



ROAR

February, 2012

Volume 12 Issue 2

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



George Washington apparently claimed that what one man could do well, two men would do less

well, three men would struggle with it, and four men will never get it done.



Washington was wrong!

Since our 2012 Board took office, and particularly over the last few weeks, I have seen some exciting accomplishments and initiatives from those who are unselfishly serving this Club and....they are doing it collectively, as a team, putting Top Cats ahead of any petty personal agendas. It's exciting and refreshing and....guess who the beneficiaries are from all this effort? We are!

Walk through it with me.... Our Directors and Committee Chairs are off to an aggressive and enthusiastic start this year. We have already seen:

- ⇒ Your new By Law Committee met with tremendous enthusiasm,
- ⇒ Your Safety, GRASS, and Road Captain Committees held our annual Road Captain meeting and GRASS class,
- ⇒ Your Products Committee has exciting ideas on marketing our Club items,
- ⇒ Your web site is new and improved and will have greater capabilities by the end of the year,
- ⇒ Your Archives Committee established a process with the Barrington Library for maintaining our digital legacy,
- ⇒ Your Membership Committee is tracking attendance and has initiated a Road Name program as well as renewed recognition and incentive for members who recruit,
- ⇒ Your Awards Committee just completed one of our most enjoyable, and well attended, Awards Banquets and has some great ideas on more recognition awards, and...
- ⇒ Your Activities Committee already has our 2012 activities calendar almost complete and filled with some exciting adventures.

(Continued on Page 16)

Inside This Issue

KAUTION KORNER	2
FLORIDA ESCAPE	3
ACTIVITIES	6
RC MEETING	8
TOP CATS BANQUET	10
GENERAL MEETING	12
Board Meeting	14
Business Mart	16
TOP CATS Patrons	17
RIDES AND EVENTS	19

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 5 Super Bowl Party
- 7 General Meeting
- 12 Motorcycle Show
- 14 Board Meeting

MARCH

- 3 Accident Scene Mngmt
- 6 General Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting
- 26 GRASS Class

ANY WINTER IDEAS?

**CONTACT THE
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
Now!**

KAUTION KORNER

Blind Spots

By Don 'Numbersman' Schaffer



Today's safety tip is a short one, but is intended to help you avoid one of the more common causes of rider injury. Blind spots.

A motorcycle is already a small target to be spotted by motorists without our causing ourselves to be even less visible. Where are you invisible? Recently an attorney acquaintance of mine was nearly killed in a totally avoidable accident. He spent months in the hospital and walks with a cane years later because of a momentary failure to observe proper spacing. He was heading south in the left lane of a four lane road through his home town of Northbrook. Yes, he was only a couple of miles from home. He was following a truck at a reasonable stopping distance as he went through an intersection. What he did not realize was that stopping distance was not the problem. He was in the right track, and was totally invisible to the northbound car that turned left as soon as he passed the truck, running right into the following bike.

While the "invisible follow" is the most common accident magnet that I have heard about, it is not by any means the only one. How often have you heard about a bike being run over by a following 18 wheeler pulling away from an intersection? They can't see you when they pull up too close, and it doesn't take much inattention to forget you are there. Darned good reason to keep the bike in gear at an intersection.

What about being in front of a truck, but in an adjacent lane? Ever see those great big mirrors on a truck. Ever occur to you that the driver can't see you if the mirror complete blocks you out?

No problem? What if he changes lanes while you are slowing down for a traffic light. Bam.

You also shouldn't stay beside a truck any longer than necessary. Yes, you can see the driver's eyes in the outside mirrors, but that doesn't mean he or she is paying attention to you instead of a cell phone or CB radio. Even if the driver looks in the mirror before changing lanes or turning, he is probably looking for something with four wheels. First life threatening close call I had when I returned to riding involved a truck that turned left from the right lane, which is where I happened to be trying to go straight. Ever look at the rear wheels of a tractor headed straight for you while you are braking as hard as you can, bailing out as soon as you get stopped, and rolling out of the way to avoid getting run over?

Is a truck following rather closely? If so, either let him get by, or be sure you have a lot of room in front of you. Keep in mind that a bike can stop quicker than most other vehicles, so your only safety cushion may be in front of you if you are being crowded and cannot move over. Be sure you don't overdo it and make the following driver think you are leaving all that extra space just to taunt him.

I am using the word TRUCK generically here, since you are just as likely to be hidden from sight by a Tahoe with tinted windows as you are by a UPS truck. You are almost always in control of positioning, make the most of it and save your life.



Florida Escape... Finding Green

By Tony and Terri Loden

Once upon a time Ponce De Leon landed in Florida seeking the fabled fountain of youth, and although he was unsuccessful in his quest, our semi tropical road trip may have been the youthful elixir that we needed to lengthen our riding season. The Florida peninsula, with its extensive coastline along the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean, is a vast breathtaking diversity of world-class beaches and forgotten small towns where time stands still. Only Alaska has more miles of oceanfront, but, while Terri loves her beaches, she was not willing to go to Alaska in the winter. The inland dense pine forests gave way to wide open prairies with grazing cattle, lush vegetable farms and orchards while the lower portion of the state was sawgrass prairie and mangrove swamps with a few stunted cypress trees thrown in for good measure.



We allowed for 11 days to enjoy this 2000 mile jaunt along the back roads of the Florida coastline and took us to within shouting distance of every major metropolitan area in the state without getting tangled up in any of the local congestion. So come along with us for just a sampling of our Florida Escape...

Day 01 (Circling Apalachicola – 205 Miles)

We arrived in Midway Florida a day early and decided to loop the Apalachicola National Forest as the centerpiece of getting our feet wet. Following US 90 west to Grand Ridge, then turning south to Bristol on Highway 71 provided the two-lane back roads with yellow pine forests, savanna, cyprus and wildflowers along the way.

A short stop in Wewahatchka found us searching for that famous Tupelo Honey. A soft-spoken gentleman that has lived in "Wewa" since 1933 directed us down a side street to the first palm tree and turn left follow that road to the chain-link fence where you would find L. L. Lanier, a local beekeeper that bottles the Tupelo Honey right on site from the flowers of the White (Ogeechee) Tupelo Trees which bloom for two weeks every spring in the southeast-



ern swamps of Florida. The Ogeechee River, the Apalachicola, and the Chattahoochee River Basins that run through the forest are the only place in the world where Tupelo Honey is produced commercially.

It was off to the gulf coast and around Indian Pass to the little gulf side town of Apalachicola where we dined on the freshest of fresh seafood lunch in a little seaside bistro on the edge of the bay. Just in case you ever get to Apalachicola, stop in and have some shrimp, crab cakes or oysters at Boss Oyster.



Day 02 (Midway FL to Cheifland, FL - 238 Miles)

This was the first day of the "Ride". So as not to retrace the previous day's route, we decided to trek down SR-67 through the heart of the Apalachicola National Forest.

At our next stop the town of Carrabelle seemed like time stood still. We stopped and met some locals at the only

coffee shop in town (Terri needed her Cappuccino). There was also this phone booth... Yes, a single phone booth that has served as a police station since 1963 until just last year for the 1800 citizens who live in Carrabelle. It is confirmed by the locals that those who protect and served this community parked their patrol

car in the shade of the berry tree next to the booth. It was known as "The Smallest Police Station in the World."

Following US-98 east took us to within a few feet of the gulf waters as we hugged the coastline but then turned inland through acres of cultivated pinewood forests to the City of Perry and around Florida's big bend with a few deviations down SR-361 and SR-358 to stay away from the four-lane highways.



(Continued on page 4)

Day 03 (Cheifland, FL to Clearwater Beach, FL – 215 Miles):

We began this day in Chiefland and proceeded southwest along the lower reaches of the Suwannee River turning west to the remote, picturesque town of Cedar Key. The view along these stretches of road to Cedar Key is how we understood Mother Nature intended for the coastal areas to look. From the panhandle of the state much of the coastline above Crystal River has yet to be developed and the two-lane roads were quiet and sometimes desolate.

Following US 19 south to US 44 took us inland thru scenic central Florida with cypress trees and spanish moss creating a cavern of overhanging trees emerging into the orange groves of central Lake County and then looping back to the coast staying well clear of congestion of Tampa we hugged the coastline of SR -19A at Tarpon Springs to end the day in Clearwater Beach.

After we checked in at the lodge, down on the beach, Terri did not know it but seagulls are aggressive; show them a few potato chips on the beach and a flock by the hundreds swarmed over her like Tippi Hedren in "The Birds" just to get that chip. As they say in social media sites, I was LMAO.



Day 04 (Clearwater Beach to Ft Meyers - 179 Miles)

For those of you enamored of long bridges, the ride across Tampa Bay on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge was

extra exciting even though the tanker alongside us decided he wanted to race while I snapped photos of the bridge. We complemented the crossing by cutting back West from Bradenton to the barrier islands and Longboat Key with sandy beaches and emerald green Gulf of Mexico waters, working our way down through Sarasota and then inland through the Myakka River State Park where 20 something foot crocodiles lay sunning themselves on the banks of the Myakka river and eventually to Arcadia, home of the Arcadia orange. Orange groves flourished on both sides of the road as we followed truckloads of oranges direct from the pickers' hands and off to the processing plants. The rest of the route to Ft. Meyers was just a



quiet ride showcasing the way south Florida used to be before tourism consumed the area around its southwestern beaches.

Day 05 (Ft Meyers to Homestead – 176 Miles)

Leaving Fort Myers we headed northeast along the Caloosahatchee River up to Labelle turning south to the everglades where we found there is plenty of cattle and horse farms along Route 29 which seemed more grazing lands than the stereotypical image of the everglades and swampland. The route through southern Florida took us through the big Cypress Indian Reservation, along "Alligator Alley", and Old Route 41 which is also known as the Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway. We expected this stretch of road to be fairly desolate however some cars and other riders were either in front or behind us the entire way.

At the corner of US 41 and SR-997, the Miccosukee Resort and Gaming facility rises above the horizon. This sovereign nation facility belongs to the Miccosukee Indian Tribe which has a proud history in the Florida everglades, which predates Columbus. The Miccosukee Indians were originally part of the Creek Nation, and then migrated to Florida before it became part of the United States. Here we stopped for lunch at a little R&R.



Just before Miami we turned south on SR-997 passing lush farms with rows and rows of fresh vegetables that are harvested in this region and shipped to restaurants and supermarkets throughout the states.

Day 06 & 07 (Homestead to Key West – 132 Miles)

Setting out from Homestead early in the morning to beat the local traffic, we continued our southern trek towards the self-proclaimed Conch Republic and its capital, Key West which has been home to Pirates, writers, and presidents, and the 126 mile ride along US 1 that is more bridge than land from Key Largo to the southernmost city in the United States took us across 42 bridges, including one that was 7 miles long. Here we decided to take a break for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We watched sunset at Mallory Square (the nightly ritual of Key West), hung out on Duval Street with some of the characters who add the color to Key West, kicked back a few at Sloppy Joe's Bar where Hemingway once hung out and did all of the touristy things that you should do while in Key West.





Day 08 (Key West to Clewiston – 230 Miles)

Leaving Key West we retraced our route along US 1 through Marathon, Islamorada, and Key Largo back to the mainland and through Homestead to view the same farms that we saw before continuing north towards Clewiston, on the southwest edge of Lake Okeechobee. This was a straightforward, easy cruising day back through the Keys and the vast wetland prairie of southeastern Florida.



Day 09 (Clewiston to Cocoa Beach – 161 Miles)

Today's ride started us around the tall levee that surrounds the western side of the 730 square mile Lake Okeechobee. With a bit of exploring, it may have been possible to find an occasional ingress for views across the Lake, but otherwise the great lake was hidden from view (I did not realize that when I planned the route).

Florida is also the nation's leading producer of sugar cane and we saw miles of it between the south end of the lake and the town of Okeechobee on the north side of the lake. Harvest fires were seen in the distance and along some of the roadways to remove the dead leaf material before cutting. The fire burns at quite high



temperatures but is over very quickly so that the cane and its sugar content are not harmed.

From Okeechobee following SR-70 easterly down to Ft. Pierce at the ocean side and turning north, the cruise up SR-A1A along the barrier islands could only be rated as A-number-1. This was the archetypical Florida ride, as the first part cut through the interior wetlands and the second part follows the sandy beaches on the barrier islands. It was on this day that the weather became questionable as we knew a cold front was working its way down the panhandle. Storm clouds brewed as the winds picked up but we made it to our lodging in Cocoa Beach before the thunderstorms closed in.

Day 10 (Cocoa Beach to St Augustine Beach – 185 Miles)

This day started out chilly and damp with heated gear and full leathers. The temperatures had dropped a full 20-degrees from the previous weeks ride. The temperature at KSU was a mere 55° but warmed up nicely as the day progressed to a high of 65°

Making our way north along SR-1 thru Titusville,

where NASA lives and breathes, the only views we had were of empty towers and buildings for the retired space shuttle program.

Heading east along SR-46 took us through a series of small friendly towns and then emerges upon historic downtown Mount Dora. This route presents one scenic view after another along the central lakes of Florida. Here we stopped for lunch and explored the quaint little trinket shops. Terri loved this town because it reminded her of Galena, shopping and more shopping; she says "if only we didn't have such limited space on the bike!?"



The route continued north through the middle of the Ocala National Forest. The forest may not look like wilderness, but it does have the highest large bear population in the state and the posted signs along the way never let us forget that. From pine trees the scenery turned to palm trees as the route headed back to the coast just north of Daytona again following SR-A1A along the barrier islands to St. Augustine Beach.

Day 11 (St. Augustine Beach back to Midway – 261 Miles)

Again a chilly day but not as bad as expected as we geared up and headed north through St. Augustine following SR -A1A along the Atlantic coast to the historic village of Mayport. It was here that we caught St. Johns River ferry which is one of the last remaining public ferries in the state and dates back to 1948, and crossed over to Ft. George Island; the crossing took all of a whopping 5 minutes. Continuing up and around Jacksonville finally turning west and finding our way to US 90 which parallels Interstate 10; the road was mostly straight with some minor elevation changes as we passed farm and grazing land interspersed with the woodlands which is the essence of northern Florida.

It was on this last day that I went fumbling for my camera in my jacket pocket and watched it bounce twice high in the air in my rearview mirror before coming to rest in the right-hand track of the two-lane road where the truck behind me promptly finished it off. My co-rider of course on this trip has not let me forget that riding and taking pictures is not in the best interest of the camera.



A stop in Lake City for lunch in a little diner across from the City Hall and we were off again to our final destination of Midway Florida.



TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

BY TONY LODEN

You'll be happy to know we are halfway through winter, at least the calendar part. Weather has been teasing us the last 30 days or so with some snow in higher than normal temperatures. I know some of you have been out riding.

With our annual awards banquet behind us, we continue to have events to keep us more connected as a club during the off-season. By the time you read this top cats movie night will be a memory and our Super Bowl Sunday will be just hours away. Larry and I hope that the club enjoys these activities as we all build our comradery together.

2012 looks to be a very event filled year with planned rides on nearly every weekend of the season. Some of these will be day rides geared toward a lunch or just a ride taking in lots of scenery, rustic roads, scenic byways etc.; while others will be two-day overnights or multiple day excursions. We hope to have something for everyone so that we get to see you more than once a year.

Top Cats has also secured discount pricing for the international motorcycle show to be held in Rosemont. When you logon to purchase your tickets use the promotional code "TOPCATS" and you will receive four dollars off your general admission price. This club discount is supposed to hold until the day the show. More information regarding our annual trek to show is in the calendar below and on the website. We hope that you can join us!

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

**Sunday, February 5th –
4:00 pm till end of game**

A Top Cats Super Bowl

Come on out to or hosts Russ & Theresa Peiffer's home (the address is on the calendar and in the blasts) and watch the game with your fellow Top Cats (Friends of Top Cats are also welcome.) A simple buffet of chili and soups will be provided but we ask that you bring a dish to pass. This is also a "be why oh be" party, so bring whatever you are drinking.



**Sunday, February 12th –
8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

The Progressive International Motorcycle Show

All interested Top Cats will meet for breakfast at the Egg'lectic Café located at 2905 Algonquin Road in Rolling Meadows, IL and then ride or drive to the show. Use the promo code "TOPCATS" online to knock \$4 off the 1-day adult ticket price.

**Sunday, March 3rd –
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Accident Scene Management (Basic Course)

If you've done it before, this is a great way to refresh your skills and for those that have never participated, this is a great way to learn new skills and to get your patch for your vest.

Sunday, March 25th –

GRASS Class with the RC module

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.

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. For more information, please contact me or contact one of the other officers or senior road captains.

Tony

The Barrington Area library has finished archiving about **150** pages of our club photos and all of the past issues of ROAR.

To find them, either

1. . Copy and past the entire links that follow or
2. Highlight the link, right click and open the hyper-link.

ROAR - <http://www.balibrary.org/local-history/560.top-cats-1995-2007.html>

Photos - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barringtonhistory/tags/topcats/>

Check them out... and see how things used to be..

[Birthdays and Anniversaries for February](#)

*Happy Birthday to
Don Schaffer—February 26th*

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



Road Captain Meeting

Sunday 1-22-12 11:30 AM

By Ric Case
Safety Director

Senior Road Captain Don Schaffer
Senior Road Captain Greg Smith
Road Captain Jeff Tietz

The 2012 Road Captain GRASS and Senior Road Captains meeting was held 22 Jan 2012.

In addition to attending the mandatory annual GRASS / Road Captain training, the road captains met and discussed the following:

1. Re-qualified Road Captains and Senior Road Captains for 2012 are:



Senior Road Captain Bard Boand
Senior Road Captain Mike Bradbury
Senior Road Captain Gary Brandt
Senior Road Captain Ric Case
Senior Road Captain Dennis Dougherty
Road Captain Stewart Johnson
Senior Road Captain Wayne Kirkpatrick
Road Captain Stephan Levy
Road Captain Tony Loden
Senior Road Captain Tom Malia
Senior Road Captain Carl Marcyan
Senior Road Captain Larry Scalzitti



2. The qualifications for new and existing Road Captains were reviewed and discussed and will remain unchanged for 2012.



3. A policy change was approved at the Senior Road Captains Meeting to make written Mentor Reports optional except on candidates for road captain. All other mentoring feedback will be communicated through discussions (verbal or electronically) with the Road Captain being mentored.



4. The Top Cats President reminded the group that all Top Cats Road Captains must set the example for other Top Cats members and are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, and responsible manner, particularly when it comes to public conduct, alcohol use, medication use, and in any situation that could tarnish the image and reputation of the Club and set the wrong example to our members.



5. Road Captains were reminded that an official Top Cats Ride is defined as one that is scheduled on our calendar, planned, and executed by Top Cats according to our principles. It also includes rides to and /or from destinations for other organizations rides when we plan it, schedule it, and lead it.

6. Road Captain ride credit was explained, in contrast to an "Official" Top Cats ride. For credit purposes, the ride should be a "stand alone" Top Cats event, or a day within a ride that is a Top Cats event. Where the ride is not a "stand alone" Top Cats event but is part of either a long ride primarily led by another Road Captain, or if associat-



ed with a ride of another group of for a Non-Top Cats purpose, the ride will be evaluated on complexity, length, duration, and challenge to determine point value and whether it will

qualify a Road Captain candidate for his/her rocker, or re-qualify a current road captain. The Safety Committee has the final determination on whether a ride counts toward re-qualification or qualification. Any concerns with the validity of a qualifying or re-qualifying ride should be addressed to the Safety Committee prior to that ride.



7. All road captains were encouraged to identify, motivate, and assist, responsible and capable Top Cats who desire and have the attributes to become, Road Captains, over the coming year.



(Continued on page 17)

Awards Banquet January 14, 2012 The Millrose

By: Gene and Noelle Rigsby



Annual Awards Banquet seemed to be a hit. We heard nothing but good comments and look forward to making it an even better event, next year.

Things were a little rough starting as this event was new to us, and we had to learn and grow as we moved along, but we had a lot of help as well, for which we are very thankful. A big THANKS to the Brandts for providing the much needed assistance with the invitations.

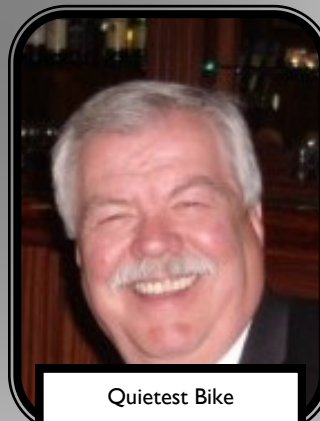
One trying situation was when the banquet room deposit did not make it to the restaurant, twice. We sent two checks, both to the same WRONG address, which was due from a typo in the contract the restaurant provided. Thank goodness the checks eventually made it there in time.

We would appreciate any suggestions from those who attended and even those who did not. Maybe things like, the music was good/bad, too low, too high, let's see more of that nice guy with the glasses (that would be Mike), or maybe the timing/day was off, which is why you could not make it. Not to say we would definitely accommodate your schedule, but if the number of conflicts for a given day was higher compared to another, maybe we could.

The turnout was good, but I know we can do better and I would ask that next year, everyone contact all the folks they know in the club and "ask" them if they are going, just as a good reminder.

This was a lot of fun to put together and it was great to see so many people pitch in to make it an exceptional event. Thanks again to everyone for their efforts!!

Top Cat's Annual Riding Awards



Quietest Bike
Fred Creed



Most Accessorized Bike
Larry Johnson



Cleanest Bike
Wayne Kirkpatrick



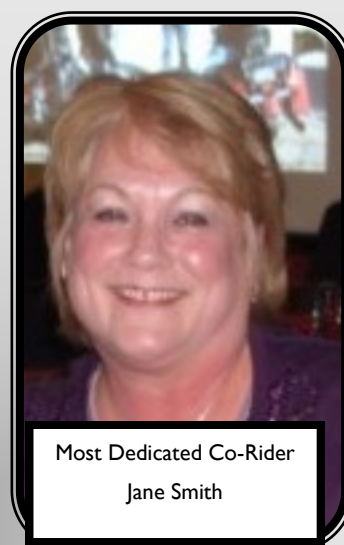
Most Scenic Ride
Mike Bradbury
Trempealeau



Favorite Top Cat Ride
Gary Brandt
Little Sturgis



Most Active Top Cat
Tony Loden



Most Dedicated Co-Rider
Jane Smith

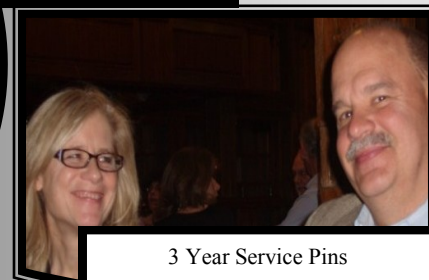
**Most Often Late to a Ride
And
All Time Recruiter**
Emil Kornicki



**3 year Service Pin and
Volunteer of the Year.**
Mary Walters



Most Grueling Ride
Sturgis –Day 2
And
Dirtiest Bike
Bard Board



3 Year Service Pins
Lisa Bowman Jeff Tietz
Also... Dirtiest Bike



**10 year Service Pin and Safest
Rider**
Larry Scalzitti

AAAAND... Also, Dirtiest



Vice President's Cup Award
Greg Smith



Most Helpful Top Cat
Dennis Dougherty

Loudest Pipes
Chuck Prettyman



NISRA Presentation – \$3400
Brian Shainian / Jillian Geise



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 3, 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 membership was asked to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Greg and Theresa Ludwig who came with Emil Kornecki for the evening.



President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Communication in the Club is key to bringing success to the New Year!

- ◆ Board Members will be sitting at separate tables so that they can interact to hear new ideas and be accessible to the members.
- ◆ Director's reports will be given so that the club will know who to contact with specific ideas!
- ◆ Thanks for commitments from the members who helped to make the past years successful and to those people who are now stepping up to continue the success.
- ◆ Awards Banquet is to celebrate the good things that happen within the Club - The people, the rides, the fun and humor of the year!
- ◆ 2012 Events Calendar has been scheduled and posted. More rides can be added so see Tony Loden with ideas.
- ◆ By-Law Committee would allow all members, new and old, to understand and develop the Club in a manner that will benefit the Club presently and in the future. Gary Brandt will head up the committee to address some of the issues that have been identified by members.
- ◆ Stewart Johnson, TC Secretary, suggested at the last Board meeting that we can use free lunches, oil changes, gift cards for gas, TC apparel for incentives that will increase ride participation.
- ◆ Last Ride, 2011. Larry Scalzitti – ride leader, Larry Johnson, Don Schaffer, and RT member Pete Mazik were riding on New Year's Eve.... making sure that the year is ended in Great Top Cat's form!
- ◆ As a Reminder: An Official Top Cat Ride is one that is scheduled, announced, organized, managed, and lead by Top Cat's Members.
- ◆ Membership Renewals are due.

Past President's Comments: Mike Bradbury

Mike expressed that he was glad to see everyone and wished all a Happy New Year!

Vice President's Report: Gary Brandt

- ◆ Gary will be the By-Law Committee Chair and the Committee will address many areas that are unclear in the Club's By-Laws.
- ◆ Five committee members will be representative of a variety of years of membership. This will ensure the energy of new members as well as the experience of the old members to be directives in this process.
- ◆ Gary will report back monthly to the Club as to the progress of the Committee.

Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- ◆ Data bases have been maintained by separate committees in the past, but will now be the responsibility of the Secretary.
- ◆ These data bases include participation of the members in the GRASS class, Road Captain information, ride history, and personal data.
- ◆ Please make sure that any changes in phone number, addresses, or e-mails are made known to the club so that the

(Continued on page 11)



master data sheets will reflect the most current and accurate information.

ROAR: Mary Walters

The ROAR is representative of the Club. Next month, a survey and volunteer sheet will be presented to the club and ideas collected for the next year's publication.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Johnson

- ◆ Membership renewals were sent out mid-November. Payments can be made online or by mail and should be completed by the end of the month of January.
- ◆ Treasurer's report is available upon request.
- ◆ Stewart gave basic information on the Club's annual costs.
The money given to NISRA this year will be \$3100. A good number considering the rainy day for the 2011 event.

Awards/Membership: Greg Smith

Stan Lukasik was identified as the newest member and was given his membership packet.

- ◆ Membership cards will be given to each member during the February and March meetings. They are good for discounts at some dealerships in the area.
- ◆ Members will be asked to sign in for each meeting and each ride. Attendance will be used for awards and other recognition within the Club.
- ◆ Name tags will be made available for all members. See Greg for information

Safety/Charity: Ric Case

- ◆ GRASS class dates are set and on the Web Site.
- ◆ Road Captain Committee will be taken by Mike Bradbury. He will maintain the information on Road Captain requirements.
- ◆ Charity Committee is being formed and is looking for ideas for the raffle gifts. One idea is to raffle a trip to Sturgis! Judy Scalzitti has volunteered to be a part of the committee for the 2012 year
- ◆ Safety Tip: There are so many things that can be done to prepare the bike for next season. TCLOCS is the memory key:
 - T=Tires. Check for the many incentives available right now for new tire purchases. Treads, wheels, bearings, break pads, and sprocket or pullys are also important components to check.
 - C=Cables. Adjustments can be made now. Look for frays and cracks in the cables as well as correct tension and connections.
 - L=Lights. Checks on the battery and electrical components are essential for making it a good year.
 - O=Oils. All fluids can be checked as well.
 - C=Chain. As well as all of the parts that are involved in the forward motion of the bike.
 - S = Side stand, center stand, and/or kick stand. The spring associated with this should be checked as well.
- ◆ Law Changed for the Red Lights. New Law reads 'reasonable amount of time'. Be sure to use good judgment when making the turns. It is advisable to wait two minutes.
- ◆ Fred Rau's column identifies some bike issues. #1 is the 'construction zone' areas set up by police departments. There have been some areas identified that were not truly under construction, but speeders were fined double. #2 Some cities have illegally shortened the cycle for a yellow light to catch more drivers in a red light camera.

Activities/ Website: Larry Scalzitti

- ◆ Tony Loden is open for all new ideas and rides!
- ◆ New Road Captains will be welcomed!
- ◆ Dennis Dougherty is in charge of the website, but has been out of town.
- ◆ Tony Loden reported on the activities that are coming up for January... See the website for details!
- ◆ Tony Loden discussed a possible ride to Arizona Bike Week. More information to follow
- ◆ Wayne Kirkpatrick previewed the President's ride to Indianapolis and asked if people would be interested in a one or two day ride. A two – day ride was chosen. More information to follow.

(Continued on page 16)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2011

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Call to order

7:30 PM

Kirkpatrick

Present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Gary Brandt, Tony Loden, Larry Johnson, Ric Case, Greg Smith, Mike Bradbury, Gene Rigsby, Mary Walters, Larry Scalzitti

Excused: Stuart Johnson

President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ♦ The tone of the last general meeting was positive and there was a strong move toward making it a productive and active year. Mike Bradbury and Gary Brandt's information brought a lighter note to the meeting. Greg made a very upbeat presentation to the new members.
- ♦ 2012 Improvements/initiatives: Each Member of the Board and Committee Chairs **were** asked to look for ways to make improvements to their position and make initiatives to develop ideas that will build the unity of the club.
- ♦ Membership Renewals: By-Laws are being adjusted for the renewal process. Second notices will be sent by the end of January.
- ♦ March's meeting will include a presentation from Greg Zaffke and February's meeting will include **Accident Scene Management**. Other ideas for guest speakers were discussed.

Vice President: Gary Brandt

- ♦ By-Law Project was discussed and information on the direction of the Committee was presented.
- ♦ Article X of the current by-laws provides for several options. The decision has been made to create a new document with no amendments. The final result will be presented to the **Board** for review.
- ♦ June 30th, 2012 is the goal for the finish date.

Secretary: Mary Walters

- ♦ The goal for ROAR is to create opportunities to include more of the membership with the authoring of articles. A list of monthly 'themes' will be presented at the general meeting.
- ♦ Master Roster will include changes that will be made monthly with a new roster sent to all board members reflecting the changes.

Treasurer: Stuart Johnson's report was given by Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ♦ Member Renewals include 48 paid renewals with 13 more that committed to the club **so far**.
- ♦ Financial Status is current and reflects the dues paid to date.

Past President: Mike Bradbury

- ♦ Mike will become the Road Captain Chair and will be meeting with them at the meeting on January 22, 2012.
- ♦ The gavel and 2 spot will be transferred **to the new President at the Awards Banquet**.
- ♦ An external hard drive is still in the possession of the club. There are many options and a decision will be made after some investigation as to its best use.

Director: Larry Scalzitti

Awards banquet Update: Gene Rigsby

- ♦ The Banquet is set and the final pieces are being completed. Format is similar to last year's event.
- ♦ 38 people have committed to attend.

(Continued on page 13)



- ◆ The projector will be brought by Greg Smith and other members will arrive early to assist with the set-up for the night.

Activities

- ◆ There are many events that will carry us through the winter months and can be found on the website.
- ◆ Super Bowl location: Russell Pfeiffer has volunteered to open his house for the event and it was seen as a great way to develop the camaraderie of the club.
- ◆ Other events will be held at Eskape to maintain a positive relationship.

Web Site

- ◆ A discussion was had on how we can ensure the accuracy of the website information for the rides listed and the question was posed as to the time frame for canceling a ride.
- ◆ Various improvements for the website use were discussed and will be researched.
- ◆ The process for ensuring access to new members has been put into place and purging old members will be done when the **Master Roster** is complete.
- ◆ Downloading pictures is difficult and Larry will check with Dennis Dougherty on making it easier for members to save the pictures for individual use.
- ◆ There was a discussion on the use of Social Forums, such as **LinkedIn**. Do we want or need this forum. It was decided that it is a great way to connect members, but monitoring the site would be advisable to preclude it from becoming a forum for personal attacks, derogation, harassment, etc. Tony Loden will do that as he is the moderator of the site.

Director: Greg Smith

- ◆ Membership changes will be made to the rosters and e-mailed to Mary Walters. When the changes are made, the new rosters will be e-mailed to the Board to confirm.
- ◆ Orders for name tags will be made available to all members at the next meeting.
- ◆ No new applications for membership at this time.
- ◆ Ideas were discussed concerning the recruiting of new members. Possibilities include leather patches, oil changes, and gift certificates. Initially, a free oil change will be presented to a member who recruits a new member.
- ◆ Road Names will be a focus for this year! Everyone will be asked to choose a name – OR one may be assigned... And it's very likely that it won't be pretty...

Director: Ric Case

Safety

- ◆ Road Captain meeting will be held on the 22 January and Russ Pfeiffer will attend because his schedule prohibits him from attending the next GRASS class.
- ◆ The meeting on the 22nd will include a GRASS segment, a Road captain segment, and a Senior Road Captain meeting.
- ◆ The safety tip and Kaution Korner schedule will be finalized at the next meeting.
- ◆ The Illinois Red Light updates will be posted on the website

Charity

- ◆ NISRA Check will be given at the Banquet by Mike Bradbury. Our total donation this year will be \$3,100 + \$300 in checks that were given later for a total of \$3,400.
- ◆ The 2012 Charity Committee is coming together and will include Russ Pfeiffer, Noelle Rigsby, Judy Scalzitti, and Terri Loden. They will have their first meeting on January 24th at Eskape.
- ◆ The Charity Committee will be looking at raffle options such as a classic motorcycle, a paid trip to Sturgis, a new motorcycle, etc.

Director: Larry Johnson

- ◆ Product inventory is being completed and all products are now in Larry Johnson's possession. Larry will make reports on the purchasing process as the organizational structure develops.

(Continued on page 16)



Board Minutes Continued...

- ◆ Archives have been completed at the Barrington Library and will be updated every six months with the new ROAR publications and photos.
- ◆ Photo's can be found easily, but ROAR has to be accessed through the 'Community Group' section of the library site. The process will be put into the next ROAR and Dennis Dougherty will be asked to create a link to the library site on the Top Cats Web page.
- ◆ The library has asked Top Cats to do a presentation on our club in the future.

Other Business

All members can submit photographs to be uploaded to the Top Cats Website.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

General Minutes Continued...

History/Products: Larry Johnson

Larry is looking to set up a table at each meeting for purchasing Top Cat apparel.

Larry will be meeting with the Archivist at the Barrington Library to continue to document the Top Cats' Legacy.

New Information:

Gary Brandt spoke of the raffle tickets that Rolling Thunder is selling for a National Raffle of a Motorcycle and the Chapter Two raffle of handguns.



With no further information the meeting was adjourned at: 9:20.

President's Article Continued

In addition to all of this, we are seeing new members planning new rides to new destinations, new members offering to host Top Cats events, old members encouraging and helping our newer folks with rides, events, projects, etc. When you have a group of people who get along together, who enjoy working together, who share a common interest, we realize incredible results. There is a renewed excitement in our Club that we haven't seen for awhile and the reason is so clear....

Washington was wrong.

Let's roll,

Traveler

President

Top Cats - Illinois





9. The Kaution Korner/Safety Tip schedule for Senior Road Captains for 2012 follows.

RC Meeting Continued...

February	Don Schaffer
March	Wayne Kirkpatrick
April	Carl Marcyan
May	Tom Malia
June	Dennis Dougherty
July	Bard Board
August	Gary Brandt
September	Mike Bradbury
October	Greg Smith
November	Larry Scalzitti
December	Ric Case



Any Senior Road Captain with a schedule conflict should find another Senior Road Captain to trade with and inform Ric Case. As a reminder your Kaution Korner is due to the ROAR Editor by the fifth (5th) of the month before your scheduled Safety Tip.

TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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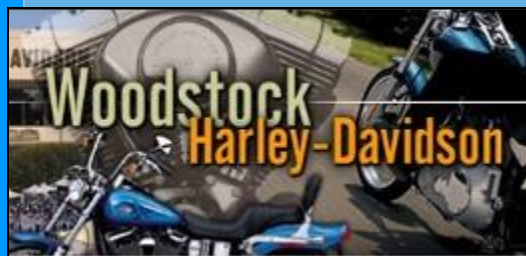
847-438-6588

scalzitti@mindspring.com

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
Sunday, February 5th	Super Bowl	Gurnee	The Pfeiffer's Home	4pm	The Pfeiffer's
Tuesday, February 7th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, February 12th	Motorcycle Show	Egg'Lectic Café Rolling Meadows	Rosemont	8am	Loden
Tuesday, February 14th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, March 3rd	Accident Scene Management	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	9:00am	Scalzitti
Tuesday, March 6th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, March 13th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, March 26th	GRASS Class	Palatine	Harris Bank Building	8:30am	Case

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.

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org



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

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