincere thanx to Virgo for his vision and initiative and to past presidents Gary Brandt and Chuck Prettyman for making it all happen!!!

(Continued from page 3)

It has taken 7 years of intense research and development to perfect the rear view system that is fitted into every Reevu helmet. The patented multiple mirror system that is fitted within every Reevu helmet is a unique achievement of creative thinking and technical excellence. The mirror system is manufactured from a reflective polycarbonate material rather than glass. Unlike glass, this material is almost impossible to break and is lighter, providing additional safety and comfort to the wearer.

Put simply, this system effectively 'bends' the light around the shape of the head – all within the moulding of the helmet – to provide a clear view of the road behind.

Early prototypes were met with absolute astonishment. It is so stunningly apparent from the first moment a Reevu helmet is worn that it will really make a huge difference to the safety of the wearer on our roads.

With rear view motorcycle helmets now in full production, this unique technology is transforming the comfort and safety of those who wear Reevu helmets.



## SAFETY

Maximum protection and safety are a REEVU helmet's main requirements; shields are projected and manufactured with extremely evolved materials. "APC" is an exclusive technology to Reevu. Allowing complex shapes with tri composite material, capable of spreading impact power on the complete helmet surface. It grants

an excellent degree of impact resistance.

## IMPACT RESISTANCE, DIFFERENT SHIELDS / PADS

REEVU helmets are manufactured with 2 internal liners, 1 crumple zone absorption part, and external tri composite carbon shell. For the different sizes: the inner padding has a different thickness for all the sizes, which can be adjusted with accessory parts to add the bespoke fit and to add comfort and better impact properties.

## HOMOLOGATION

REEVU helmet satisfies the main European homologation ECE-ONU 22-05. However, this helmet has surpassed many other standards and is awaiting certification once the demand in the European community subsidies. This homologation involves extremely severe safety tests. The helmet is submitted to flexibility and bump resistance tests, simulating different impacts at different speeds. Power and length of the impact are measured, even at -20° and +50°, or in wet conditions and after extended UV ray exposure.

## COMFORT

Each, REEVU helmet manufactured is hand assembled with perfectly integrated spare parts and special padding. This offers the wearer substantial softness for high quality comfort. In order to prevent dampness inside the helmet, a material covering is used that is able to absorb and expel perspiration. The fabric gives a pleasurable feeling, and is easily replaced and washable.



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## the World According to **Andy**

**WE HAVE TO STOP CUTTING DOWN TREES**



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## VENTILATION

Effective internal ventilation is fundamental for comfort and safety. Riding in maximum comfort and feeling relaxed allows the wearer to give all the attention to the street. REEVU helmets are equipped with a ventilation system projected and tested; air will come in across front positioned slots, above and below the visor, moves along many pipes and holes, and comes out across rear slots, positioned near the rear glass. Rider's head is kept fresh and dry even in torrid climate.

## LOW NOISE

A major factor in the design of the helmet was to deliver a low noise solution to the many throbbing eardrums of motorbike helmet wearers. The unique design through wind tunnel testing has now prevailed to achieve that goal.

## APC MATERIALS

Ultra light shield, in composite materials, manufactured with evolved APC technology, allowing complex shape tri composite shells, capable of spreading impact load across the helmet surface. The shell is composed of carbon fibreglass, Kevlar and synthetic hi-tenacity advanced fibre, tied up from high-lengthening vinylester.

Internal shells are made in dual density EPS, very light with a high coefficient bump absorption, creating a structure with different density in order to have more impact distribution. Polycarbonate ventilation slots, that together with the channeling on the inside shell, allow the air flow inside the helmet.

Polycarbonate injected visor with high optical quality and easy refit. Completely removable and washable lining, for perfect comfort and cleanliness. Double D ring retention system.

**APC** is the high performance technology used for external shields. **APC** is Advanced Performance Composite, with two main characteristics:

### Strengthened layer composition

One of the peculiarities of APC is the shaping process. Generally a fibre helmet obtains its stability thanks to the polycarbonate material, soaked with combined material (as fibreglass) and heat hardened. The stability of the helmets

depends on the quality of the materials and on the mutual affinity of them. APC allows to create an organic fibre structure, which is three dimensional formed, creating a lighter shield with more stability, containing superfluous material accumulation and no rejection during the shaping process.

### Layer material

APC shield is composed by polycarbonate material, warmth hardened fibreglass layer and other organic fibres. Different light organic fibres are applied in appropriate positions, following the characteristics and design of the shell. An APC helmet has more lightness and flexibility, and the same stability.



## Quality

REEVU helmet is manufactured with the most developed technology and is hand made assembled. All the production units are submitted to severe quality control. The helmets are submitted to a computerized test of bump absorption and material density. Obviously all the helmets are also visually checked, in order to grant a top quality level of painting and global quality. REEVU helmets are manufactured at factories, with ISO 9001/2000 certification (cert. SQ02923).





## A TOP CAT YOU SHOULD KNOW....

Tony and Terri Loden first joined TopCats in November of 2009 and currently live in Rolling Meadows, IL. They have been married just short of 25-years. Terri is a domestic engineer and Tony is a Partner and Senior Consultant in the Chicago Operations Office for STR Building Resources, LLC, an architectural /engineering firm disciplined in exterior building envelope consulting for private commercial and educational facilities. After Sturgis this year, they will be returning to the San Francisco bay area to renew their vows on the same cliff in which they were married.

When their daughter left for college, they decided to "downsize", and the need for a new activity was considered necessary to fill the new found time... A new Harley Ultra!! Since that date four years ago long rides on weekends and the occasional adventure trips are the norm.



Recently, Tony and Terri, in their quest to travel on the bike, took a road trip with a motorcycle touring company involving five states, six national parks in seven days to circle the Grand Canyon in late April of this year.

After shipping the pre-packed bike the weekend before with the group's transport company, they flew from Chicago and arrived in Las Vegas on a Sunny Sunday afternoon and spent their first night at a hotel just off the Las Vegas strip. After checking into the hotel, the bikes for the group were ready and waiting for them in the hotel parking lot.

On Monday morning the group headed south

where their first stop was Hoover Dam. It was an amazing feat of engineering and construction and one has to see it up close to really appreciate its majesty.

After the dam, they headed north along Lake Mead towards the Valley of Fire State Park. Unfortunately the Nevada Highway Department had other plans. After riding fifty miles along the desolate Route 167, Lake Mead Northshore Road, they ran up against a road crew with stopped traffic. After discussions with the girl holding the stop sign they found out that the next 25 miles of roadway was loose pulverized pavement with huge ruts and not fit for any passage by any two wheeled type vehicle. The temperatures were now rising into the lower 90's and we all turned around and rode back to the beginning of the route near North Las Vegas. After a late lunch we continued northeast on the I-15 and spent the night in the St George Utah Area.

On Tuesday the ride was a short day with approximately 200 miles of twisties, sweeping curves, tunnels and mountain edge roads through some of the most beautiful scenery in the world passing thru Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon and numerous mountainous national forest roads and ended the day in Torrey Utah, at a little Best Western placed in the middle of nowhere.



Wednesday brought the longest riding day with stops in Capitol Reef National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Natural Bridges State Park. This day's ride again wound through some of the longest uninterrupted stretches of road with some amazing scenery including an open range cattle just standing in the roadway! Unfortunately a cold front was passing through and the high desert winds

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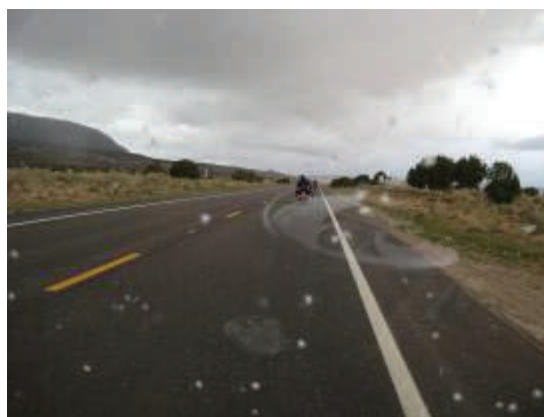
kicked up to 70 MPH with dust storms in the afternoon on the last leg of the ride from Monticello, Utah to Cortez, Colorado. Riding the last 80-miles at a 30-degree angle into the wind was tough, but the grit in the hair and clothing made everyone unmistakably filthy. The bikes definitely needed a thorough cleaning after that run.



Waking in Cortez on Thursday morning brought 20-degree temperatures and sleet; what a day to continue on the adventure, but hey isn't every ride about the adventure? Dirty air cleaners on one riders' bike stopped the progress at a local Honda dealership where Harley parts were unheard of. One of the mechanics ended up soaking and scrubbing the filter with soap and water just to get us on the road. The plan was to make a stop at the 4-corners National Monument. This is the only place in the US where you can be in 4 states all at the same time. Again, by surprise, the Navajo Indians closed the site for relocation of the monument marker some 15-feet from its current position! Don't you just love digital mapping? All of those who visited before, were really NOT standing in four states at one time but only in ONE with the others not far away. The rest of the day was spent cruising the long open highway through Monument Valley. While you may not recognize the name, you would recognize it from the very unique rock formations. The conclusion of the day ended in Page, Arizona.



Friday morning the group headed south and west where much of the day was spent at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is an amazing place that needs very little introduction. There we over spent our time and ended up riding over the Coconino Plateau and the mountain pass just after dark into Flagstaff. Well anyone that has ridden in the mountains knows not to be on the roads after sundown because the temperatures just crash!! Passing the 8,300 summit elevation, the temperatures dropped to a miserable 19 degrees; this was not including the wind chill from trying to make time at 60 MPH. Shivering and cold to the bone we limped into Flagstaff Arizona.



The last day of the road trip started heading west out of Flagstaff to ride on one of the longest stretches of the original Route 66 just west of Ashe Fork, AZ passing through iconic towns like

(Continued on page 13)



Kingman, Az. and Oatman, Az. By now the weather had turned, with sunshine and satisfying temperatures in the upper 60's and lower 70's. The trip continued through Bull Head City, NV, just south of Laughlin where it dropped from the upper plateau of the mountain range at 65 degrees to the valley floor at Bull Head City where it was a cool 85 degrees in a matter of 30 minutes. The group passed through and cruised up the back side of the Newberry Mountain range where the temperatures dropped back again to a balmy 65.



Then into California - only to pull a u-turn to say we were in five states finally arriving back in Las Vegas near dark.

"Sunday morning we loaded the bike back on the transporters trailer and flew back to Chicago that afternoon. All we can say is that it was an experience! If you have the chance to do this... take that chance."



***Thanks, Terri and Toni for igniting our imaginations! And please send us a few details on your Anniversary events. Congratulations on your 25 years and best wishes for great weather on the cliffs!!!***

***Anyone else out there with stories? Please send us details of the some of your travels, family events, – or information that you have on your bike. Send it to [roar@topcats.org](mailto:roar@topcats.org) . We look forward to hearing from you!***





## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

*BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS*



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## PRESIDENTS CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

help each other out in many ways. Good works between members go unsaid and untold. Realize you are in a special, select group of unique people. Many of us are in our 50's, 60's etc. and living the lifestyle and dream younger people envy. We may not all be the richest in a financial sense, but we certainly are - considering our experiences, friendships, hopes and dreams. Be proud of your Topcat status; have no doubt that bikers in other clubs know of us, respect us and yes, are in awe of our mission, accomplishments and esprit de corps.

Off to Sturgis in a few days; be safe and see you at our next members meeting, Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Villa Sofia in Wauconda. Remember, in September we will be meeting at a different location; the Anthem Grill in Palatine at 704 West Euclid Road (Northeast corner of Euclid and Quentin.) Phone is (847) 963-8920.

To paraphrase an infamous, Chicago divorce lawyer who ended up writing for Playboy Magazine and then suing Playboy for sexual harassment, "Life is short, Get a motorcycle."

Ride on,

Carl

# 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)

## HELP WANTED WEBSITE EDITOR

The Top Cats Board of Directors is looking for an enterprising and creative individual to assume responsibility for coordinating the content on our soon-to-be upgraded website. No 'technical' website experience is required.

The primary responsibility will be to work with the webmaster and various individuals who 'own' certain areas of the website to ensure our content is fresh and inviting as well as come up with ideas for additional content and enhancements to the site to bring more value to our members.

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



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### JULY 6TH, 2010

VILLA SOFIA RESTAURANT - WAUCONDA, IL

26400 N. RAND RD., WAUCONDA, IL 60084

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Carl Marcyan, Top Cats President.

#### Opening

The membership stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

#### Guests

Julio from Palatine HOG Chapter was recognized as our guest. Julio presented and spoke to the group about a Palatine HOG charity ride on 09/26 he called the Cancer Ride. 100% of the proceeds from this ride benefit the American Cancer Society Association. The ride is \$20 to register the day of and \$15 for early registration. The ride is 100 miles, lasts 2 hours and is sponsored by City Limits.

#### Ride For Dreams TC Charity Ride

Joan Derango, Co-Chair of the Charity Committee, spoke about the need to sell raffle tickets for the Ride For Dreams. Don Shaffer and Tony Loden have been our biggest raffle ticket sellers. Don has sold \$3,640 and Tony has sold \$4,150 worth of tickets. Tony attributed his sales to utilizing Don's previous recommendations to club members to email a letter for donations to all the contacts you have in your address books online. Don provided the letter and asked all members to try this to help solicit donations. Tony's success is a great sign of how successful this can be. Our president, Carl offered a Top Cats belt buckle to anyone who sold 15 or more raffle ticket books sellers in the club. He handed one to both Don and Tony in recognition of their selling at the meeting.

Joan also talked of our ongoing preparations for the July 25<sup>th</sup> event. Tom Malia has completed the ride route and it is ready to go. Gary Brandt is in charge of putting together the road captains

and organizing the ride itself for that day. He has gotten some volunteers and could use a few more. We are setting at Volo Auto Museum on July 24<sup>th</sup>. An announcement will be emailed early that week. Joan also reminded everyone to invite quests and other riders. She pointed out that we all know other riders outside the club and to invite them to come to our event and do the ride. She finished with a plea to do our best to drive our best possible donation to our charity, N.I.S.R.A.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans/Update and Top Cat History

Gary Brandt, Past President and event organizer, presented the 3 days of events, from July 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, to the club. July 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a banquet style dinner at DJ Bistro on the South-east corner of 22 and 12 in Lake Zurich. Dinner starts at 6:30. Send RSVP's by email to Gary Brandt.

July 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a "door to door" ride in the day ending with a pig roast at Chuck Prettyman's. There are (3) door-to door rides scheduled combining riders from the surrounding areas. The pig roast will have a live band and starts at 3:00. Chuck's is at 119 Deepwood in Barrington and is the third house south of County Line Road. Deepwood is a private road West of Bateman and East of Rt.25. You can access Deepwood via Bateman or County Line. The pig will be roasting on the property at 3:00 P.M. Music starts at 3:30. Motorcycles coming to 119 Deepwood Road independent of the Door to Door ride, please park in the driveway and leave room for larger groups coming from 3:00 on. Also cars are welcome and should park in the paddock south of the drive. This sounds like it will be a lot of fun and a great time.

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On July 18<sup>th</sup>, the last day of the event, there will be a ride to Eagle, Wisconsin. This ride is a "pay as you go" event. Meet for Breakfast at the broken oar at 9:00am. The ride destination has the original end point, Shhumer's Saloon, of the first fall charity ride, led by OJ. Gary is selling raffle tickets at \$5 each for a Top Cats belt buckle. The belt buckle raffle will be held at the lunch.

Wayne Kirkpatrick presented some history about the club and some of our traditions. One example was how the history of G.R.A.S.S. class and how it started by Ric Case and Wayne Kirkpatrick by a suggestion from Terry Kumro. Other stories were presented as well.

## **Activities**

Greg Smith presented the next activities to the meeting. Stefan Levy talked about the Big Cat ride, coming up on July 10th. Other rides mentioned on the schedule are the Byron's 5th Alarm Firehouse Ride on July 11th, the Ride For Dreams, our Top Cat's charity ride on July 25th and The State Police Heritage Foundation Ride on July 31st. Bard Boand spoke about the Sturgis Ride. The Sturgis Ride has (2) start dates; If you are riding to Rapid City with Bard Boand departure is on 4 Aug, for more information, email him at bard.boand@att.net.

If you are riding to Rapid City with Gary Brandt, departure is on 5 Aug. Email him for more information at cgb002@comcast.net.

## **Website/ROAR**

Andy Konsewicz spoke announced the July ROAR was released. Andy asked for articles from the Road Captains, Officers, Board members and anyone who else who has a story to tell about a ride, their bike or biking in general. The ROAR needs more articles. They can be large or small. Tell us about your latest biking adventure so we can put it in the ROAR and share it.

## **Membership**

Stewart Johnson presented (2) new regular members to the club who are Chris Heller and Todd Vanslyke. Chris was a member once before. They stood before the group and accepted

the honor of becoming a member of the Top Cats.

## **Safety/G.R.A.S.S./Safety Tip/Road Captains**

For the Safety Tip, Wayne Kirkpatrick talked about the importance of carrying a Next-Of-Kin card in case of accidental emergency when traveling. The card is essential for emergency medical assistance in case of accidents on our motorcycles. The card should have a contact in case of emergency and should contain all your individual, relevant and important medical information. The next G.R.A.S.S. class is on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Secretary's Report**

Muriel Brandt had nothing to report.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Tom Nichols was not present to offer his report.

## **Vice President' Report**

Mike Bradbury told the meeting that he was focusing on working on the Ride For Dreams and did not have anything else to report.

Carl and Wayne talked to us about the escort ride for Nick Bender on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The Top Cats joined with Chris Marcyan and Nick Bender at the Des Plaines Oasis on I-90 and escorted Nick along with others to Barrington where a large group and show of support was organized and ready for him. Nick appreciated the support and told Wayne later that this showed why he was in the army.

## **50/50 Raffle**

The raffle was won by Julio, our guest from the Palatine HOGs.

Meeting was adjourned by about 8:45.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**JULY 13TH, 2010**

**D&J BISTRO - LAKE ZURICH**

**Submitted by Muriel Brandt**

**Submitted by Muriel Brandt-Secretary**

**Present:** Mike Bradbury, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Gary Brandt, Muriel Brandt, Stewart Johnson and Larry Scalzitti

**Absent:** Carl Marcyan, Tom Nichols, and Dennis Dougherty

**Vice President-** Mike Bradbury called meeting to order at 7:30pm.

The Board discussed various issues such as the lack of details on the website. Gary Brandt reminded the board that road captains are responsible for getting their ride details on the web. Wayne Kirkpatrick suggested that the road captain mentors remind the road captains to do this.

Mike Bradbury reported that Joan DeRango posted details on website for the charity event.

Gary Brandt commented that the details for the anniversary weekend have been updated on the website as well.

Board members were reminded that articles for the Roar need to be written about their committees. Mike Bradbury suggested road captains write an article about their ride.

The board discussed plans to find a new place for the general meeting, due to poor service, and mediocre food. Gary Brandt passed out a form that could be used to find a new location. It listed the requirements for the club such as, room availability the first Tuesday of each month, room size to hold 60 people at no cost and nearby parking. President Carl Marcyan had suggested via email a place called Anthems at 704 W. Euclid in Palatine as an alternative and that we try this new location for the September meeting. Carl asked the board to decide and the board approved. Carl will be asked to email an announcement of the change for the September meeting.

### **Past President-Gary Brandt**

Gary commented on the great response for the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Planning for the dinner on Friday night is completed. Gary commended Chuck Prettyman for all he has done for the Saturday's pig roast and party. The door to door ride is set for Saturday and Wayne Kirkpatrick talked about the Sunday's ride to Eagle WI.

### **Activities-Larry Scalzitti**

Larry talked about trying to recruit new road captains to lead more rides. He mentioned the remaining rides on the calendar and the board discussed ways to get more people to lead rides.

### **Secretary- Muriel Brandt**

*(Continued on page 19)*



Muriel thanked Mike Bradbury for taking the minutes at the July general meeting.

## **Membership-Stewart Johnson**

There were no new members this month. Stewart asked the board members to make a point to talk to guests and new members to make them feel welcome.

## **Vice President-Mike Bradbury      Charity Ride update**

Mike updated the board on the charity event, regarding raffle prizes, lunch details etc.

Gary reported that 13 road captains will be available to lead ride the day of the event. The ride route is complete and has been sent to the road captains. A pre-ride is scheduled for after the event set up.

## **Safety and Awards-Wayne Kirkpatrick**

Wayne reported that Top Cat coins were still available for purchase.

He also talked about the upcoming G.R.A.S.S. class on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. He reported that Ric Case had confirmed everything was set up.

**Roar/Website-Dennis Dougherty-no report**

**Treasurer- Tom Nichols-no report**

**With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn at 8:55pm**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**  
to

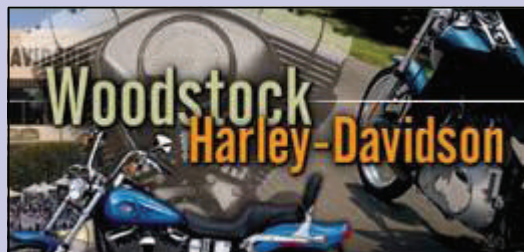
**Jim Hudman**  
**August 16<sup>th</sup> – 4 years!**

**Tony and Terri Loden Au-**  
**gust 30<sup>th</sup> 25 years!**

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The official meeting place of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

### Membership Has Its Privileges!

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## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Sunday, August 01	G.R.A.S.S. Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:30AM	Ric Case
Tuesday, August 03	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Wednesday, August 04	Sturgis-A	D&J Bistro Lake Zurich	Rapid City, SD	8:00 AM	Bard Boand
Thursday, August 05	Sturgis-B	Rt120 and Rt12	Rapid City, SD	8:00 AM	Greg Smith
Sunday, August 15, 2010	Wisc State Fair Ride	Rt 60 and 176	Wisconsin State Fair	8:15 AM	Mike Bradbury
Tuesday, August 17	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, August 24, 2010	Franks and fries	Dog and Suds	Richmond	6:30 PM	Larry Scalzitti
Tuesday, September 07	General Meeting	Anthem Grill	Palatine	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Tuesday, September 14	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30pm	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, September 19, 2010	Ride for Cheese	TBD	Monroe, WI	TBD	Eric Schertz
Tuesday, September 21, 2010	Franks and fries	Superdawg Drive-in	Wheeling	6:30pm	Larry Scalzitti

### 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.



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

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