



ROAR

July, 2012

Volume 12 Issue 7

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

Inside This Issue



PRESIDENT'S MINUTE

This month reminds me of the story of the old duck that looked calm as it swam across the lake. When, in actuality, it was paddling like crazy to get to the other side. That's pretty similar to what our Club is experiencing right now.

While it might look like we're not doing much...take a closer look. Last month, we held a very – well supported NISRA Fishing Derby Ride, we have our charity ride in full swing and planning way ahead of schedule. Our bike raffle has been going great guns thanx to Gene Rigsby and our stellar Charity Ride Team. We just had another super Hot Dog Night thanx to Larry Scalzitti and, we had another one of the most enjoyable Mississippi River Runs lately. Larry Johnson and Noelle Rigsby have re energized our Products committee, Safety conducted a GRASS class, we certified another road captain, and we welcomed three new members. On top of all of that...the Board has completed the revised Bylaws and will be briefing our membership at the 3 July meeting.

That's quite an accomplishment for

any Club and it is all due to the dedication of our members. What distinguishes Top Cats from most other clubs, I would submit, is that the majority of our members unselfishly contribute their time and effort to their fellow Top Cats without hesitation. We are fortunate in having members who will plan and execute an event, a ride, or a committee activity with a commitment that we can rely on. We are fortunate to have Board members and committee chiefs and committee members who are committed to their brothers and sisters in Top Cats and aren't just wearing the "Badge of Office" without spending the effort to do the best job that they can do. And, we are fortunate to have so many members to thank for the success of our Club, for the success of our events, and for the evolution and progress of Top Cats – Illinois.

So, if you haven't been thanked yet, you just might ask yourself how you've contributed.....

Let's roll,

Traveler

President

Top Cats - Illinois

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Upcoming Events

JULY

- 3 General Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting
- 17 Franks and Fries
- 22 Ride for Dreams
- 28 Il State Police Ride
- 31 General Meeting before Sturgis

AUGUST

- August 1 = Sturgis!
- 12 Board Meeting
- 19 Franks and Fries

KAUTION KORNER

Loading Up Your Motorcycle For a Road Trip

By: Bard Boand



We aren't going to talk about what to bring (that's a topic for a another article) but HOW to load what you DO bring....

Low, Center, Tight and Secure is the key to carrying a month's worth of stuff for your weekend get-a-way. Loading a motorcycle properly is very similar to getting the weight and balance factor correct on a cargo aircraft, or even a small plane. The CG, or center of gravity is critical for proper and safe flight, and on a motorcycle needs to be as close to the middle of the bike as possible, and as low on the bike as possible too.

Heavy tools should be in the front of the saddle bags, and on the bottom, NOT up in your tour pack on top of your rain gear. Rule of Thumb: All heavy items in the lower bags, light items in the tour pack. Items you may need to access in a hurry, like rain gear, should be on top in the bags or the tour pack. And, if you are traveling solo, favor using the rear seat area for storage of heavier luggage vs. the tour pack.

What you are trying to accomplish is the elimination of a "polar moment" caused by having excess weight hanging off the rear of the bike, which would aggravate handling and may cause the rear of the bike to come swinging around towards the front in a panic stop or in wet road conditions. Speaking of wet conditions... use plastic garbage bags to wrap or cover stuff you want to stay dry. Even HD hard bags and tour packs sometimes leak.

Tie downs are an important part of packing!

ROK Straps vs. Bungee straps....

<http://www.rokstraps.com/index.html>. Watch this video about ROK straps...I guarantee once you've used a ROK strap you will never use a bungee again. They are safer, tighter, adjustable, and the only way to fasten a load securely.

Oh, did I say, don't bring so much? The tendency is to over pack. Do you really need 6 tee shirts knowing you're going to buy 3 or 4 tee's while at Sturgis? Also, think of using the Post Office, UPS or FedEx to ship extra stuff home the day before you leave. All three have a variety of boxes you can choose from.

BEFORE departure, pre-load your bike and go for a 10 mile ride and cross a few RR tracks and hit some bumps. Then back in your garage see what came loose and shifted...surprise, surprise, surprise. Also, pay close attention to recommended tire pressure and shock absorber settings and air pressure as outlined in your owner's manual for heavier loads. Recommended settings and pressures are much different for a fully loaded up bike.

Now... Have a nice trip!



Oil Spots

By: Traveler



OUCH! A Pennsylvania man is in serious condition following a motorcycle accident that occurred on Monday afternoon June 4, 2012. The motorcycle operator was riding with a group when an unsecured ladder fell off a pickup truck that they were following. Several vehicles in front of the rider were able to avoid the ladder, but the motorcycle's operator was thrown from the bike when he suddenly struck the ladder. He was flown to a local hospital and the Pennsylvania State Police are still investigating the incident. (A perfect example of why we should scan far ahead.)



NOTE: Some insurance experts say that this particular accident appears to have been caused by a phantom vehicle (if the pickup truck operator isn't found) and that this is the reason people should always carry uninsured motorist coverage. This kind of coverage would compensate the insured victim for injuries suffered in an accident. In other cases, because it was improperly secured, the falling ladder may have been due to negligence and a claim can be pursued.

ANTI – GLUG? Harley-Davidson has upgraded 3 of its key lubrication products. The Screamin' Eagle SYN3 Full Synthetic Lubricant (\$11.95 qt) and Genuine Harley-Davidson H-D 360 Motorcycle Oil 20W50 (\$7.49 qt) have been improved with new blends of a cutting-edge polymer viscosity modifier (VM) that gives improved cold-temperature flow, maintains fluid thickness better when hot and reduces viscosity breakdown. Harley's Formula+ Transmission and Primary Chaincase Lubricant (\$8.95 qt) has also been updated with a new and specific VM.



The new formula provides better film thickness and permits better load carrying capacity and bearing protection in the transmission. The SYN3, H-D 360 and Formula+ now come in new ergonomic shaped 1-quart bottles featuring a spout that pours 30% faster with an "anti-glug" design for better flow. The bottles also have new film-coated labels, a view stripe to show the amount of oil and are Plastic ID Code #2, which can be recycled in most locations. These new upgraded products are available at your local Harley dealer. [Source and image: Harley-Davidson]

(Continued on page 16)



TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

BY TONY LODEN



Well summer has finally arrived.

Not much to say this month except that I've been working instead of riding.. And making some plans for my daughter's wedding. With only one child to plan for - it has to be memorable (and time consuming!)

Looking at our calendar, all I can say is there are a lot of open weekends. As your Activities Chairman, I would say that some of our RC's need to step up to the plate and respond one way or the other and throw a ride or two out there. Even our charity ride falls in the month of July could use an infusion of energy! It's going to be a hot month—but don't let it melt your enthusiasm for the great group of kids, people, and staff at NISRA!

In speaking with some of our older members, the calendar used to be full this time of year with RC's fighting over weekends. Let's not let age stop us! Let's show that Top Cats pride and schedule a few rides.

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

Tuesday, July 17th

6:30 PM – 8 PM

Franks and Fries (Scalzitti)

Franks For The Memories - 645 East Hawley Street, Mundelein, IL 60060...

Open 7 Days a Week:
Mon-Thurs 10:30AM-9PM
Fri & Sat 10:30AM-9:30PM
Sundays 11AM-6PM

FRANKS
for the
MEMORIES
Dine-In or Take-Out

Serving Great Food For 24 Years!

Buffalo Style Chicken Wings
Prepared under the supervision of former
Buffalonians Carol & Jim Schultz. Nominated
best in Chicagoland by Channel 2 News!

Order mild, medium, hot or extra hot
1/2 lb., 1 lb., 2 lb., 3 lb.
(approx. 7 pieces per lb.)
Bucket (approx. 28 pieces)
Party Tray (120 pieces &
16 oz. blue cheese and celery)

Combo Meals - Sandwiches - Side Orders
(847) 949-WING (9464)
645 East Hawley St., Mundelein, IL 60060
(Next To Ace Hardware)

Here's another chance to meet up with your motorcycling buddies in a different social setting. Eating starts whenever you get hungry and conversations last until you're talked out. Open to all members and guests.

(Continued on pg 5)



Sunday, July 22nd

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

17th Annual Ride for Dreams

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

Sunday, July 29th

8:30 AM - Noon

Pre-Sturgis G.R.A.S.S Class

TopCats Senior Road Captains host GRASS class at the Keller Williams offices located near the NW corner of Rt14 and Rt53, in the Harris Bank building (the tall one). Open to all members and guests. Second Floor, enter in rear of building.

Wednesday, August 1st

Thru

Wednesday, August 8th

Sturgis 2012

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

Also don't forget the monthly General Meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at eSkape 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

Becoming a Road Captain, Part One!

By: Gene Riogsby



Hi. I'm Gene. I am fairly new to the Top Cats and over the past 10 months have enjoyed making new friends, learning many new things, having opportunity to participate and be a good citizen by donating my time to folks in need. Oh, and don't forget the rides. I have been able to take part in some great rides and most, other than Storm's, are dry.

If you were at the June general meeting you would have heard that my road name is Lucky, which is very fitting as I feel I am very lucky. I was recently, very lucky when I was asked to lend a hand when no one was available to lead the NISRA Fishing Derby event pre-ride.

I was a little unsure about taking on this big responsibility but I had been looking for an opportunity to lead a ride in route to becoming a Road Captain and being Lucky, it appeared. I was very Lucky to have great direction from Ric Case as my Sr. Road Captain and Tony Loden, a great help, a Road Captain, and eventually he was also my tail-gunner. I was also very Lucky to have Ric Case as my ride mentor. Both of them donated their time to help with making this ride the success it was.



I was told by a few folks during the week prior, that it was going to be stormy on Sunday and I am sure it was someplace, but being Lucky as I am, just not where I was. It turned out to be great weather. To further prove my point of being Lucky, we had very few red lights and the cross traffic at the stop signs were

very accommodating and let us pass. Also having ridden most of the roads I inevitably picked for my route, I was Lucky and it was a great feeling to share these places with friends.

One area where I was not so lucky was in using my GPS (user error). Fortunately, I was Lucky, in that I was educated by Tony (who was educated by Wayne.

See a trend??) that you should not just rely on your GPS, which is why it's important to pre-ride more than once and keep good old fashion turn by turn directions.

Sorry to keep running on about being Lucky but to close, I must say that in being told that my first ride turned out well, I had to reflect on how lucky I am to have had a great education via the G.R.A.S.S. classes (I've attend 3 and by the time you read this, should be 4) we all have opportunity to attend, and all the Road Captains, Sr. Road Captains, that had successfully lead the rides I have attended (and all the other) and have been great examples.

I will fill you in on my progress of becoming a Road Captain soon.

Take care





A Horn? Really?

By: Gene "Lucky" Rigsby



It was nearly 30 years ago that I was on a friends bike (a little back story there, for another day maybe with a cold drink and warm fire), waiting to take my motorcycle driving test. I was nervous, but the tester was very reassuring and told me to, "just listen to what I tell you, COMPLETELY, and you will have no problems" He was right and I passed my road test with a minimum of points deducted.

For my written test I faired even better. I missed 2 questions. One must have been very mundane as I do not remember it, but the other stuck in my head all these years, though I was not sure why. Being Lucky as I am, I have been graciously provided several opportunities to understand why.

For one recent example opportunity, I ride route 53 to and from work, weather and obligations permitting and the traffic can be very trying most days. One particular day I was encroached upon 3 times by autos in adjacent lanes and if not for my (luckily) missing one particular question on my written test, so long ago, I may not be writing this note to you.

The question was, which of these are not required motorcycle equipment (keep in mind, this is from a 30 year old test, so this question may not even be on current tests); A) Headlamp, B) Turn Signals or C) Horn.

Take a guess... I'll wait....

I chose Horn.

Wrong! Stop laughing. I was a young lad and have grown since then. The correct answer is B) Turn Signals. You can use your hands to indicate turns, as we learn during G.R.A.S.S. class and pre-ride instructions. Duh!

Anyway, this stuck with me and the more I rode in traffic (mostly in Chicago when I lived there) I realized why my horn was so important. I started using it as a quick attention getter when cars or trucks would start to "pinch" me in or even as pedestrians would start to run out in front of me without "seeing" me on my bike. By no means is it a crutch or something you should completely rely on, but it can buy you precious time to get out of a jam. I know you should be very defensive and move out of blind spots as quick as possible, but in rush hour traffic, speeding up may not be a good option as the car in front of you can stop with little warning and slowing down may be worst and put you in a position to be rear-ended. Either case is not good.

Going back to my ride on 53 and other outing for that matter, when I see the conditions start to develop as I did prior to my 3 opportunities mentioned above, I put my thumb just at the edge of the horn button. I know I could get to it quickly from a "normal" hand position, but this is a surefire way to be right on it with no hesitation as time can be critical. 3 times, vehicles started to enter my space and 3 times my horn made them stop and retreat back to their original position. I hope his information helps you and I hope more than anything, the drivers I honked at will think back as I do, to what may have been if I did not honk. Hopefully they will be more diligent and less distracted when driving. Your added attention, and horn, may make up for their lack of attention!

Take Care!



By: Traveler

Mississippi River Run

The Mississippi River Rally started some years ago in Davenport, IA as Little Sturgis, then Little Sturgis on the River, then it became know as Little Sturgis IN the River due to rain and flooding every year.

Although we have been visiting this rally annually over the past decade or so, it always holds surprises for us....always. But, thanx to the efforts of Bard Bo-and, Gary Brandt, and Carl Marcyan, over many years, it is always a great enjoyable ride....always.



This year was no exception. Anxious to saddle up and head west, Top Cats were looking forward to good weather, a great ride, a good rally and an adventurous Saturday in the Davenport area.



But...**Surprise 1.** Our Road Captain who meticulously planned the route out and back, coordinated the hotel, including parking and arranged for Satur-

day rides and Sunday brunch at White Pines, sadly encountered a medical issue the night before that prevented him from riding. Fortunately, as Top Cats typically do, we had a mentor who stepped in and simply followed the road captain's plan. The change was invisible even to our two guests and...we were on our way with great weather ahead.



Surprise 2. The road captain who had planned all of Saturday's activities, backed out one hour before KSU. Once again, having three Senior Road Captains along, saved the day with ample experience and great ideas for salvaging Saturday's rides.



Surprise 3. As we neared Marseilles, IL, Tom Malia recommended that we take a short detour and visit the Illinois Middle East Conflicts Memorial Wall dedicated to the fallen service men and women from the Mideast conflicts. When we pulled in to the parking lot we encountered some old friends from Warriors Watch, Palatine HOG, Lake Shore HOG, etc who were there to welcome (Continued on pg 9)



(River Run, cont)

a group of Gold Star Mothers and local soldiers who were escorting a Gold Star couple walking from FT Carson, CO, across the nation to Marseilles, in honor of their son, fallen hero SSG Kenneth W. Mayne.



It was a great opportunity to pay our respects to those who are listed on "The Wall" as well as the Gold Star Mothers.



Surprise 4. Nearing Davenport, Tom Malia recommended that we visit the John Deere Corporate Headquarters in Moline, IA. We had made good time and had no problem deviating from our route to follow Tom to John Deere. What a great diversion! John Deere is an American icon of progress, perseverance, commitment, and dedication to American values and ideals. While it's difficult to put into words, their Corporate HQ is a mini museum of Americana farming, that makes you proud to be a part on the Midwest the minute you step into the lobby. Don't let this visit stay on your Bucket List....go see it!



Surprise 5. How do we salvage Saturday and put together a good ride? Simple, plan it over a great dinner and drinks the night before. The result was a morning visit to the John Deere Pavilion not far from our hotel where we talked with some interesting farmers, saw some awesome new and antique equipment displays and, once again, enjoyed perfect weather.



Afterwards, it was off on a super 155 mile ride on back roads to the National Motorcycle Museum in Anamosa that not many riders in the group had seen recently, a visit to J&P Cycles nearby, and a back roads return to the Rally at the fairgrounds. Once again, as we have for years, we visited the Rally site, paid \$5.00 (Veterans were free) and were again disappointed by the scarcity of vendors and the void of entertainment. Annually, we seem to agree to never return again to this Rally but....the group camaraderie and enjoyment of the ride, keeps taking us back.

(Continued on page 10)

(River Run, continued)



Surprise 6. Never believe casino signs that claim "Huge Payoffs", "Loose Slots", "Gigantic Winnings". Our trip to the casino didn't make us much richer but, I personally know that one of our riders came out \$0.34 ahead!!!



Surprise 7. Sunday's plan included our traditional brunch at 11:00 AM at White Pines State Park on a scenic back roads route but....the return route didn't work on the RC's GPS so, once again, we put our heads together and another great route was planned. The new route even got us to our 11:00 AM reservation within 7 minutes of the original time and, we were seated immediately for their super Father's Day Buffet.



Surprise 8. You just don't blend in to the crowd as a group of bikers in a good eating establishment on Father's Day so, when we saw another biker – attired dude, it caught our attention. Surprise! It was Mike and Kathy Bradbury who headed up to White Pines for a Father's Day ride and lunch. Good to see them and visit for a bit.



Surprise 9. One of our guests spent many summer trips to White Pines and recommended that we ride the scenic park roads. He remembers as a kid, the many hiking trails and river fords through the park. Now, the word ford should bring up a big red flag to any rider who has had the challenge of crossing one. With a rapid cross flow of water over the cement ford and a mossy bottom, the surface becomes slicker than snot on glass. First bike through OK, second, OK, third, OK, etc, etc, then...wham!!!



Our only Gold Wing slipped and went into the creek. It was then dubbed....the Gold Fish. A bit wet, a bit embarrassed, we all helped recover the bike in front of gathering spectators, determined that there were no injuries and assembled to continue.

(Continued on page 22)



So, What Does a Road Captain Do Exactly?

Keeping things **SAFE** and doing things **Right**!

A View From Behind The Scenes...

By: Mary Walters



When I began riding, 20 years ago, I was hesitant to ride in large groups and spent almost fifteen years without joining a club. I was accustomed to riding with a friend or two at best. When seeing larger groups, I felt uneasy about the unexpected actions of a fellow rider. I was unsure how I would ride with so many other people too... But after joining Top Cats, I was impressed with the organization and the comfortable feel of riding in a group. I felt **SAFE** and things always seems to go **right**. For those first few years, though, I was unaware of the time and effort that it took to make that comfort level and safety a reality!

In the five years of being a Top Cat, I have enjoyed club rides with a few bikes or with 30+ riders. And in those five years, I have come to understand the impressive amount of time that goes into planning and staging a ride. My first experience was going for a ride to look for some 'back roads' that would work into a good ride. Looking was fun—we had a great time looking for just the **right** roads, with only **right** turns, the **right** place to eat (a TC requirement for a good ride), and just the **right** amount of sights to see.

We rode about 250 miles that day—in order to find about 60 miles of **right** road! Fun, but time consuming! That was all I had to do. But when we got home, the next step was to organize the roads, re-ride the route a few times, submit the route to a mentor and re-work the route into perfection. It was a great! It turned out all **right**—with no glitches and a whole lot of people who had a good **SAFE** ride!

Since then, I've had the privilege of watching others prepare routes and see more of the work that goes into a Top Cat event. A VERY significant other recently returned home from a twelve hour day of pre-riding this year's President's ride. We had done an initial ride about six weeks ago and the route and

sights were identified. After the second pre-ride the

other day, the route was altered to include more convenient rest stops, avoid summer construction, and to ensure a good **SAFE** time for all participants.

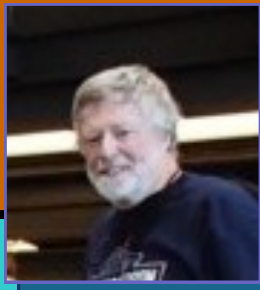
All of this addresses just the riding portion of an event. If there is a restaurant, hotel, parking, or other details to a Top Cat Ride—there is even more work to be done. . .

Restaurant reservations are made, with follow up calls the day before and the day of the ride in order to verify numbers and good service. Hotel rates are negotiated (if applicable) and ensured for each participant. Appropriate parking is also confirmed that will allow the riders to feel **SAFE** in leaving their bikes parked each evening. And on any over night ride, there are always other events to attend. Each of those event locations is researched and scouted so that there are no surprises that come up to disrupt the **SAFETY** or enjoyment of the group... But when something does go awry —Top Cats, with GRASS class experience, Accident Scene Management certificates, and years of riding experience, are ready to handle whatever challenge comes along.

Soooo... for those of us who are NOT Road Captains and aren't in line to become one any time soon... Let's take the time to thank those who DO plan and prepare the rides each year! This job is time consuming and daunting!

BUT... the result??? Afternoons, days, week-ends, weeks filled with **SAFE** rides and just the **right** amount of scenery, food, roads and fun to ensure a long lasting memory of a good time!

This is the Top Cat's Reputation. **SAFE** rides done the **right** way... a large responsibility to maintain! AND a pretty cool legacy to pass on....



Memphis and Beyond

By: Tom Malia

Some quick thoughts on my recent 3,800 mile trip through 13 southeastern states. My initial plan was to ride with Don Schaffer and Ned Meisner to the World Championship of pork barbequing in Memphis. Then as long as I was going to be headed south, I decided

to extend my route to hit several southeastern states as part of my quest to ride my motorcycle in all 50 states (I have now ridden in 46 states).

On our way to Memphis, we went through the Shawnee National Forest and in particular the Gar-



den of the Gods. There were some incredible

vistas and very unique rock formations. To think that this "mountainous" and uniquely beautiful park is still in Illinois makes it all the more remarkable.

And then while we were in the area, we went over to Metropolis to have our picture taken with Superman.



In Memphis we got a behind the scenes look into the World Championship of pork barbequing. Don's sister and



brother-in-law were on one of hundreds of teams from all over the world that were competing in this annual event. Each of the teams set up their booths in a beautiful park along the Mississippi river. The combination of southern hospitality, great food and a little beer made for a couple of very enjoyable evenings in Memphis.

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a beautiful roadway, rolling through beautiful countryside-except for the area that a tornado recently destroyed-with very little traffic. However the quality of the roadway, combined with the 45 mph speed limit-which I understand is highly enforced-eventually turned a great riding experience into a frustrating experience. So after a couple of hours, I headed to a nearby state highway to "pick up the pace".

If you are into aviation, the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL is awesome, and has an incredible number of planes on display. This is also the home of the Blue Angels. So if they are in town on the day you are there, you might get to watch them practice. Leave lots of time to fully explore this museum.

The Barber Motorsports Park outside of Birmingham, AL is definitely a "not-to-be-missed" destination. In addition to a beautiful 2.38 mile road racing circuit, there is an incredible, five-story, beautifully designed motorcycle museum. George Barber-whose family made a fortune in the dairy business-has built this park with private money. A docent, i.e., a worker at the museum, indicated that Mr. Barber owns over 1,300 motorcycles of which about 550 are on display in the museum...and he is still in full acquisition mode.

On the other hand, unless you are going by it anyway, I would not go out of my way to go to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL. It is poorly organized and none of the exhibits are terribly interesting or insightful. This place is already an odd combination of a museum, a space camp and an amusement park. But as an example of how screwed up this place is, their newest exhibit under development is one on Mammoths and Mastodons...at a space museum?



(Continued on page 14)



(Memphis continued)



I think Deals Gap is overrated....challenging yes; fun no. Unless you enjoy driving several, back-to-back 200+ degree turns at 20-25 mph, all the while praying that the sport bikes going by the other way, at far too high a speed, stay in their own lane. The Cherohala Skyway-at the south end of Deals Gap- or the Emerine Gap road-on the north end of Deals Gap-with numerous high speed sweepers- are far more fun to drive, in my view.

If you have been in a modern automotive assembly plant, you will be sorely disappointed with the Corvette assembly plant in Bowling Green KY. It is amazing that such a high tech car is produced in such a low tech plant. It almost looks like Chevrolet just got out of bankruptcy or something.... Further the men and women assembling these cars do not exactly match the image of old world artisans I envision when I hear of a hand built automobile. It was interesting watching the new owners who came to the plant with their friends and family to watch their car being built as it moves down the assembly line. The plant's operating practice is that if along the line the correct quarter panel is missing or badly damaged, they

put on an obviously wrong quarter panel-generally the wrong color-rather than have the car advance missing a quarter panel. Their rationale was that in this way the subsequent components would be added and then at the end the car is taken off the line and the correct quarter panel is installed. (It occurred to me that adding these additional components only made for more things that needed to be removed in order to swap out the quarter panel, but I decided not to challenge our personable tour guide). At any rate, this practice resulted in an excited new owner watching and photographing his nice new, white Corvette being built-with a royal-blue rear quarter panel.

Closing thoughts:

*I do not think I am paranoid, but I am convinced that on hot summer days "they" screw with the timing of traffic lights to make motorcyclists sweat in the hot sun for longer than would otherwise be the case.

*Just asking-how far south in Illinois do you need to go before the residents have more akin to those in Kentucky versus us folks living in the Chicago area?

*There is a stretch of Hwy 135 just south of Nashville, Ind. that is almost as challenging as Deals Gap. And Nashville appears to be a very attractive tourist town.

*Rand McNally's ".... Scenic Route" designation on their maps is at times wildly inappropriate---maybe they have a minimum quota for each state or the local tourist bureau pressures them to make some of the designations.

*Judging by the number of new, high-end pickups on the road, one gets the impression that perhaps the US is not in as bad an economic malaise as some in the media suggest.

*It is hard for me to imagine anyone attempting-much less enjoying- a multi-destination, solo, motorcycle trip such as this without a GPS.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries



Larry Scalzitti
-July 1st

Gary Brandt -
July 3rd

Chuck and
Maureen
Prettyman
July 3rd



Let us know your important dates so that we can celebrate with you!!



By: Traveler

Last Call???

When we hear "Last Call" it typically indicates the pending loss of an opportunity to do something that we enjoy. It's no different when it's applied to our annual trek to the Black Hills and Sturgis Bike Week.



This year is the 72d Anniversary of the legendary Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and the last call for this year's Top Cats' group ride to Sturgis.



This year we were successful in negotiating reasonable hote rates for the trip out and in Rapid City. All of the hotels have undergone some degree of restoration and the Alx has a fantastic 10th Floor Bar for selected (Top Cat) members.



If you have the interest and you can afford the time and the cost of the trip, then you'd better make your hotel reservations for Sturgis ASAP for what will be another adventurous and significant, long – distance Top Cats' ride to the Black Hills Rally....



As we do every year, we will take a leisurely, three – day ride to Rapid City, SD staying in Mankato, MN the first night, Pierre, SD the second night, and Rapid City the third and remaining nights.



As this edition goes to publication, we are less than 1 week away from our cut - off date of 3 July 2012 for making or cancelling hotel reservations at the Alex Johnson Hotel in Rapid City, SD.



As most riders realize, it is difficult to plan a ride if you have no idea of how many riders will participate. Once we have an idea of how many Top Cats are going to Sturgis, this year, we will publish our group departure times and location and, canvas our riders for interest in returning home via, Santa Fe Trail, Kansas back roads, or Canada.



So, if you are "on the fence" about this year's Sturgis trip, or you just haven't gotten around to making hotel reservations, better saddle up and make them now. Remember, you can always cancel reservations but you can't re-negotiate our contract room rates after the cut - off dates.

Here's the info for hotel reservations...

Wed. Aug 1

City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN.

Rates: \$74.00 / night

Phone: [\(507\) 345-1234](tel:5073451234) / [\(877\)345-5577](tel:8773455577).

Cut-off Date: **15 July 2012**

Thurs Aug 2

River Lodge, Pierre, SD.

Rates: \$59.00 / night

Phone: [\(605\) 224-4140](tel:6052244140)

Cut-Off Date: **15 July 2012**

Fri, Aug 3 – 10 (?)

Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD.

Rates: \$199.00

Phone: [800-888-ALEX \(2539\)](tel:800888ALEX) Ask for Candy Cul-lum

Cut-Off Date: **3 July 2012**

Please let Wayne; wkirkpal77@aol.com, Cell: (847) 915-8428, or Bard; bard.boand@att.net, Cell: (847)721-7470, know when you make your hotel reservations so we can finalize our departure times and start to develop our return trip route / plans.

MSF GOES ELECTRIC. Zero Motorcycles announced that its popular urban motorcycle, the Zero XU, meets the strict Motorcycle Safety Foundation criteria and is currently being used in the organization's safety training programs. Zero becomes the first electric motorcycle manufacturer in the United States to provide consumers with a new and unique learning experience at MSF courses. The elimination of shifting, heat, exhaust, clutches and noise allows riders to focus more easily on learning.



"The Zero XU successfully completed a pilot program on two training courses in Washington state and Florida. Students and instructors alike found the motorcycle to be highly responsive and handle nicely," said Mark Cummings, fleet manager – North America, Zero Motorcycles. "The XU allows students to enhance their skills and concentrate on the fundamentals of riding, while still experiencing the look and feel of a traditional motorcycle. Course operators also love that there is very little upkeep in terms of maintenance and, of course, no fuel to add or other fluids that can run the risk of spillage." [Source and image: MPN]

MOTORCYCLE DOCUMENTARY. Sena Technologies, Inc. will sponsor filmmakers Zach Sette Wongse and Amanda Pollard as they begin filming a documentary about their upcoming cross-country motorcycle ride. The pair will depart from Reno, Nev. late this month and will

capture all 8,500 miles of their journey on video. Sena will make communication between the riders possible by providing Bluetooth technology to Sette Wongse and Pollard. The audio recordings of their conversations will then be edited into the documentary, "Pursuit Horizon."



The 8,500-mile trek and documentary was Sette Wongse's brainchild. He said he always wanted to undertake such a journey and in this case, wanted to make it similar to the documentary series "Long Way Round," but instead do it himself without a support crew of any kind. An avid motorcycle rider, Pollard signed onto the project after meeting Sette Wongse at a northern Nevada motorcycle shop. "I just need adventure. I'm a restless soul. There is a whole big world waiting for me to explore and I am stuck inside watching it go by," she said. Although the pair has motorcycle and gear sponsors such as Sena, the trip and post-production will cost approximately \$60,000 out of pocket.

The two will operate a daily blog and produce weekly video podcasts during the two-to-three month excursion. Their adventure can be found at <http://pursuithorizon.com>. They also will update their Facebook page daily at www.facebook.com/PursuitHorizon. [Source and image: MPN]



Remember:
Save the Date!
Sunday,
July 22th, 2012



Every year the Top Cats - Illinois hold a major fundraising event for our favorite charity - NISRA: the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association. All riders are invited to join us on July 22th for our Ride for Dreams...a fun-filled day that features a leisurely 100 mile ride through the countryside. The event begins and ends at Woodstock Harley-Davidson, in Woodstock, IL. Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch after the ride, music, and an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets. Be sure to put this on your calendar! To date, the Top Cats - Illinois have contributed more than \$226,000 to NISRA from the proceeds of this event.

The Top Cat's Motorcycle Club has been supporting NISRA, Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association, for 16 years! Our Annual Motorcycle Ride has been developed in order to give Riders an inspirational day working for a very amazing group of people.

NISRA welcomes participants of all ages and ability levels in programs. Preschoolers, children, teens, adults and senior adults can experience the benefits of involvement in recreation activities. Their programs have close staff-to-participant ratios to assist people with disabilities in achieving their greatest success. Many of the programs enhance socialization and foster independence. Activities for youth-at-risk promote cooperation and social skills in a therapeutic and challenging setting. In keeping with the goals of each program, our #1 objective is to offer fun!

For More Information visit: WWW.NISRA.org or WWW.TOPCATS.org



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

MAY 1, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Meeting was called to order at 7:30, by President, Wayne Kirkpatrick. Membership was asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Jerry Kostas and Lee Paolino



President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- NISRA Fishing Derby was a very rewarding experience for those Top Cats who attended. Almost as rewarding for us as for the NISRA participants.
- Gene Rigsby's maiden voyage was stellar. The other Road Captains will hold a special meeting to complete the review... and to develop a list of improvements to give to Gene... That will be a very short meeting!
- Triumph Tickets are selling well. Over 250 sold to date and they are going fast.
- President's Ride will leave on Saturday, June 30th and return on Sunday the 31st. This includes time at the Eiteljorg Museum and also at the Indy Museum.
- Sturgis is under way and anyone still interested should contact Bard Board or Wayne Kirkpatrick. There are still a few rooms left and the room rates will be good until the end of the month.
- By Laws are under way and will be completed soon. Finalization was side-lined by Wayne who was unable to be at the last Board Meeting.
- State HOG Rally: Saturday, June 9.
- Member support is needed to make the club run smoothly so please consider all that you do and continue to create a strong enjoyable club.

Past President's: Mike Bradbury

No news at this time

Vice President's : Gary Brandt

- No news at this time as the updates to the By-Laws have been completed and are awaiting board approval.

Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- Rosters are complete and updated.
- ROAR is alive and well – and ALWAYS open to including new stories and ideas from the Members! Talk to Terry Loden or Mary Walters with suggestions or articles!

Treasurer's Report: Stuart Johnson

- All is good at this time.
- Copies of the reports are available upon request

Awards / Membership: Greg Smith and Jeff Tietz

- Glenn Williams was given his Top Cats patch and flag as a new member!

(Continued on page 19)



- Raffles for the oil changes went to Fred Creed and Wayne Kirkpatrick. Both Fred and Wayne returned them to Ron Freudenberger to be raffled tonight
- New Road Names include:
 - Lucky – Gene Rigsby, for his good fortune on his first ride out!
 - Trouper – Mary Walters, for the work done for the club.
 - Storm – Gary Brandt, for the ‘storms’ he has weathered!

Safety / Charity: RicCase

- Safety Tip – Tom Malia – who recalled an experience on his way to Memphis. Going along the highway, the first two riders had moved around a truck and went on ahead. At the time he decided to pass the truck, he did all of the safety checks needed! He looked ahead, and checked all areas. As he moved around the truck and pulled in ahead of the truck, he realized that the people ahead were stopped – waiting for someone to make a left turn. Tom was required to stop quickly – from approximately 80mph. He also had to worry about the truck behind him being able to stop. His lane change experience taught him to look ***even further ahead and farther around*** when evaluating situations.
- GRASS Class: Sunday, June 10th, at 8:30 am.
- Charity Update: The Top Cats were very well represented at the Fishing Derby! All of the Charity Ride plans are well under way, but if anyone is interested – Please contact Ric Case. There are always things to be done and having more hands makes the job easier – and definitely more fun!
There are sponsor letters available for all TC members to use so that we can solicit donations for prizes.

Activities / Website: Larry Scalzitti

- Larry stood in for Dennis Dougherty to describe what is happening on the website. He gave a visual presentation to help members use the website and to know how to log-in to access member only content. Larry explained the information that is available when logged in. This includes Member Deals and Discounts and Ride Routes and Maps as well as other great Top Cat Information
- Activities: Tony Loden stated that all information can be found on the Top Cat Calendar that is easily found on the Web Site. He reviewed the events planned for June that included the Little Sturgis Ride and the President's ride.
- Tom Malia is proposing a trip to Alaska for the summer of 2013. He asked that anyone interested contact him so that plans could get under way.
- Steph Levy informed the group on two rides:
 - *Saturday, July 7th, City Limits Harley Davidson in Palatine will be hosting a Blues Band Competition with four bands. Provided by Windy City Blues Society. These bands are competing to send the winner to Memphis for the International Blues competition in January.
 - *Big Cat Ride at Woodstock Harley, Sunday July 8th. The ride goes out to the Valley of the Kings Sanctuary and you can find more information at WWW. VOTK.org

History / Products: Larry Johnson

- No Historical News at this time.
- New Products: Noelle Rigsby reported that the new products are now available and on display for purchase. There is a great variety of choices and the prices are so reasonable that we all will be able to purchase many of these Top Cats products.

11. 50/50:

- Ron Freudenberger organized the 50/50 and the winning number was held by Jerry Kostas, who was also the one pulling the ticket... coincidence?
- The Free Oil Change Awards for new member referrals, donated by Wayne and Fred, were won by Tony Loden and Gary Brandt.

Final Comments: Wayne explained that when people ride together for long distances.... They may leave for the ride as bikers – but they return as family! That is the reason for the time TC members spend on making the Top Cats such a premier club!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 12, 2012

ESCAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Call to Order at 7:30: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Gary Brandt, Stewart Johnson, Mary Walters, Mike Bradbury, Greg Smith, Larry Johnson, Larry Scalzitti, and Ric Case

President

- The Website presentation done by Larry Scalzitti at the June General Meeting was very useful and clarified the use of the information on the site!
- The Website password back up has been addressed. Larry Scalzitti will also hold the passwords.

Past President: Mike Bradbury

- Past President has no update for this month.

Treasurer: Stuart Johnson

- Financial Status is sound. Stewart reported that he reconciled May's statements and there are no issues at this time.

Secretary: Mary Walters

- ROAR is always in need for new ideas, submissions, and energy! Any ideas will be gladly accepted!
- Master Roster Status has been updated with the Grass Class attendees and the new Road Names for this month. The new member changes will be made tonight – and all rosters will be sent out to the board tomorrow.

Director: Larry Scalzitti

Activities

- Activities calendar is light at this time. Larry is working on motivating road captains to develop and identify rides for the club.

Website

- Larry will develop a short article on the TC Web Site access to be published in ROAR.

Director: Greg Smith

Membership

- New member application from Patrick and Renee Callahan. They are applying for membership. They have been on two rides to date and meet all of the requirements. Greg proposed that we accept his application for a family membership. Motion was seconded by Gary Brandt. The proposal was accepted unanimously.
- Joy Johnson has applied for a family application. Greg proposed the acceptance of the application. Larry Scalzitti seconded the motion. The proposal passed unanimously.

Awards

- Road Names given at the June general meeting have been updated and Noelle Rigsby has also requested the name of 'Lefty' and it will also be added to the roster.

(Continued on page 21)



Director: Ric Case

Safety

- Mike Bradbury stated that the Road Captain incentives were still under development. Wayne suggested that Road Captains receive a free meal when leading a ride. Mike stated that he will develop a program and send it out to the board this week.
- Safety Tip / Kaution Korner quality concerns were addressed. The idea that the Safety Tips be done a year in advance was discussed as well as other ways to streamline the writing process for these areas.

Charity

- Charity Committee is working diligently. The ticket sales are moving well.
- Costco has been contacted for a donation and Ric wondered if we should have them as a guest speaker for the club. The board decided to table that decision for a later date.

Director: Larry Johnson

New Products

- The New Products have been presented to the membership and they were very well received. Noelle can now make any order needed – even if there is only one needed – because the printer has the process finalized and can print any product quickly.

History

- Larry will check with the Barrington Library to see if the Picture Archives have been updated recently and if the ROAR has also been archived.
- Pictures that are to be submitted need to be resized for web site uploads. If anyone needs to know how to do this, Wayne or Dennis can suggest software that is easy to use.

By Law Review Session: Gary Brandt

- Started at 8:10 and completed at 9:10.
- A motion was made by Gary Brandt to accept this version of the By-Laws, including the substantive verbal revisions done by the board at the past meetings. All changes and grammatical corrections will be completed by Friday and a final copy sent to all board members.
- Mike Bradbury seconded the motion.
- Discussion included concerns with being able to SEE the final version before the vote. Some members wanted to SEE the final version first. Others felt that after all of the board discussion, as well as the work done by the committee, it is time to finalize this process.
- By a vote of 5 to 2, the board agreed to finalize the By-Laws at this meeting (6/12/12).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 with a motion made by Gary Brandt, seconded by Greg Smith, and agreed upon by all.

GPS CLASS FOLLOW– UP

By: Tom Malia

For those of you that were at last month's meeting, I indicated that if you were intending on converting your Tracks into a Route you had to very carefully manage your Tracks to ensure you had a single set of Tracks for your ride in that it was difficult/impossible to readily convert multiple Tracks into a single Route.

However I have since discovered that it is in fact quite simple to convert several Tracks into a Route. Simply download the multiple Tracks into Mapquest. Display the Tracks on the Map. Then using the Mapquest Route Tool, click on the Tracks at multiple points to define a Route that coincides with all the Tracks.



Surprise 9.5.

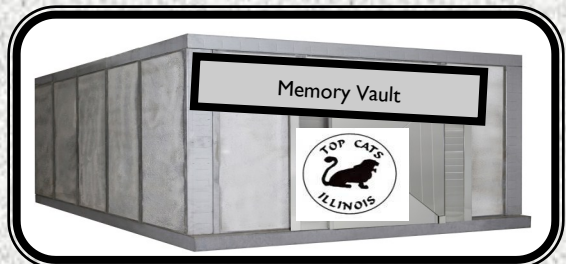
We were on the wrong side of the creek and had to go back through the ford to get out of the park.

Drama peaked, the

crowd gathered in expectation of another demonstration of how to combine scuba diving and motorcycle riding but....we disappointed them by successfully crossing and rapidly departing the park.



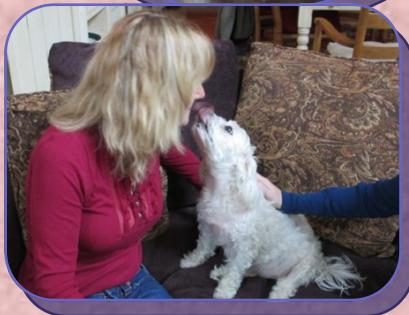
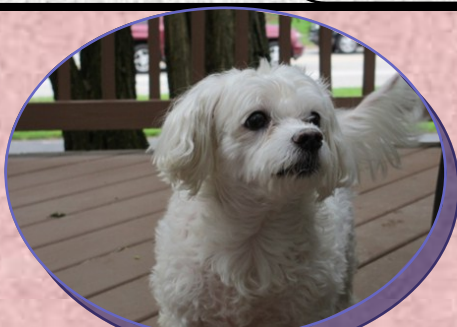
Last Surprise....was no surprise. Take a handful of Senior RCs, some Club members, and two guests, give them the challenge of last – minute planning and the result was a typical Top Cat adventure...spontaneous, exciting, enjoyable and....one more to add to the great memories vault.



To all of our friends at Top Cats:

It has been a very sad and trying last two months for both Tony and myself. Our beloved and cherished dog, Diamond, developed Cushing's disease and we had to say goodbye to him and let him go to the big kennel in the sky where he would not suffer anymore. He was as much a part of our family as anyone.

While I have learned much from people along the way in my life, I think I learned the most from this simple animal. We would like to share with you some of the things Diamond taught us.



We can learn a lot from Man's Best Friend!

*Epitaph for Diamond Loden
1997-2012*

Recipe for Happiness

An insatiable curiosity

A Joy of Discovery

Quick to Forgive

Hold no Grudges

Love without Condition

Stay Loyal to the Death

See the best and ignore the rest!



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..

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Membership Has Its Privileges!

All suppliers and vendors who support the Top Cats by providing discounts to Top Cats members will be listed in ROAR.

HELP WANTED WEBSITE EDITOR

The Top Cats Board of Directors is looking for an enterprising and creative individual to assume responsibility for coordinating the content on our soon-to-be upgraded website. No 'technical' website experience is required.

The primary responsibility will be to work with the webmaster and various individuals who 'own' certain areas of the website to ensure our content is fresh and inviting as well as come up with ideas for additional content and enhancements to the site to bring more value to our members.

For more information contact any board member or

Dennis P (Wombat) Dougherty at

wombat@dpdougherty.com

WANTED



Top Cats Historian

The Top Cats Board is looking for a member to become official historian for the club.

Over the next year we want to create a written and oral history of our club that we can share with existing, new, and potential members.

The club turns 15 in 2010. Many of our legacy members have or will be moving on. We want to capture their and others' stories of our humble beginnings as well as favorite tales of the road.

If you have an interest in becoming Top Cats Historian or being a part of this activity please contact Dennis P. (Wombat) Dougherty at wombat@dpdougherty.com



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, July 3th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, July 10th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, July 17th	Franks and Fries	Mundelein	Franks for the Memories	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Sunday, July 22nd	17th Annual Ride for Dreams	Woodstock	Harley Davidson	8:00 am	Case and Crew
Saturday, July 28th	Il State Police Ride	Downers Grove	Springfield	7:00 am	Marcyán
Tuesday, July 31st	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Thursday, August 1st	Sturgis/ Sturgis Lite	Lake Zurich	South Dakota	7:00 am	Boand
Tuesday, August 14th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, August 21th	Franks and Fries	Slots Hots	Libertyville	6:30 pm	Scalzitti

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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ROAR is the official publication of the **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**

and is published on the 1st of each month.

The content and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**

For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at
ROAR@TOPCATS.org