



# ROAR

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## PRESIDENT'S MINUTE



Sometimes, success can be so subtle as to be un-

noticeable. As Top Cats, we enjoy success in a variety of ways, some obvious and some so subtle that they have to be pointed out. Each little "success" enhances our reputation in our community.

I'll educate you about some of the subtle successes that continue to build our reputation as a club lately.



**Success 1.** Overheard at a local HOG chapter meeting: " Yeah, I went kicking and screaming to Top Cats' safety class last year and, it was one of the best safety classes I ever went to."



**Success 2.** Call most any hotel from Davenport to Rapid City and use the name Top Cats. The typical response: A very positive

"Oh, yeah, I remember you guys."



**Success 3.** Weeks ago I was talking to a couple at the International Bike Show when they noticed my Top Cats pin. They related a story of how, they had a flat tire on their bike last year, no cell phone, and no one would stop to help. Then, along came a rider with a Top Cats patch, called for help and stayed with them until help arrived. It's now their prime example of biker camaraderie. That rider is still a Top Cat who kept our reputation alive and well...



**Success 4.** A local dealer approached me to ask for the names of three Top Cats who helped with traffic at his recently open house. He got better support than from his own HOG chapter.

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### Upcoming Events

#### APRIL

- 3 General Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting
- 22 Kick-off Ride
- 24 Franks and Fries

#### MAY

- 1 General Meeting
- 6 Millie's Breakfast Run
- 8 Board Meeting
- 15 Franks and Fries
- 20 Little Angels
- 24 Rolling Thunder

#### ANY IDEAS?

#### CONTACT THE

**ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE NOW!**



## **KAUTION KORNER**

# Semper Vigilare

By: Carl Marcyan

Just a few weeks ago, traveling southbound down US 41 from Waukegan and nearing the bridge under IL 176, traffic came to a crawl. No vehicles going north, a sign that a problem lay ahead. After a 15 minute crawl, that seemed to last an eternity, the problem was visible. Two semi cabs and trailers, both heading north, had careened off each other. One, now on its side, ended up on an embankment while the other, still upright, on the east shoulder had a crushed cab. A blue tarp covered a body on the road, and what remained of the driver in the upright cab was covered completely with a white sheet.

Except for this tragic and deadly accident, road and weather conditions were perfect, a cloudless and sunny day. Not sure what the cause of the accident was; however, the roadway curves to the northwest at that point and it is likely that the driver of the truck on the inside lane was preoccupied and did not curve with the road, staying on a northerly track while the truck in the outside lane followed the curve to the northwest.

We see this often while motorcycling. Cars and other vehicles in proximity fail to follow the roadway and end up inches away from other vehicles. For these two truckers there was no margin of safety. The lanes are not exceptionally wide and carrying a heavy load makes for limited ability to take quick, evasive action. The benefit of riding a motorcycle is that visibility around us is relatively unobstructed and our narrow silhouette provides opportunity for rapid response and movement to avoid an immediately developing unsafe condition.

Nevertheless, bikers must maintain constant



surveillance of what is going around them. Our senses must stay heightened. The Latin phrase, *semper vigilare*, should be our motto, rightfully emblazoned not only on our leather vests but in our minds.

Some things to consider and remember:

- ◇ Keep your eyes on the road
- ◇ Scan from left to right and back again constantly
- ◇ Check your mirrors at least every 10 seconds to watch for traffic approaching from the rear (we all have been surprised with a car "coming from nowhere" and passing us.)
- ◇ Do not allow yourself to be distracted while riding by changing radio stations, satellite channels, changing the GPS settings
- ◇ Keep your senses heightened by chewing gum, singing along with song on the radio or some other method that prevents you from being lulled into complacency.

Above all stay vigilant, always, *Semper Vigilare*



## Top Cats You Should Know!

### Theresa Peiffer

As told to Mary Walters

Well, it seems that the idea of a dynamic duo has so many more options than just Batman and Robin! The term in 'google ask' brings up some pretty weighty names... Cleopatra and Marc Antony, Sampson and Delilah, as well as McDreamy and Meredith - or for us old timers, Ricky and Lucy. The list went on and on... BUT, as Top Cats, we don't have to look that far to find an exciting story - we have a dynamic duo of our own!

Last month, you were able to read about Russ Peiffer and his journeys into motorcycles and racing. This month, you can hear about how he balances his life with his active and outgoing wife, Theresa. Her story is filled with action and romance... just like Cleopatra's!

So much to tell - we'll start from the beginning and wind through the years. Her first ride on a motorcycle was with a neighbor boy named Andy. She loved the experience... and since then, she and Russ - yes, Russ - the REAL man of her dreams, have made motorcycling a regular part of their lives. In their years together, they have had a few bikes, starting with Black Beauty, a Vulcan 800. This was the bike that Theresa thought Russ deserved, "Because anyone who can live with me for twenty years, deserves a bike!" Black Beauty as well as Passion are now history. Spidey and Voyager are the present family members. Spidey, is Theresa's trike, because Theresa claims that she is vertically AND horizontally challenged and feels much safer on three wheels for now.

When she is not riding, you will find Theresa assisting her co-workers at Kraft in her position as Kraft - Senior Manager Business Process Management/Customer Service and Logistics, Kraft Food Inc.! Try to say that with your mouth full of Oreos! She works long hours and travels to train others in the systems that Kraft uses for accounts receivable, collections, credit, deductions, master data, security, and cash application. Quite a full plate each week, but she manages all of that and keeps close to Russ and their two children.

When visiting the Peiffers, one is struck with their open, friendly and warm greetings. Visitors feel at home immediately and it seems that they get quite a lot of practice in this area. They are great at hosting parties for people of all ages... Top Cats were fortunate enough to be guests

during Super Bowl, 2012, and their house is a neighborhood hang-out for their son, Josh, and his friends as well as Alyssa and her friends too!

While interviewing Theresa, Alyssa was in the room working on her photography. She is a member of Warren Township High School's Color Guard and the Yearbook Team. Both groups are fortunate to have her talent on board - she seems to have inherited her mother's boundless energy and readiness to get involved! It is important to mention this, because this family is very connected - and Theresa makes sure that it stays that way. She and Russ are very proud of their children's accomplishments and when asked of one thing that others might not know about her, she mentions the fact that she has million dollar children. They have both made it through some very difficult illnesses - Alyssa with Pyloric Stenosis as a baby, and Josh, born fourteen weeks prematurely, was in the hospital for the first ninety-three days of his life. It seems that these experiences have taught the entire family to value every minute and make the most of every opportunity!

They truly have done this! And this Dynamic Duo is surely an example of teamwork. Theresa stated that her 'lucky charm' - the one she doesn't ride without - is her husband... and they've had some very memorable travels. For the anniversary of twenty-one years together, Theresa planned a trip to Las Vegas. It was a total surprise to Russ, who was whisked away from home in a limousine, thrilled that all of the details were taken care of completely. His job, his children, and the motorcycle rental had all been coordinated for the week.

Their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was spent in Arizona, complete with a motorcycle and a whole lot of great stories! But, with space running out - you will just have to find Theresa and have her tell you all about it! Dynamic Duo is a great definition of the Peiffers! They work together and celebrate family! Theresa is an amazing spirit.. Strong, a wonderful story teller, a great energy, and a first rate Top Cat you should know! Find her this summer and enjoy getting to know this great lady.





## TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

**YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS**

**BY TONY LODEN**

The great riding weather in March looks like it will continue into April, let's all hope the long-range forecasters at the National Weather Service have their crystal balls all polished up and tuned into the Mother Nature channel.

Last year was a lot of fun! We had a full riding schedule, put some quality miles on our bikes, and had a great time making memories. This year our schedule looks to be filling in fast and will be even bigger! If you are looking for some exciting lunch runs, destination rides, overnights and themed rides, mixed in with friendly Top Cats comradery you will not be disappointed.

Our riding season kicks off this month around mid-April with the Annual Kick-off Ride and finishes the season in late October with a Wake the Dead ride around the area cemeteries. There will be everything in between from the Presidents Ride the end of June to a Progressive Dinner ride in September and let's not forget our 17th annual NISRA charity ride scheduled for July 22.

So far, there are lots and lots of rides on the calendar, so please check the Top Cats website and set aside the weekends now so you don't miss out!

Speaking of rides you do not want to miss out on, the block of rooms for the Annual Little Sturgis/Davenport 3-day weekend ride are now available by calling the Radisson Quad City Plaza Hotel at (563) 322-2200 and asking for the "Top Cats" group rate checking in on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The room rate is \$109 per night. Reservations for this ride must be made no later than Wednesday, May 16, 2012 or we risk losing the blocked rooms and our rate. I will have more information in upcoming articles and at the meetings for everyone regarding this ride.

Bard also says that there are still some rooms available for the Top Cats Annual ride to the 2012 Sturgis Rally scheduled to leave on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> and returning Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Reserve your room at the Alex Johnson by calling the Hotel Alex Johnson directly at (605) 342-1210. All reservations must be guaranteed by a valid credit card. The base contract room rate for a double queen, king or executive suite is \$199 per night plus applicable taxes (about 12.7%) with junior or better suites slightly higher.

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

### **Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> –**

**9:00 a.m. – Midafternoon**

### **Annual Kick off Ride (Smith)**

It is that time again to uncover that bike in the garage and get out for the Top Cats first ride of the season. We will meet at the Shell Station at Lake-Cook and Route 12 with KSU scheduled for 9:30am. Reliable sources tell me that the ride will be heading west for a terrific brunch following some uncharted back roads.

### **Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> –**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

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

Once again our dog connoisseur Larry Scalzitti is still in search of that perfect Hot Dog... We're doing it again this year to search out that perfect dog, meet up with your motorcycling buddies, look at our bikes and talk about motorcycles. This month we will kick things off at Delicious Red's located at 2 East Main Street in Lake Zurich, IL.

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**Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> –**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

## **Satellite Ride to the Epic Memorial Ride (Open)**

For those Top Cats that would like to participate and take the back roads (Rt 14) up to Delevan, WI and assemble with the rest of the riders as an organized club for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Epic Memorial Ride from Delevan to Lake Zurich, IL. We meet at the Shell Station, Lake Cook and Rand Rd, Palatine with KSU at 9:30am. Open to all members and guests.

**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> –**

**9:00 a.m. – Midafternoon**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Brunch Run to Millie's (Loden)**

Meet at the Shell Station at Lake-Cook and Route 12 with KSU scheduled for 9:30am. This year the plan is to mix things up and meander a bit westward and travel the county back roads through Illinois and southern Wisconsin to take in the sights and sounds of typical Americana. Once we get hungry, we will stop for brunch at Millie's Restaurant in Delevan, WI. From there the group will return back to the friendly confines of Northern Illinois later in the afternoon. Open to all members and guests.

**Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> –**

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

## **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Little Angels Pledge Run (Loden)**

For those Top Cats that will be participating, we have a reserved spot at the front of the group. This satellite pick-up ride will take the back roads up to Woodstock Harley and assemble at the starting point of the ride. We meet at the Shell Station, Lake Cook and Rand Rd, Palatine with KSU at 8:30am. Open to all members and guests.

**Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Thru**

**Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

## **Annual Rolling Thunder DC Run (Kirkpatrick)**

Wayne still has rooms available at the time of this writing. Travel to Washington DC during the Memorial Day weekend with your fellow Top Cat members to experience the largest gathering of bikes calling for the government's recognition and protection of Prisoners of War (POWs) and those Missing in Action (MIAs). About 400,000 veterans will roar across Washington, DC on their motorcycles as a tribute to American war heroes.

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*

# Top Cat Bylaw Team Results through Positive Action

**By: Gary Brandt**

All organizations go through difficult times and face tough issues sometime during their existence. Changes in the views of membership or society in general can trigger unpopular or confusing events. The Top Cats are no different. We too have our share of disagreements and lively discussions. Most of the time, these are healthy and add value. On occasion, if not handled properly they can be negative and divisive.

Last fall we fell into the latter. There was legitimate disagreement with how the election process was handled. Good points were presented on both sides. Unfortunately the debate process evolved into a situation that was not only extremely negative, but threatened to divide us.

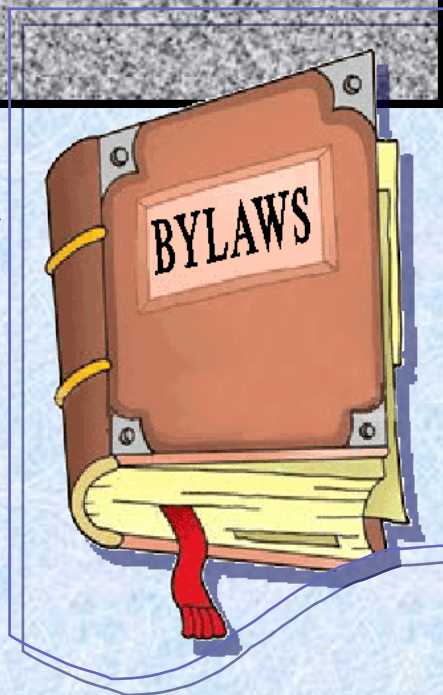
The proper way to handle such situations was started immediately after the new Board was installed. Our President formed a By Law committee to study not only the election process, but to review all of the By Laws and make recommendations for changes to the Board.

A committee made up of members (both regular and associate) representing various tenures within the Top Cats was created. Ranging from less than a year of membership to over 10 years, every membership class was represented. The committee was chaired by the Vice President, who was the only committee member with any board experience. This was done intentionally to remove as much bias regarding the current bylaws as possible. It was also decided not to create amendments as this just adds confusion. The bylaws would be re-written and submitted to the board. This was allowed under the current bylaws.

Kornicki made up the team. They set a goal to look for ways to create new bylaws that would help guarantee that the Top Cats would be around for a long time with active and satisfied members. They set up some interesting ground rules. For starters, all recommendations would have

to be agreed to by every team member. They felt that without a full consensus they may not be viewed as representing all of the membership. Then they agreed that any change had to be viewed as "in the best interest" of the Top Cats, without regard to how some individual may react. They needed to be forward thinking and not contain items to reflect the past. Bylaws are not intended to create legacies.

The team originally had set June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 as the deadline for completing this task. Once they started the work of reviewing each article in the bylaws, determining if changes were needed, and then coming up with a recommended change, it was clear that they wanted to spend extra time now and get this done, so the Top Cats could move on quickly. The team worked hard and was able to submit a new Bylaw document to the President prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>.



Russ Pheiffer, Jeff Tietz, Ron Freudenburger and Emi

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Each of them spent hours working on their own time and we had many meetings as part of the process. Russ and Ron opened up their homes to host the meetings. Lots of discussion to say the least, many long evenings! In the end they all believe that the task was worth the effort and are proud of the work they have done.

The next step is to go through them in detail with the Board, who in turn will determine if they accept or modify them. Once the Board approves them, they will be presented to the membership.

This is a prime example of how to unite and keep the Top Cats moving forward. **Results through positive action**; its how we deal with most issues in the business world these days and it has now worked in this case as well. When we work together in the spirit of understanding and compromise, we can accomplish much more. In my lifetime the trend has changed from “bully” management to one of team building and cohesiveness. We have learned that people respond better in the long run to a friendlier environment. We have all benefited from being members of the Top Cats. It is a great group of people who make our motorcycle environment more fun and enjoyable. With these new bylaws, it is intended that this continues for a long time to come.



Frank Glick took this picture in Fort Snelling Cemetery in July, 2011. There is so much more behind the picture...

...and you can read the entire story by going to:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/124543223.html>



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### FEBRUARY 7, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Meeting began at 7:35 and membership was asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Carol Smelzer, guest of Emil Kornecki

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

Recognition was given to three committees:

- Safety Committee: for all of the work that takes place in order to organize GRASS, the Kaution Korner, record keeping for the Road Captains.
- The By-Law Committee: That was put together quickly, but has done an outstanding job in reviewing and revising the By-Laws.
- The Charity Ride Committee: For all of the work that has been done to move the event forward.



#### ***Guest: Crash Coalition: Greg Zaffke***

- Greg has worked consistently to remind us of the need to be aware of our surroundings while driving. He does this to honor the memory of his mother, Anita Zaffke, who was killed by a distracted driver. Schools and colleges have been the focus of developing public awareness.
- Greg reviewed the outcomes of the court case for the driver who killed Anita, as well as the stories of others who have been killed because of distracted driving.
- His group is working to change the habits of drivers to make them more aware, but more importantly to change the legal processes that address these cases. They are asking that the legal system increase the consequences of the situations to address more fully the graveness of these negligent actions.
- The group led by Greg Zaffke and his father have purchased property that will allow them to expand their efforts and their activities. Because of this endeavor, the Memorial Ride will be sized down. It will be truly just a memorial ride, rather than a fundraising event. Other fundraising efforts will be developed this year to replace the moneys from the ride. More information can be found at [www.CrashCoalition.org](http://www.CrashCoalition.org).

#### ***Networking and Six Sigma Green Belt: Gene Rigsby***

- The Six Sigma Process is a business improvement program that allows the participant to work on developing changes for a particular business.
- Many of the people that were taking the class with Gene are willing to help any businesses, pro bono. They are presently looking for work and would be glad to keep moving forward by assisting businesses to improve their bottom lines.
- If anyone in the club would like to have one of these program graduates assist them in streamlining their businesses, contact Gene Rigsby at [gene.rigsby@gmail.com](mailto:gene.rigsby@gmail.com).

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

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- The By-Law Committee has completed their review of the by-laws. This was two months ahead of schedule. The group was representative of a variety of age groups and years in the club. This was done intentionally so that there would be a wide variety of perspectives and input.
- Note from Wayne: The next steps of the process will include the presentation of the By-Laws to the board, where the final touches will be made and the details will be clarified. After that the final will be presented to the membership.
- Many rides have been planned outside of the Club and club members are welcomed to attend these rides as well. Contact Gary for information.

## ***Secretary's Report: M. Walters***

- Rosters have been updated to reflect the final membership for the 2012 year.

### ***ROAR***

- Terri has been putting together stories about our members. The first two are Bard Boand and Russ Peiffer. See the ROAR for the details!

## ***Treasurer's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick for Stuart Johnson***

- Stuart is in tax season, but has validated our membership for the club as well as the numbers in our bank account.

## ***Awards / Membership: Greg Smith***

- No new members, but one application in the process
- The membership cards are complete and are ready to be handed to the club. Be sure to fill in the back side of the card with your emergency contact information.

## ***Safety and Charity: Ric Case***

### ***Road Captain Recognition: Don Schaffer***

- Stephan Levy was awarded a Bronze star for being Road Captain for completing five rides. His actual count is presently at six.

### ***Safety Tip: Wayne Kirkpatrick***

- If you are single, put your information on the back of your membership card in pencil..... (Editors note: Wayne's is now in ink)
- When getting ready for a ride, the usual things that we think of are checking batteries, wires, tires. But just as important is being sure that you are ready for changes in weather or time of day.
- Glasses for day and night
- Shirts, coats, and other gear needed.
- Be aware of what is up ahead at all times.
- Be ready to swerve if/when needed. Practicing this maneuver can be done in parking lots or as you are making lane changes.
- Practice breaking too.
- Country Roads and turn-arounds come up and you need to be ready. Be aware of how much room you need to make these turns. Again, practice is important!
- Parking practice also helps to make the rides safer and a little less embarrassing. Ask for help if needed.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### MARCH 13, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Call to order: 7:30

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

Excused: Stewart Johnson

**President:** Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Final Membership Renewal status includes 59 actual members for the 2012 year. This includes 20 former and 9 new members. The attrition was not out of the average range for the club and less than 2009.
- The last meeting was a very strong, upbeat and positive meeting and the new year looks very promising.
- Meeting speakers will include: Chiro 1 for April and an informational GPS presentation by Tom Malia and Don Schaffer for May. Other possible information could include a website briefing, investment briefing, and an insurance briefing.
- Website code updates are being developed and the information will be presented to the club in June.
- Membership will work up a procedure for the members to understand how to tour the website.
- Tax filing for 2011 and the Insurance for 2012 is in the process of being completed.
- A new process will be developed in order to conveniently process the mail from the P.O. box in a timely manner.
- The By-Laws Update Presentation to the Board is scheduled for Monday night, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Vice President:** Gary Brandt

- The By-Law Committee has finished before schedule due to the commitment of the members. They wanted to be sure to have this settled before riding season.
- Step one of the process has been completed. The next step is to present the board on 26 March.

**Secretary:** Mary Walters

- ROAR is developing new ideas. Terri Loden has been working very hard on getting the stories of our Top Cats members in print. It is a great way for all of us to get to know one another and makes for entertaining reading for each month.
- At next month's general meeting we will ask for members input on monthly topics and the development of regular columns.
- The next months will highlight the events leading up to the NISRA *Ride for Dreams*.
- The Master Roster has now become the responsibility of the Secretary. All Directors and Committee Heads will pass on their portion of the Master Data information to Mary.
- There was discussion on how much information should be made public to the members.
- The master roster will be sent regularly to the Board Members with the monthly updates.

**Treasurer:** Stewart Johnson

- Member Renewals are complete and 'the club is healthy' according to Stewart who was unable to attend due to the Tax Season.

**Past President:** Mike Bradbury

- Mike brought in coins that were left from his Presidency so that they can be given as gifts.

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**Director:** Larry Scalzitti and Tony Loden

- The NISRA recognition banquet money is due on March 19<sup>th</sup> and the board is going to work toward filling a table. The dinner is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Tony sent a list of information to Larry Scalzitti to address website issues with Dennis Dougherty. The issues to be addressed are:
- Access codes? Are they available outside of Dennis?
- Redundancy on codes is important for the safety of the club information.
- Dennis is still out of town, but may be available to come to the next meeting to let us know where and how the information is stored.
- Larry informed the board of the present status of these issues.
- The NISRA website is going to be renewed for this year at a cost of \$14. 95. After this year's event there will be discussion on linking it to the Top Cats Website.
- April is full of events and the rest of the summer also looks good!
- The Progressive Dinner will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Four members have volunteered to be the hosts.
- Our Website now has the updated list of member information.

**Director:** Greg Smith and Jeff Tietz

- There was one new recruit that will be reviewed and held until the process has been finalized. More information is being collected on another application as well.
- Membership 'punch cards' were discussed for the members who would have them punched or initialed for rewards during regular times of the year.
- A discussion was held concerning spouses becoming members. Can we add some incentives for them to become active members?

### *Awards*

- Road Names for all members!! As mentioned by *Traveler* to *Armpit and Crotch*.
- Debit Card discussion continued for what can be budgeted and given to the members.

8. **Director:** Ric Case

### *Safety*

- Road Captain Incentives were discussed. This also included ideas about budget and possible requirements.
- The requirements and outline for Road Captains and mentors were also discussed. The focus is mainly on the process, and the many aspects of a great ride which are hard to objectify or quantify. The process is interactive between the RC and Mentor
- Safety Tip / Kaution Korner schedule has been completed.

### *Charity*

Status of Committee & Planning:

- The bike has been acquired and will be detailed on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a swap meet on April 15 where the bike will be featured and the ticket sales will begin.
- Woodstock has agreed to be our Venue with donations of water, pop and buns. Sixty-five cents per piece will be the charge to the club for the meats.
- Another band will need to be found due to the fact that Elder Kaos will not be available due to a Wedding in the Brandt family.... Congrats to them! Cricket, from WSHD, will find a band.
- Venders are being developed at this time
- Donations are also being developed.

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## General Minutes Continued....

### ***Charity: Ric Case***

- A Triumph Bonneville T-120 has been secured for the first place Raffle prize. 2000 tickets will be sold at \$10 each. There will be a 'detailing party' on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The second place prize will be a trip to Sturgis for 2013.
- Woodstock Dealership will again be the venue for this year. Saturday is the Open House at Woodstock and a volunteer sheet was passed around for members to attend to sell tickets.
- Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> is the NISRA recognition banquet. If you are interested in attending, make reservations by April 19<sup>th</sup> with Wayne Kirkpatrick.

### ***Activities / Website: Tony Loden for Larry Scalzitti***

#### ***Activities***

- Sturgis, August 1, 2012: The plans are set and information can be found on the website. Reservations need to be made as soon as possible to guarantee a room! July 3<sup>rd</sup> is the cutoff date for claiming a room at the Alex Johnson. The rate is \$199/night – a great deal for Sturgis!
- 110th HD Rally, 2013: The club has reserved 15 rooms at the Aloft Hotel in Milwaukee. Contact Tony, Wayne, or Randy Braun for more information at this time.
- Then NISRA Charity committee is looking for more volunteers. Then next meeting will be on Tuesday, March, 2012 here at E-Skape
- April 24<sup>th</sup> will be the first Franks and Fries!
- Sunday, April 22 is the KICK OFF RIDE!!! Yeah! Lake Cook and Rand will be the starting point... see the website for details!

#### ***Website***

- The website has information on all of the rides
- There is now a link to the past issues of ROAR
- See Noelle Rigsby for information on TOP CAT products that are available.

### ***History / Products: L. Johnson***

- Larry reported that there is now a link to the library information on the website.
- Noelle Rigsby is checking on other suppliers and prices for the Top Cats Clothing and will be developing a system for selling these items at meetings and online.

### ***50 / 50: R. Freudenberger***

Winner is Jim Chevalier, again.... Are we bribing him to come?

***The Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 by Wayne Kirkpatrick.***







## Top Cats - - - Franks & Fries In Search of the Perfect HD



Sites have been identified and the dates organized by our Top Cats' expert... Larry Scalzitti. This is one HD where Larry is THE expert!

Here's another chance to meet up with your motorcycling buddies in a different social setting. We all love looking at our bikes and talking about motorcycles. Here's a great chance to do both during the spring and summer, and as a bonus we'll get to chow down on some terrific franks and fries!

All you have to do is take your favorite motorcycle to the Frank's & Fries location of the month. We'll start gathering around 6:30 and go home whenever we feel like it. While there you can devour a delicious hot dog, scarf down some hand cut fries and down a frosty mug of root beer!

Franks and Fries will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, except for the kick off Dog Fest in April. Remember, tire thumping starts at 6:30 pm, eating starts whenever you get hungry and conversation lasts until you're talked out. Stay until you're full of food and out of talk.

April 24	Delicious Red's 847-438-3252	2 East Main Street	Lake Zurich, IL 60047
May 15	Dog & Suds 815-337-6283	11015 N Main St	Richmond, IL 60071
June 19	Big Jack's 847-548-522	7 N Hainesville Rd	Round Lake Park, IL
July 17	Franks For The Memories 847-949-9464	645 East Hawley Street	Mundelein, IL 60060
Aug 21	Slott's Hots 847-362-0670	1124 N. Milwaukee Ave	Libertyville, IL 60048
Sept 18	Pappa Gus 847-550-6027	454 N Rand Road	Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Oct 16	Superdawg Drive In 847-459-1900	355 S. Milwaukee Ave	Wheeling, IL 60090

## President's Minute, Continued...



**Success 5.** I called NISRA to reserve a table at their Recognition Banquet for 5 Top Cats and I was 2 days passed their cutoff date. The response I got? No problem for Top Cats, and thanks for everything you guys do for us.



None of these little "reputation builders" were the result of an orchestrated effort by the Club to improve on our reputation. They were all the result of individual Top Cats coming together to help and to support good people and righteous causes. You see our reputation is simply the result of Top Cats just doing the right thing at the right place at the right time.

That, I would argue, is because of the high quality of our members and their strong sense of commitment to simply doing the right thing.

So, whenever you're out in public wearing that Top Cat pin or patch, remember, everything you do has an impact on your brother and sister Top Cats as well as our Club overall.

Thanx, so much, for maintaining our reputation and...keep the subtle successes going....

Let's roll,

**Traveler**  
President  
Top Cats - Illinois

## Board Minutes Continued....

**Director:** Larry Johnson

### Products Status :

- Noelle Rigsby and Larry Johnson have been tossing around the idea of finding new suppliers, but the present supplier will be maintained as the quality is good and prices are very reasonable.
- Stock and budget requests will be presented to the board at the next meeting.
- First order will include three pieces of each product/size.

### Archives / History

- Designated Photographers would be a great way to document the rides and the club. It is a great opportunity for everyone to become involved!
- Larry will work on developing a 'pool' of volunteers!

*With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15.*

\*An e-mail vote was taken on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> concerning the renewal of the General Liability and the D&O Insurances. The six votes needed to approve were given and the policies will be renewed.







## 2012....

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

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..

## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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



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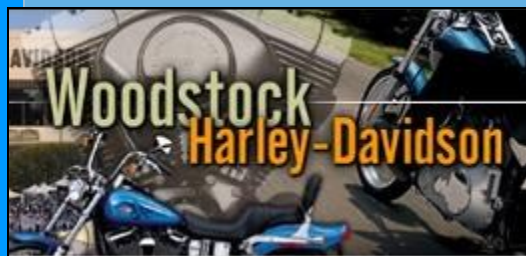
847-438-6588

[scalzitti@mindspring.com](mailto: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](mailto:wombat@dpdougherty.com)





## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, April 3rd	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, April 10th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, April 22nd	Kick-off Ride	Lake Cook and Hwy 12	Brunch	9:00 am	Smith
Tuesday, April 24th	Franks and Fries	Lake Zurich	Delicious Red Hots	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Tuesday, May 1st	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, May 6th	Millie's Breakfast	Lake Cook and Hwy 12	Delavan, WI	9:00 am	Loden
Tuesday, May 8th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, May 15th	Franks and Fries	Richmond	Dog and Suds	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Sunday, May 20th	Little Angels	Lake Cook and Hwy 12	Woodstock HD	8:30 am	Loden
Thursday, May 24th	Rolling Thunder	Hinsdale Oasis	Washington, D.C.	7:00 am	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.



**TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS** is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts with similar interests. Members consist of responsible Leaders, Presidents, Chairmen, Owners, Proprietors, Partners, principals, CEO's, and other 'Top Cats' of large, medium and small organizations, institutions, and companies.

For more information about the Top Cats visit our website at **[www.TOPCATS.org](http://www.TOPCATS.org)**

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

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