PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Greetings Top Cats
Another riding season is behind us and once again the Road Captains of the Top Cats were able to produce another world class calendar. With over 28 rides, 12 of them to new places and 4 non-riding events we had a lot to choose from. Our Charity ride broke new ground with a fabulous location and a recipe that should sustain us for a few years. We also gave our support to many other charity events in the area. We now have a few months to start thinking about new possible destinations for next year. Last year we were fortunate to have several off-season events to help keep us connected. While we are a riding club, there are still relationships that naturally occur. Why not spend some time together as we think about the coming season. Our activities team is looking for people to put together such events.

The annual elections are next month. This is the place where it is often stated that everyone should be sure to come out and vote. But it’s important to do more than just show up for one meeting a year. To have a lasting effect on the club, you need to be more active. So how about making election night the first of many nights that you show up!

We need new committee people for 2008. It would be great to have many of you lined up before the New Year so we can get a head start. One critical position that we really need to fill soon is the charity event committee Chairperson. As mentioned above, we have a good recipe to follow. One of the new directors will be your board representative so you’ll have support. Of course we also need members for the committee as well. If we get enough volunteers, the workload per person is not bad. This is our way to give back to community as a club. For some its donations, but for others it’s the extra work. It all counts. Its pretty safe to say that we are all blessed to be able to participate in a sport that is as expensive as ours is. All it takes is a few hours a month to make a huge difference in the lives of other persons. While it’s true that NISRA may not represent our specific communities, it still impacts many people in the area. A list of the other committee leadership openings will be sent out after the elections.

Gary

THE BANDANA

By Sandra Vernon

Shortly after our Ride for Dreams in July, I received an email that had been sent out to our members wanting to know if anyone had a black Top Cats Charity Ride bandana. This bandana had been given out at rider registration several years ago and a rider was looking to replace the bandana he had lost. For sentimental reasons, it couldn’t be the white one, it had to be black.

Now, everyone has a stack of bandanas from rides you have been on, so I looked thru mine, lo and behold... I found a black Top Cats Charity Ride bandana! I replied to the email and received the name of the gentleman in need. Toby Mishler in Quincy, Michigan. MICHIGAN! I received a letter from Toby after he received his "replacement" bandana. Interesting story about Toby, his buddy Carl and the Charity Ride. Here are excerpts from his letter.

"Anytime I can get a chance to go out and have a ride on my bike, I'm there. Anytime it is well organized by a great bunch of people, that's a bonus. Couple that with it being a Charity Ride and I'm definitely there. Mix it all up with the fact that my daughter was the one that informed me of the ride with a "Dad you've got to come out for this".

His daughter works at NISRA and invited him to Top Cats Picnic with NISRA.

"I met a few of the members and then I learned the where and when of the 3rd Annual Ride. Talked to my riding buddy and the rest is history. There are times that Carl can't make it, but I always like a good ride so I plan a vacation day for the ride back home on Mondays, pack my stuff and go. One time when Carl couldn't come, I was all set to go but for some reason my bike wouldn't start. Called Carl Friday night and told him I had to take his bike." This is a commitment from the heart.

Since 1996, Top Cats has supported the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association with proceeds of over $200,000 from our charity event. We have attended picnics with NISRA, worked on the Treehouse, attended the Special Olympics, gone fishing, danced and much more. This is support for our community that does not have a dollar figure. This is a commitment from the heart.

Sometimes it takes a lost bandana to remind us just how important our efforts are, for the Ride for Dreams and for our community.
OFFICERS and BOARD of DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Brandt  Gary  President  847-668-9771  cgb002@comcast.net
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Zawila  Keith  Secretary  847-970-9026  keith.zawila@trustmarkins.com
Prettymann  Chuck  Past Pres.  847-854-5929  topcats2003@aol.com
Krepol  Windy  Director  815 459-9345  bikertt72@sbcglobal.net
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Konsewicz  Andy  Director  630-207-5500  andy@konsewicz.com
Smith  Greg  Director  847-870-0957  vethog@comcast.net

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LaMonica  John  ROAR  847-446-6362  jlamonica2@comcast.net
Konsewicz  Andy  Webmaster  630-207-5500  andy@konsewicz.com
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Carmody  Robert  Mbship/Products  312-498-1354  Bcarmody@email.com
Strickler  Peggy  MSF  847-438-3162  chameleonbiker@aol.com

ACTIVITIES

November 2007 - February 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Start Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 04</td>
<td>G.r.a.s.s. Class</td>
<td>Village Tavern and Grill, Buffalo Grove</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>R. Case</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 06</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Village Tavern and Grill, Buffalo Grove</td>
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<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>NISRA Holiday Show</td>
<td>Stonegate Conference Centre, Hoffman Estates</td>
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<td>S. Vernon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 02</td>
<td>TransSiberian Concert</td>
<td>Allstate Arena, Rosemont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Mexican Lindo, Lake Zurich</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>G. Brandt</td>
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2008

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<td>(note date)General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>G. Brandt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Mexican Lindo, Lake Zurich</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>G. Brandt</td>
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2008 Rides you can book rooms for now

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Hotel</th>
<th># Nights</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Little Sturgis</td>
<td>Radisson-Davenport</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>563-322-2200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, July 30</td>
<td>Route to Sturgis</td>
<td>Holiday Inn-Makato MN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>507-345-1234</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur, July 31</td>
<td>Route to Sturgis</td>
<td>Kelly Inn-Pierre SD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>605 224-4140</td>
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<td>Frid, Aug 01</td>
<td>Sturgis</td>
<td>Alex Johnson</td>
<td>multiple</td>
<td>1-800-888-ALEX</td>
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</table>

Remember to mention that you are with the Top Cats

Call the hotline (847) 622-3501 for updates and check the web site at: www.topcats.org
Top Cats General Meeting Minutes  
(October 2, 2007)  
By Keith Zawila

President Gary Brandt called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm at The Club House.

We welcomed the following guests: Jill Hansen (attending her 2nd meeting).

In Lynn Adam’s absence, Gary presented the following gifts for selling the winning tickets at our Charity Event: Dr. Jordan Leasure (Wine Tasting), Don Schaffer (Car Detailing), Bill Yates ($25 cert to Angry Pineapple photographers), Sandy Vernon ($25 cert to Angry Pineapple), Eileen Perry ($25 cert to RPM).

The following prizes were awarded for selling the most raffle tickets for our event: Greg Smith (110 tickets, Wine Tasting), Don Schaffer (90, Air Brushed T-Shirt), Sandy Vernon (70, Wine Tasting), John Ernst (57), Randy Braun (52), and Bill Yates (52) won rentals from Woodstock Harley Davidson.

Gary presented our $13,000 contribution check to Brian Shahinian and Jillian Giese of NISRA. Brian thanked us for our continued support (over $201,000 to date), noting the money will be turned into quality of life programs for the kids/adults of NISRA.

Gary presented an appreciation award to Wayne Kirkpatrick for everything he has contributed to the publication of ROAR over the years.

Chuck Prettyman (Past President): Chuck briefly reported on upcoming elections. The deadline for submitting applications for candidacy will be at 6:00 pm this Friday, 05 October 2007. Please contact Chuck. All offices, except for 1 Directorship, are open.

Greg Smith (Director): Updated us on our current activities schedule. Please check ROAR and our website for more information on our upcoming events. We were updated on the following rides: Northwest Illinois Roads Tour (Tom Nichols - 10/6), Fall Colors Ride (Mike Bradbury - 10/7), Sunset Ride (Dennis Dougherty - 10/13), Rural Run (Chuck Prettyman - 10/21).

Bard Boand provided a few details about the 2008 Sturgis Ride. He’s currently renegotiating a contract with the Alex Johnson (roughly $200/night). We’ll be leaving Wednesday July 30, and take our normal 2 fi day route to arrive on Friday. Wayne Kirkpatrick will be co-chair of the event.

Gary Brandt provided an update on 2008 Little Sturgis. It’s scheduled for June 20 - 21, 12 rooms are currently available at the Radisson in Davenport. If you call, please mention Top Cats.

John Lunde provided an update on the Rolling Thunder Toys-For-Tots ride (10/14). Wayne Kirkpatrick mentioned the City Limits Valley of the Kings Ride (10/20).

Larry Scalzitti provided some information on his Mexican Odyssey Ride.

Greg thanked all of the Road Captains for their efforts on our rides this past year. Now is a good time to begin thinking about 2008 events, including any off-season ones.

Keith Zawila (Secretary)
Wayne Kirkpatrick (Safety Chair) commented on the following items:
- yellow means “stop” (be mindful to slow down and stop, so you don’t lock up your brakes),
- during a ride, if you are uncomfortable riding close to an aggressive rider, don’t be intimidated or distracted. Move up in the group when you can, and/or speak to a Road Captain about it. They’ll talk to the rider about it.
- the sign for ‘police’ or ‘emergency vehicle’ is patting the top of your head.
- a great off-season event to consider is an Accident Scene Management class. Pat Behling has classes available (at Lambs Farm in Libertyville) on the upcoming dates: Basic Course (10/13, 11/10, and 12/1) and Advanced Course (10/27). Contact Pat at behling1202@comcast.net or 847-263-7293.

Wayne reminded us to make sure your motorcycle never takes you somewhere your brain hasn’t been at least 5 seconds before.

Terry Kumro provided a safety tip. He recounted occasionally hearing noises coming from his bike when braking. A few checks of the bike did not reveal any problems. A few miles later he noted his front wheel axle began to turn. It turned out his wheel bearings were going bad. Good routine checks of the bike, along with routine maintenance can resolve these issues before they become hazardous.

Don Schaffer (Road Captain Chair) reminded Road Captains who have not participated in any rides, or helped mentor a new Road Captain that time is running out this year. Don also invited anyone who would like to put together a ride to contact him.

Ric Case reminded everyone of our upcoming GRASS class (11/4) at the ClubHouse.

Our 50/50 raffle winner was Cindy Rayburn ($75).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.
Top Cats Board Meeting Minutes  
(October 9, 2007)  
By Keith Zawila

Board Members: Present: Gary Brandt, John Lunde, Keith Zawila, Tom Malia, Lynn Adams, Greg Smith, Windy Krepel, Andy Konsewicz, Chuck Prettyman

Proceedings: President Gary Brandt called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm at Mexico Lindo in Lake Zurich.

The Minutes from the September meeting, previously distributed, were approved.

Gary Brandt (President): Offered opening comments reflecting on the great rides we had in September.

Tom Malia (Treasurer): Our current Operating account has $6,266 in it; our Charity account has $2,662 in it. A brief discussion followed on a few details in the report. A motion was made to accept the report as presented. The motion was accepted.

Gary Brandt (President): Discussed a proposal by a couple of Board members for the Board to exercise its rights to change the status of the following members from Associate to Regular, based on meritorious service to the club: John LaMonica, Terry Garramone, and John Garramone. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to accept this proposal. The motion was accepted.

Chuck Prettyman (Past President): Updated us on our upcoming elections. Presented the Candidate slate, proposed by the Nominating Committee, to the Board. A motion was made to accept this slate. The motion was accepted. This information will be communicated to the membership. Since the Board has to first approve any proposal for absentee voting, Chuck presented the following method: the next ROAR will include a ballot in it of prospective candidates. Anyone wishing to use that ballot for an absentee vote can complete it, insert it into a blank envelope and seal it; then, insert that envelope into one having a return address, and mail it. Upon receiving the ballot, the member will be recorded as having voted, and their blank envelope containing the ballot will be set aside to be opened and included with the votes taken on election night at the December General meeting. This method preserves the anonymity of the ballot, yet ensures a member only gets to vote once. After discussing this proposal and other aspects of the election, a motion was made to accept this proposal. The motion was accepted.

Greg Smith (Director): Updated us on activities. We've had a record breaking year for rides in 2007, and still have a few more scheduled this month. Greg inquired if any thought had been given to the date/location of the Annual Banquet normally held in February. John Lunde said he'd take charge of it and begin looking at potential dates and locations.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 13th, 7:30 pm at Mexico Lindo in Lake Zurich.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06m.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION THE NISRA FOUNDATION PRESENTS...

THE 12TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FASHION SHOW AND CHRISTMAS TREE RAFFLE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007

Stonegate Conference Centre, 2401 West Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates

Come and join fellow Top Cats at this great holiday event! The Silent Auction prizes are great and wait until you see the six, fully decorated, Christmas Trees that will be raffled off to some lucky winner. The event includes a cash bar, luncheon, silent auction, fashion show and finally, the drawing for the trees. Tickets are $40. Reservations need to be in by November 7th. Contact Sandy Vernon at 847-634-6402 or email VERN693@aol.com for more information.
Slaying the Dragon and other tales for the faint of heart...

By Tom Nichols

I would like to thank Bob Carmody, Fred Zimbrick and Paul Makowick for joining me on a great ride through the Ohio River valley, across the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia, the Blue Ridge Parkway and other roads along the way.

Now US 50 through the eastern half of WV is one fantastic ride. I had heard rumblings about this road and the talk was true. If ever you're on your way to Washington DC, think about this road.

The second day of riding was marked with on again off again rain. Finishing off the day, we approached the Shenandoah Nat'l Park. The skies were dark but it wasn't raining. We enjoyed the first 40 minutes of riding then the fog lowered and the rain started and it poured for the next 40 minutes but we forged ahead. The sun came out and it was pleasant for the next 40 minutes, then again the fog lowered and the rain started and it poured for another 40 minutes. The final half hour was spent dodging kamikaze deer that had flocked to the road side to assassinate motorcyclists. We finished the day realizing we encountered more road hazards in one day than most people encounter in a lifetime. Isn't there some kind of cliche about experience?

The morning broke with pleasant weather and we traversed the Blue Ridge Mountains for the majority of the day. The Blue Ridge Parkway on a Monday was empty and we were able to ride for hours and enjoy the scenery with very little traffic. We did break off for gas and found a hot dog stand that as shaped like an igloo. Two hot dogs for $2.50 (may we all be saved)!

The next morning we awoke with the dragon on the horizon, but we needed to finish off the Blue Ridge Parkway. As we were checking out of our fine hotel, I asked the gentleman behind the counter what he thought the best way to pick up the BRP. He asked if we were 4 wheeling or 2 wheeling it? When I said 2 wheeling he got that look in his eyes. He pulls out this map and shows me a way out of town and to the highway which was unbelievable! Thank you Hunter!

I had hoped riding the dragon on a Tuesday would be relatively quiet. We had no problem with law enforcement as had been warned on the Deals Gap website, but the dragon was fairly crowded. The Hellraiser leg and the Cherohala Skyway were desolate like the Blue Ridge Parkway so that we almost had these to ourselves. I have to admit that I was in awe with the beauty of the Cherohala Skyway, and I definitely recommend this ride to anyone.

We back roaded Tennessee and Kentucky, hopping on the super slab outside of Louisville back home.

When I first returned I was asked: "How was the ride?" and in my sandbaggers way I responded "It was fine". After thinking back on the ride, I realized I spent 5 days and 4 four nights riding in some of the most beautiful countryside, on some the best motorcycle roads, with 3 of the best riders. It was a great ride. Thanks.
2008 Board Candidates

For President
(Unopposed)

Gary Brandt
Qualifications

Serving you this past year as President has been quite a learning experience and a lot of fun. The good things far outweigh the difficult. Our membership continues to grow with active new members. We continue to see people step up and volunteer their time and energy. It is my hope that we will continue to move forward. We are brought together by the desire to ride and be with others who feel the same. To me, it's all about the riding. The diversity of rides this year was outstanding thanks to some dedicated road captains.

Although not always easy, strong communications is a key to any clubs success. Improving the web site was a priority this year and much progress has been made. Changing the delivery method of ROAR was another important task that is nearing completion. We still need to improve the activity level of our road captains and/or recruit more new ones. We also need to utilize the experience of our past leaders more.

Biography
- 5 years of very high participation at both rides and meetings each year
- Activities helper on 2004, leader in 2005
- Vice President for the 2006 season
- Senior Road Captain

Other Qualifications for Leadership Position

Experienced dealing with Groups/People. Possess strong organizational and communication skills. Not afraid to make the tough decisions or reverse them if they are wrong. Am passionate about the future of this club, and preserving its Culture and integrity.

For Vice President
(Elect One)

John Lunde
Qualifications

Top Cats Experience (9 Years)
- Top Cats 1998 - Present
- Vice President 2007 (Present)
- Secretary 2003
- ROAR Editor 2000 - 2002
- Backup ROAR Editor 2003 - 2005
- Membership Chair 2002
- Communication Chair 2000 - 2002
- Senior Road Captain Chair 2006
- Safety Committee 2006
- Road Captain Committee 2005 - Present
- Charity Committee 1999 - 2000
- Developed 1st Awards Banquet 2000

Top Cat Contributions
- GRASS Instructor
- Organized TC Little Angels Ride
- Road Captain Mentor

Top Cats Recognition
- Member of the Year
- Best Road Captain
- Best Ride
- Road Captain
- Senior Road Captain

Motorcycle Experience
- Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2 2000 - Present
- Past President 2006 - Present
- President 2004 - 2005
- Vice President 2003
- Safety Committee 2007
- Charity Committee 2000- 2007
- Law Enforcement Liaison 2003 - 2007

For Secretary
(Unopposed)

Mike Bradbury
Qualifications

Top Cats Club Experience (3 Years)
- Joined Top Cats January of 2005

Top Cats Contributions
- Editor of ROAR for three months in 2006

Top Cats Recognition
- Road Captain

Bob Carmody
Qualifications

Membership Director for last 2 years and haven't screwed that up. Actually, I simplified the membership director job and simplified annual membership billing (saving a little club money and a lot of individual time). I have no Vice Presidential agenda other than applying those same skills and enthusiasm to whatever administrative challenges the club membership presents.
For Treasurer
(Unopposed)

Tom Malia

Qualifications

Top Cats Experience (12 years)
- Top Cats Member since 1995
- Road Captain for Several Years
- Led Sunrise Rides
- Led Sunset Rides
- Planned and Led Charity Ride Route Past Two Years
- Worked on Charity Ride Committee for Several Years
- Headed the Charity Ride Project in 2006
- Served on the Top Cats Board 2006

Top Cats Qualifications
- Served as Treasurer 2007
- Extensive Financial Background/Experience

Top Cats Recognition
- Senior Road Captain- 2006

Tom Nichols

Qualifications

Top Cats Experience (13 years)
- Top Cat since early 1995, active member since joining
- Past director 3 times
- Senior Road Captain

Top Cats Contributions
- Grass developer
- Grass instructor
- Road captain mentor
- Served or was director in charge of most committees

Top Cats Recognition
- 1st. recipient of Vice pres. Award

Motorcycle Experience
- Lot

John LaMonica

Qualifications

- Became Top Cats member June 2005
- Participated in single day rides in 2005, 2006, 2007

For Director
(Elect Three)

Ric Case

Qualifications

Top Cats Experience (13 years)
- Top Cats 1994 - 2007 Continuous service
- Serving Past President 2000
- President 1997-1999
- Awards Comm-2000-2005
- Charity Comm Chairperson 2000
- Charity Comm 2000 - current
- Safety Comm 2000-current
- GRASS Comm 1999-current
- Road Capt Comm 2005-current
- Top Cats Awards Chairperson - 2001-2004

Top Cat Contributions
- GRASS Developer
- GRASS Instructor
- Orchestrated 1st Motorcycle Charity Raffle in 2000 with continued involvement
- Road Captain Development Program (1st Version)
- Senior RC Program
- Road Captain Mentor
- TC Awards Program
- TC Logo (alternate and revised versions)

- Initiated Sunset Rides
- Road Captain (1st official)
- Authored 60+ Kaution Korner Safety Articles

Top Cats Recognition
- Vice Presidents Award Recipient
- Taz Award
- Senior Road Captain
- Road Captain (1st official)

Motorcycle Experience
- MSF Instructor 2003-present
- Riders Edge Instructor 2007-present
- Palatine HOG Chapter Member -1997 - present
- Serving HOG Safety Officer - 2003 - present
- ABATE member
- AMA member

Terry Kumro

Qualifications

Years Riding: 34, Years a Top Cat: 1
Accomplishments within club: Secured road captain rocker and led three separate rides this year, also participated in the ride portion of the charity ride.

- GRASS Developer
- Grass instructor
- Road captain mentor
- Served or was director in charge of most committees

Top Cats Recognition
- 1st. recipient of Vice pres. Award

Motorcycle Experience
- Lot
Wayne Kirkpatrick

Qualifications

Top Cats Club Experience (12 years)
- Top Cats 1996 - 2007 continuous service
- ROAR Publisher 2006 - present
- Road Capt Comm 2005 - present
- Serving Past President 2003
- Committee of Past Presidents 2003 - present
- President 2000 - 2002
- Vice President 1999 - 00
- Secretary/Treasurer 1996 - 99
- GRASS Comm 1999 - present
- Activity Comm 1998 - 99
- ROAR Editor 1997 - 2000, 2003 - 05
- Safety Comm 1997 - present
- Charity Comm 1997-
- Membership Comm 1996 - 97

Top Cat Contributions
- Reorganized current TC Board structure
- Developed Board member responsibilities
- Established Top Cats Historical Archives
- Established Top Cats' riding protocol
- Lead first 3,000+ mi Top Cat Adventure Ride
- Lead over 31 TC Rides
- GRASS Developer
- GRASS Instructor
- Road Captain Mentor
- Co-authored Road Captain Program
- Developed Senior RC Program
- Committee of Past Presidents
- Initiated TC Awards Program
- Initiated Meeting Safety Tips
- Initiated Vice President's Award Program
- Authored 350+ ROAR articles
- Initiated Black & Gold TC Board patch
- Initiated TC Bike Flags
- Donated Top Cats Club Flag
- Initiated Annual President's Ride
- Initiated Road Captain rockers
- Initiated black memorial bandana
- Initiated Sturgis Veteran pins

Top Cats Recognition
- First Founder's Cup recipient
- Member of the Year (2x)
- Most Top Cats Rides (3x)
- Most Annual Miles
- Most Miles in 24 Hours
- Road Captain
- Senior Road Captain
- ROAR Service Award

Motorcycle Experience
- 48 years riding experience
- Chairman, Rolling Thunder 2006 - present
- Director, N. IL Posse 2000 - present
- President, Knox MC Assn 1971-73
- President, US/Euro Racing Team 1974-78
- Director, Pikes Peak HOG 1992-94
- Member, Palatine H.O.G 1995 - present
- Member Illinois ABATE
- Iron Butt Association Record Holder - 2001
- 9th Nationally Certified MC Safety Inst
- AMA Pro Racing License
- AHRMA, Pro Racing License
- ADAC (FIM) Pro Racing License

Eileen Perry

Qualifications

Top Cats Experience (3 years)
- Member 3 years
- Sturgis veteran
- Attended most of club rides 3 years

Top Cats Contributions
- Membership Committee 2 years
- Charity Ride Volunter & Committee Member 2 years

Top Cats Recognition
- Most Outgoing Female Rider 2006
- Most Improved Rider 2006

Motorcycle Experience
- Rider 3 years
- MSF Course Graduate
- Accident Scene Management Trained
- Member National HOG
- Member Local HOG (Lakeshore)

Greg Smith

Qualifications

I have been riding Motorcycles for approximately 40 years, and I'm a current member of Harley Owners
Group (HOG). I found out about Top Cats in the summer of 2004 and participated in club meetings, events and the Charity Ride, and joined at the end of 04. I quickly became aware that this was more than just another Motorcycle club and decided to become more involved. I have worked on the Charity ride each year, and 06 on the committee and 07 as co-chair of the committee. I have become a Road Captain and have lead a verity of rides. The last 2 years I have co-chaired the activities committee and this year should be a record breaking year for # of rides & events. Last year I was asked to fill a Directors position that had opened up because of that person’s advancement on the Board. It was an honor to have served, and I would like to continue to fill that position.

**Brian Rainy**

**Qualifications**

Club Member since 2006
Associated w/ Top Cats since 2000
Director Candidate

Worked ~ 250 hours with Club webmaster to design and develop new Top Cats web-site accomplishing goal of improved communications. Accomplished:
* Easy editing of pages / content
* Calendar that allows members to post rides w/ details
* Easy to use / update photo albums
* Online message forum
* Security for members -only content (videos, ROAR, etc.)

Update membership system w/online administration
* Integrates w/ web-site - security mode for members only
* Support for online membership payments/renewals
* Member communication/e-mail system
* Payment and demographic reporting

Created and submitted draft proposal for electronic ROAR committee
* Cost effective and easy to implement
* No recurring costs
* Easy to produce
* Printable if needed
* Integrates w/ web-site security for Members Only access

Working with Dennis Dougherty to design photo archiving/publishing process - members user friendly

Riding Experience 20 Years
Kaution Korner
By Bard Board

LOOKIN' UP YOUR REAR VIEW MIRROR.....

Spacing in staggered formation made easy.

OK, so you went to G.R.A.S.S. Class, and learned all about spacing...right? You learned to ride 1 second behind the bike to your forward oblique (right or left in opposite track ahead) and to ride 2 seconds behind the bike immediately in front of you in the same track...right?

Now, here you are, weeks after GRASS, or even years after GRASS, and still having to pay way too much attention to arithmetic and counting 1000-1, 1000-2, rather than enjoying the countryside and other roadside attractions. Here is an easy way to insure proper spacing, and safety is at hand.

LOOK ahead, into the inside REAR VIEW MIRROR of the bike to your right or left oblique ahead of you, in the opposite track. (that's the mirror closest to the center track). If you see the riders eyeballs or sun glasses in the mirror ahead of you (to your oblique angle, not directly ahead), then you are within inches of where counting 1000-1, 1000-2 would put you. Most importantly, you are IN VIEW of that rider, as by seeing his eyes, he can see you.

If you look into his mirror and only see blue sky, you are either too close, or too far behind, or that rider doesn't have his mirrors adjusted properly, so also remember to ADJUST YOUR MIRRORS every time you enter traffic.

SO, there's to LOOKIN' UP YOUR REAR VIEW MIRRORS boys and girls.

View From the Back
By Don "The Numbersman" Schaffer

Sitting at the front of a group of riders, the Road Captain has a commanding view of the road. Perhaps the best view of everyone on a ride. I have had the pleasure of riding at the opposite end of the column, the Tailgunner position, on a couple of rides this summer. It is an honor to be asked to ride Tailgunner because it is a position of trust. It also happens to be about the best place to enjoy a ride while at the same time being useful.

The Hogs and Dogs ride is a great example of why riding Tailgunner is a favored spot and worth taking on the responsibility. You get to see the payoff for all of the hard work that goes into the planning and execution of a successful ride. It is also a great place to see just how good a job Top Cats has done training our members to be good group riders. The GRASS class actually works. From our initial pull out from the BP station I was following skilled and disciplined riders moving as a group, while each rider was taking responsibility for his own safety as well as that of others. How beautiful is it when the Road Captain pulls quickly away from stop signs to be sure he does not block following riders in the intersection, then accelerates to a bit below cruising speed to offset the accordion effect and allow the last riders to catch up without doing wheelies. As the ride progressed, it was apparent when approaching a curve or at controlled intersections that each rider was staying with the group, but within his or her own comfort zone.

Its fun watching riders apply the lessons taught in the MSF classes. The best riders are always pointing their noses at the exit to corners. The riders who go through wide sweepers with the least number of corrections are those who are looking all the way through the turn and not at the bike in front of them. Smooth stops and starts were the rule with our group, even on a little incline. No one seemed to be struggling to control the 700 or more pound machine they were riding. Best of all, there were nothing but grins on all faces. One of the best tests of group riding skills is the intrusion of an auto. Watching our group open up to allow an auto to cross through our formation to get to an exit was like watching a well executed chorus line. When autos ended up in the middle of the formation at intersections, the Road Captain held pace to avoid losing the blocked riders, and those behind displayed the patience necessary to insure that safety was never compromised.

The Tailgunner also gets to see the mistakes riders make, and can observe certain dynamics of the ride that are invisible to most of the other riders. All morning our groups stay crisply aligned, with spacing varying according to conditions. Everyone seems to think alike in terms of evaluating road conditions, and the road captain's signal for a single file results in a ballet of right track riders signaling and snapping into and out of the left track on cue. Things don't look quite the same on the way home when the combined effects of digesting lunch and a little fatigue combine to loosen up the formations and slow reaction times when the light turns red or there is debris in the road. Fortunately, the deterioration of skills looks minor, but emergency skills are likely to be a little compromised. To the credit of the riders, intervals were a bit wider in the afternoon, allowing for a larger safety zone.

Yes, the view from the back is great. The extra responsibility to our fellow Top Cats and guests adds purpose to the ride for me, for it is not to be taken casually. Just as I suggest that every member enrich our Club's riding experience by leading a ride and becoming a Road Captain, I also recommend that every Road Captain pick a ride or two each year and volunteer to be tail gunner. Take a pre-ride with the ride's Road Captain if possible, carry a first aid kit, and come prepared to sit beside the road with someone who has mechanical problems. The view is worth it..
ELECTIONS....BOARD 2008
By Traveler

One of the reasons we enjoy the many activities in Top Cats is the leadership that guides and directs our Club. It isn't any one member of our Board. It is the result of the collective effort of every Board member and committee members. The lesson is simple...the composition of your Board is directly related to the success of your Club.

Over the next few months we will be reviewing, deciding and voting for candidates for positions on the Board. However you participate in the election process, remember the great times you have had and recognize the tremendous effort it takes to coordinate Club events. Vote, based on whether or not that person has the time, the passion, the skills, the demonstrated leadership, the commitment, and the sense of fairness and ethics that you would demand of someone leading our Club. Anything less and our Club will cease to progress as it has since its inception.

As Top Cats, if we have any obligation at all to our fellow members it is this...to promulgate and perpetuate the growth, the evolution, and the continued development of our organization and our sport. We can only do this by ensuring, through the election process, that we have the best possible leadership on our Board that our Club has available.

Our By - Laws specify an organization structured to manage, maintain, support, and develop the activities of interest to our members, and in fulfillment of our basic charter "...motorcycle enthusiasts who own a business or are employed in an executive position with authority over a division, department or other entity..." and we are "...a forum for the exchange of ideas affecting motorcyclists; fostering member development through networking, business, educational and social opportunities; and acts as a motorcyclists' rights and interests advocate."

With annual elections occurring on December 4, 2007, you should understand the terms of our Officers and Directors. The Officers shall serve a one - year term and may serve no more than two consecutive one - year terms. The Directors shall serve two - year terms and may serve no more than two consecutive two - year terms. While serving, or upon completion of a term or terms, a Director may run for a position on the Executive Committee. An Officer, upon completion of a term, or terms, may run for a Director position or a position on the Executive Committee other than the one just served in if they have successfully completed their term.

Confusing? I suppose it is pretty complex but it works and is responsible for the outstanding activities we all enjoy, the environment of mentoring and safety our club operates in, and the great nationwide reputation maintained by Top Cats - Illinois.

Your responsibility in all of this? Vote by absentee ballot contained in this issue or at the December 4, 2007 general meeting. Either way, vote and help us keep our tradition and progress alive.

2008 TOPCATS BOARD ELECTION BALLOT

Choose One
President:   ( ) Gary Brandt
Choose One
Vice President: ( ) John Lunde
( ) Bob Carmody
Choose One:
Secretary:   ( ) Mike Bradbury
Choose One:
Treasurer:   ( ) Tom Malia
Choose Three (3)
Directors:
( ) Ric Case
( ) Tom Nichols
( ) Eileen Perry
( ) Wayne Kirkpatrick
( ) Brian Rainey
( ) Greg Smith
( ) John LaMonica
( ) Terry Kumro

MARK AN "X" IN THE BOX FOR THE CANDIDATE(s) OF YOUR CHOICE
ABSENTEE BALLOTS
Members wishing to vote absentee MUST follow these instructions:

Ballots in this ROAR are to be used. Fill in the above ballot, enclose it in an envelope and seal the envelope. Do not put a name or identification on the envelope. Prepare a second envelope, you must put your name on the second (mailing) envelope, enclose the blank envelope containing the ballot, and mail to Chuck Prettyman, 119 Deepwood Road; Barrington, IL 60010.

This procedure provides for your vote to be confidential. Your name will be checked as having voted, the blank envelope will be included in the ballots on the night of the election, and your vote will be counted. Absentee ballots must be received by 11/28/07. Questions...call Chuck.

TOP CATS ELECTION SCHEDULE
By Past Presidents Nominating Committee

Nominations are closed. The candidates names are listed in the above ballot. Your Board of Directors has approved the names submitted by the Committee of Past Presidents. Each of the candidates will be presented at the November general meeting.

Questions will be presented to the candidates at the November meeting, provided they are submitted in advance to Chuck Prettyman, Jim Heniff, Sandy Vernon, George Lax or Rob Mann. The identity of anyone submitting a valid question will be withheld if requested by the submitter.

Each of the Candidates will have a maximum of two (2) minutes to make a comment or provide information to supplement their printed resume / bio.

Elections will be conducted on December 4, during the general meeting. See ABSENTEE BALLOTS for the procedure to vote if you are unable to attend the December meeting.

Please make an effort to attend the November meeting, meet the candidates and support those who you feel will guide the Top Cats in the direction you want in 2008.