



ROAR

March 2011

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Mike Bradbury



Howdy Gang,

Last month was fairly eventful, both with the weather and our club. February had the 3rd greatest snow storm in recorded history in our great Chicagoland area and for much of the country. And alas, because of the conditions and the arrival of the storm on the same day as our February general meeting, the meeting had to be cancelled. Unless your motorcycle had tire chains, you had a moving track on it or you simply were crazy, your bike should have been snug in it's heated environs of your choice, just like you were - with all being right in the snowy world.

But that didn't stop Top Cats from doing things in February. The Top Cats Annual Banquet Dinner on February 12th was a quite a fun evening. It was held at the Millrose Restaurant and we had the largest showing in 3 years. Thanks to the hard work of Wayne Kirkpatrick and others, Awards were issued for the 2010 season. Some were serious and others definitely not so serious. This Top Cat and your President is really enjoying the Top Cat of the Top Cats award. This new traveling award is awarded to the sitting President of the club. The lion head I received looks good on the wall in my family room where it can keep an eye on me. For more, see the photos on our website.

The Charity Committee has begun the preparations for our Ride for Dreams Charity Ride benefiting the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (N.I.S.R.A.). This activity is your chance to serve a greater purpose and to help contribute our support to help those less fortunate than us. We have supported N.I.S.R.A. for many years and it is a way to give back to our community and for us to do more as a club than ride our bikes. Terri Loden, Charity Committee Chair will be reaching out and asking for your help. We all should be proud of our rich tradition and past achievements with our charity! But this is now, and I am hopeful we will continue to assist the severely disabled children (and adults) at N.I.S.R.A. with our best for our yearly contribution. Please answer the call and help!

We Need YOU!!

Just an update to let everyone know that the Charity Committee has been hard at work beginning the planning for this year's Ride for Dreams. This year's date is Sunday, July 24th, so mark your calendars now so you don't forget! There are new ideas along with some of the old that should make this an event to remember. We will begin printing raffle tickets in April for those of you who wish to reserve your books. The raffle ticket price will remain at \$5.00 each or 5 for twenty. The raffle will be a \$1,000 Grand prize this year with a \$500 second prize and \$300 third prize. We are looking to solicit additional raffle prizes so if anyone has connections to Corporate Sponsors or Suppliers the Committee would appreciate your taking the initiative to secure their donation. Donations are tax deductible.

Terri Loden, Charity Chair

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 1 General Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting
- 20 GRASS Class

APRIL

- 5 General Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting

KAUTION KORNER

The days are getting longer and the snow is melting ...

By Greg Smith

We're all wanting to put these
Snowy days behind us and
Start the 2011 Riding Season!

But Be Cautious...



Many of us are already thinking of that first ride of the season and several others have already taken it. This, however, is the time of year when the most number of road hazards exist. There's a good chance the roads still have some potholes and significant deposits of salt, gravel and debris left from melting snow. If you're like most and are trying to get on the bike as soon as possible, there's that chance of another hazard, ice on the road; to be more specific - Black Ice.

Black Ice is very real and very dangerous. It is a thin layer of ice that forms without creating bubbles and this causes it to be transparent, allowing it to blend in with any surface it forms over. Black Ice usually appears at just about the freezing point and can also form when temperatures are above freezing. It is not uncommon to encounter Black Ice with an outside temperature above freezing because the condensation such as fog or dew settling on the still frozen surface can easily form Black Ice.

It helps to know where to expect Black Ice. It most commonly forms at night or early morning when the temperatures are at their lowest and also when the sun isn't around to warm the road's surface. It tends to form on the parts

of the road that is shaded from the sunshine, such as tree-lined areas or tunnel and forms more frequently on roads that are less traveled on. Yes, the roads we usually choose to ride. Black Ice readily forms on overpasses, bridges, and the roads beneath the overpasses because the cold air is able to cool both the top and underneath surfaces of the bridge or overpass, bringing a faster freeze.

Black Ice is so dangerous for motorcyclist and any motorist because the road appears merely wet and not icy. Under this condition riders should be prepared to expect little to no traction, little to no braking capability, extremely poor directional control and the high possibility of a skid. When you encounter Black Ice stop accelerating, try not to turn, and try to coast through it. If you must turn, keep the bike as upright as possible, do not lean the bike, rather shift or offset your upper body toward the turn. Braking must be done with great care and only with the rear brake. Using the front brake will cause you to slide and lose the little steering ability you may have had. The best thing to do is to stay off the road.



The Top Cats Gathered...

And the Packers ROARED!

Sunday, February 6, 2011 at EScape

Photos by Traveler; Comments by Mary Walters (Editing has it's privileges)



Place your bets!

Andy was keeping records and handing out the cash...
Packers were racking up points...
could it get any better?

Not in my book! And no, Wayne, GB does not stand for Go Bears!
For all of you Cubs, Sox, and Bears Fans.... There is always next year!
Thanks, Tony for the planning....



TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

BY TONY LODEN

March madness is here...

Well so far so good. The non-riding events for 2011 have been spectacular with high turn-outs of club members and even a few guests along the way. The International Motorcycle Show and the Top Cats Annual Awards Banquet are now just distant memories in our mirrors which has always been the passage into our new year.

Speaking of the new year, we have made some progress in getting some of the classic Top Cats rides on the Calendar. Make sure to take a look so you can mark these dates down and not miss the fellowship of a Top Cats ride!

We are still looking for Road Captains to step up and get on the spring calendar. In particular we need a Road Captain for our Annual Kick-off Ride in April which if you think about it is not that far away. It's never too early to plan a ride and lock in your preferred date, before someone else steals it away.

Also please keep in mind that the blast emails that you receive throughout the month are sent using an email marketing program that are scheduled days or even several weeks in advance. The RSVP replies are set up to be sent to the actual person who is planning the event and the email link is always posted at the bottom of the email in **LARGE TYPE**. Click on this link and your email program should open where you can simply say "I'm in..." and hit send. That's all there is to it. While I do monitor the TCATSRSVP mailbox, I will generally make an attempt to forward any strays to the proper people, but it may be days after and I would hate for someone to miss out because of a misdirected email. Click on the link, not the reply...

Remember, I would like to hear from any of you as to what ideas you have for activities and what questions you have about our past and planned activity lineup.



Also don't forget the monthly General Meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at eScape Entertainment Center, located at 350 McHenry Road in, Buffalo Grove, IL.



- **Sunday, March 13th**
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m
CPR and First-Aid Training
Everyone in the club should attend this class to learn the basic skills of CPR and First Aid. Watch for future blast emails or visit the Top Cats on-line Calendar for the location and RSVP requirements for this event.
- **Sunday, March 20th**
8:30 a.m. – Noon
G.R.A.S.S. Class and RC module
TopCats Senior Road Captains host GRASS class at the Keller Williams offices located near the NW corner of Rt14 and Rt53, in the Harris Bank building (the tall one). Open to all members and guests. Second Floor, enter in rear of building.
- **Friday, March 25th**
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
TopCats Evening of Rock
Stewart Johnson hosts a rockin evening at the James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts located at the Lake County College Grayslake Campus. The Philadelphia-based *Get the Led Out* will capture the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin re-creating the songs in all their depth and glory with the studio overdubs that Zeppelin themselves never performed live and brings it to the big concert stage. Tickets will be \$30/person.
- **Wednesday, August 3rd**
Thru
Wednesday, August 10th
STURGIS 2011
Top Cats member Bard Boand has finished negotiations with the Alex Johnson for our annual Sturgis trip. A block of 20 rooms has been set aside for Top Cats, and the unsold rooms from the block will be released to the public at higher rates June 1st. If you are planning on going, check the web-site calendar for more information.

Remember to check the web site – www.topcats.org for more activities information. And as always, call me on 847 652-6617 or e-mail me at: tcatsrsvp@comcast.net with your questions or ideas.

See You Next Month in the April 2011 Newsletter!!

Tony

Wham Bam: High Siding

By Traveler



The experience of High Siding is not a pretty, nor an enjoyable event. Before you can avoid it, you must know what it is, so here is a primer on High Siding.

Have you ever caught an edge in skiing? How about running, as a kid, and sliding on the ice on the driveway when, all of a sudden your shoes run off of the ice? High Siding is very similar. It is the violent, unforgiving transition from sliding, to traction, that usually catapults you ahead, up, and over the place that you thought you'd be.

On a motorcycle, you High Side or flip over sideways, when you inadvertently go from a sideways slide, to regaining traction. The rear tire will suddenly grip while the momentum of the bike and rider continue in the direction of the slide. Basically, you stop sliding too suddenly and you flip over. Not my idea of fun either.



There are a few methods to prevent, or to recover from High Siding. I'll talk to only one of the methods because of potential liability associated with discussing the other technique that is highly contested by professional motorcycle competitors. (I'll be glad to talk one - on - one with anyone.)

First let's look at the most common method of getting into a High Side situation -- sliding sideways. The most common cause of sliding sideways is locking the rear brake. When braking hard, the weight of the bike shifts to the front wheel. As much as 90% of the motorcycle's weight transfers to the front wheel, which is why road racers rarely use the back brake.

The front brake is just so much more effective

with all of that weight on it. Now, with the majority of weight transferred to the front wheel, the rear wheel does not have enough weight on it to effectively brake. The rear brake will easily lock the rear wheel and you, my friend, are in a slide.



Basic physics explains that a body in motion, i.e.: the rear end of your motorcycle, will seek the path of least resistance. Hence, the back end tries to pass the front end causing you to slide sideways. When you let off of the rear brake, IT WILL REGAIN TRACTION. This sudden gain of traction is what causes you to flip, or High Side. Now, you can learn how to control a bike in a slide or you can learn how to prevent a slide that could cause you to High Side. We need to look at preventing a slide first.

If sliding is caused by over braking and locking up the rear wheel, then let's figure out how to prevent over braking. There is only one right way, and that is to not step on the pedal so hard that you cause the rear wheel to lock up. If it does lock up, let off of the pedal, motorcycle upright, and start pumping your rear brake for a controlled stop, before the bike tries to go sideways. Shifting your weight to the rear as you brake will put weight on the rear wheel and help that rear tire grab better but, you can't do it on all bikes due to different saddle styles.

There are a few techniques used by competition riders to help prevent over braking, all of which will decrease the braking performance characteristics of your motorcycle. I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT YOU APPLY ANY OF THESE TECHNIQUES!!! I am simply informing you of how the racing community deals with it.



First, they relocate the brake pedal so that the pedal angle is below the horizontal line. This makes it harder to apply full pressure to the brake because you cannot push the pedal to full lock as easily. In a panic stop, your body slides forward and a lower brake pedal is much harder to push as you slide forward. If they have mechanical brake linkage, they adjust the linkage so that the pedal must travel farther down before the rear brake engages. Some racers will induce air into the rear brake line to make the pedal spongy and less responsive. Others will file grooves on the pedal surface to make their shoe slip on it. Notice on modern race bikes, the rear brake is very small in diameter.

Another, NOT RECOMMENDED, technique is to file lines in the rear brake pads to decrease brake surface area and efficiency. Drilling holes in the rear brake pads also works. The end result of each technique is to hinder rear wheel lock up. However, you can accomplish the same thing by practicing panic stops without modifying your motorcycle.

If you're going to practice panic stops, and you should, do it in a large parking lot or an area that has no traffic. Obviously, you have high potential to drop your bike if you don't brake right during practice. Plan for the worse and do not practice around traffic. If you do go down, you don't want to get run over also. Safety permitting, run up to about 15 mph and try to lock the rear wheel. Some bikes might have to go a bit faster to be able to lock it up. A few times of slow speed lock up will give you a sense of what it feels like without having to worry about the bike sliding sideways. You will notice that the rear of the bike wants to pass the front as you lock the rear brake. You can counter that by shifting your weight to keep the rear end in line with the front end. Don't try to get too proficient at keeping it in a straight line by shifting your weight. Rather, try to keep from locking up the rear wheel altogether. If you have ABS, practice it also even though ABS will mitigate rear - wheel lock up.

Learning to keep it in a straight line, and getting the feel of doing so, doesn't do you a bit of good when you have a passenger on board. That added weight affects your braking characteristics and you cannot effectively counter the shifting weight of the passenger. As you try to stop, the passenger will invariably slide forward, getting very intimate with you.

As you gain confidence and can pick up speed, try locking the brake then pumping it to regain control of that rear wheel while slowing. Once you are comfortable with controlling the bike with the rear wheel locked up, and you can counter the rear end trying to pass the front end by

shifting your weight to the opposite direction of the slide, you can practice using judicious use of the front brake to enhance your braking. NOW BE CAREFUL! Too much front brake will cause your front wheel to wash out and you will Low Side. The rear end will also want to pass the front end and put you into a slide. Same results--you are down! Be particularly conscious of the road surface. Using too much front brake on a slippery surface, or on gravel, will also put you down.



Having mastered the touch of using the rear brake just short of lock up, now practice supplementing the rear brake with the front brake and not locking it up either. Practice until you are comfortable with the technique of rear brake -- front brake--keeping the bike in a straight line, and coming to a safe, upright, fast stop. (You can practice this technique each time you stop while highway riding also.) A TIP: When you practice braking, do not look at your brake handle or at the pedal. Keep your eyes on the horizon in front of you. This will actually help you to sense which way to shift your weight if the bike starts to slide. Hopefully, you'll never have to try it in a real panic situation, but if you do, you'll be ready! Now this entire technique is for a straight - line, level stop. Stopping in turns or on off - camber surfaces is an entirely different technique, suitable perhaps for another article.

This exercise in getting to know your brakes will make you a more proficient rider, a safer rider, and help you to stay out of extreme situations that will lead to damaged skin and a scratched bike. Or is it the other way around? Additionally, if you High Side with a gorgeous lady on the back, studies have proven that your chances of any romantic encounter with her will decrease in direct proportion to her injuries, so take this stuff seriously!!!

Watch for a future article on panic stopping with ABS (Anti - Skid Braking System) and LBS (Linked Brake Systems).



Motorcycles in the News

Tidbits of information, comments, and sites for the informed rider

Compiled by: Mary Walters

- If you love to ride the big bikes, but aren't big enough to pick the bike up (just in case)... Here is the site for you. Check out this device...

<http://www.uprightmfg.com>

- Here is an article on the next International step for Harley from a site called the *Motley Fool*. Interesting.... You may have to cut and paste this one.

<http://www.fool.com/investing/international/2011/02/15/this-is-the-future-of-harley-davidson.aspx>

- And for those of you planning Sturgis, but haven't been before—or even if you have been before—this site is a great summary... and it's from the *How it Works* website.

<http://auto.howstuffworks.com/sturgis-motorcycle-rally.htm#mkcpgn=kaw1>

- And in case you didn't see this one yet, here are Bikers Honoring Representative Gifford... One more reason to be proud to be a biker.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7270650n>

President's Corner... (Continued, page one)

February 13th we met for breakfast and attended the Cycle International Show. Plenty of bikes, leather and gadgets to rev us up and get us back to thinking about bikes and riding. It was quite enjoyable!

A Dipsomaniac Experience on February 19th hosted by Andy Konscewicz and Bocce Ball with Lenny Innocenci on February 27th were more chances to meet and socialize and helped keep us socializing together in the month.

In March, we have a CPR Training class being held at eSkape on the 13th. For a small fee this is a good chance to update or learn CPR skills. Your Safety Committee is presenting a G.R.A.S.S. on March 20th which is a great time to complete this and keep your group riding skills up to date to keep us all riding safely. We extended invitations to other clubs and their members, as we can all benefit from safe group riding, so it would be nice to see club members show up in strength too. And on March 25th, Stewart Johnson is hosting a concert event to see a band called Get The Led Out at the College of Lake County. See our website for more information!

Tony Loden, our Activities Committee Chair is busy but we need Road Captains to start putting together rides for the coming season. Now is a great time to plan and prepare. You do not have to be a Road Captain to come up with ride ideas and if you have some, see one of our friendly RC's and share. Or better yet, consider becoming a Road Captain! There is nothing more exciting than seeing your motorcycle club following you on YOUR idea of a terrific ride.

Well that's it for February, but March and more is coming. Let's keep looking forward for when the roads are dry and we are all riding and ROARing together on some nice roads.

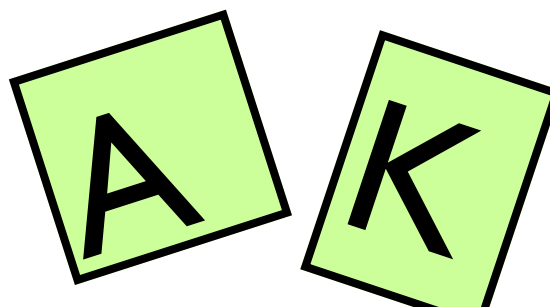
Your Top Cat,
Mike



the World According to Andy

Thoughts – Old & New

- The tooth fairy teaches children that they can sell body parts for money.
- Cats are intended to teach us that not everything in nature has a function.
- Women are like cell phones. They like to be held and talked to, but push the wrong button, and you'll be disconnected
- Life was so much easier when your clothes didn't match and boys had cooties!
- I sometimes wonder if the manufacturers of foolproof items keep a fool or two on their payroll to test things
- The reason grandchildren and grandparents get along so well is because they have a common enemy.
- Reality is a hallucination brought on by lack of alcohol
- Love makes the world go round? Not at all. Whiskey makes it go round twice as fast
- Teenager with nose ring, baggy clothing and spiked hair to friend: I don't really like dressing like this, but it keeps my parents from dragging me everywhere they go.
- You've reached middle age when all you exercise is caution.
- Isn't it amazing how nice people are to you when they know you're leaving?
- Like vinegar to the teeth, and smoke to the eyes, so are the lazy to their employers
- One time a windshield wiper will work properly is when it's holding a parking ticket
- Nothing in the world is friendlier than a wet dog
- He who laughs last probably didn't get the joke
- Nothing is so embarrassing as watching someone do something that you said couldn't be done.
- Everyone has the ability of making someone happy, some by entering the room, others by leaving it.
- One cannibal to another after eating a clown, "did this taste funny to you?"
- If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?
- I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours.
- After looking at the bill for my operation, I understand why the doctors wear masks in the operating room.



Andy Konsewicz



Master of Ceremony,
Keeper of TC History,
And Award Maker...Traveler



Carl to Mike.
Passing on Traditions
Look below for the final trophy!



Don and Alice keeping the Val-
entine Spirit..... SAFELY!!!



Top Cats Banquet February 12, 2011 Oh What a Night!

Pictures by: Traveler
To see ALL of the fun,
Visit TopCats.org

Toni and Terry...
25 years of Happy!



Andy's Table . AK—
Always making people smile!



New Tradition!
Mikes new Head



Past President , Carl Marcyan
Came to keep things in order!





How I Got “A-Head” at the Top Cats Annual Banquet Dinner.

By Mike Bradbury, THE Top Cat

(I'll explain later in my article what the title means. It's not what you may think).

The Top Cats Annual Banquet was held at Millrose Restarant on February 12th. The evening was a typical cold February night with plenty of snow on the ground left from our February 2nd snowstorm. Our dinner was in the Stockyard Room which as a plus, has it's own exit and entrance from the parking lot. The Stockyard Room has a “Northwoods” look with exposed wood beams, ornate wood carved furniture and a fireplace and cash bar to keep us warm. This was the Top Cats third year in a row for the dinner at this venue and deservedly so as they did a real nice job with our event.

While pictures of our 2010 events were projected on the screen, members appeared to be having a good time chatting and sipping beverages before the dinner was served. We also had a few guests attend including our founder's son, Nick Bender. Unfortunately not all who planned to come could make it due to last minute emergencies but we had a very decent showing of 53 people in attendance so needless to say, the “joint was jumping” and it was a lively group.

Dinner was quite nice as has been in the past afterwhich we had a nice desert of apple pie with Cinnamon and ice cream. After filling ourselves, Awards were handed out.

Wayne Kirkpatrick really did a great job in managing the awards. This included issuing ballots, putting together the program, organizing presenters, creating the awards and more and he deserves a big thank you for all of this for the hard work he did in putting it together. Muriel and Gary Brandt deserve a thank you too as they created and mailed the invites and collected all the checks. The awards went off with military precision. Award recipients from last year presented awards for this year for such things as; Quietest Bike, Loudest Bike, Most Scenic Ride, etc. which refreshed our memories and gave us a chance to remember what we did last year as Top Cats. Major awards too were given. As the Vice President of 2010, I would have given out the Vice President's Cup to recognize service to the club but unfortunately my awardee was out of town at the last minute. I will be doing that at our March general meeting. Your new president also received some interesting “awards” including the “2 Spot” and the club “Gavel” which does cause pause for consideration of creative ways to use them. I also am now the recipient and caretaker of one of our founder, Virgo Bender's original cigar box from his cigar business. I will have to construct a fireplace in my house so I will have a mantle to set these things on. That will be easy. It's the last award I got that was real interesting.

The president is considered the Top Cat of the Top Cats and to honor this a new award was given this year. This award is a replica of a stuffed lion's head (not a real one). Since it is realistic it is quite large. I suspected it came from the Museum of Science of Industry but it's origin was actually some Rain Forest Restaurant that likely no longer exists. And contrary to popular thinking, I did find a place for it on the wall in my family room where it hangs today. It is awesome! See the pictures for this and the whole time on our website.

It was good to say hi to some whom I haven't seen for awhile and hi to those I see all the time. There was a lot of ROARing that evening, mostly from laughter. Luckily the lions head was mute.

And that is how I got “A-Head” at the Banquet Dinner!



BOOK NOW– Limited Rooms Available

Here we go again, a Top Cats tradition. The Little Sturgis Rally in Davenport. Three fun packed days of riding, eating and just having a good time.

We meet on Friday morning at the McDonalds-Gas Station located on the corner of Rt176 and Rt14. Meet in the morning no later then 8:00, gas up and be ready for a pre-ride briefing at 8:15. Kickstands up at 8:30.

We will have a revised route this year as we travel west over Illinois, across the Mississippi in Clinton Iowa to out lunch stop. Maid Rite of course. Then on to Davenport where we stay at the Radisson Davenport. Weather permitting, a late afternoon ride to the local HD store. In the evening its dinner at the Front Street Brewery. Sample the micro brews all you want, we're walking!

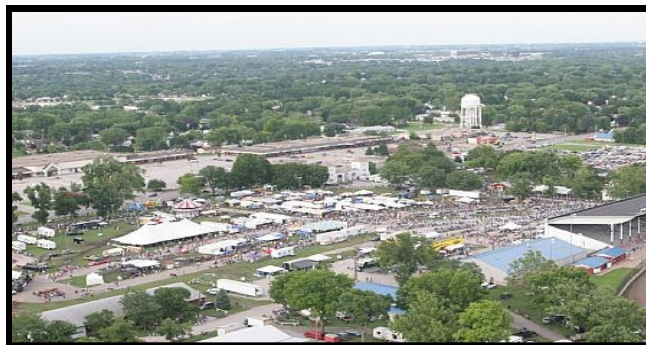
Saturday has a real treat in store for all. A direct ride up to Anamosa Iowa for stops at J&P Cycle and the all new National Motorcycle Museum. After Lunch its on to the rally. Dinner that night is open, but a late night trip to Whiteys Ice Cream is a must.

Sunday we head to White Pines State Park for their famous Fathers Day Brunch. Then its back home.

You can call and reserve your rooms now at 563- 322-2200. Make sure you mention the Top Cats. Treat yourself on this Fathers Day Weekend!!



Radisson Hotel-On the Riverfront



Rally Location-Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds



Tech Talk—Security for your Smartphone

Taken from Kim Komando Website

You've heard it said over and over again: You need to protect your personal information. It used to be that you just had to worry about securing your computer. But now you have a mini-computer in your pocket. Yes, you're smart phone also has piles of sensitive data on it. And hackers are hungrily waiting to break into it. Protecting your phone and data doesn't need to be difficult. I have a bunch of apps that will help keep your information safe and sound.

Find my iPhone (\$100/year) - Thankfully, you can track your iPhone. One popular method is Apple's Find My iPhone. It comes packaged with Apple's MobileMe service. You can get it for free if you have an iPhone 4, iPad or fourth-generation iPod touch. With Find My iPhone, you can track your phone using its GPS coordinates. So you'll know exactly where you left it. Or if the worst happens, you can see if someone is trying to wander off with it. If you need, you can wipe the phone remotely. This app lets you track your phone from another iOS device. If you want to track your phone from your computer, watch my video at TVKim.com. It provides step-by-step instructions for tracking an iPhone from a computer.

Lookout Mobile Security (\$30/year) - Lookout Mobile Security can help keep your phone safe. The free version has antivirus and anti-spyware capability. It also backs up your contact data. And it can help locate a missing or stolen smart phone. For \$30 a year, you can upgrade to the premium version. This adds a tool for vetting third-party apps. And it can back up photos and call history. You can also perform a remote wipe or lock on the phone.

WaveSecure (\$20/year) - WaveSecure from McAfee is an all-encompassing solution. With it, you can see the location of your lost or stolen phone. You'll even be able to monitor phone calls made with it. And you can track SIM cards inserted into it. As far as your data goes, you have a few options. You can lock down your phone remotely. Or wipe it remotely. Thieves won't be able to access its contents. And better yet, you can back up your phone remotely, too.

1Password (iOS: \$4; Android: Free) - Having a different password for each site you visit is an important security precaution. But it can be difficult to remember them all. That's where this app shines. 1Password lets you store the usernames and passwords for all the sites you visit. Instead of entering them each time, the app does it for you. All you need to remember is your security code.

SecureVaultPro (Free) - SecureVaultPro is an encryption app. It lets you create encrypted folders on your removable media card. The folders are password protected. So you need the password to see what's inside. Inside the app you also have a place to create encrypted passwords. That makes it useful as a password manager. You can also create encrypted notes to further protect your information.

Folder Lock (\$4) - On your computer you have ways to encrypt sensitive files. Encrypted files require a password to be view them. With this app, you can do the same thing on your phone. Folder Lock has a self-explanatory name. You can password-protect virtually any file on your iPhone. You just tap on Folder Lock, type in your password. You have access to your stuff.

Spam Arrest (\$4/month) - Who likes spam? Absolutely nobody! You don't tolerate spam on your computer. So why should you on your iPhone? Spam Arrest is a spam filter that stops spam before it gets to your e-mail. You first create an account at Spam Arrest's Website. Then you can manage your filter settings from the app.

SpamDrain (\$30+ /year) - SpamDrain is a yearly service you can sign up for. It deletes the spam before it even reaches your inbox. It's a cloud-based affair, so you can use it with multiple devices. You can also set it up to monitor multiple accounts. But the price per year increases as you add accounts. The basic service protects up to 4 accounts for \$30 per year.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Muriel Brandt



Meeting Called Due to the Snow
Storm...



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

Present: Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Muriel Brandt, Larry Scalzitti, and Greg Smith

Absent: Carl Marcyan, Mary Walters and Stewart Johnson

Guest: Tony Loden

Meeting was called to order at 7:38pm by Mike Bradbury, Top Cats President

Secretary- Muriel Brandt : No report

Treasurer- Stewart Johnson (absent): No report

Charity Ride

Mike Bradbury and Gary Brandt recapped the first charity ride meeting that was held with the 2011 committee chairperson Terri Loden and Tony Loden. History of past charity events were discussed and 4X6 flyers were designed. A list of key jobs was created and suggestions



made as to whom in the club may be able to do them. Future committee meetings will be planned by Terri.

Vice President Report-Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Wayne reminded the Board about keeping good communication by including all Board members in emails.
 - Wayne spoke about negotiations between the Alex Johnson and Bard Board (road captain for the Sturgis ride), regarding rates and accommodations for 2011 Sturgis week. More details will follow as Bard gets them finalized.
- Wayne went over the schedule of events for the banquet, including the tasks that the various Board members will be doing as part of the awards section. He also gave an update on other items that are complete for the banquet.

Membership-Greg Smith

No new members were presented. There also was no update on the status of 2011 renewals available as the information is not yet collected.

Safety-Gary Brandt

Gary reported that the safety committee chairman (Don Schaffer) is working on setting a date for a senior road captain meeting sometime in late February or early March. He discussed that we are expecting a lot of guests for the March GRASS class.

Past President-Carl Marcyan (absent): No report

Activities-Larry Scalzitti

Larry is talking to road captains to help get rides on the calendar.

Tony Loden (Activities Chairman) reviewed the rides currently on the calendar. He was directed to only put rides on the calendar that had a road captain.

Larry discussed the March 13th CPR/First Aid class. Cost will be between \$35 and \$45 based on attendance.

ROAR/Website-Mary Walters (absent)

In Mary's absence Tony and Larry led a discussion on making some changes to the web site. Setting up a merchant account payment system on the web site that would cover items such as dues payments and ride registration fees (for Charity Ride) is the first priority. This was originally part of a previous plan created last year. They were directed to work with Mike and Mary as board members and Dennis Dougherty (web master) to discuss the idea further.

Old /New business

Mike rescheduled February's general meeting guest speaker for the March general meeting. Denise Maples from Va Va Vroom, will be speaking on business experiences and women in motorcycling.

Mike asked the Board to try and locate speakers for future general meetings.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.



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Bocce Ball With Lenny Innocenzi

Pictures and Comments By: Mary Walters
(Again, Editing has it's privileges)

Date: February 27th, 2011

Place: Highwood Bocce Courts

Time: 4pm to 8 pm

Food: Provided by Buffo's.... And Lenny

For the 3rd Annual Top Cats Bocce Night, it was another good night filled with Buddies, Baccé, and BBQ. Highwood was the place and Buffo's was the food... Put them together there was no better place to be or time to be had!

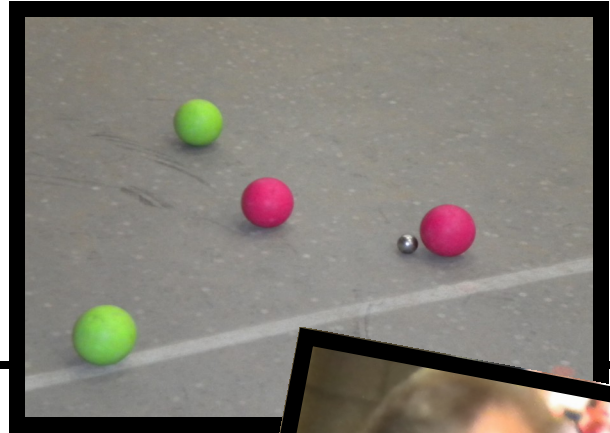
For those who were able to make the event, Lenny gave us lessons and practice time. Thanks, Coach! - Sorry about the picture, but you weren't standing still long enough to get a REALLY good shot!

After the practice, the rivalries began. On Court Two, there was a lot of bantering and discussion between throws. Andy Konsewicz could be seen regularly on the court with his measuring tape. Must have been a close game over there...

On Court One, balls from the Red Team were all over the place, until JPC Joe Fiedler placed a ball right next to the ba-len. Faye Braun followed his lead with numerous (too many to count) perfect shots! I believe that her new 'riding name' is SLEEPER? Or maybe RINGER... since you don't want a 'sleeper' on the back of the bike!

I will have to find someone to update me on Courts Three and Four... A lot of hoopin' and hollerin', but I wasn't close enough to make any observations... O.K... I wasn't paying much attention—Embarrassment kept me from looking up too often! I will have to say, though, that I was pretty good when no-one was looking... that's MY red ball up top—right next to the baleen! And NO... I didn't place it there as I was walking by!

For those of you looking to see how you looked that night, more pictures are available on the website. There are pictures of people on the court, eating, laughing, talking... and all against the backdrop of the Academy Awards and Frank Sinatra Music. Thanks, Lenny! The group is grateful and will roll out the red carpet for YOU at next year's event! I think I'd take being with the Top Cats over any award at the Academy event.... Plus... The Lion's head is definitely more impressive for a home decoration... Right, Mike?



People were standing in line—again and again - for the food, which was excellent.

Pizza, Chicken, and Ribs

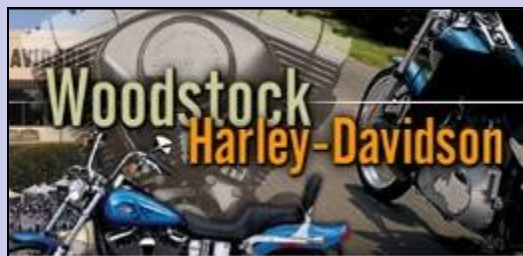
Finger Licken' Good—
Right, Tony?!



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Membership Has Its Privileges!

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

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

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



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, March 01	General Meeting	Eskape	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Mike Bradbury
Tuesday, March 08	Board Meeting	Eskape	Buffalo Grove	7:30pm	Mike Bradbury
Sunday, March 13	CPR Training	ESkape	Palatine	1pm	Larry Scalzitti
Sunday, March 20	GRASS Class	Keller Williams Of- fice	Palatine	8:30am	Ric Case
Friday, March 25	Evening of Rock	College of Lake County	Grayslake	7:00 pm	Stuart Johnson
Wednesday, August 3	Sturgis	TBD	TBD	8am	Bard Board

Remember to check the web site – www.topcats.org for more activities information. And as always, call me on 847 652-6617 or e-mail me at: tcatsrsvp@comcast.net with your questions or ideas.

Tony

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**

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at

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