



ROAR

September, 2012

Volume 12 Issue 9

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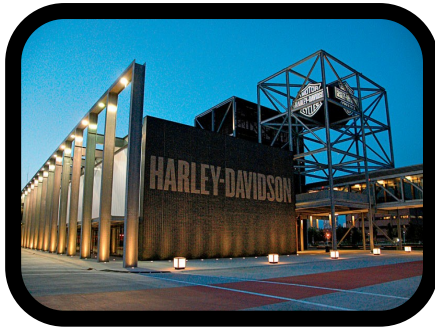
The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S MINUTE

This time of year you would expect that the pace of our sport would start to slow and we would be looking more toward Fall, raking leaves, school supplies, and winterizing....a horrible thought. I am pleased to say that isn't the case with Top Cats. Our schedule remains active, thanx to those who have stepped up to coordinate events and rides for their fellow Top Cats.

We just came off of a great Sturgis Bike Week thanx to Bard Board, an enjoyable ride for those not in Sturgis and another Hot Dog night thanx to Larry Scalzitti, a Wounded Warrior Ride to Mokena, IL, and a very educational briefing on AMA Noise Measurement and Standards by George Barrington, our local AMA Congressman. But....

All of that pales in comparison to what's coming up this month. We'll have....



A fantastic ride planned by Russ Peiffer to the Bike Show and HOG Rally at the HD Museum,

A super ride to the Cantigny Museum for a tour and a Revolutionary War reenactment, led by Rich Flynn,



Our annual Progressive Dinner Ride hosted by Noelle & Gene Rigsby, Theresa and Russ Peiffer, Joy & Larry Johnson, and Mary Walters, another great Hot Dog Night thanx to Larry Scalzitti,



(Continued on page 14)

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Wisconsin Hog Rally
- 4 General Meeting
- 8 Cantigny
- 9 Progressive Dinner Ride
- 11 Board Meeting
- 18 Franks and Fries
- 26 Bikes, Blues, and BBQ

OCTOBER

- 2 General Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting
- 13 Fall Colors Ride\
- 14 Thunder Run
- 16 Franks and Fries
- 20 Wake the Dead
- 21 GRASS c

Put your Dream Ride Here!

KAUTION KORNER

Safety PART I



By Mike 'Motorcycle' Bradbury

Senior Road Captain

In order to write an article you need a topic. Duh! So my article started with this major dilemma like perhaps others may have experienced who have done this before. And while the Kaution Korner Safety Article narrows that down a bit to the subject of Motorcycle Safety I still struggled deciding on the topic. I had a few ideas like the safety merits of riding with underwear on vs. not wearing underwear. I think those merits are glaring and obvious. And I probably couldn't *stretch* that into an entire article anyways. It probably wouldn't *fit* this purpose well. And it could *rub* people the wrong way.

Seriously, when I first started driving a motorcycle on my 1996 A.C.E. Honda Shadow, I started riding more and more with larger groups. I was doing the big charity rides (i.e The Little Angels, Toys For Tots, Love Inc., etc.) and I saw some crazy stuff and it made me realize that safe group riding is not an automatic undertaking. Safe motorcycle and group riding takes intent and effort. So I started to question what exactly is meant by Motorcycle Safety. This is fairly clear and obvious so simply put, I define safe Motorcycle driving as operating my motorcycle in a manner that is not harmful to myself and those around me.

Now with that definition, how do I do it? How do I operate my Motorcycle safely? I offer here some of the basic guidelines I use to hopefully achieve the operation of my 2010 Harley-Davidson Street Glide or any motorcycle I drive in the best way that is not harmful to myself or those around me. These are some of my recommendations for the Safety PART I.

Practice – Practice what you learn. The best thing to do after your training is to become a practitioner and to do what you learned. But sometimes you need to work on a maneuver to gain confidence and practice builds that. Practice will also help to identify your weakness and indicates what you

need to work and focus on when you practice. Take care, depending on what you are practicing to have a dedicated area like an empty parking lot if needed for the type of action you are practicing. Maneuvers like high speed braking must be performed legally when you have plenty of room on empty roads without traffic. Use common sense and caution when practicing since these are not all actions you may have mastered yet.



Awareness – Awareness of a lot of elements contributes to the overall safe operation of your bike. Awareness of your instrument readings, velocity, direction, balance, sound, vibrations, feel all contribute to the inputs coming from your bike which are telling you the state of things. The next level is similar to fighter pilots and is called Situational Awareness. This is where you are gauging where you are relative to all the other traffic and road activity and conditions surrounding you. You are aware of your “situation” in this sphere of activity but now you are tracking this changing picture so you predict, track and react to avoid harmful situations. Another analogy is like playing a chess game where you are trying to predict your opponents next 2 or 3 moves. To do this you must scan ahead and not get stuck just focusing on the few feet in front of you. You need to have an expanded horizon to increase your available reaction time for any particular traffic situation.

(Continued on page 4)



Terri Loden

A Top Cat You Should Know!

Hello Top Cats!

Another great month is quickly coming to an end and my article is due! The two people I had tagged for this month have decided to seek adventure outside of Illinois so we'll have to read about them in future issues. My guess is that they went looking for someplace that has more rider-friendly temperatures and I wish them luck and cool breezes!

So this month we will learn a little bit about a fairly new member to Top Cats. One half of the Dynamic Duo known as Tony and Terri Loden. This month we'll focus on the Terri half.

I guess I would describe myself as kind of like a Rubik's Cube. I'm a puzzle to some people, but easy to solve when you know how. I'm colorful and have different sides to my personality.

My first introduction into the world of motorcycle riding was back when I was about 18 years old. It was on a Triumph, much like the one we raffled off at our Charity event this year. My girlfriend invited me to a concert where a friend of her's was the lead singer in a fairly well-known band in Detroit. After the concert, we were introduced and he told me he had a motorcycle and loved to ride and would I be interested in riding with him some day? My answer was yes and that was the start of many carefree and fun-filled days and nights on the back of that Triumph! I remember jumping on the back of the bike in my bathing suit, riding across town to Lake St. Clair, going for a swim, and back on the bike home in the same attire. I'm horrified at the thought of doing that now! Well, not really, but safety is definitely a priority.

Even though the relationship did not last, the fire was ignited and sooner or later all roads lead home.

After college and work, marriage and having raised a child, I mentioned to Tony that it would be fun to get a motorcycle and ride. I didn't have to say it twice! Within two months, we had a Harley in the garage and were planning trips all over the Midwest and elsewhere.

One of my favorite trips was our adventure in 2010 to

Utah, Colorado, and Nevada. The scenery was breathtaking and the company was fabulous. We rode with a group that was much fun and kept me in stitches despite the many unpredictable challenges that came our way. Let's see: Encountering a hailstorm in the beginning of May is one that comes to mind. Taking time to hike through parts of the Grand Canyon during the day and having to ride that night in sub-freezing temps to get to our destination. Going through a dust storm so dense near Three Corners, Colorado that we couldn't see the bike in front of us. When we arrived at our hotel that night both our bodies and bikes were covered in 3 inches of dust. Funny how one thing leads to another. From riding on a motorcycle to the beach in a bathing suit, to wearing heated gear, helmet and gloves down a mountain in Flagstaff, Arizona!

It reminds me of a parable I came across recently:

A wise old farmer owned a trusty horse. One day the horse ran away into the hills. The villagers all rushed over and said, "Oh, what bad luck your horse has run away!" The farmer replied, "Bad luck, good luck, who knows?"

The next day, the horse returned from the hills and brought with it five beautiful wild horses. The villagers came to him and said, "Oh, what amazing good luck you have, now you've got lots of horses!" "Good luck, bad luck, who knows?" said the farmer.

The next day, the farmer's son was thrown from one of the wild horses he was training and broke his leg. The villagers came around again and said, "Oh, what bad luck-now your son can't help you out around the farm," and the farmer said, "Bad luck, good luck, who knows?"

The next day the Emperor's army came through the village and took away all the able-bodied young men to go fight in a war. They left behind the farmer's son, because he had a broken leg. The villagers rushed over and said...

I think you get the idea. One thing leads to another.

We're now planning a trip to the Pacific Coast Highway and a trip to ride down the Eastern Seaboard in the next two years!



(Safety PARTI Cont)

Road Surfaces – Always be aware of the road surfaces you are riding on and drive accordingly. Gravel requires care with speed so slow down! Use only your rear brake when slowing. Add more stopping distance than you even think is required. Asphalt requires much care when wet and especially after becoming wet in the last 20 minutes or less. The road oil will float on the water before getting washed away and can make the surface more slippery. Asphalt can also be slippery at extremes of temperature both cold and hot. And those wonderful little road repair lines which look like “veins”, also known as tar snakes are slippery almost all the time and should get your attention whenever the road is predominantly covered with them.

Train and Learn - Take a Top Cats Group Riding Safety Seminar. This is something you should do to learn the how-to's in operating your bike as safely as possible and while riding in groups. Continue your education and take a beginners or advanced motorcycle riding course, whichever you feel most comfortable in doing. There are many sources for courses such as your local Harley-Davidson dealerships, the Rider's Edge Training Course from Harley-Davidson as well as places in our area like LRN2RYD, a company run by one of our own

Top Cats, Larry Scalzitti (see www.lyrn2ryd.com for more information). All of these are great sources for training. The point here is to train to learn and gain the knowledge.

Intersections – I had read before that 75% of all motorcycle accidents occur in intersections. Now I can't remember the source but to me it only is common sense that intersections with their opposing and crossing traffic are dangerous. You should always be on your guard when approaching and travelling through intersections. I always study the situation, decide on my actions and, if I am driving through the green light, shift my weight to cover my rear brake and my left hand to cover the horn. I want to be prepared as best I can to react for that guy that is trying to beat the yellow light or not following the law at all and zooming through a red light.

While being mindful of these principles is not a guarantee, you will lower your risk of being harmed and harming others while operating your motorcycle if you follow them. Continue to learn and practice. I believe Motorcycle safety is a continual process of improvement and applying what I learn.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries



Mary Walters
11th

Randy Braun
16th



11th

Gary and Muriel
Brandt

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



September 08, 2012 Ride with Rich Flynn

Cantigny Park Revolutionary War Reenactment. For those of you who have visited Cantigny Park before you know what a wonderful place it is. Not only will we get to see the war reenactment but the Robert R. McCormick Museum & First Division Museum are also there for us to enjoy. They also have some of the best gardens you can imagine. This is a family friendly event feel free to invite family, guests, and kids. Cars can follow us or meet us there.



WHERE: Lake Zurich. The ride starts in Lake Zurich, IL and is a 47 mile ride to Cantigny Park. For those that stay for the entire event we will return to Lake Zurich around 7:00PM

WHEN: Meet at 8:15 AM, Saturday, September 8, 2012. The events will go until 4:45PM as there is much to see and do. For those who stay for the entire event we will ride to Alfies Inn for dinner. Meals are around \$10.00 a person and the food is amazing. Alfies is only a few miles from the park. We will plan a return route to Lake Zurich after dinner.

HOW: Saddle Up and Ride with the Club.

- 1. Meet at the Shell station on Rand and Lake Cook in Lake Zurich at 8:15AM**
- 2. Bring \$5.00 cash** per bike or car to get in the park. This includes the 2 museums, the reenactment and the gardens. This will be collected before we leave Lake Zurich.
3. If you have them this is a great event to get your flags out to show support for our troops and MIA'S.
4. We will have group tours of the museums set up.
5. Reply to Rich at: richflynnjr@aol.com by Sept 5th if you are going. We will wait for you in Lake Zurich if we know you are coming.

Helpful links

<http://rideplanner.harley-davidson.com/rideplanner/share/502942> - Route - click view/edit to download to your GPS

<http://www.cantigny.org> / - Cantigny Park main site

http://www.cantigny.org/Special_Events/signature_events/rev_war.aspx - War reenactment site

<http://www.cantigny.org/PDF/Dining/2012/LJ%20spring%202012.pdf> - lunch menu - menu less than \$10.

www.alfiesinn.com - Dinner—Check out the menu online!

Once Upon a Time...Bang! By Rich Flynn

Once upon a time a new Top Cat was riding with his wife in the rain...

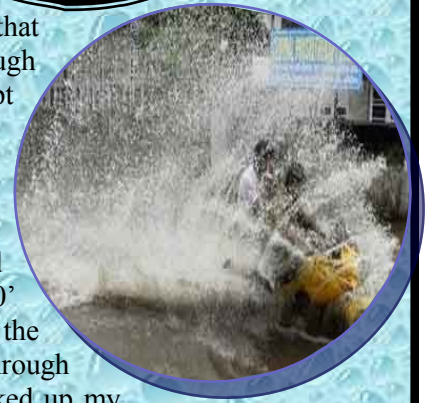


We were riding with another group, around 10 miles from home, about to finish our 160 mile day and down we went sliding into oncoming traffic.

That was me. As a new Top Cat the one thing that has been stressed time and time again by leaders and members is safety on the road. I know that I am a safe skilled rider so how did I lay the bike down. It is something I have thought long and hard about. Let's face it...we skidded into on - coming traffic! What if the guy that was coming at us did not stop? What if we had hit our heads? Yes if you have been riding long enough you have probably dumped your bike once or twice but where did I go wrong? How can I help someone else not do the same thing?



light and I assumed that they were going through the yellow so I kept pace. I saw their brake lights come on and then thought that they were going to make a quick stop. The lead rider saw there was a 20' by 20' metal plate in the road and continued through the yellow light. I locked up my brakes and went into a skid.



Here is what happened. We were riding in the rain and through a construction zone. I was riding two up with my wife. I am going to focus on construction zone safety in this article. I do believe that Gary Brandt's article **"So It Looks Like Rain"** is also very valid here.

Please read his article in ROAR (<http://www.topcats.org/rokdownloads/roar/175-roar-2012>) It is well written, interesting and may just save your life.

As we went down the front fender of the bike caught a lip in the road and launched me into oncoming traffic. The car in the oncoming lane sped up to beat the yellow light and almost hit us. I did not see the metal plate. I found out about it after the crash.

The plate was unmarked and hazardously placed right where anyone would start to brake. It was about 50' from the traffic light. The dirt from the construction and the rain made it very slippery. We were lucky and only had minor injuries.



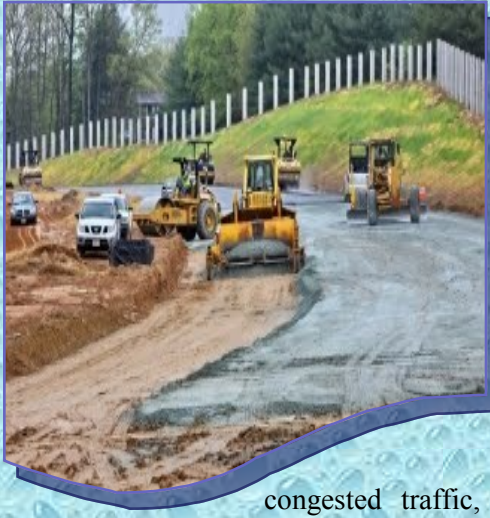
As I said we were riding through a construction zone in the rain. I did not leave enough room in between me and the bike in front of me. We were coming up to a stop





Bang...Contiued

So let's start with the **first mistake**. I didn't leave enough room between me and the lead bike to react safely. Always leave extra room in between you and the vehicle in front of you in a construction zone. People can be confused and have more on their minds in a construction zone. There is a lot that can be going on in a construction zone. There could be lane



changes, congested traffic, big equipment and tons of road hazards. Always assume that the person in front of you is going to stop. Drive defensively and give plenty of room.

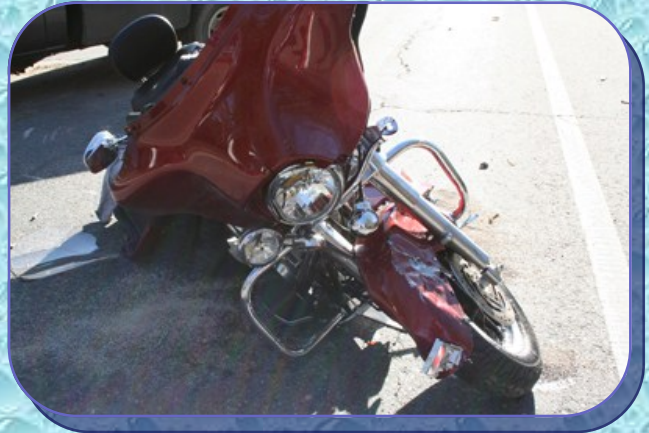
My **second mistake** was not paying attention to the road surface. In a construction zone the road surface can change in an instant. What are some surface conditions you may see? You might see sand, gravel, pavement crack filler, oil and many other hazards. Look at the road ahead pay attention to the road surface. Look for your best route ahead of time. Look further ahead than you normally would to look for hazards. Know the surface you are driving on. If you find yourself on a grooved surface don't fight the handle bars and keep a steady throttle. If you find yourself on wet steel avoid braking at all cost.

Always look for flaggers as they can give you advanced warning of upcoming dangers. Look out for workers near the edge of the road. A lot of accidents happen before or after a work zone when people are slowing down



to merge or speeding up to resume non work - zone speed. So use caution before entering a work zone and as you are leaving a work zone.

I learned a lot from this incident; slow down in construction zones, look further ahead, keep more space in between bikes in inclement weather and avoid braking on slippery hazards.



No matter how long you have been riding it is very easy to let your guard down from time to time. Yes riding in the rain and through a construction zone has a million things that could go wrong but if you slow down and pay attention it is easy to avoid disaster. Learn from my mistakes and live to ride another day or you may be writing a saga titled "*Once Upon a Time...Bang, Part 2.*"





TOPCATS ACTIVITIES

YOUR SOURCE FOR UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

By TONY LODEN

Holy hill of beans... What a summer...

This past Friday marked the end of the meteorological summer, which runs from June 1-August 31. The calendar version of summer runs another three weeks until the autumnal equinox on Saturday, September 22.

As of the writing of this article we're currently at forty-three, yep 43 90-degree plus days and counting. Based on records dating back to 1871, Chicago's greatest number of days with temperatures in the 90s or higher stands at 47 - established back in 1988. By the end of August, we stand a good chance of being within a day or two of equaling that record and with September on the average recording three 90-degree days, a new record could be well within reach in 2012.

There is no doubt about it; the past year has brought some strange weather. From last year's hot summer, and accompanying droughts in the southern half of the country, to the winter that wasn't and the freak early spring heat wave that brought July-like temperatures to much of the country and this year's extraordinary Midwestern drought and summer heat wave into the 100's, many of you are scratching your heads, wondering what's going on. You may also be wondering what all of this will mean for the coming fall.

Here's what the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center has to say about the next three months... Those highly skilled climatologists with their multi-computer modeling systems are forecasting above average temperatures to continue in the Great Lakes region for the period from September 1 through November 30 with below normal precipitation.

Now with the summer's "too hot to ride" weather behind us, the forecasted riding temperatures should be moderate enough to fill our calendars with rides galore.

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.

Tony



So, looking at the upcoming event calendar for the next thirty days or so brings us some pretty good options... They include:

**Sunday, September 2nd –
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

Harley Davidson Museum (Peiffer)

Do something special this Labor Day weekend and enjoy the rally being held in Milwaukee. Join Russ Peiffer on his Road Captain debut for a 2-hour ride around Wisconsin before arriving at the Harley-Davidson Museum. After several hours there, including time to eat at one of the venues on-site, we will ride back home. End the summer with a great ride and an equally great destination. Open to all members and guests.

**Saturday, September 8th –
8:00 AM – 7:00 PM**

Cantigny Revolutionary War Re-enactment (Flynn)

Meet at the Shell Station at Rand And Lake Cook Road in Lake Zurich at 8:15 for a day that will celebrate American History. Not only will we get to see the war reenactment but the Robert R. McCormick Museum & First Division Museum are also there for us to enjoy. They also have some of the best gardens you can imagine. This is a family friendly event feel free to invite family, guests, and kids. Cars can follow us or meet us there. If you stay for the day, the return will be around 7:00pm. A great day!

**Sunday, September 9th –
All Day**

Progressive Dinner Ride (Kirkpatrick)

Thanks to the generosity of Noelle & Gene Rigsby (hors d'oeuvres), Theresa & Russ Peiffer (Soup & Salads), Joy & Larry Johnson (Main Course), and Mary Walters (Dessert), we will, once again, enjoy breaking bread with our brother and sister Top Cats. RSVPs are critical to our hosts as they prepare their feasts. Please respond to Wayne at wkirkpa177@aol.com before September 5th. Open to all members only.

**Tuesday, September 18th –
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Franks 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 meet up at Papa Gus located at 454 N. Rand Rd. in Lake Zurich, Illinois.

**Thursday, September 27th – Bikes Blues & BBQ (Open)
Saturday, September 29**

Rich & Betsy Dunkelburger (Our old friends from the Alex Johnson) have started a new venture in Fayetteville, Arkansas with the renovation of the old University Hilton/Cosmopolitan Hotel in the downtown historic district. The new hotel name will be The Chancellor Hotel and is scheduled to open in mid-September 2012, just before the rally. Why not start an annual ride to the beautiful Ozarks for this yearly rally?



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

JULY 3, 2012

GORDANO'S PIZZA 270 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Meeting called to order 7:30 PM by President, Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Meeting was held at Giordanno's Pizza, because Escape was closed for employee appreciation night.
- All members were asked to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance. Because there were no Flags available, the back of Wayne's vest, with the Flag, was used in place.



Guests – Richard Flynn was with us and has applied for membership.

President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Charity Ride: Report was made detailing how the Ride came out about even, but with the donations made by Dennis Dougherty and Andy Hay, the total will come out to be about \$2300.
- Elections: This year we will be electing Pres/Vice Pres and two directors.

Past President's Comments: Mike Bradbury

- No report at this time

Vice President's Report: Gary Brandt

- No report at this time

Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- No report at this time

Treasurer's Report: Stuart Johnson

- The financial status of the club is good.

Financial statements can be seen on the website in the members only financial folder.

Awards / Membership: Greg Smith

- No new members at this time
- New Road names include *Lefty*, Noelle Rigsby

AMA Congressman Guest Speaker: George Barrington

- George spoke to the group on the information that sometimes gets
- George asked how many are AMA members.... and only one hand went up.
- What is the AMA?
American Motorcycle Association.
Rights, Riding, Racing”
Changes have included a focus on Motorcycle safety as well as rights for riders.
It takes only \$50 to join, and that includes the magazine and discounts.



- George spoke to the club about the decibel levels allowed for street, racing, and other bikes
- When testing, he starts at 1000 rpms and moves to 4000rpm. His testing device is held 20 inches from the end of the pipe. 94 decibels is the industry standard limit.
- Illinois law states that when you change pipes in order to increase the noise level, you are violation of Illinois Law.
- George will only tell you if you pass or fail, but he will not let you know what exact decibels are registering from your bike. Reason? He doesn't want to add to the competition levels that are already a part of biking culture.
- He urged Top Cat members to join AMA or ABATE. George supports both because they work to ensure biker's rights.

Safety / Charity: Ric Case

- Gene Rigsby was recognized as the first new Top Cat Road Captain for 2012. His Fishing Derby Ride qualified him. The club congratulated him and is looking forward to more rides led by Gene.
- Charity Ride Results
- Safety Tip was given by 'Storm', Gary Brandt, who spoke about riding in the rain.
- Learn to ride in the rain!
- It gives you the opportunity to see new things and to ride more roads than 'fair weather' riders.
- See the ROAR for the details on how to be careful when riding in rain.
- GRASS class was held last Sunday, July 29th. Our prospective member, Rich Flynn was in attendance. Ric reminded everyone that as Top Cat's, we are required to attend one class every three years. The next class will be on July 29th, the Sunday before Sturgis.
- Road Captain Qualifications can be found on the website or by asking Ric Case or any other road captain.
- Noelle Rigsby also reminded everyone that this is the season for new drivers to be out practicing, so be careful and aware.

Activities / Website: Larry Scalzitti

Activities

- Larry is developing a ride to Kenosha/Racine for those who are not going to Sturgis. *The Ride not to Sturgis* Ride will be held on August 11th.
- Franks and Fries will be at Slots Hots in Libertyville on August 21st.
- A ride to Wisconsin State Hog Rally will be on September 2nd.
- The Progressive Dinner Ride will be held on September 9th
- Larry said that anyone wanting to lead a ride should contact him or another road captain.
- Blue Mountain is a camping lodge in Hillsboro, about 180 miles into Wisconsin. they cater to motorcycles. The club was asked if they would like someone to investigate this and many showed an interest.

Sturgis: Bard Board stated that the group will leave from McDonalds at Ely and 12. He invited anyone who would like to join to show up in the morning and they can do a short ride to LaCrosse or go all the way to Sturgis.

History / Products: Larry Johnson

- No Archive news to date
- Noelle Rigsby said that anyone interested in purchasing a Top Cat item should contact her by e-mail or by phone. She can order anything that is needed – even if it is only one.

50 / 50: Muriel Brandt pulled the ticket held by Judy Scalzitti... who took home \$32.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JULY 10, 2012

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

Call to Order at 7:30: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Ric Case, Gary Brandt, Greg Smith, Larry Scalzitti and Larry Johnson.

Excused: Mary Walters, Stewart Johnson, and Mike Bradbury

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Wayne Kirkpatrick

President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Dues and Elections

- Wayne stated that invoices will be sent out to members for their 2013 dues by the second week in September. The payments will be due on October 30th.
- According to the new By-Laws, the payment date will allow 2013 elections to be held at the December 4th General Meeting.
- Paid membership, under the new by-laws is also a requirement for voting for the new board members in December. Payment date will identify members eligible to vote.
A slate of eligible candidates for each open position will be presented at the next board meeting.

Activities

- Wayne addressed the need to develop more activities for the September and October Calendar.

Charity Ride Results

- The committee has stated that we still have money coming in, so the final total has not yet been determined.
- Wayne will ask that the charity committee be asked to develop new fundraising activities that will take place year around in addition to the Charity Ride.

Other Items

- The theme of the September general meeting will be "**BY LAW Questions and Answers and Elections.**" Mass Blasts are not getting out early enough. They need to be sent out early enough to allow responses. Road captains will then be able to make a more accurate count for reservations and prepare more accurately for the rides.

Secretary: Mary Walters, Absent

- No report on the ROAR
- The Board requested that the Master Rosters need to be sent out with every change.

Treasurer: Stuart Johnson, absent

- The treasurer will be asked to send a financial report to the website to be posted in the members only financial folder.

Past President: Mike Bradbury, absent

- No report

Director: Larry Scalzitti

Activities

- Larry will purge mass blast list to ensure that all and only members are receiving the blasts.
- Larry will work with activities to develop Sturgis equivalent rides. Ex: Laconia, Myrtle Beach, etc.



Web Site

- Larry will ask members if they would object to having their phone numbers on the website along with their e-mail.
- Larry asked that each of the directors review the seven subfolders to update and review the content so that we can keep the information timely and relevant. Each member of the board was assigned an area to review.

Administration Folder: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Agenda and Minutes Folder: Mary Walters

Financials Folder: Stewart Johnson

Membership Folder: Greg Smith

Ride for Dreams Folder: Ric Case

Safety Folder: Gary Brandt

Top Cats Mall Folder: Larry Johnson

Director: Greg Smith

Membership

- New member, Richard Flynn, was presented for membership and approved unanimously.
- Status of new tri fold: Will be done by next board meeting

Awards

- 2012 Awards Banquet: Awards will recommend a date for the next Awards Banquet at the next board meeting for inclusion in the 2013 schedule.

Director: Ric Case

Safety

- The committee will purge the road captain list on the website to make sure that it is current.
- Reviewed and discussed the Kaution Korner and Safety Tip schedule and requirements for the remainder of the year.
- The board discussed the requirement to wait one year to get a road captain rocker. It was decided that there was no value added by waiting the year, leaving the following requirements:
- Road captains must attend GRASS with the Road Captain module and
 - Road captains must successfully lead a *mentored* ride.

Charity Committee

- Complete financial results are incomplete pending the receipt of the ticket invoice
- The Committee will have a summary meeting on the 20st of August to review this year's ride.

Director: Larry Johnson

New Products.

- Larry and Noelle Rigsby will start to bring the products to the meetings for the membership to view and purchase.

History

- No update on the archives

Meeting was adjourn at 9:00pm

President's Minute Continued...

and a special invitation to attend the Bikes & Blues Fest in Fayetteville, AK. Check our web site for details.

As we ride toward the end of 2012, we have a lot to be proud of accomplishing during this year. We also have a lot to be proud of going into 2013, our 18th year. We will soon focus on Club elections, committee appointments, our Awards Banquet, winter activities, our annual road captain conference, and our 2013 Activities Schedule.

Now, remember, none of this is going to happen without you. There are many opportunities to get involved and, with the structure of our new Bylaws, plenty of incentive to do so.

Enjoy this month's activities, enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Top Cats, enjoy riding and....take a second to thank those who continue to contribute to our success and enjoyment.

Let's roll,

Traveler

President

Top Cats - Illinois



The View from the Back Seat....

By: Mary Walters



Many people have asked about the ride to Sturgis and why I didn't ride my own bike out. So, I thought I'd take a little bit of space to tell you all about it...AND to pay tribute to those who have always ridden two up. After twenty years of riding my own, I have come to find out that here are many good things about riding with someone else. It was definitely a surprisingly positive experience!

It started off a bit shaky.... Mainly because I forgot to ask the experts how to get all of the stuff that NEEDS to be taken for TWO on ONE bike? After a bit of shoving and smashing, it became apparent that the term 'need' had to be redefined. Once that was taken care of, the rest was easy!

The trip was awesome. If you have time, I have 1200 pictures to explain all that I got to see! At first, it was a very strange sensation to be 'out of control'. It was unsettling not to be throttling or changing gears. But within a few miles, I was leaning into turns comfortably and feeling at ease with 'no hands'. It was then that I realized how much I may have been missing all of these years. Hence—1200 pictures! I was able to look around and see not only the view ahead, but to each side and sometimes even behind....

It was a great experience. We met some interesting people in Sturgis, visited friends in Colorado, went to Angel Fire, New Mexico- to a military Memorial, drank Sasparilla in Dodge City, and then came on home. It was fun to be able to point out views, comment on sites, and hold a hand every so often—while riding! NEVER did that before! It was really special to be able to experience all of these places WITH someone. The shadow picture has become one of my favorites!

AND to finish... **Thanks to all of the ladies in the club that gave me advice on how to 'do it'.** The pegs up, the cushion, the leg stretch—all became valuable advice about mile 200! Over 4100 miles later, I am very grateful, because you gave me a few extra tools that helped to make this my favorite trip - with some very special memories!

It would never have been the same on my own bike... Even if it is a Harley!



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

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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
Sunday, September 2nd	Wisconsin Harley Rally	TBD	HD Museum	8am	Pfeiffer
Tuesday, September 4th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, September 8th	Cantigny	Rt 12 and Lake Cook	Cantigney	8:00	Flynn
Sunday, September 9th	Progressive Dinner	Eskape –BG	All around town	10:30 am	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, September 11th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, September 18h	Franks and Fries	Lake Zurich	Papa Gus	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Tuesday, October 2nd	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, October 9th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30p m	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, October 13th	Fall Colors Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sunday, October 14th	Thunder Run	TBD	TBD	TB	TBD
Tuesday October 16th	Franks and Fries	Wheeling	Super Dawg	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Saturday October 20th	Wake the Dead	TBD	Cemeteries around town	1:00 pm	Loden
Sunday, October 21st	GRASS Class	Palatine	Harris Bank Bldg	8:30 am	Case

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

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

As part of our ongoing philosophy to support our members and goal to provide a more value-rich publication, we are now offering free advertising space in ROAR for Top Cats business owners.

Each business owner can submit advertising content and graphics up to 2 X 3.5 inches (Business Card size) for their company.

We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it.

This offer is for Top Cats business owners only. We are not accepting advertising for other businesses at this time.

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



ROAR



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

For more information about the Top Cats visit our website at www.TOPCATS.org

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