



# ROAR

January, 2012

Volume 12 Issue 1

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## Inside This Issue



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to 2012 and an exciting year of Top Cats' rides, events, and activities!!! We are entering our new season this year with many expectations and challenges and, a tank full of excitement. Every year, the Board tries to improve on the previous year's activities, events, and overall performance

as an organization. The feedback from our members over the past 90 days in particular has been incredibly revealing and extremely valuable in developing our innovations and goals for 2012. As we trek through this year, you will notice some radical changes to the way we do business, some subtle changes, some new policies and procedures, and a reaffirmation of some old ways of doing things. Most initiatives will be unanimously welcomed, some may be slightly resisted, but all will be considered, refined, developed, and implemented in the best interest of our Club.

As members, we all have an obligation to our brother and sister Top Cats to help in contributing to the success of our Club. We do this by volunteering, by respecting our fellow members and Club protocol, by communicating our ideas and concerns to the appropriate Board member, and by participating in as many Top Cat events as we can. To facilitate that flow of ideas, we have organized our Board for 2012 along functional lines. This functional organization optimizes each Board member's experience. The areas of responsibility are explained in an article found in this issue of ROAR, that provides you with a road map of who to contact for a particular area. You will also find a list of our 2012 Committee Chiefs who are the ones who really make this Club run so well. That list is not only intended to inform you of who leads which committees but, to give you that point of contact for volunteering and getting involved in a super 2012 season.

Our first major event for 2012 is our annual Awards Banquet at the Mill Rose Restaurant, on 14 January. This traditional event serves a multitude of purposes; we recognize past contributors to the success of Top Cats' 2011 season, we thank the outgoing 2011 Board members, we welcome the 2012 Board, and we have another great opportunity to meet, eat, socialize and catch up on how our Top Cat brothers and sisters are doing without using Facebook! If you haven't made your reservations yet, contact Gene Rigsby, [gene.rigsby@gmail.com](mailto:gene.rigsby@gmail.com), to see if there might be space left.

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## Upcoming Events

### JANUARY

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

### FEBRUARY

- 7 General Meeting
- 14 Board Meeting

### MARCH

**ANY WINTER IDEAS?  
CONTACT THE  
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE  
NOW!**

## **KAUTION KORNER**

### **Reminders for 2012**

By Ric "Clutch" Case, Senior Road Captain



### *Happy New Year Top Cats!*

I trust everyone had marvelous Holidays, however you choose to celebrate them. We have so many things to be truly grateful; family, friends, and the Sisterhood and Brotherhood of Top Cats. Let me be one of the first to wish my entire fellow Top Cats a Happy New Year, with more and greater rides than ever.

I know you value your membership, so attend a GRASS, for a refresher or so that you can maintain your current membership qualifications. Remember as a new Top Cat you have a year to take GRASS to retain your membership privileges or else you have to reapply for membership. That next available class will be Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Keller and Williams office in the Harris Bank Building located at the Northwest corner of Route 53 and Northwest highway (enter at the rear of the building) starting at 8AM with a ½ hour social of coffee, donuts, and bagels. For all Senior Road Captains (GOLD Rockers) and Road Captains (WHITE Rockers) the meeting will be Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, same time, same place.

#### **Safety Tip for January 2012**

If you are so inclined to store your motorcycle for the winter, here are some reminders:

1. Use a battery tender (trickle charger) to maintain battery life, or remove the battery and store it in a warm and dry place.

**(NOTE: IT MAKES NO SENSE REGARDING FUEL INJECTION / CARBURETOR AND A BATTERY TENDER)**

2) Add a fuel stabilizer to a nearly full tank of gas and run the bike for 5 minutes so that it mixes thoroughly before you store it.

3) Do NOT run the motorcycle for 5-10 minutes while just sitting at its storage facility during your storage period. It will do more harm than good. Moisture will build up internally and do more damage than good. If you feel compelled to start it up during that storage time, pick a day you are able to RIDE it for at least a half an hour to give that moisture an opportunity to evaporate.

4) If you store it near a vehicle that accumulates moisture, drips, contaminants and splashes salt during the storage period, remember to cover the motorcycle so that none of that salt comes in contact with your scooter. That salt can cause pitting and/or permanent damage.

5) Finally, be sure that you use a breathable bike cover if your bike is not exposed to weather. Water proof covers can trap and hold moisture that will damage your bike over extended periods.

Ride Free  
Ric "CLUTCH" Case  
Safety Director



## 2012 Board of Directors

By Traveler

As is our tradition, we have elected/appointed/confirmed our officers and directors for 2012. The old Board and incoming Board has met and has organized, and assigned, responsibilities for this year.

The wealth of talent, experience and passion that this year's Board has for Top Cats is unequalled and represents a management team that is excited about providing another exciting and safe year of activities.

### OFFICERS



**President**  
Wayne Kirkpatrick



**Vice President**  
Gary Brandt



**Secretary**  
Mary Walters



**Treasurer**  
Stewart Johnson



**Past President**  
Mike Bradbury

### DIRECTORS



**Director**  
Larry Scalzitti



**Director**  
Greg Smith



**Director**  
Ric Case



**Director**  
Larry Johnson

Our 2012 Board collectively includes such experience and qualifications as; 7 masters degrees, four veterans, two Iron Butt award holders, 5 motorcycle brands/8 models of bikes, about 4 million miles of saddle time, decades of motorcycling, 7 CPR certified, 6 Accident Scene Management certified, 1 professional racing license, membership in 8 other local MC clubs, 8 members with previous Board experience, 9 MC article authors, 7 road captains, 6 senior road captains, and an average age of 31..... Now, try to find any other MC organization, with that kind of talent!!! Please take the time, early next year, to congratulate our Board members on their Board positions and to thank them for all of the time and effort that they will be contributing to our success as a club.

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Member input, initiative, and volunteering remains valuable in formulating programs and is critical to maintaining the success and legacy of Top Cats – Illinois. The 2012 Board is organized to facilitate member feedback, member contributions to Club activities, and information flow. To make that work smoothly, each Board member has specific responsibility for Club functions, activities, and areas. Those functional responsibilities are....

## Board 2012 Responsibilities

|                 | <u>President</u><br>Wayne<br>Kirkpatrick | <u>VP</u><br>Gary<br>Brandt | <u>Treasurer</u><br>Stuart<br>Johnson | <u>Secretary</u><br>Mary<br>Walters | <u>Past President</u><br>Mike<br>Bradbury | <u>Director</u><br>Larry<br>Scalzitti | <u>Director</u><br>Greg<br>Smith | <u>Director</u><br>Ric<br>Case | <u>Director</u><br>Larry<br>Johnson |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>FUNCTION</b> |  |                             |                                       |                                     |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| By Laws         | <b>X</b>                                 | x                           |                                       |                                     | x   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| General Mtgs    | <b>X</b>                                 | x                           |                                       |                                     |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| Board Mtgs      | <b>X</b>                                 | x                           |                                       |                                     |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| 50/50           |  | x                           | <b>X</b>                              |                                     |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| \$ Reports      |  | x                           | <b>X</b>                              |                                     |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| Tax Filings     |  | x                           | <b>X</b>                              |                                     |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| Minutes         |  |                             | x                                     | <b>X</b>                            |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| Master Ros-ter  |  | x                           |                                       | <b>X</b>                            |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| Elections       | x  |                             |                                       |                                     | <b>X</b>                                  |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| Activities      | x  |                             |                                       |                                     |   | <b>X</b>                              |                                  |                                |                                     |
| Archives        | x  |                             |                                       |                                     |   |                                       |                                  |                                | <b>X</b>                            |
| Awards          | x  |                             |                                       |                                     |   |                                       | <b>X</b>                         |                                |                                     |
| Charity         | x  |                             |                                       |                                     |   |                                       |                                  | <b>X</b>                       |                                     |
| Web Site        | x  |                             |                                       |                                     |   | <b>X</b>                              |                                  |                                |                                     |
| ROAR            | x  |                             |                                       | <b>X</b>                            |   |                                       |                                  |                                |                                     |
| Membership      | x  |                             |                                       |                                     |   |                                       | <b>X</b>                         |                                |                                     |
| Products        | x  |                             |                                       |                                     |   |                                       |                                  |                                | <b>X</b>                            |
| Safety          | x  |                             |                                       |                                     |   |                                       |                                  | <b>X</b>                       |                                     |

**X = Primary**    x = Backup

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The Board's responsibilities, listed in the matrix, are just a partial list of the many issues and tasks that the Board manages on a daily/monthly basis. The real effort at the heart of making this Club run, however, comes from those members who have stepped up and taken responsibility for one of our many committees. These committee chiefs are assisted by the designated Board members in the execution of their duties and who are the liaison between the committee and the Board, providing resources, resolving issues, clarifying tasks, etc. We are fortunate to have the following committee chiefs for 2012:



### **Activities Committee**

Tony Loden, [tloden@strbr.com](mailto:tloden@strbr.com)



### **Membership Committee**

Jeff Tietz, [jat5070@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jat5070@sbcglobal.net)



### **Safety Committee**

Don Schaffer [numbersman@cjbs.com](mailto:numbersman@cjbs.com)



### **Awards Committee**

Gene Rigsby,  
[gene.rigsby@gmail.com](mailto:gene.rigsby@gmail.com)



### **Products Committee**

Noelle Rigsby, [genoe88@gmail.com](mailto:genoe88@gmail.com)



### **ROAR**

Mary Walters, [mawalters57@gmail.com](mailto:mawalters57@gmail.com)



### **Web Site**

Dennis Dougherty, [wombat@dpdougherty.com](mailto:wombat@dpdougherty.com)

### **OPEN**

### **Charity Committee**

(Assisted by Ric Case, supervises Charity Ride Committee, liaison to NISRA and all charity activities)

### **OPEN**

### **Archives Committee**

(Assisted by Larry Johnson, maintains liaison with Barrington Area Library to keep Top Cats archives current)



## TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

***YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS***

***BY TONY LODEN***

As Terri and I are still riding this season.... we are sending warm wishes for a Happy New Year from sunny Florida!!!



So, as I am soaking up the sun, I do need to mention a few very important events in January not to be missed from the 2012 Calendar...

Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Annual Awards Banquet

Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Road Captain Only GRASS/Meeting

Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Top Cats Movie Night

Remember to check the web site – [www.topcats.org](http://www.topcats.org) for more activities information.

Happy New Year!

Ride Safe!!!

Tony



Tony and Terri Loden...  
In Search of Sun!



Main street USA in Carabelle, FL..... this morning on the way to the gulf coast... Tony converses with Steve, a local biker himself over a cup of coffee at our first adjustment stop. Not much else on this day except a long ride with trees on both sides of the roadway along Highway 98. Maybe something fun and interesting will turn up tomorrow. Ask for details when we see you next.... Tony & Terri

The Barrington Area library has finished archiving about **150** 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 January](#)

*Happy Birthday to*

**Wayne Kirkpatrick**  
January 1st

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



## OIL SPOTS

By Traveler

Compliments of DEC Safety Blurbs....



### COURT ALLOWS RAID ON RIDER ED FUNDS

The Illinois Supreme in a recent 6-to-1 decision, upheld a prior circuit court ruling that backed former Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the Legislature's ability to take money from hundreds of special state funds to offset budgetary deficits, a practice commonly referred to as "sweeping".

them to attend the fair in traditional biker gear, of which is protective said Mary Baker in an article in the Examiner newspaper, adding that "...bikers everywhere contribute to charity in a way that not many other segments of the population do... That is why it is disheartening to hear of discrimination based solely on appearance."

their some gear,"



Upon being alerted of the fair's new anti-biker policy, Facebook exploded with messages like this: "ALERT/INFO: The State Fair of La. has adopted the policy: NO COLORS... Signs are now being posted at all gates. NO BIKER COLORS of ANY KIND. Please pass this on to ALL BIKER friends and family. MC's are being Discriminated against. To Complain::: Call State Fair of La. Let Your VOICES be heard.... Repost!!! Don't support the fair..."

Motorcycle riders sued former Gov. Rod Blagojevich after he swept \$1.2 million from the Cycle Riders Safety Training Fund (CRSTF) to pay general state bills after a 2004 law passed by lawmakers allowed him to do so. A portion of the fee for an Illinois motorcycle license goes into the CRSTF, which ABATE of Illinois argued was only to be spent on motorcycle safety education.



Sweeping special funds was a controversial way to deal with budget deficits during the Blagojevich administration, and although the court's ruling opens the door to more such sweeps, current Illinois Governor Pat Quinn opposes fund sweeps and has worked to end the practice.

You can imagine that bikers, their friends and family were livid. They began to complain about the discrimination with phone calls to the Director of the State Fair, and his offices. The result: The State Fair of Louisiana has now changed their policy. THE SIGNS HAVE BEEN REMOVED AND ALL BIKERS ARE WELCOME AT THE FAIR !!!!!

### BIKERS RALLY TO RESCIND UN-FAIR POLICY

"The State Fair of Louisiana, adopted a discriminatory position toward bikers by posting signs that would not allow

Never, never, NEVER underestimate the power of a close knit FAMILY !!! Thanks to all who made calls and helped !!!"





## LAWMAKERS OVERRIDE GOVERNOR'S VETO OF RED LIGHT BILL

The Illinois House voted 94-21 and the Senate voted 45-6 to override Gov. Pat Quinn's veto of the "Dead Red" bill supported by ABATE of Illinois that would allow motorcyclists to proceed through malfunctioning red lights.



As written, House Bill 2860 sponsored by Senator Gary Forby (D-Benton) and Representative Daniel Beiser (D-Alton), specifies that a motorcyclist would be permitted to legally run a red light "after a reasonable period of time," but Quinn vetoed the legislation with the request that a two minute wait time be amended to it.

The law will now go into effect on January 1, 2012, and will allow motorcyclists to go through a red light if it fails to change to green because the switch hasn't been tripped, or didn't recognize the motorcycle after waiting 120 seconds before proceeding through the red light.

## MOTORCYCLISTS BEWARE: STATES WITH THE WORST DRIVERS

You might believe that your state has the worst drivers in the country, but a newly released report from Carinsurancemparison.com ranked states according to their safety record to determine where the bad drivers live.



Five factors were considered when determining the rankings; fatalities per million miles traveled, drunken driving, the number of tickets issued, failure to obey traffic signals and carelessness, utilizing data compiled from the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration (driving fatalities), the National Motorist's Association (traffic tickets), and MADD (drunk drivers).

Here is their list of the 10 states with the worst drivers:

#10) South Carolina - Ranked 48th for fatalities and 45th for obeying road signs.

#9) Alabama - 46th for tickets. 42nd for fatalities. 41st for obeying road signs.

#8) Montana - Highest ticket rate in the country. Also ranked 40th for carelessness.

#7) Kentucky - 42nd for carelessness and 48th for drunk driving.

#6) Arizona - Arizona ranked poorly across the board.

#5) Oklahoma - Lots of DUIs, fatal accidents, and traffic tickets.

#4) Florida - Not as many drunk drivers... But Florida has more tickets than any other state.

#3) Texas - Texas ranked pretty poor in all categories.

#2) Missouri - Ranked in the bottom 10 for carelessness and DUIs.

#1) Louisiana - In the bottom 10 in all categories except failure to obey signs.

The safest driving state was Rhode Island, followed by Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, and New Hampshire.

However, as Top Cats, we know that the safest states to ride in are; Sobriety, Caution, Readiness, and Alertness.....



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### DECEMBER 6, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters for Muriel Brandt

#### **Opening:**

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

The Club stood for the Pledge of Allegiance  
No Guests at this meeting



#### **President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick**

Wayne reported on the activities for the month of November:

- ◆ NISRA Fashion Show: It was a great event that allowed those who attended to be able to meet the NISRA staff and families. Ten top Cats members attended and it was obvious why *Top Cats* has been working with NISRA for 16 years. Russ Pfeiffer stated that it was fun to see the models having so much fun and Noelle Rigsby enjoyed the beautiful setting. Hopefully more Top Cats will be able to attend the event next year.
- ◆ Awards Banquet / Ballot: Contact Gene Rigsby and make reservations for the January 14<sup>th</sup> event. Also be sure to cast your votes on the Awards Ballot and return them to Gene as well.
- ◆ Committee help: Members are encouraged to get involved in the committee work that is a part of Top Cats. Some Committees that would benefit from your help are; Products, Awards, Membership, and ROAR. Contact Wayne Kirkpatrick and he will direct you to the committee.
- ◆ 2012 Events Calendar: Main events are up on the website for 2012.

#### **Vice President's Report:**

Gary Brandt reported that GRASS Class is going to be held again next year and it is one of the requirements for being a member in good standing. All new members should check the dates and plan on making one of the classes that will be held in the beginning of 2012.

#### **Election, 2011:**

Larry Scalzitti and Stewart Johnson initiated the process for voting for the 2012 Board. Regular members in good standing began the balloting.

- ◆ Stewart checked in and verified each member and gave them their ballots.
- ◆ Completed ballots were turned in to Larry. Theresa Pfeiffer also helped in counting.
- ◆ It was established that there was a quorum, 8, (20% of 37) of members needed for a valid election count
- ◆ Wayne asked for a round of applause for those who ran and want to serve the club. There are many people who want to serve and are making great efforts to maintain the quality of the Club.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

Muriel Brandt had nothing to report at this time. She thanked Mary Walters for taking the minutes this month as she was enjoying a visit by her grandson, Peyton.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- ◆ Stuart Johnson reported that there were no activities in the account this month. Balances are same as November.



- ◆ Signature Cards on the bank account have been changed to reflect the change in Presidency from Mike Bradbury to Wayne Kirkpatrick.
- ◆ Dues are due by the end of December, or Stuart stated that tonight is fine as well. Online capability has been added to the website and is available with a convenience fee of \$5 added to the dues.
- ◆ The process of paying online is in development and some of the details will be clarified in the future.

### **Membership:**

Greg Smith stated that our new member, Stan Lukasik, was not in attendance tonight so he will be introduced to the club members in January.

### **Safety:**

- ◆ Gary Brandt, Don Schaffer, and Ric Case spoke about the GRASS Class and the upcoming Senior Road Captain Meeting. A reminder will be sent with the date for the meeting which is Sunday January 22, 2012. There will be a Road Captain module and a shortened GRASS class. It should be limited to a morning meeting.
- ◆ Larry Scalzitti was still counting votes, but when he returned he gave the Safety Tip for December. The Theme for this month was *Time for Reflection.... How can we become a better rider?* Larry mentioned some of the Books, DVDs, and magazines that he would recommend for improving skills. He suggested that reading is a great way to pass the winter months. Larry also suggested taking a class during the winter months.

### **ROAR/Website:**

- ◆ Mary Walters stated that there is always a need for stories and ideas for the ROAR. It is a great opportunity for building knowledge about motorcycles and other related interests. Members with information or who want to assist with the publication can contact Mary.
- ◆ Details were again given on the ability to renew membership online through the website.

### **Activities:**

- ◆ Tony Loden asked members to contact Tony if you are not receiving the e-mail blasts. He will check into the reasons why the notifications are not making to everyone.
- ◆ Tony reminded everyone to check the Events Calendar on the website. The events for Top Cats are all detailed and there is also information on other events that are being held by clubs who are members of Posse.
- ◆ Why are the events of other clubs on our site? To inform the membership of things that are happening in town when we don't have events planned.
- ◆ Tony reminded everyone about the Awards Banquet on Jan 14, from 6pm to 10 pm.
- ◆ Other 2012 Events : See the Website and/or ROAR for upcoming events. Even though there are no rides, there are social events for January and February.
- ◆ Tony would like to put together a ride to Arizona for Bike week and asked if there would be any interest. Carl Marcyan stated that there was now a fee to attend this event. Forty-five dollars for a five day pass or approximately twenty-two dollars a day.

### **New Business:**

Wayne Kirkpatrick gave the club background information on Greg Zaffke and his organization that was originally known as *The Black Nail Brigade*. He has changed the name to Crash Coalition and is working to develop a heightened awareness of Motorcycles. Wayne asked if there was an interest in hearing Greg speak at one of our meetings. The response from the members was positive. Wayne will arrange for his attendance.

It was noted that the Activities and Road Captain Committees will be working on new rides. There will be more themed rides for the next year. If you have any ideas, contact Tony.

**50 / 50:** Winner is Nick Bender

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### DECEMBER 13, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters for Muriel Brandt

**Present:**

Wayne Kirkpatrick, Stuart Johnson, Ric Case, Mary Walters. Greg Smith. Larry Scalzitti. Larry Johnson

**Excused:**

Gary and Muriel Brandt

Meeting called to order at 7:35 by Wayne Kirkpatrick, President of Top Cats –Illinois.

Wayne began the meeting by stating that he was grateful for the group of people that make up the board and that he is looking forward to working together as a team to create a great year for the club. There are going to be tasks identified and members of the board will be asked to take on responsibility for developing that area of the club.

**SECRETARY: Muriel Brandt**

No report from Muriel at this time.

- ◆ Wayne raised the question as to whether the master database for the club should be kept by the secretary. This database includes GRASS class data, ride data, Road Captain information, and other pieces of member data.
- ◆ Discussion led to the conclusion that housing that data base with the secretary would be the most efficient for the club. As of January 1, 2012, keeping this information current will be the responsibility of the Secretary. Committee Chairs will provide regular updates and the final updates will be distributed to all Board members monthly.
- ◆ Questions were raised about the use of the e-mail list and the information on the website.
- ◆ It was suggested that current information would be limited to the membership, while the archived information could be open to all visitors to the site. The issue will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP: Greg Smith**

- ◆ No new member applications at this time. The newest members, Stan Lukasik and Judy Scalzitti, will be introduced to the club at the next meeting.
- ◆ A new Welcome Letter from the President will be added to the current information given to new members in their packet after Greg reviews the draft.
- ◆ Already in the packet: Patch, Pin, Flag, Member Expectations letter, Information on becoming a Road Captain, Membership Card, Ride Waiver and Emergency card.
- ◆ A new by-law committee will be formed to look at Membership requirements and to emphasize member participation and support of the club.

**SAFETY: Ric Case**

- ◆ GRASS class dates are set and on the Calendar. The January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be for Road Captains with a RC meeting as well. Other GRASS classes will be held on: March 25<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 29<sup>th</sup>, and October 21<sup>st</sup>.

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- ◆ Kaution Korner and Safety Tip Articles are being scheduled for the ROAR and General Meetings. Topics will be discussed at the January meeting and a final schedule will be given to the Secretary, and the Senior Road Captains by January 31, 2012.
- ◆ Ric will research and report on the current status of the Red Light Bill that would allow motorcycles to enter an intersection if a red light does not change, by the January general meeting.

### **ACTIVITIES: Larry Scalzitti**

#### Awards Banquet:

- ◆ Wayne reported that Gene Rigsby has the Awards banquet contract completed. Other details of the event are also on schedule. Budget is also within the amount allotted by the Board.
- ◆ Awards are in the process of being completed. The Board reserves the right to have final say on the winners.
- ◆ Invitations will be out next week.

#### Calendar of Events:

- ◆ Larry reported that the 2012 events are on the Calendar. There are also some old and new themes being developed for the riding season.
- ◆ President's ride will be to Indianapolis – Eiteljorg Museum, White River State Park. It will be a one or two day event. TBD

#### Ride Clarifications:

- ◆ Official Top Cat rides, for liability purposes, are rides that have been organized, advertised, scheduled, and lead by a Top Cat road captain or road captain candidate.
- ◆ Pick-up rides would be ones where a member makes calls and pulls riders together on their own with no Top Cat support. These are not considered official Top Cats Ride.

### **Other Activities Business:**

- ◆ Greg suggested that the RC meeting look into requirements for a ride that would allow a member to become a Road Captain.
- ◆ Wayne would like to obtain gift certificates for member recognitions. Money from the club can be used to purchase some of these. This will allow money to be returned back to the members in the form of incentives for being actively involved in the Club.

### **TREASURER: Stewart Johnson**

- ◆ Dues should be paid by December 31, 2011. Second notices for dues will be sent out on January 31<sup>st</sup> by a Mass Blast, reminding the members that after February 28<sup>th</sup>, their membership will be cancelled and they will have to reapply for membership.
- ◆ 20 members have presently paid the 2012 dues by mail. Wayne will ask Tony Loden to determine how many have used the web site to renew.
- ◆ Stewart reported the summaries of the accounts and then made suggestions of how money could be used for the members. Lunches, certificates, and other options were discussed and will be decided at future meetings.
- ◆ The Treasurers reports are available to members upon request.

### **Communications: Website / ROAR: Mary Walters**

No Report at this time.

(Continued on page 14)



Board Minutes Continued...

### New Business:

- ◆ Wayne talked about the duties of the Board and presented a responsibility matrix to the Board members. The Board members identified the duties/committees that they would like to take responsibility for during the 2012 year. Each committee is responsible not only for maintaining, but for improving their area of the club in order to keep the club moving forward. Matrix will be published in the ROAR so that the membership will know who to approach with ideas for developing the Club. (Matrix on page )
- ◆ Board members will be writing articles for ROAR and a schedule will be created for January.
- ◆ General Meeting format will change slightly.... Committee Chairs and support people will be reporting to the club monthly

With no other information the meeting was adjourned at 9:28.

General Minutes Continued....

**Election Results:** Larry Scalzitti, Stewart Johnson, and Theresa Pfeiffer completed the balloting. The 2012 Board is as follows:

President: Wayne Kirkpatrick, 1<sup>st</sup> year

Vice President: Gary Brandt, 1<sup>st</sup> year

Treasurer: Stewart Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Secretary: Mary Walters, 1<sup>st</sup> year

**Directors:**

Ric Case, 1<sup>st</sup> year

Larry Johnson, 1<sup>st</sup> year

Greg Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> year

Larry Scalzitti, 2<sup>nd</sup> term, 1<sup>st</sup> year



Meeting Ended at 9:00.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year....and Happy Festivus for the rest of us!

President's Article Continued

Finally, don't forget to go to [www.topcats.org](http://www.topcats.org) and check out our 2012 Activities Calendar to look for the events that you want to plan on attending this year, like Sturgis Bike Week, GRASS classes, or dates to schedule your own Top Cats ride. Remember, 1 April, and hopefully good weather, is less than 90 days away....

Let's Roll,

**Traveler**



2012....

# May it be a Year of Many Happy Tales...

Record our Top Cat History!  
Take pictures... Write Stories....  
And Submit them to the ROAR!

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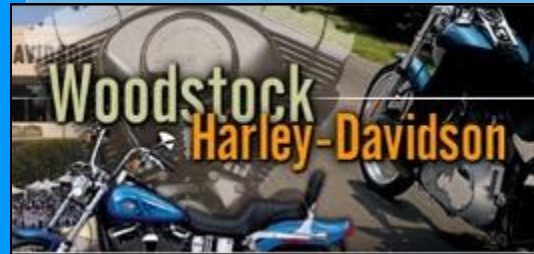
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## Support the TOP CATS Patrons



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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      |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| 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](http://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.

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at [ROAR@TOPCATS.org](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)



# ROAR



**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)

| ELECTED OFFICERS & DIRECTORS |   | COMMITTEE LEADERS  |   | ROAR  |   |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>President</b>             | Wayne Kirkpatrick<br>wkirkpa177@aol.com     | <b>Activities</b>  | Tony Loden<br>Tloden@strbr.com                | <b>Executive Editor &amp; Board Liaison</b> | Mary Walters<br>Mawalters57@gmail.com   |
| <b>Vice President</b>        | Gary Brandt<br>cgb002@comcast.net           | <b>Archives</b>    | <b>Open</b>                                   | <b>Editor-in-Chief</b>                      | Mary Walters<br>mawalters57@gmail.com   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>             | Stewart Johnson<br>studawn@sbcglobal.net    | <b>Charity</b>     | <b>Open</b>                                   | <b>Publisher</b>                            | Terri Loden<br>Tber06@comcast.net       |
| <b>Secretary</b>             | Mary Walters<br>meo1957@comcast.net         | <b>Membership</b>  | Jeff Tietz<br>Jtietz@fellows.com              | <b>ASSOCIATE EDITORS</b>                    |   |
| <b>Past President</b>        | Michael Bradbury<br>bradbundy@comcast.net   | <b>Awards</b>      | Gene Rigsby<br>gene.rigsby@gmail.com          | <b>Executive &amp; Board</b>                | Wayne Kirkpatrick<br>wkirkpa177@aol.com |
| <b>Director</b>              | Ric Case<br>Riccase@Comcast.net             | <b>Safety</b>      | Don Schaffer<br>numbersman@cjbs.com           | <b>Safety &amp; Road Captains</b>           | Gary Brandt<br>cgb002@comcast.net       |
| <b>Director</b>              | Larry Scalzitti<br>scalzitti@mindspring.com | <b>Website</b>     | Dennis P. Dougherty<br>wombat@dpdougherty.com | <b>Membership</b>                           | Greg Smith<br>Vethog@Wowway.com         |
| <b>Director</b>              | Greg Smith<br>Vethog@wowway.com             | <b>Products</b>    | Noelle Rigsby<br>genoe88@gmail.com            | <b>Charity</b>                              | <b>Open</b>                             |
| <b>Director</b>              | Larry Johnson<br>LJ03@comcast.net           | <b>SGT at Arms</b> | Ron Freudenberger<br>FreudyR@comcast.net      | <b>Events &amp; Calendar</b>                | Tony Loden<br>Tloden@strbr.com          |
| <b>Founder</b>               | Carl 'Virgo' Bender<br>1941-2001            |                    |   | <b>Motorcycle Community</b>                 | Wayne Kirkpatrick<br>wkirkpa177@aol.com |

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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)