



ROAR

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



With the end of December approaching, we close the books on our 16th successful year as a motorcycle enthusiasts' organization. For the old timers, you've seen a tremendous transition to a world – class organization made possible by a small group of business owners. For the newer members, you've experienced the results of a great effort put forth by the men and women who have a love for the club, enthusiasm for our sport, and a loyalty to our membership. At the very basis of our success lies a passion inherent to every rider who has served on a committee, as a director, or as an officer of Top Cats. Our continued growth and success depends on maintaining a group of officers and directors who have the leadership, the skills, the capability, the dedication, and above all, the passion for our club.

On December 6th, at 7:30 pm, we will meet at eSkape in Buffalo Grove to vote and confirm our officers and directors for the 2012 term. The slate is rich in talent with candidates who have demonstrated their capabilities in past contributions to the success of the club. Your task will not be an easy one as you will be asked to select candidates from a group of the club's finest members. As you make your decision, consider the qualities you would desire in someone who is charged with guiding our club in a direction that will benefit the majority of our members. Think very seriously about such traits as leadership, maturity, dedication, management skills and, above all, a passion and commitment to the club first, to our sport second, and to themselves last. While we discourage campaigning, simply look at a candidate's past dedication, contributions, and conduct to determine their potential for continuing to lead the Club forward.

Before you cast your vote, ask yourself three questions regarding any candidate; 1.) Do they have the skills to do the job? 2.) Do they have the desire to do the job? and 3.) Do they have a history of being a team player who will put the club's interest above their own personal agenda?

Our continued success, and the future of Top Cats, will be determined by your vote on December 6th. If you consider Top Cats your club, I know that you will show up and vote with the same enthusiasm and support that you displayed for our rides, for our events and for our annual Ride 4 Dreams. If you don't vote, you have given up the most valuable resource you receive for your membership fee...the opportunity to contribute to the direction and growth of your club! See ya December 6th.

Let's Roll, **Traveler**

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JANUARY

- 3 General Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting
- 14 Awards Banquet
- 22 Road Captain GRASS
- 28 Movie Night

FEBRUARY

- 7 General Meeting
- 14 Board Meeting



KAUTION KORNER

How Do We Become Better Riders?

by Larry Scalzitti, Senior Road Captain

One of the most important things that motorcyclists can do is to continually strive to become better riders. Every time we climb on our bikes, the goal should be - that at the end of the day we're better riders. The desire to constantly improve helps us to grow and develop. If you say to yourself that there is nothing you can learn - that you know everything there is to know - that you are the best rider you can be - then it's time to stop riding - you're an accident waiting to happen. Now I know some of you reading this will take issue with that last statement, but I believe it and I hope that you'll be open to what I have to say.

I think we can all improve our skills in a number of ways. Tom Malia addressed this last year with his safety tip about a riding course that Dennis Dougherty, Tom and myself took together on the back roads of Wisconsin. I think that becoming a better rider is a valuable topic and worth revisiting as we enter the winter and can substitute the time that we ride with time for learning.

Rider Improvement Step 1

We all know our weaknesses, in life and in our motorcycling skill set. Take some time this winter and make a list of things that you'd like to improve on. Then when you ride in the spring pick one thing from that list to work on. Make it a habit to reflect on each ride - before (goals), during (monitoring) and after (reflection and analysis) each ride.

Rider Improvement Step 2

Every rider should have as a minimum at least two books in their motorcycle skills library. They should

be reread every winter as part of your ongoing rider improvement program. I read and reread these books multiple times each year and I always pick up on something that has slid to the back of my mind. No matter how many times I've read it before, there is always a new way to see something and I always end up walking away a little smarter for the time spent. You can get David Houghthem on Amazon for less than \$20 each. The rest are excellent reads as well. Ken Condon and Pat Hahn's books are the newest on the list. Larry Grodsky and Reg Pridmore are tremendously talented riders who have written wonderful books and expertly share their collective knowledge. Here's my short list of books to read.

- *Proficient Motorcycling* by David Hough
- *More Proficient Motorcycling* by David Hough
- *Riding In The Zone* by Ken Condon
- *Maximum Control: Mastering Your Heavyweight Bike* by Pat Hahn
- *Stayin' Safe: The Art and Science of Riding Really Well* by Larry Grodsky
- *Smooth Riding the Pridmore Way* by Reg Pridmore

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Board Candidate Information

On the next pages, you will be able to see the qualifications of the Candidates running for your Board...



QUALIFICATIONS

WAYNE KIRKPATRICK
POSITION: BOARD PRESIDENT

Top Cats Club Experience (16 years)

- Top Cats 1996 - 2011 continuous service Board/Committee
- ROAR Publisher 2006 - 2007
- Road Cpt Comm 2005 - 2008
- Serving Past President 2003
- Committee of Past Presidents 2003 - present
- President 2000 - 2002
- Vice President 1999 - 00 and 2011
- Director 2008 - 2009
- Secretary/Treasurer 1996 - 99
- GRASS Comm 1999 - present
- Activity Comm 1998 - 99
- ROAR Editor 1997 - 2000, 2003 - 05
- Safety Comm 1997 - present
- Charity Comm 1997 - 1999
- Membership Comm 1996 - 97

Top Cat Contributions

- Reorganized current TC Board structure
- Developed Board member responsibilities
- Established Top Cats Historical Archives
- Established Top Cats' riding protocol
- Lead first 3,000+ mi Top Cat Adventure Ride
- Lead over 39 TC Rides
- Original GRASS Developer
- GRASS Instructor
- Road Captain Mentor
- Co-authored Road Captain Program
- Developed Senior RC Program
- Formed Committee of Past Presidents
- Initiated TC Awards Program
- Initiated Meeting Safety Tips and ROAR Safety articles
- Initiated Vice President's Award Program

- Authored 365+ ROAR articles
- Initiated Road Captain Star Recognition
- Initiated Black & Gold TC Board patch
- Initiated TC Bike Flags
- Donated Top Cats Club Flag
- Initiated Annual President's Ride
- Initiated Road Captain rockers
- Initiated black memorial bandana
- Initiated Sturgis Veteran pins

Top Cats Recognition

- First Founder's Cup recipient
- Member of the Year (3x)
- Most Top Cats Rides (3x)
- Most Annual Miles (2X)
- Most Miles in 24 Hours
- Road Captain
- Senior Road Captain
- Senior RC Gold Star
- ROAR Service Award

Motorcycle Experience

- 53 years riding experience
- Chairman, Rolling Thunder 2006 - present
- Director, N. IL Posse 2000 - present
- President, Knox MC Assn 1971-73
- President, US/Euro Racing Team 1974-78
- Director, Pikes Peak HOG
- Member, Palatine H.O.G 1995 - present
- Member Illinois ABATE
- Iron Butt Association Record Holder - 2001
- 9th Nationally Certified MC Safety Inst
- AMA Pro Racing License
- AHRMA, Pro Racing License
- ADAC (FIM) Pro Racing License



Board Candidate Information Continued....



Gary Brandt

Position: Vice President

As the Top Cats enter into this next phase of growth and healing, it will need leaders that can use past experience and strong organization skills to provide the path for future success. Personal gain must not be a part of the recipe.

Since joining the Top Cats in 2002, there have been many areas where service and dedication have been a high priority from a personal level.

- Road Captain
- Senior Road Captain
- Activities Committee member
- Activities Chair
- GRASS Instructor
- Charity Committee member
- Award Banquet Committee
- Safety Committee member
- Road Captain Lead
- Vice President
- President
- Director
- Founders Cup Award Winner
- Vice Presidents Award Winner

The most critical financial improvement was leadership for the conversion of the ROAR from print to electronic copy. This saved the Top Cats \$9000 a year which represented nearly 80% of our income. As the Road Captain lead several key items were instituted including detailed tracking of Road Captain qualifications and the definition of the mentor process. Whenever in leadership roles, the focus was always on fiscal conservatism and anything that facilitated more rides for the membership.

Keeping with the mindset that riding is the key to membership satisfaction, significant effort was placed on developing rides that provided interesting destinations and opportunities for social interaction. These included the Door County Ride, Wisconsin Dells Ride, Peoria State Hog Rally Ride and the Hoosier Run. Providing leadership for the Davenport Ride for several years kept that tradition alive. There have been a total of 17 rides so far and God willing, many more to come.

Since getting back into riding in 2001, the Top Cats have provided the foundation for service in other organizations as well including leadership in the local Rolling Thunder Chapter (Vice President-President) and working with members of the POSSE (other local motorcycle groups) to help us all work together for the mutual benefit of the riding community.



Board Candidate Information Continued....



Andy Konsewicz
Position: Vice President

As a Top Cat since 2004 and a participating member in multiple committees, a past director, and current road captain I am well qualified for the office of Vice President. As a single, self-employed homeowner, listening and observing are key business traits that I will bring to the Board of Directors. Member concerns will be my guide.

Motorcycles have been an integral part of my life for 43 years; that's why I joined a club designed to be a social, riding group. Soon after joining I spent two years on the Membership Committee with Lynn Adams. Following that experience, the Charity Committee beckoned and two more years of experience gave me additional perspective on what makes Top Cats work.

With that background the membership voted me onto the Board as a Director.

Three years as publisher of ROAR while also story contributor was almost as frustrating as it was rewarding. Nothing went on that was not included in ROAR. I was always current with what was happening.

Today I am still a Road Captain and have lead several successful rides. Those are the ones that bring back the same number of riders that we started with. Rather than continuing to lose members, it is my goal as Vice President to not only retain the members we have, but to be an inviting club that will attract additional riders and active contributors to the Top Cats organization.



Board Candidate Information Continued....



Stewart Johnson
Position: Treasurer

I have been a Top Cats member since 2007.

Top Cats Contributions:

- ◆ As Director in charge of Membership for 1 year, I worked to make all new members feel welcome and wanted.
- ◆ And as Treasurer for 1 year, I brought a neglected Quickbooks program up to date.
- ◆ I have been a Road Captain for two years and have led rides each year that have drawn a large group of Top Cats riders.

Recognition:

- ◆ **Most improved rider certificate.**
- ◆ Safest Rider certificate
- ◆ **Best ride certificate.**
- ◆ CPR certificate
- ◆ **Accident Scene Management certificate**

Last year, I personally raised \$700 for NISRA and have participated in 80% of the rides each year since I've joined the Club. I did a lot of riding before and after college, but took some time off to concentrate on business. But, I started to ride again in 2006.



Board Candidate Information Continued....



Mary Walters
Position: Secretary

Top Cat Experience

After attending and enjoying a number of Top Cat Events over the 2007 riding season—including Sturgis - I joined Top Cats of Illinois in 2008. Wanting to contribute in some way to the club, I took on the position of Editor for the ROAR.

Top Cat Contributions

- ♦ Editing the ROAR for the past three years has been my major contribution to our Club. For 2009 and 2010, I worked with Dennis Dougherty and Andy Konsewicz to create the monthly publication. For the past year, I have been serving as Editor and Publisher and have enjoyed working with the membership to develop articles and areas of interest for each month.
- ♦ Contributions toward the *Ride for Dreams* Committee include overall support positions for the past three years, and site organizer for the NISRA staff and NISRA participants in 2011 at the Pepper Tree House. At the Tree House, the riders at the event were given a chance to see how their money will work in support of NISRA events.
- ♦ For the past year, I have been a part of the Board and worked with Dennis Dougherty and others to keep the website current and the information relevant. The ROAR is also a focus for the Board and part of the work that I have been doing as a Board member.

Top Cat's Recognition

- ♦ 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award for work on the ROAR
- ♦ 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 NISRA Ride for Dreams participant

Motorcycle Experience

The first experiences with motorcycles began on the back of my father's bike when I was 10. Since then many friends have been riders, and in 1992 I began riding my own 1987 V45 Magna. I have loved riding ever since and have been able to ride motorcycles of all makes and models. Riding has become an essential part of living!

Board Candidate Information Continued....



Larry Johnson

Position: Director

Top Cat Experience

I have been a member of the Top Cats of Illinois (the Club) since December 2009. This will be my first official position with the Club; however I have always made myself available to volunteer at various events as needed.

Top Cat Contributions

I have contributed to the Club through submitting written articles to the ROAR for the purpose of entertaining, educating, and promoting the Club and motorcycle riding in general.

Top Cat's Recognition

- 2010 Sturgis Veteran Pin
- 2010 Cleanest Bike
- 2010 NISRA Ride for Dreams participant
- 2011 NISRA Ride for Dreams participant

Motorcycle Experience

- ◆ I initially began riding in my early twenties, owning over a period of ten years a Harley Davidson, Honda 350, Yamaha 650, and Honda 750. Two years ago I purchased a 2010 HD Road King. My wife and I also own a 2007 Honda Rebel and a 2009 HD Sportster.
- ◆ In 2009 I completed a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Class offered by LRN2RYD, and in 2010 I completed an Advanced Motorcycle Training Class offered by Harley Davidson.
- ◆ In the last two years I have ridden approximately 30,000 miles on my Road King participating in most club rides and traveling with friends. I have attended all Club General Meetings unless I was out of town on a ride. I participated in the 2010 and 2011 Club ride to Sturgis. I participated in the 2010 and 2011 NISRA Ride for Dreams, Fishing Derby, and Holiday Fashion Show.
- ◆ Although not a member, I have ridden when invited with Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Illinois, and participated in the 2011 Memorial Day POW/MIA Protest Ride in Washington DC. I recently attended the Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Illinois Toys for Tots / Annual Fund Drive, Annual Barrington Honor Run, and the Veterans Day POW/MIA Honor Table ceremony. I have also participated in Patriot Guard events escorting Fallen Veterans home.
- ◆ I have memberships with Harleys Owner Group (H.O.G.) and Antique Motorcycle Club of America (AMCA).



Board Candidate



Ric Case

Position: Director

Top Cats Club Experience (18 years)

- ◆ Top Cats 1994 - 2011 continuous service
- ◆ Aug 1996 Nominating Committee
- ◆ 2000 to present Nominating Committee
- ◆ Road Cpt . Comm 2005 - Present
- ◆ Committee of Past Presidents 2000 - present
- ◆ President 1997 - 1999
- ◆ GRASS Comm 1999 - present
- ◆ Safety Comm 2000 - present
- ◆ Charity Comm 2000 - present
- ◆ Member of Past Presidents 2001-3 Interim Awards/Banquet Chairman Committee
- ◆ Initiated TC Awards Program
- ◆ Initiated Meeting Safety Tips and ROAR
- ◆ Authored over 60 Kaution Korner articles

Top Cat Contributions

- ◆ Initiated first Charity Bike Raffle in 2000
- ◆ Assigned Board member responsibilities
- ◆ Lead many TC Rides
- ◆ Original GRASS Developer of the Road Captain Module (since revised)
- ◆ GRASS Instructor/Administrator
- ◆ Sr Road Captain
- ◆ Road Captain Mentor
- ◆ Co-authored Road Captain Program
- ◆ Participated in the development of the Senior RC Program

Top Cats Recognition

- ◆ - Third Founder's Cup recipient
- ◆ - Road Captain
- ◆ - Senior Road Captain

Motorcycle Experience

- ◆ 32 years riding experience
- ◆ Member, Palatine H.O.G 1997 – present Safety Officer, 200n – Present
- ◆ Member Illinois ABATE
- ◆ Mon-Valley H.O.G. (Pittsburgh) Safety Officer, 2010
- ◆ Motorcycle Safety Foundation Instructor/Rider Coach 2003- present
- ◆ Riders Edge Instructor/Rider Coach 2007 - present



Board Candidate Information Continued....



Greg Smith

Position: Director

- ◆ 2004 – Became Top Cats Member
- ◆ 2005 – 2010 - Charity Ride Committee
- ◆ 2006 – Road Captain Rocker
- ◆ 2007 – 2009 – Activities Committee
- ◆ 2007 – Director, Top Cats Board - Activities
- ◆ 2008 – Senior Road Captain Rocker
- ◆ 2009,10,11—GRASS Instructor
- ◆ 2011 – Director, Top Cats Board - Membership

I started riding in 1965 on a Honda 90cc. My wife, Jane, started riding with me in 1966 and we've been riding together ever since (over 40 years!), with a little time off during the child rearing years. In addition to Top Cats, I'm involved with and a Board member of several other organizations:

- ◆ Realtors Against Homelessness (RAH) for High School Students of District 211 Palatine
- ◆ The "American Cancer Society's Men's Health Taskforce",
- ◆ Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 2.
- ◆ I am also a past Director of 10 years of the Palatine Township Senior Center.

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..

[Birthdays and Anniversaries for December](#)

Happy Birthday to

**Robert Mann on
December 25th**

And

**Dennis Dougherty on
December 30th**

Please let us know your special dates...
so that we can celebrate with you!



Board Candidate Information Continued....



Larry Scalzitti
Position: Director

Top Cats Club Experience (10 years)

- ♦ Member since February 2002
- ♦ Long Distance Committee Chair 2006
- ♦ Director 2009 – present

Top Cat Recognition

- ♦ Road Captain
- ♦ Senior Road Captain
- ♦ Road Captain Silver Star
- ♦ Road Captain of the Year 2004
- ♦ Most Annual Miles 2004, 2007, 2009
- ♦ Most Grueling Ride Award 2010

Top Cats Contributions

- ♦ In 2004 led an Iron Butt Association (IBA) Lake Michigan 1000 that helped 4 riders qualify as IBA members.
- ♦ Authored numerous ROAR articles
- ♦ Franks & Fries originator
- ♦ Started January Movie Night activity
- ♦ GRASS class instructor
- ♦ Led numerous Top Cat Rides
- ♦ Created and led Larry's annual long distance ride (2004 – 2008)
- ♦ Organized semiannual CPR and First Aid Training
- ♦ Sought out a number of general meeting speakers

Motorcycle Experience

- ♦ Started riding in 1975
- ♦ Owner and founder LRN2RYD Motorcycle Training
- ♦ Motorcycle Safety Instructor since 2002
- ♦ Iron Butt Association (IBA) member since 2003
- ♦ Completed multiple IBA Certified Rides
- ♦ California Motorcycle Association Four Corners Ride 2005
- ♦ Hyderized at the 2006 Hyder Seek after completing the IBA 48 Plus Ride
- ♦ Team Strange 2006 Grand Tour Qualifier
- ♦ 2009 Iron Butt 11 Day Endurance Rally participant
- ♦ Member, BMW Motorcycle Owners of America
- ♦ Rider for the Patriot Guard of Illinois
- ♦ Member, American Motorcycle Association (AMA)
- ♦ Member, State Motorcycle Safety Association (SMSA)
- ♦ Member, Illinois ABATE
- ♦ Member, Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF)
- ♦ Member, Rolling Thunder
- ♦ Started the successful drive for Veteran's motorcycle plates in Illinois
- ♦ Speaks at national, regional and local events on various Motorcycle Safety topics.



TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

BY TONY LODEN

With the finish of a riding season comes the time for planning for the next season's rides and events. We are going to try a number of different things in 2012. First the email promotions will continue with an "Announcing" and "Don't Forget" themed email sent at least a week before and again a few days before an event; most, if not all of the club members, should have received just a few of these by now. If you have not, please speak up at a General Meeting or send an email to me at tcatsrsvp@comcast.net, I will look into the problem and make sure you are included.

There will also be a slightly different look to the Events Calendar this next year as well. In an effort to list major events in the motorcycling community so we as a club do not "step" on a nearby clubs ride, those major events that may be of interest will be posted in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. Top Cats rides and events will remain in combined case so you can tell the difference. If a Road Captain has stepped up for a ride, that Road Captain and Tail Gunners name will also be posted in parenthesis after the ride name.

We hope that this enhanced calendar will allow Road Captains to see what other rides may be in the area and possibly assemble us as a Club to share our enthusiasm for riding with other groups as well if we are not scheduled for our own rides or events for that day.

I do want to add a shameless plug for the NISRA Foundation's 16th Annual Holiday and Fashion

Show which was held on Saturday November 19th. This year, Top Cats filled a single table and did make a presence at this event; most of the attendees were members with less than 2 years of tenure in this club. Ladies and gentlemen this is **OUR** charity, which we work tirelessly for each year to raise funds on their behalf. Can't we at least show our support and spend \$15 for a seat at the table to cheer on these wonderful children and adults as they proudly parade the catwalk?? We as a club should have no less than three; yes I said three 10 seat tables to show our support for this wonderful organization (that is how many members generally attend a general meeting). Those of you whom did not attend... shame on you as you missed one of the most touching moments in my term as a Top Cat and I hope that we as a club can increase that paltry number in the future.

While the list of activities is currently growing, we still need your input on suggested rides and activities to network and socialize with each other during these cold winter months. The close Top Cats camaraderie does not have to be put away with the bike when the weather turns bad.

As we move into 2011, we have added some of the standards you come to expect plus a few additional rides. Here is a look ahead to some of the upcoming first quarter events from the 2012 Calendar...

(Continued on pg 9)



Activities continued...

Saturday, January 14th – Annual Awards Banquet
Sunday, January 22nd – Road Captain Only GRASS/Meeting
Saturday, January 28th – Top Cats Movie Night
Sunday, February 5th – A Top Cats Super Bowl (we're still looking for a venue)
Sunday, February 12th – The Progressive International Motorcycle Show
Sunday, March 3rd – Accident Scene Management (Basic Course)
Sunday, March 25th – GRASS Class with the RC module
Wednesday, March 28th – Possible trek to Arizona Bike Week (More info to come)

Remember to check the web site – www.topcats.org for more activities 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.

Do you have a ride or place you'd like the club to go to? If you know of a special event that you'd like to ride to, let us know the date, we'll do our best to work it into the calendar. As always, call me on 847 652-6617 or e-mail me at: tcatsrsvp@comcast.net with your questions or ideas.

Ride Safe!!!

Tony



Ideas Needed for Holiday Gifting?

Here is a start for developing your shopping strategies.... By: Terri Loden

Well, it's that happy and sad time of year again. Sad because all the bikes have been (or should be!) put to bed for the winter and covered with their blankies. And happy because it is the Holiday Season and there is an abundance of gift choices for the motorcycle enthusiast.

There are a number of websites I highly recommend for the person who prefers to shop online. Besides the familiar Harley dealers who offer a wish list that you can send to a friend or loved one to fill out and they will keep on file for you, there is also Bike Bandit.com and J.P. Cycles for after-market parts and accessories. Their prices are very competitive and offer an array of biker paraphernalia for men and women.

Another suggestion for those of you who store their bikes at a dealer is a gift card to have oil changes or other necessary repairs done while in storage. When you pick up your bike in the Spring, it's ready to ride!

One item I would highly recommend for those of us who ride 2up and wear helmets is an intercom system for your helmet and the side of your bike so that you can communicate with your partner while enjoying the beautiful scenery. Depending on what happened the night before or the morning of the ride, the rider or the passenger can turn up the volume, turn down the volume, or turn it off completely! Just so you know, though: her nagging is a sign she cares. Her silence means she's plotting your death. LOL! This is also a great gift for Road Captains, too, so they can communicate with their fellow RC's and riders and make sure their group stays together. Strange things have been known to happen when communication is lost between Road Captain's.

Here's wishing everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season! And, remember: Santa only comes to those who believe!

Also: If you see me wearing a holiday themed sweater vest with little applique's snowmen on it, that means I've been kidnapped and I'm trying to signal you!



An International Event...

By Larry Johnson



...rarely occurs in one's own backyard, but this month's auction of the Lee Roy Hartung Museum Estate in Glenview, IL drew bidders from forty five (45) US States and nine (9) Countries. During the week of November 1st - 5th, Auctions America in partnership with R&M Auctions sold over 2000 Lots of automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, license plates, toys, and a plethora of memorabilia for a total sales figure of 3.9 million dollars.

Lee Roy Hartung passed away this spring at the age of 86, but left behind evidence of his life's work as a collector of just about everything having at least an axle, wheel, and a seat. Lee moved to Glenview in the 1950's, and in

a wooded area bordered by W. Lake Street to the north, E. Lake Street to the south and Pfingsten Road to the West, stashed what he had gleaned from properties on the north shore area of Chicago for over 60 years through his salvage/general hauling business.

I was initially drawn to the auction by four vintage Harley Davidson's; a 1912 HD single cylinder belt drive, a 1915 HD single cylinder two speed, a 1934 HD VLD, and a 1945 HD WL. Tuesday and Wednesday

November 1st and 2nd were viewing days, with the auc-

tion occurring Thursday -

Saturday. Although traveling from Mundelein to Glenview Tuesday and Wednesday on my Road King were by far the two shortest trips I've made this riding season, the destination proved to be one of the most enlightening. Aside from the fact I was interested in purchasing a piece of bygone Americana, the search through the collection was a journey back in history and an insight into Lee Roy Hartung's psyche.



1912 HD
Single Cylinder Belt Drive



1915 HD
Single Cylinder Two-Speed

(Continued on page 11)



Nothing in the collection was restored, but had been stacked/crammed in numerous outbuildings and a very large “pole” barn on the property. Something collectors call a real “barn find”. The auction company pulled, precisely categorized, and displayed everything in large white tents which included a huge seating area with large viewing screens where the actual auction was conducted.



1934 HD VLD



1945 HD WL

It was possible to participate in the auction in person, over the telephone, or on-line. I chose to participate on-line since the motorcycles were auctioned at the end of a long eight hour day on Friday. Needless to say, my single maximum bid on the 1915 HD Two Speed was immediately far exceeded as the bidding opened at 20,000.00. It sold minutes later for 57,500.00. So as not to embarrass myself or TopCats of Illinois who recognize me as a member, I won't give up my maximum bid...ever!

The 1912 HD single cylinder belt drive sold for 115,000.00, the 1934 HD VLD for 12,650.00, and the 1945 HD WL for 13,800.00. There were fifty nine (59) motorcycles sold, and the highest price paid for any single item at the entire auction was a 1911 Flying Merkel twin belt drive motorcycle which sold for 210,250.00. The Flying Merkel brand was initiated by Joseph Merkel in 1902 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1909 it was purchased by Light Manufacturing Company and moved to Pottstown, PA, and then in 1911 it was purchased by Miami Cycle and moved to Middletown OH. The final Merkel machines were produced in 1917.

Some automobiles grabbing huge bids included a 1950 VERITAS BMW at 195,000.00 and a 1950 Edwards R-26 Roadster that sold for 143,750.00. It was rumored that the R-26 Roadster was on the radar screen of comedian Jay Leno.

Even though I didn't come away from the auction with any type of winter project, I did gain insight into the value of vintage vehicles and respect for a man who followed his passion in life and played it till the very end.





Safety Tip Continud from page 2...

There are a lot of excellent motorcycle magazines on the market. I subscribe to Cycle World and Dirt Rider. I also receive the American Motorcycle Association and the BMW Motorcycle Owners Association monthly magazines.

My favorite is a less popular magazine titled Motorcycle Consumer News (<http://www.mcnews.com>). What sets it apart from all of the rest? There are absolutely NO ads in the publication, so there's absolutely NO bias in their writing based on ad revenue. Believe it – that really counts for a lot! Like the other magazines, there are great articles, terrific columns and tons of gear and bike reviews. Unlike some, there are also monthly columns on riding strategies, motorcycle safety and medical topics related to motorcycling.

Many of these publications can be found in digital format. There are also a number of training videos and DVDs available as well.

Rider Improvement Step 3

The last step is to take a class. Too many riders fail to continue to learn, when in fact there are many courses out there that any of us can benefit from. There are even a few alternative school choices, like the “do it yourself DVD” that has become more prevalent these days.

My strong recommendation is that every rider should take a formal class at least every other year. The Harley Owners Group (HOG) agrees and feels strongly enough about this idea that every member can get a \$50 refund when they provide a receipt showing that they took a structured motorcycle class from any legitimate provider.

Twist of the Wrist – An excellent book/video/dvd – pick you media type. These are the work of Keith Code, famous for his California Superbike School (<http://www.superbikeschool.com>). He started the school in 1976 and pioneered step-by-step advanced rider coaching that is often imitated but never replicated. One of his most unique classes is the wheelie class. The classes are held in a number of locations. Information is on the website for ordering classes and training materials.

If you really want to work on cornering techniques that will help you master any turn try reading Total Control by Lee Parks

(<http://www.totalcontroltraining.net>). You can also sign up for a class – a schedule is on the web site. The one day school is taught all over the country including some nearby locations. Both the book and class teach you how to fine tune your bike's suspension. That in itself is often worth the price of admission. This is NOT a sport bike only class. Riders of any bike can benefit greatly from the skills taught here. To make it even better sign up for the optional follow on skills day that directly follows the Total Control riding class. The extra day gives you plenty of time to think about and master the principles taught in the class.

One of my favorite things to teach is slow speed control. There's one guy who makes a living doing it, Jerry Palladino. Known as Motorman, his DVD and class teach riders of even the largest bikes to Ride Like a Pro (<http://www.ridelikeapro.com>). Next time you're in Florida sign up to take a one day class from the master himself.

There's a new player in motorcycle training town. BMW has launched a Motorcycle Rider Training Program at the BMW Performance Center in Greer, South Carolina. There are lots of courses to choose from, so take a look here. The on road and touring classes look very tempting.

<http://www.bmwusa.com/Standard/Content/Experience/Events/PDS/ProgramsandCourses/Motorcycle.aspx>

Stayin' Safe offers courses designed around a two or three day tour and are offered all across the country. This is the class that I mentioned in my opening paragraph. Their web site (<http://www.stayinsafe.com>) will provide all of the information you need.

Take a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Training Course. There are lots of places to find the Experienced Rider Course. My school, LRN2RYD motorcycle training (www.lrn2ryd.com), offers small class sizes and the ability to tailor a course to fit the needs of the riders in attendance. Think about the people you ride with. If you can find three other riders, we can design a class specifically for your group!



Safety Tip Continud from page 12...

Where to look for this stuff

There are many places to find the books and DVDs. Take some time and shop around to find the best prices. Here are a few web sites and stores that I visit often.

www.aerostich.com One of my motorcycle favorite places to visit. Everything and anything about motorcycles can be found here. If you're not getting the informative and often amusing catalog mailed to you, then you're missing out on some great ideas and great ideas!

www.whitehorsegear.com More motorcycling books than you can shake a stick at. They have lots of other things to sell these days, but they got their start as The Whitehouse Press, publishing motorcycling books that no other publisher would touch.

www.amazon.com and www.ebay.com are sites we all know about, but they do have terrific deals from time to time. Be selective because not all of the sellers are known for pricing their products right.

You can also visit your favorite motorcycle manufacturer websites to learn a thing or two. Better yet visit the plethora of motorcycle forums and newsletters that will be filled with slightly used copies for sale.

Bottom Line – Pledge to be a better rider every time you mount your motorcycle! Get started now – in the “off” season.

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 1, 2011

ESCAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Wayne Kirkpatrick, Top Cats- President

Opening

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

Guest Stan Lukasik was introduced (second time he has attended).

A court reporter that was brought by a member to record the meeting was asked by President Wayne Kirkpatrick to leave.

There were several board changes that took place. Mike Bradbury has resigned as President for personal reasons and has become the immediate Past President. Wayne Kirkpatrick (Vice President) has moved to that position. With elections a month away, Wayne has opted not to fill one Director position. Wayne thanked Mike for his significant efforts and contributions and Carl Marcyan (outgoing Past President) for all he has done the past several years.

Long term member Jim Hudmon recently passed away. Flowers were sent on behalf of the club.

Wayne thanked multiple members for their recent efforts including Larry Scalzitti (hot dog rides) and Gene Rigsby (for the Awards committee).

Seats were still available for the November 19th NISRA fashion show for a discounted price as the club is subsidizing this event.

Treasurer-Stewart Johnson

Stewart discussed checking account balances. A check for NISRA will be presented in January.

Membership-Jeff Teitz

There were no new members this month.





Safety-Don Schaffer

The next G.R.A.S.S. class will be held in the spring.

Carl Marcyan gave tonight's safety tip which came out of his recent Illinois State Police bike safe class. Some of these tips included, staying observant by watching for road surface defaults, watching behind you, and not following too close. Plan your ride and ride your plan with concentration and knowing your own limits. For more information see this month's ROAR.

Activities-Tony Loden

Tony talked about the upcoming events including the January Top Cat banquet. The location is still being determined. An email will be going out looking for ideas for awards.

Tony is looking for suggestions for theme rides for the 2012 calendar. He will be soliciting road captains for these rides.

Carl has secured reservations for the 2012 Little Sturgis ride.

ROAR- Mary Walters

Mary and Terri are putting together new ideas for ROAR. Mary asked for the club's feedback on ROAR.

2012 Election Discussion

Carl Marcyan requested to have the floor for a discussion of the nomination process. He was given full, uninterrupted time to present his opinions. Carl also passed out a document package with information from one side of the issue to those at the meeting. His discussion centered around his and others opinions on the nominating process not being performed properly.

Wayne Kirkpatrick presented the Board of Directors explanation of the how the process was handled and why it was consistent with past practice and the Board's interpretation of the bylaws. (A candidate whom the board was concerned with was not included on the approved slate). Reasons were not discussed as this was part of a closed executive session of the previous Board Meeting. The Board had also passed an amendment to the bylaws to clarify this issue for future elections. The timing of this action was debated.

There was spirited debate by several members during floor discussions, including one of the original writers of the By Laws who gave his opinions on intent.

Wayne reminded everyone that only the Board can actually address the issues committed to the membership that the Board would look at some solutions could satisfy both sides.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm



and
that



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 8, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

Present: Mary Walters, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Muriel Brandt, Larry Scalzitti, Gary Brandt, Greg Smith and Stewart Johnson

Absent: Mike Bradbury

Guests: Andy Konsewicz, Larry Johnson, Carl Marcyan, Ric Case, Tony Loden, Terri Loden, Ron Freudenberger, Jeff Tietz, Don Schaffer and Emil Kornecki

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Wayne Kirkpatrick, Top Cats President.

Per Wayne, with the recent resignation of Mike Bradbury as President, the Top Cats Board is now as follows:

Wayne Kikpatrick, President

Gary Brandt, Vice President

Stewart Johnson, Treasurer

Muriel Brandt, Secretary

Larry Scalzitti, Director

Mary Walters, Director

Greg Smith, Director

Beginning in 2012, maintenance of the database for Road Captains, Membership, Safety and Activities will be the responsibility of the Secretary.

Wayne reported that a table of ten has been filled for the NISRA fashion show.

Membership-Greg Smith: There were three people presented for membership.

- ◆ Stan Lukasik, associate member: Motion to accept, Greg Smith; seconded, Larry Scalzitti. Approved
- ◆ Jane Smith, regular member: Motion to accept, Gary Brandt; seconded, Mary Walters., Approved
- ◆ Judy Scalzitti, regular member. Motion to accept, Gary Brandt; seconded, Wayne Kirkpatrick. Approved

The invoices for 2012 dues will be sent out this month. There was some discussion about on-line payment. Tony Loden will work with Dennis Dougherty to establish on-line membership.

The Board agreed the amount of dues will remain the same



Safety-Gary Brandt

There are no G.R.A.S.S. classes scheduled.

There will be the annual Road Captain meeting scheduled early in 2012.

Activities-Larry Scalzitti

- ♦ Larry talked about some of the off season events in the works.
- ♦ Larry and Tony will be planning the calendar which will include some different ride ideas.

Financials- Stewart Johnson

- ♦ Stewart reported the bank account balances as of Oct 31st 2011.
General Account balance: \$6252
Charity Account balance: \$6258
- ♦ A proposal was made to allocate funding, not to exceed \$800 for the Awards banquet. This would cover invitations, postage, minimum dinner fee and awards. Gary Brandt motioned to accept and Larry Scalzitti seconded. Approved
- ♦ Wayne established mid November as the date for sending out dues invoices with payment due by 30 December.
- ♦ A check will be presented to NISRA at the Awards banquet.

ROAR/Website-Mary Walters

- ♦ Greg will send new member information to Dennis for the website.
- ♦ Wayne reminded everyone to include the entire Board on all correspondence.

2012 Election

- ♦ Wayne opened the floor to the guests that were present. Each was allowed the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns regarding this years election issues. All guests present spoke. There was some discussion with the Board members.
- ♦ The Board then adjourned into executive session to discuss the election process.
- ♦ After private discussions the Board returned to open session.
- ♦ Larry Scalzitti motioned to re-instate Andy Konsewicz on the 2012 slate. Greg Smith seconded the motion, the motion was approved.
- ♦ Gary Brandt motioned to rescind amendment 004. Larry Scalzitti seconded the motion, the motion was approved.
- ♦ The concept for voting at the next meeting was discussed and agreed.

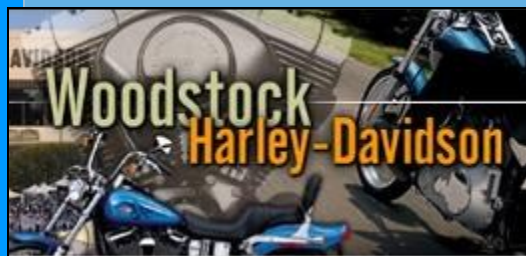
Other Business

With no further business, Gary Brandt motioned to adjourn, seconded by Greg Smith; the meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm.

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



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, December 6th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, December 13th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, January 3rd	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, January 10th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, January 14th	Awards Banquet	Millrose Brewery	SBarrington	6:00 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, January 22nd	Road Captain's GRASS Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:30 am	Case
Saturday, January 28th	Movie Night	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	6:00 pm	Scalzitti
Tuesday, February 7th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, February 14th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick

All ride information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at
www.TopCats.org.

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**

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Founder	Carl 'Virgo' Bender 1941-2001			Motorcycle Community	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com

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