



# ROAR

July, 2011

Volume 11 Issue 7

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## Inside This Issue



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Cats!

Greetings to all you wide grinning, bug chewing Top Cat riders and your passengers. We finally are getting the dry weather we deserve to ride our bikes as much as

possible. I just finished riding the Little Sturgis Almost In The River Ride, led by Gary Brandt to the Quad Cities and I am pleased to report NO RAIN occurred on his rides. This is monumental as those who have done this ride before know! We have experienced flooding, tornadoes, torrential downpours, dogs and cats sleeping together and just about all things associated with water on this ride but for the first time in a long time, NO RAIN! Congratulations to Gary on another fine weekend outing to Davenport and the rally!

Larry Scallzitti, Director of Activities has recently asked for road captains and others interested in becoming RCs to step up and lead a ride. We have weekends open for rides through the summer and into the fall. What is first and foremost for the club is riding, so for road captains, you all should lead at least one ride this year. Lead more if you are able. For those who are not road captains but want to do a ride, see a road captain or senior road captain for assistance and get started. For me, it is a very fulfilling experience to lead the club on a ride and I believe it will be for you too.

While we can use more rides on our calendar, some rides and events are coming up for you to join and enjoy. We have another weekend ride running July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> coming up called the Mississippi River Run. It will be led by yours truly. This is a 3 day ride with some very nice scenery which also travels the Great River Road on the Iowa/Minnesota side. The next scheduled ride is on July 16<sup>th</sup> called the Rainbow Confection Run, led by Dennis Dougherty for all you sweet tooth lovers out there. Franks and Fries, organized by Larry Scalzitti is July 19<sup>th</sup>. These are destination only events and are always fun to do. AND you get to try out some of our area's legendary hot dog places! Then there is the Ride For Dreams on July 24<sup>th</sup>. You all should be registered for this ride and trying to invite your biking friends outside the club to join us. It is important we do our best to support our charity, NISRA (Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association). The next scheduled event for July is G.R.A.S.S. class on July 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a great chance to brush up on your training for safe riding. Lastly, the mother of them all, the 2011 Sturgis Rally, led by Bard Board. This is multi-day ride and is an epic journey which has always proven memorable.

Well that's it for now. I will be seeing you on our next ride with the rubber side down!

Ride Safe!

Your President,

Michael "Motorcycle" Bradbury

*"4 wheels move the body, 2 wheels move the soul"*

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## Upcoming Events

### JULY

- 2-4 Mississippi River Run
- 5 General Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting
- 19 Franks and Fries
- 24 RIDE FOR DREAMS
- 31 Grass Class
- 31 Lunch on the Lake

### AUGUST

- 2 General Meeting
- 3-10 Sturgis Experience!
- 9 Board Meeting
- 16 Franks and Fries
- ? Your Ride Here ?



## KAUTION KORNER

### LOVE THOSE GRAVEL BACK ROADS

By: Bard Boand

Sr. Road Captain



So, do you get intimidated with gravel, or curse at the road captain because of road construction, or are afraid to venture off the pavement to those quaint hide-a-ways you've only read about in magazines?

We'll, here are a few tips to help you overcome these issues, build your self confidence as a rider, and take you places you've only dreamed about... There's a whole new world out there once you leave the pavement, or, if you never want to leave the pavement but the road captain forces you to traverse a mile or ten of road construction and gravel, this should help.

1. Empty your intestines before you leave if gravel concerns you.
2. Turn off your ABS, if your bike is so equipped, before entering long stretches of gravel or dirt. On some bikes, ABS (anti-lock brake systems) are integrated with both the front and rear brake. In other words, when you active EITHER the front or the rear, you actually get braking on BOTH. Hummm...you don't want that front brake locking up when you hit only the rear brake do you? NO...in the dirt, most of your braking should be done with the rear brake.
3. STAND UP on the pegs. (If you can. It's hard if not impossible, on most Harleys due to the pegs positioned as front bumpers) but if you can, STAND UP. This lowers your center of gravity from the seat to the pegs, and enables greater balance control by having the ability to move your weight around from right side to left side, and front to rear. Hard to do from the seat, comes instinctively when on the pegs. Whether you're standing on the pegs on your BMW, or sitting on your throne with your feet stuck out front on your HD, "squeeze" the tank with your knees. This also improves balance and centering weight.
4. RELAX on the handle bars, let them "free flow" and let the front tire follow the terrain, ruts and contour of the road. Don't fight the bars or natural tracking of the bike...stay loose on the handle bars and ride it out.
5. KNOW YOUR LIMITS...self explanatory. Adjust speed accordingly, and remember you can always turn around and paddle out with your feet. Be careful, however, of hitting the rear passenger pegs when you "Paddle" with your feet down.
6. LOOK UP and LOOK AHEAD. You have all heard about "target fixation"...you will go where you are looking. If you are looking at the rut or stone right in front of you, you will hit it. If you are looking up ahead and down the road, your God given sub-conscious reflexes and coordination skills will get you there...get you exactly to where you are looking.
7. Balance and Body Position. Unlike being on a paved race track, in the dirt or gravel, your weight should be on the OUTSIDE of a turn...shift weight by standing on or putting pressure on the right or left foot peg, right or left side of the seat if on a HD, and keep weight OFF the handlebars. Remember, light and loose on those bars. Going UP HILL...move weight to the front, going DOWN HILL move weight to the rear.

OK...saddle up and find a gravel road and practice. You'll now LOVE the gravel! You'll then sell your "styling cruiser" and go out and buy a dual sport adventure touring bike.

"The Adventure Starts where the pavement ends"



July 24th, 2011

## A Note from Mike 'Motorcycle' Bradbury

Top Cat's President

Your Charity Committee has been working hard and diligently to prepare this year's Ride For Dreams on July 24th, starting and ending at Woodstock Harley Davidson. This is our 16th charity ride which is our tradition to support N.I.S.R.A. (Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association) benefiting disabled youth and adults in 13 local communities with physical programs to enrich their lives.

It's time for all Top Cats to stand up and be counted! Rider registration is being emphasized for our contribution this year and every Top Cat that can ride should support our club and attend this ride. As a Top Cat, this should be given your highest priority. Since the beginning of the year, the ride has been scheduled for July 24th so you all should have saved the date. Doing this ride is the barest minimum a Top Cat should do to support one of our own chosen causes... so I expect to see everyone there! Not to mention it is a lot of fun. The charity is a great way to actively spend time together and it is very rewarding to assist in supporting this extremely worthwhile event!

Come and do the ride but don't just come alone! We all know bikers outside the club and it is imperative to build the best donation by inviting other bikers to register for our ride. We all should be able to bring at least (2) other riders. You can invite bikers that you know to register from within your work contacts, family members and HOG chapters that you may belong to... or just your friends that ride. I do not believe this is an unreasonable request. And this creates the opportunity to show your buddies your club what a great bunch of people the members are! Who knows, they may want to ride with us more often and might go the next step and consider becoming a member.

Now, thanks to the hard work done by Tony Loden, we have the ability to register for the Ride For Dreams online. We all should register now for the ride. This is your ride and you should be on it. Do something about for your club and to help NISRA. It is something that you can be proud you did! Be a Top Cat and register for the Ride For Dreams!

The Barrington Area library has finished archiving about 100 pages of our club photos.

They are found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barringtonhistory/tags/topcats/>.  
Check them out... and see how things used to be..



## 2011 Davenport Mississippi River Rally, Not Quite on the River

By Gary Brandt



Since 1997 when Bard Boand started the tradition, the Top Cats have been attending the rally in Davenport. For the past 5 years it has been my pleasure to road captain the second oldest, continuous ride in the organization. This year was the first in quite some time that there was no rain for all three days. The bikes were dry in the morning and despite a lousy weather forecast (rain all weekend), we enjoyed nice temps and saw the sun once in awhile.

The routes once again were changed up to include some new roads and stops, while still including some of the best repeats, such as the Great River Road. This year the annual quest for a Maid Rite was satisfied at a new location in Clinton. Opened only a short time, we found a much larger parking lot with easy access. An extra bonus was the close by location of Clinton Harley Davidson. After lunch we made a quick stop there and then on to Davenport

While the location has now been permanently moved from the riverfront to the County Fairgrounds, the Radisson is still one the best hotels around and has remained the headquarters for the Top Cats. Friday afternoon we rode out to Weiblers Harley. That evening some walked over to the ballpark and watched the Quad City (Cardinals) beat the Peoria team (Cubs). The rest walked over to the Front Street Brewery for a more standard dinner. (although the foot long brats and burgers at the game were pretty tasty). Later that evening it was drinks, cigars and lots of storytelling out on the pool deck.





Davenport Continued...



This years Saturday ride included a return to J&P Cycle. Then we visited the new Motorcycle Museum that recently opened in Anamosa. Replacing the one that used to in the downtown area, the new version is much larger and actually worth the price of admission. We also saw a very modern version of an air freshener. (picture above).



Then it was on the rally. Vendors, music, and lots of bikes filled in the Fairgrounds.



What has become a new tradition for this ride is the much anticipated stop at Whiteys Ice Cream. Desert before dinner? No once seemed to mind.

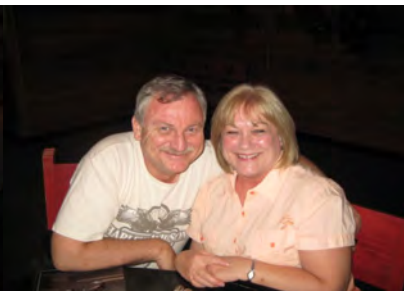




Davenport Continued...



Muriel and Gary



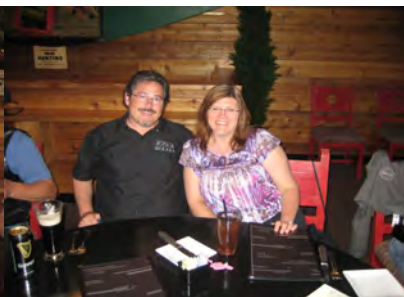
Greg and Jane



Kathy and Mike



Dennis and Brian



Gene and Noelle



Tony and Terri



Larry and Joy



Larry and Judy



Russ and Theresa



Wayne



Fred



Glen



Jeff

Smiles are testimony to the  
Dry Days and Nights in Davenport!





Davenport Continued...

Sunday brought us back to White Pines State Park for their Fathers Day Brunch. From there it was a short ride to Starks corner and the official end of the ride.

Special thanks to those who provided much needed assistance for this weekends events. Greg Smith for his mentoring skills, Dennis Dougherty for a fine job as tail gunner and Muriel Brandt who does all the reservation and other phone work, not to mention all the pre-ride assistance. Without their help this weekend would not have been possible.

To all of the guests who joined us this weekend, we hope you had a good time and look forward to seeing you as members some day.



**Mark your calendars for 2012 Fathers Day Weekend as the Top Cats will be returning. Don't miss out on all the fun !!!**



## TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

**YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS**

**BY TONY LODEN**

Well summer has finally arrived.

***Not much to say this month except that I've been riding instead of writing.***

As I work diligently to put a few words together for this column on the heels of our Annual Ride to Davenport Iowa for the Mississippi River Rally, it was a great success with over 13 bikes and 20+ members in attendance. Kudo's to Gary Brandt our time honored Road Captain, who this year was able to keep the rain away until the Monday after our return. From what I understand, this was the 15<sup>th</sup> annual ride to Davenport as this is a yearly tradition set by our founding fathers of the club.

Speaking of traditions, think about a really unique place that you would want to share with the club and set a date to begin your annual tradition. It only takes an idea and a Senior Road Captain to plan a route with you and guess what, your annual ride will be the talk of the club in years to come!!!

Here is a look ahead to some of the upcoming events from the July Calendar...

- **Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Thru**

**Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

### **Mississippi River Ride (Bradbury)**

This ride starts in Crystal lake and travels Northwest to Trempealeau, WI. Take the "Ride to Elmers" which travels thru the back roads of Southwest Wisconsin's Coulee Region. Monday brings us back home to Illinois. Read more about this ride in the Events Calendar.

- **Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

### **Rainbow Confection Run (Dougherty)**

This is a relatively short and leisurely ride that is all about the destination where riders and guests can overindulged their nectarous gustatory desires with a rainbow of saccariferous delicacies all in the spirit of fun.

A confection connoisseur's delight, this ride will bring a smile to anyone's face who fancies a sweet tooth and has access to a good dentist.





Calendar Continued!... July is a busy month so please make a point of marking the dates so you do not miss the action!!

- **Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

## **Franks and Fries (Scalzitti)**

Country Dog - 1886 E. Belvidere Road, Grayslake, IL. Here's another chance to meet up with your motorcycling buddies in a different social setting. Eating starts whenever you get hungry and conversations last until you're talked out. Open to all members and guests.

- **Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

## **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride for Dreams**

This is it!!! OUR charity ride and we need YOU to attend. Get involved by helping at the ride, or just being there with your fellow Top Cats. Make this ride a priority for the party of the season!

- **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**8:30 a.m. – Noon**

## **G.R.A.S.S. Class**

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.

- **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

## **Lunch on the Lake (Schaffer)**

Immediately after the GRASS Class, have lunch at Kathy's Lakeside Inn in Lake Zurich. After lunch it will be leisurely roads with a break in McHenry for leather shopping at Kelly's and ice cream at Scoopers. For those who will not attend the GRASS class, arrive at 12:30 for target kickstands up at 1:00. Gas up before the ride as there will be no scheduled gas stops.



Continued on  
page 11

## Top Cat's Catch of the Day NISRA's Fishing Derby

Ever wonder why Top Cats supports NISRA as their charity? It only takes a few minutes of helping out at the Annual Fishing Classic to understand. Fifteen Top Cats did just that on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. The group first met for breakfast at Mill Creek Inn in Wauconda. (Road Captains if you're looking for a good start point that includes breakfast, Mill Creek was great) The group then headed off for a short but scenic ride on the back roads of Lake County and Southern Wisconsin. The ride ended at the dock on Bang's Lake in Wauconda – but this is where the fun really began. Some Top Cats help set up tables and chairs in anticipation of the arrival of the Fishing Classic Participants. A few others set up our tent, bikes and camera allowing for a photo opportunity for participants.

It wasn't long before the participants and the NISRA staff began to arrive and we witnessed firsthand the care and guidance NISRA staff provides and the absolutely unbridled joy of the participants. While everyone settled in for lunch some participants headed over to the photo tent for an opportunity to sit on a bike, put on a biker vest and get their picture taken. Thanks to Don Schaffer, photographer extraordinaire and his able assistants – Tony Loden and Joan DeRango many were treated to the thrill of "sitting on a Harley" (yes, Tony's bike was the most popular choice), having their picture taken and receiving an official ride pin. Each person received a printed picture to take home.



Top Cats helped in serving lunch and then sat back and watched as the fishing awards were announced. Watching the winners run, skip, stroll or dance their way up to front to accept their trophies made me realize that I had a lot to learn from NISRA staff and participants. Sometimes I can get so caught up in all the challenges in life – work, taking care of my family, worrying about the economy, politics, war... that I miss the simple joys of life. The smiles on faces as pictures were taken and enthusiastic cheers heard when names



were announced, told the real story of the day – Lesson: find joy in the little things and give joy to those around you in simple ways. That's what NISRA does, every day for people whose life has special challenges! ...AND that is why Top Cats proudly supports NISRA as our charity!

Don't forget to do your part in supporting our charity – Register for the Ride for Dreams, talk to your friends and get them to sign up, volunteer to help either at the Tree House or at Woodstock Harley Davidson on the day of the ride, donate raffle items or ask

your favorite vendors to donate. Give a little of your time and money to help support a very worthy cause. I promise you'll get so much more than you give. Visit [www.nisraride.org](http://www.nisraride.org) to register – talk to Terry Loden or any of the charity committee members to find out how you can help.





Calendar Continued!... July is a busy month so please make a point of marking the dates so you do not miss the action!!

Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thru

Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>

## STURGIS 2011

Top Cats member Bard Boand will be leading this ride to the Alex Johnson in downtown Rapid City for our annual Sturgis trip. If you are planning on going, check the website calendar for more information.

**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.**

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

Ride Safe!!!

*Tony*

## QUICK QUIZ!

TEST YOUR MEMORY OR EXPERIENCE!

BY CHUCK PRETTYMAN

*You have a guest riding with Top Cats. He/She is inexperienced. Where should the rider be positioned in the group?*

*(Safest and/or recommended by Illinois Motorcycle Operators Manual)*



**\*\*Answer on Page 17\*\***

(Diagram of Safety Spacing)



## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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



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## ***So You Want to be an Iron Butt Rider...***

***By Larry Scalzitti***

Long distance riding is something that you either get or don't. It's hard to explain the satisfaction that one gets from accomplishing a ride that others think is just too hard to try. I believe that this compulsion that some of us have is really an outgrowth of being task driven individuals.

Distance is just a matter of perspective. Before I ever thought about riding far on a motorcycle I rode far on a bicycle. When I was in graduate school in the late 80s we could only afford one car, so guess who used a bicycle for his daily transportation. One day a friend of mine suggested that I join him on a 12 mile bike ride. I thought he was a lunatic – 12 miles on a bicycle – who in their right mind would do that for fun. Well, he eventually wore me down and 12 miles really wasn't that far. A few years later we found ourselves stationed on the tiny island of Guam. It was here that I really got into bicycle riding. Then we moved to Annapolis, Maryland and I discovered the Rails to Trails path between Baltimore and Annapolis. I really fell in love with long distance riding on those long winding trails and side roads. My normal day soon featured a 30 to 50 mile bike ride. Eventually I was completing "century" rides – 100 miles - and beginning to do multiple day long rides, usually as part of a fund raising effort for charitable organizations. I couldn't get enough and then we moved back to Chicago and it wasn't as easy to ride anymore.

I soon fell in with motorcycling and it didn't take long for me to switch from sailing the seven seas to riding down a number of long lonesome highways. I ran into some folks on the road on my first trip to Alaska. I had been routinely riding 400 to 600 miles a day and thought nothing of it. Every mile was a good mile and I couldn't get enough. I would get up and ride until it got dark or I got tired and I couldn't wait to get on the bike the next day. The two guys that I met had just finished their first 1000 mile day and told me all about a group called the Iron Butt Association. I didn't know it then, but they hooked me right there and then.



To become a member of the Iron Butt Association (IBA) you must complete an entry level ride called the SaddleSore 1000. To read about the history of this ride and learn about the rules for the ride visit this web page. <http://www.ironbutt.com/ridecerts/getdocument.cfm?DocID=1>

In reality many of the Iron Butt rides are doable by any motorcyclist if you have the right mindset and take the time to prepare both your bike and yourself for the ride. There are a number of TopCats that have completed Iron Butt rides. Some documented their accomplishments others have not. If you want to see all of the different rides that are certified by the IBA, take a look at this web page. Be warned that you may find a ride that you feel you **MUST** ride. <http://www.ironbutt.com/ridecerts/>

I'm getting ready to plan a few long distance rides for the remainder of this year. If you have always wanted to try an Iron Butt Ride, let me know. My intentions are to lead an Illinois 1000 and then either a Lake Superior 1000 or a Lower Great Lakes 1000. Target date for the first ride is July, so let me know soon. I want all potential riders to be included in the planning and the preparation phases of the ride. The more effort you put into this part of the ride the more likely you'll be successful on your first attempt.

(Continued on page 15)



## The Kingdom of Davenport

*A return to Yesteryear... 1995*

By Traveler

Off they rode to the *Kingdom of Davenport*....

In ancient times, knights of old would gather to ride to new lands, driven by the excitement of adventure and the thrill of discovering new riches. Typically, knights were in the king's employ and the ride was to conquer and lay claim to new territories for the kingdom. Crusade leaders were of royal heritage, kings, queens, and knights who were considered gallant nobility.

Thousands of years haven't changed much as the Top Cats – Illinois mount up once again to ride to foreign lands, motivated by the thrill of discovery and the excitement of adventure. As Chicago – area business owners and executives, the Top Cats are not too dissimilar in composition to the knights of old. Motorcycles have replaced their horses. Leather has replaced their armor, and credit cards have replaced their weapons. The thrill, the adventure, and the excitement remain the same. Their destination and purpose, however, have evolved to a more civilized purpose...a crusade to the *Kingdom of Davenport*.

The new lands are Davenport, Iowa and the surrounding countryside. The conquering is limited to reservations at castle – quality establishments like the Duck City Bistro as guests of Sir Charles, and the Radisson Quad City Plaza hosted by Princess Kim Bothel. The celebrating is focused on the annual *Sturgis on the River Rally* held the second weekend in June at the behest of the event organizer, King Glenn Rohn.

With the perseverance of crusaders and the anticipation of good times, the Top Cats will gather on Friday to ride 150 miles through the Valley of Thunder from Barrington, IL to Davenport, IA. Scenic routes winding through small villages and meandering asphalt paths such as Stagecoach Trail and Great River Road leave riders wondering if they'll capture a glimpse of Robin Hood and Little John as they ride through rural fiefdoms on the way to the *Kingdom of Davenport*.

Once settled in the "Kingdom" on Friday evening, patrols are dispatched to scout out and report on the activities at the rally including vendors and bands. Nothing is left un

discovered as the patrols return to the Castle Radisson to report on the rally activities, gambling boats, restaurants, and other opportunities for adventure and enjoyment.

Plans of attack are made, times of departure are set, and the raiding parties are afforded only a few hours of sleep prior to the Saturday morning launch of their mass expedition. In prior years, they have attacked north, along the Mississippi River, east through spacious plains, and south along river flats and rolling countryside.

Regardless of direction, the land yields adventures memorable to every rider and frequently embellished to be retold to those unfortunates who did not join this year's Top Cats' Crusade to the *Kingdom of Davenport*.

Saturday night, as bright lights and music replace the warm sunshine, steeds secured in the stable, they'll gather to partake in drink and merriment at their annual evening "*Feast of the Duck*" hosted by Sir Charles and his fair lady.

Laboring under the euphoria of the feast they'll struggle with how to spend their few remaining hours in the "Kingdom". Small groups will quietly infiltrate downtown to the mass of vendors surrounded in a fog of music. Others will spend their evening enjoying local entertainment within a few minutes trek of the "Castle". Some will venture aboard a floating casino bolstered by a feeling of good fortune. All will return with wallets empty, saddlebags full of pillage, and minds filled with memories.

Sunday morning's return to Chicagoland will only seem longer. It happens that way after a weekend of enjoyment. Why will they ride off victorious...yet less enthusiastic than when they came? Great memories will mix with the realization that they will have another year until the next great Top Cats' Crusade to the *Kingdom of Davenport*....

*And 16 years later.... The tradition continues!*





This is the reason for the NISRA RIDE Season!



## Iron Butt ... Continued

A few years ago I organized and led a group of five riders (4 TopCats) on a Lake Michigan 1000. We all made it! Our accomplishment was recognized by a certificate and our names etched in internet stone. Here's what appears on the list of IBA certified finisher's page.

### Lake Michigan 1000 Finishers (1,000 miles around Lake Michigan in less than 24 Hours):

Bekki McNamee	Schaumburg, IL	08/14/04	Honda Shadow 750	1,090
David L. Adler	Aurora, IL	08/14/04	BMW K1200LT	1,090
Kenneth D Massara	Palatine, IL	08/14/04	Honda Gold Wing	1,090
Bill Ryan	Elk Grove Village, IL	08/14/04	Yamaha Road Star	1,090
Larry Scalzitti	Barrington, IL	08/14/04	BMW R1200C	1,090



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

**JUNE 7TH, 2011**

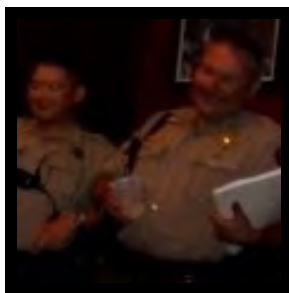
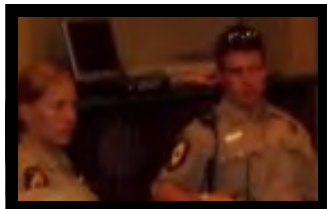
**ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by President Mike Bradbury

### Opening

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

Guests Illinois State Police Officers, Rich Kozik, Liz Diaz and Ben Chikaraishi



### Traditions

Wayne discussed the Black Bandana Tradition. This is a symbol to other clubs of a Top Cat member who has died. The black bandana stays on the handlebars of club members until there is another fallen member and then the bandanas are placed in the casket and new bandanas are put on handlebars.

### Vice President-Wayne Kirkpatrick

Wayne spoke about the Rolling Thunder trip to Washington D.C. which several Top Cats attended. Some of them spoke about how the trip affected them emotionally while placing flags on grave sites, riding in the parade and seeing national pride. Everyone concluded that the trip was very rewarding.

### Membership-Greg Smith/Jeff Tietz

Nothing to report

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

- Don passed out a laminated card that contained guidelines for Road Captains to follow when doing the pre-ride meetings. They are only intended to be a reference and not simply read.
- Ric reminded everyone that the next G.R.A.S.S. class will be July 31<sup>st</sup>, 8:30am at Keller Williams.
- Tom Malia gave the safety tip. Some of the items he talked about included being more visible while riding in rain, by getting a colored rain suit and gloves instead of basic black. He also talked about being careful going over railroad tracks which will be slippery, along with roads in general. He suggested checking your tire tread so you have good traction in wet weather. You could also look at the radar map of area to try and avoid driving in severe conditions.

### ROAR -Website-Mary Walters

Mary reported that the ROAR was finished and available on-line. Mary asked for help publishing or collecting articles for ROAR.



## Guest Speakers

Illinois State Police Officers, Rich Kozik, Ben Chikaraishi and Liz Diaz presented a slide show with the various laws for motorcycles. They talked about many things including:

- Riders must have protected eyewear.
- Handlebars may not be higher than the driver's shoulders.
- Exhaust pipes should be no louder than stock.
- Bike must have at least one rearview mirror.
- At all times you must have at least one headlight on.
- Helmets are not required in Illinois.

Rich Kozik also went over the statistics of injuries and fatalities.

### Quick Safety Quiz Question:

You have a friend riding with the group and he/she is an inexperienced rider. Where do you place them in the line-up of bikes?

Answer: Behind The Road Captain

## Activities-Larry Scalzitti/Tony Loden

- Tony reviewed the calendar pointing out the upcoming rides.
- Tony also talked about the new on-line payment feature for registering for the Ride For Dreams charity ride.

## Ride for Dreams Update

- Judy Scalzitti passed out the flyers for the Ride for Dreams.
- Chuck Prettyman announced he will be leading a pre-ride, for the Ride for Dreams.

## Old/New Business

- Wayne talked about the trip to Sturgis.
- Wayne reported that there are still some Top Cat coins available for purchase.

This month's 50/50 was won by Dan Daczewitz who donated it back to NISRA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm



## Remember:



July 24th, 2011

Contact Terri Loden for more information!

Terber06@Comcast.net





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### JUNE 14TH, 2011

ESCAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

**.Present:** Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Muriel Brandt, Larry Scalzitti and Mary Walters

**Absent:** Carl Marcyan, Stewart Johnson and Greg Smith

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Mike Bradbury, Top Cats President

#### Vice President Report-Wayne Kirkpatrick

Wayne reported that the Top Cat archives were finished with 2400 pictures and suggested putting a link on the Top Cat website for these.

Wayne talked about articles in the ROAR that might be plagiarized. Mary said she would put a notice in ROAR about it and also it was suggested to send an email blast to remind everyone to be careful not to copy articles word for word, or make certain you get written permission from the author.

The Board asked Wayne to look into ordering more Top Cat coins.

#### Safety-Gary Brandt

Gary reported that the G.R.A.S.S. class is set for July 31<sup>st</sup>. The safety tip is set for next July's general meeting.

#### Activities-Larry Scalzitti

Larry talked about some of the upcoming rides and is looking for Road Captains to schedule rides and fill open dates on the calendar.

#### Financial Status

No report was given.

#### ROAR/Website-Mary Walters

It was suggested to go back to old editions of ROAR and reprint some of those articles again. This would help the members get a better understanding of the past.



Thanks for your dedication...  
and for staying awake!



Larry... Larry....  
Well.... He deserves a rest. He's been busy making sure that motorcyclists enjoy a safe and fun ride... LRN2RYD makes for sweet dreams!

(Continued on page 19)



Our new on-line payment was discussed. A letter will be sent to membership to encourage them to pre-register for the Charity Ride.

## Old /New business

- The Board discussed the status of preparations for this years Ride for Dreams and asked Mary if she could get an update at the next Ride for Dreams committee meeting.
- Gary suggested sending an email to the Road Captains when Mike pre-rides the ride for the Charity Event.



With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.



## WANTED

**Co-Editor (or Publisher) wanted to work on the ROAR.**

**Get to know all of your Top Cat Riders! Fun and Excitement!**

**No experience needed... Just a love of passing on information and creating interesting and informative communication for your fellow Top Cat Members!**

## Birthdays for July

Happy Birthday  
to  
YOU!!

Larry Scalzitti July 1

Gary Brandt July 3

## Support the TOP CATS Patrons



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 and McHenry Harley-Davidson

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





## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Saturday, July 2nd	Mississippi River Run	Mc D's at 14 /176 Crystal Lake	4 States on the Mississippi	8 am	Bradbury
Tuesday, July 5th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 am	Bradbury
Tuesday, June 12th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30	Bradbury
Saturday, July 16th	Rainbow Confection Run	TBD	TBD	8:30 am	Dougherty
Tuesday, July 19th	Franks and Fries	Country Dogs	Grayslake	6:30 pm	Scalziti
Saturday, July 24nd	RIDE FOR DREAMS!	Woodstock Harley Davidson	Woodstock Harley Davidson	8:00	Brandt/Prettyman
Sunday, July 31st	GRASS Class	Keller –Williams Harris Bank Bldg.	Palatine	8:30	Brandt/Case
Sunday, July 31st	Lunch on the Lake	Harris Bank Bldg	Palatine	12:30	Schaffer
Tuesday, July 5th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30	Bradbury
Tuesday, July 12th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30	Bradbury
Wednesday, Aug 3rd – 10th	Sturgis	Check Website for Details	Sturgis, SD	7am	Boand

### 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.



**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)**