



ROAR

May, 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MINUTE



Ok so we're all thinking the same thing...where the hell is summer? We have had our

The Jerry Dederich favorite back roads and the Mer-

rimac Ferry. As we arrived at the restaurant that Jerry had recommended to me once, the Old Log Cabin, I doubt that any of us focused on the fact that the temps were in the mid 50s. The great back roads, the ferry crossing, and Devil's Lake made it feel like summer.



fill of winter and our share of bad weather, so follow me with this thesis....

My philosophy is...when faced with imminent defeat, simply redefine victory... So, even with the temps slightly below normal...let's ride and make it our summer! After all...it's simply a state of mind. Warm clothes, electric vests, and hand warmers all help to create that artificial summer that we can pretend to enjoy.

And so we did. We will have completed our Annual Kickoff Ride by the time you read this and 14 of us participated just like it was mid summer and had just as much fun.



Our Kickoff Ride was to be held in memory of our respected and missed brother, Jerry Dederich. However, snow, rain, and cold required us to postpone it one week. Eventually, we rode to Baraboo and tried out some of

May will bring us about six events, many charity rides to support and an opportunity to ride to DC for the XXVI annual Rolling Thunder Parade. June gets even better....

Particularly important at this time of the year is getting the rider ready

and in good shape as well as the bike and safety gear. Our next GRASS is scheduled for 11 May with another scheduled a few weeks later on 9 June. Take the opportunity to attend one as a refresher and, if you're a new member, remember, it's a requirement to attend within your first year.

So, gang, ride safe and...see you at the next riders' briefing,



Let's roll,
Traveler

President, Top Cats - Illinois

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Upcoming Events

MAY

- 5 Ride Janie Ride
- 7 General Meeting
- 11 GRASS Class
- 14 Board Meeting
- 19 Little Angels Satellite
- 21 Franks and Fries

JUNE

- 1 NISRA Fishing Derby
- 4 General Meeting
- 11 Board Meeting
- 14-16 Turkey Run Ride
- 18 Franks and Fries
- 23 Biker Hangout
- 29 President' Ride

Put your Activity **Here!**
Contact Gene Rigbsby

KAUTION KORNER

Close Encounters of the Nature Kind

By

Dennis P. (Wombat) Dougherty
Senior Road Captain



It's that time of year again. Winter is officially over, Spring has sprung and a young (and old) person's fancy turns to thoughts of love... of all things motorcyclin'.

As we pull the cover off our iron steeds, unhook our trickle chargers, run the StaBil treated gas out of the tank and knock the dust off our rides, we need to be thinking about lots of things as we gear up for another fun and adventurous riding season. I'll let others write about the mental preparation and polishing up on our own riding skills. I want to focus this article on the other entities that share our riding environment that are either waking hungry from a winter's slumber or who also have thoughts of fancy with their own species...namely the critters.

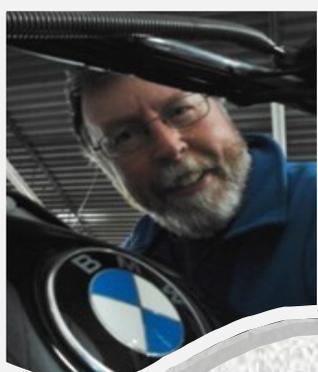
Now critters come in all shapes and sizes, from a lowly bushy-tailed nut-hauling rodent, to a nauseously perfumed polecat, on up to a white-tailed leaper and more. This time of year both *Homo-Motorcyclus*, and *Critter-MostAnoyingus* are still clearing the cobwebs from the winter doldrums. Neither of us are at the top of our game. It is a particularly dangerous time of year for both of us as we venture out of our winter habitat and too often find ourselves sharing some piece of road.

Fundamentally, man paved roads to facilitate travel for our motorized vehicles. Not as sightseeing venues or warming beds for Mother Nature's wild inhabitants. We as disciplined riders usually stick to the asphalt unless on a vehicle specifically designed not to. Mother Nature never designed anything to use our paved pathways. But none-the-less, and far too often, there are furry (and not so furry) interlopers that sneak into our domain and cause unexpected encounters. Most of the time the interactions are relatively harmless and non-threatening, but sometimes they can be quite sudden and dangerous. As safe riders, we need to be prepared for them.

So what do you do when something big like Bambi and her family decide to stare you down in the middle of the road, or worse yet, dart out of the bushes from the side of the road in a full sprint in front of you? Unless you have a clear and easy path around them, don't try to swerve around them. It is a natural, instinctive thing to try to do, but in reality you could be putting yourself and your bike in more danger. You are already in a near panic state. Swerving around them basically puts you in a turn with less traction and less control. And besides, you don't know what the animal is going to do. It might turn and go in the direction of your swerve further exacerbating your escape maneuver. The situation can quickly disintegrate into something much worse. It's easy to lose total control and find that you're just a passenger hanging on for dear life on a 900 pound out-of-control runaway mass of chrome, steel, plastic, and rubber looking for something hard and solid to finally stop you and it. The resulting twisted wreckage can always be replaced. Your parts, on the other hand, are not nearly as interchangeable.

So what should you do when you find a deer or other large animal all of a sudden standing in front of you on the road? You should treat them exactly the same as a big rock or tree that you suddenly find in the middle of the road. *Generally* the best and safest maneuver is to execute maximum performance braking...straightening up the bike and applying full force on both brakes and try to stop before you hit it. Quite often the animal will take off away from your line of travel, so you'll end up in the clear. Once again, swerving could make it worse. However, that tale of 'deer in the headlights' is all too true. Some may not move, and if you're on a collision course with one that doesn't, you may have to brace for impact. But at least you will be making contact with maximum control of your bike.

(Continued on page 5)



What's On Your VP's Mind

By Larry Scalzitti

Remember that April showers bring May flowers. As I write this we're in the midst of thunderstorms and a week that promises in excess of three inches of rain over just two days. Not much consolation if you've been meaning to pile on the miles as soon as the winter weather broke, but it is what it is. This is one of those times where Gore-Tex lined textile clothing trumps leathers by a mile. When you read this column Top Cats will have completed the first 2013 Franks & Fries join up and our annual Kickoff Ride. I hope that you were able to make at least one of those events! There will be a plethora of Top Cat activity coming up and lots of riding opportunities exist, so we'll eventually get to ride warm and dry. Remember to check the events calendar to reserve those days for rides.

Some of you may remember Sunday morning breakfasts and motorcycle viewing at the Highland House in Lake Bluff. That was a big deal for many years and it left a void for many riders when the restaurant closed unexpectedly in mid-summer 2003. It was a place where you could ride to, eat breakfast and then feast on the sight of hundreds of bikes lined up in their parking lot. Many of the bikes and their riders were vintage, so you would get to see some wonderful old motorcycles and meet their colorful and talkative riders. Many motorcycle enthusiasts would use this meeting place for rides, but most were happy to make a day of it and snap some photos of their dream bikes or that bike that got away years ago.

Over the past nine years, a few other local restaurants have stepped up to fill the void created by the closing of the Highland House. Most riders are now gathering at the Full Moon restaurant, about 6 miles north of the old spot. It's located at 1300 Skokie Highway (Route 41) in Lake Bluff, on the east side of the road. If you're thinking of leading a ride, this might be a spot to include on your list. It can serve as a starting point for a Wisconsin day trip. I've been meaning to visit there for a few years, but something always gets in the way. The last decade it's been working weekends running LRN2RYD or teaching for one of the state programs, so I've had something of an excuse. Those excuses are out the window now. I really miss looking at older bikes and I definitely miss talking to the owners that have been caring and riding for them for years. As most of us know there are some terrific tales of rides and riders just waiting to be told to those that are willing to stop and listen. Take the time and visit, you'll be glad you did.

Ride safe and ride often, Larry

**Ride For Dreams...
Get Ready!**

Ride for Dreams

All Proceeds Benefit
NISRA
Northern Illinois Special
Recreation Association

**Well... Here is the BIG question being asked around Top Cat Tables....
Do you know the date of our Charity Event?**

Then there are the next set of questions that follow..

Where is it going to be? What is being done? What needs to be done? Who's putting this all together? Where can I find information on what I can do to help?

Here are some of the particulars that will help you to answer these pressing questions. Then once you have this information, you can make plans on how to help. And finally, with all of this information and an action plan in place, you will be able to sleep better at night!

When? Where? July, 28th, 2013 at Woodstock Harley Davidson.

Presently, the Committee is meeting once a month and has finalized the time and place. For the next 3 months, donations are being collected so that we can create themed baskets for the raffle. **Take it with You** Baskets (Tools, snacks, and warmers); **Looking Good** Baskets (Tatoos, clothes, and bling); **Ride Hard** Baskets (Athletic events and work-out passes); **After the Ride** Baskets (Bath, Dinners, Bike Cleaning), and others... that we will develop as the donations come in.

What can you do?

GET DONATIONS! Wherever you shop, stop or drop... ask for their help in making this a fun and productive event! We will be recognizing their help at the event.

Future activities include: Identifying Road Captains; Creating the Baskets; Setting up on the day of the event; Making the day of the event work smoothly; And after the day... we'll need help with the clean-up.

What can you do? Part Two:

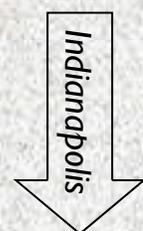
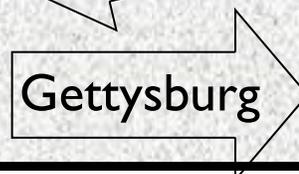
GET THE WORD ON THE STREET! Tell friends, tell strangers, tell passersby. This is one easy thing that we can all do. Wherever you go and whatever you are doing, **Talk about the event, about NISRA, and about the fun of riding FOR a good cause.**

What can you do? Part Three:

Contact Noelle. GENOE88@gmail.com or call at 847-770-9436. State what donations you have collected or what you can do to help the day of the event!

As of May 1, there are only 88 days left until our event! Let's make this the best one yet...

If you have ride ideas Contact the Activities Team!





Kaution Korner... Continued

Depending on the size of the animal, with your momentum, chances are, *some* energy will be translated into moving the animal... at least a little. But it will still be a sudden stop and it probably won't be pretty. That's why maximum braking is so important.

If you hit a deer (or other large animal) head on, there is a reasonable chance it will flip up over your handlebars and head. When that happens, if possible, initiate maximum performance braking beforehand, bow your (and your passenger's) head down to keep them out of the path of travel of the airborne carcass and keep the bike vertical and on a straight path. Chances are pretty good the bike will go down, but at least you will be going straight and can maintain some control over the direction of travel. You have already started to slow the bike down with your maximum performance braking action which should help lessen the resulting carnage.

If a deer decides they want to jump over you and your bike and somehow lands on your fender or in your lap, about the only thing you can do is hold on and try to keep the bike upright and stay on the asphalt if at all possible. Pilots have an old saying, "When in an emergency situation, *Always fly the airplane first!*" The same holds true when riding. Do everything you can to maintain maximum control of your bike, no matter what is happening to you and it at the time.

Now I don't want to offend the tree-huggin' PETA apostles, but when facing a standoff with the small (usually) furry stuff (5 lbs. or less) or one crosses your path of travel, your best bet is to ride right over them. As with big animals, swerve only if you have a clear path of travel to an exit point and beyond. Yeah, you may feel a thump and afterwards you may need to find the nearest wand wash to remove some newly acquired unwanted crimson entrails decorating your undercarriage. But once again, maintain maximum control of your bike at all times, even if it means riding through the obstacle. Remember to exercise proper obstacle clearance technique when impacting the critter: come up off your seat and apply a bit of throttle to lighten the front end load as you impact the obstacle. Roll off the throttle once the front tire has cleared it. Brake when safely on the other side if necessary.



There is no doubt that the best way to avoid these unwanted nature encounters is through constant situational awareness and vigilance when riding. Animals love to feed and are usually very active two hours before and two hours after sunrise and sunset. Slow down during those times and do the Bobblehead Mambo... keep your head and eyes up and moving from side-to-side at all times searching for something unusual on the road, or just off of it, that might compromise your path of travel. Slow down at night, particularly in areas where you know deer and other wildlife are active.



Finally, practice, practice, practice! Head out to a parking lot and practice maximum performance braking, brake and evade tactics, clearing small obstacles, and quick swerves. They should be second nature to you. You don't want to have to think about how to do them when you need them. When practicing maximum performance braking, be particularly aware of using proper braking technique to avoid a 'high side' accident. Remember, if you lock the front wheel, release it immediately, otherwise you lose directional control. If you lock the rear wheel *keep it locked until you stop*. Otherwise you risk the likelihood of an ugly high side accident. We all get rusty. Consider taking an advanced rider course, or even a basic rider course as a refresher.

One of the best things about riding is being close to nature and seeing it in all its glory... from a distance. When a close encounter with an unwanted road guest occurs, know the proper technique for dealing with it so you both can enjoy each other another day.

Ride Safe!

-Wombat-

Remembering Jerry... In Grand Top Cat Style...



The day began with some smiles and coffee. Noelle Rigbsby brought red Ribbons for the riders to tie on their bikes.



Red was Jerry's Favorite color... And the red ribbons were flying as the group wound through some of Jerry's favorite roads...





When you add Top Cats to the Ferry, the Log Cabin, and the sites around Baraboo,....

It became a day of celebration...

How fortunate we all were to share in a few of ...

Jerry's Favorite Things

Top Cats....

Getting focused...

Moving out...

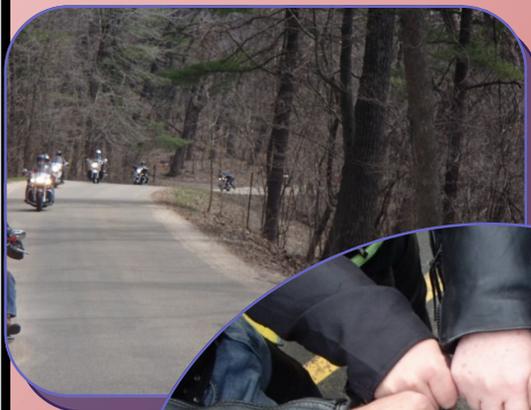
Finding new roads....

And

Putting together rides to create a Great Summer...

2013

The great rides have just begun!





Last CALL???

By Traveler



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.

Once again we were successful in negotiating reasonable hotel 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.

applied to our annual trek to the Black Hills and Sturgis Bike Week.



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...

This year is the 73d Anniversary of the legendary Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and the last call for this year's Top Cats' group ride to Sturgis.

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.



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As this edition goes to publication, we are close to 60 days away from our cut - off date of 3 July 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 renegotiate our contract room rates after the cut – off dates.



Here's the info for hotel reservations...

Wed. 31 July

City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN.

Rates: \$75.00 / night

Phone: (507) 345-1234 / (877)345-5577.

Cut-off Date: **10 July 2013**

Thurs Aug 1

River Lodge, Pierre, SD.

Rates: \$Dbl 69.00, Sgl \$59.00 / night

Phone: (605) 224-4140

Cut-Off Date: **25 July 2013**

Fri, Aug 2 – 10 (?)

Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD.

Rates: Negotiated Contract @ \$199.00 + \$10/ Additional Person

Phone: 800-888-ALEX (2539) Lynzie Montaque

Cut-Off Date: **10 June 2013**

NOTE: Cancellation within 44 days prior will result in a one nights rooms charge

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.



Remember, life is like one tank of gas....it eventually runs out and it's up to us to decide how to use it. We can burn fuel idling or we can ride through life with a wide – open throttle... First Call.

Oil Spots

By Travelor

-Suzuki Cuts Motorcycle, ATV dealers

By Mary Slepicka

BREA, Calif. - Suzuki will be culling its U.S. dealer network after its Chapter 11 reorganization is finalized later this month.

Dealers received letters from American Suzuki Motor Corp. (ASMC) notifying them whether their franchise would be picked up by Suzuki Motor America Inc., which is the name of the reorganized company and designated the "purchaser" in the Chapter 11 filing.

"ASMC is assuming certain dealer agreements and other contracts and assigning them to Purchaser, while the majority of ASMC's remaining contracts will be rejected," states the letter, which was obtained by *Dealernews*. Dealers whose contracts are not being renewed are being told that their franchise agreements will be rejected and they will no longer be authorized Suzuki dealers as of March 31.

Cancelled dealers had until March 27 to file an "Other Settling Creditor Claim" to receive \$10,000 in compensation. Suzuki also stated it will repurchase cancelled dealers' new motorcycle and ATV inventory, plus parts and accessories.

Consumer Reports reveals first-ever motorcycle reliability survey

Harley-Davidson may be an iconic American maker of motorcycles but its bikes have been repair-prone, according to Consumer Reports' first-ever motorcycle reliability survey, conducted by the Consumer Reports National Research Center.



About one in four owners of Harley-Davidson motorcycles reported experiencing a major problem in the previous four years. The full report is available at ConsumerReports.org and in the May issue of Consumer Reports, which hit newsstands in March.

BMW motorcycles were even less reliable than Harley-Davidsons with about one in three owners reporting problems in the previous four years. Only about one in ten Yamaha owners experienced issues during that time, followed closely Kawasaki and Honda.

Despite the higher number of problems, Harley and BMW owners were among the most satisfied with their bikes. When asked whether, considering everything, they would buy their bike again if they had to do it over, 75 percent of Harley owners said definitely yes, closely followed by 74 percent of BMW owners and 72 percent of Honda owners. By contrast, only 63 and 60 percent of Yamaha and Kawasaki owners, respectively, were as emphatic in this subjective measure.

Among needed repairs the most trouble was with accessories, such as lights, instruments, switches, and radios (21 percent), brakes (20 percent), the electrical system (16 percent), and the fuel system (15 percent). Fortunately, most repairs were fairly inexpensive. Three quarters cost less than \$200 out-of-pocket.

Christini AWD 450 Military Edition

By [Blake Conner](#)



With the U.S. Navy Seals and Army Special Forces in mind, Christini has developed the new AWD 450 Military Edition, a special model with

several modifications designed to make it an effective tactical tool in reconnaissance and combat situations.

In addition to the extra traction provided by its unique all-wheel-drive system, the ME, which is powered by a liquid-cooled, 450cc, four-stroke Single, features an anti-stall Rekluse z-Start Pro automatic clutch, tires fitted with no-flat foam inserts, a luggage rack, upgraded electrical and cooling systems, extra protection for vulnerable components, a toolkit, GPS navigation and a 3.6-gallon fuel tank.

Navy SEAL Team 2 has been using MEs in Afghanistan for more than a year, and the Army is considering the bike as part of

(Continued on Page 11)



Oil Spots Continued...

of an “integrated base defense mobility package” in which soldiers would patrol the perimeter of a camp on the ME.



MSF iBook promotes motorcycle awareness

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation has released an iBook to help drivers and riders increase their motorcyclist awareness and to promote overall safer traffic.



Intersection: Sharing the Road is a 32-page interactive “book” of diagrams, photos and videos that allows readers to pinch and zoom into photos in the book’s galleries, watch full-screen videos and add notes and highlights to “*Intersection* speaks to car drivers and other roadway users who are at fault in over 35 percent of crashes involving motorcycles,” MSF President Tim Buche Buche said. “It’s intended to help increase awareness of motorcyclists in that it illustrates potentially hazardous situations through the eyes of different types of motorists and shows why certain situations can be more dangerous than others. But the main theme is that all motorists, regardless of their driving experience or the type of vehicle they drive, need to be aware of motorcyclists and understand the importance of sharing the road with them.”

Intersection: Sharing the Road is available exclusively for the iPad, and costs 99 cents. *Posted by Cynthia Furey*

American Suzuki dissolved, sold to Suzuki Motor of America

Following its bankruptcy, American Suzuki Motor Corporation has been dissolved, selling its assets to Suzuki Mo-

tor of America, Inc., a newly organized, wholly-owned subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation.

Suzuki Motor of America, Inc. (SMAI), has been announced as the sole distributor of Suzuki motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, marine outboard engines and automotive parts and service in the continental United States and Alaska. This announcement comes following the restructuring of American Suzuki Motor Corporation (ASMC).

SMAI is firmly committed to the motorcycle, ATV, scooter and marine industry and will focus on the long-term growth in the American market. SMAI aims to bring the excitement of its product line into the powersports marketplace this spring and summer as it launches several exciting new products. The company is planning over 20 consumer events over the next several months, giving customers a firsthand experience to try out its full lineup of sportbike, cruiser, touring, scooter, dualsport, motocross, and KingQuad ATV’s. In addition, SMAI will also be cheering on its championship-winning riders at Supercross, motocross and road racing events throughout the country!

Harley-Davidson announces 110th anniversary concert lineup

Harley-Davidson has signed up an eclectic mix of talent for the concert lineup at Milwaukee Lakefront for the Harley-Davidson 110th Anniversary Celebration.

More than 60 bands will take to the stages of Milwaukee's Henry Maier Festival Park Aug. 29 through Sept.1. The first round of confirmed performers include ZZ Top, Katy Sagal & The Forest Rangers, Dropkick Murphys, Lupe Fiasco, Common, Brantley Gilbert, Doobie Brothers, Buckcherry, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, Gaslight Anthem, Sublime with Rome and Halestorm.



(Continued on page 12)

Oil Spots Continued...

"This is just the tip of the iceberg of the talent we're bringing to town for the 110th Anniversary Celebration," said Mark-Hans Richer, chief marketing officer at Harley-Davidson. "Stay tuned for the unveiling of even more bands, including two additional headlining acts."

The announced Harley-Davidson 110th Anniversary Concerts (artists in order of appearance):

- Aug. 29: Whiskey of the Damned, □Lynyrd Skynyrd (HOG Members only), □ Elvin Bishop, □Blue Oyster Cult, □Dropkick Murphys, □The Doobie Brothers, □Joan Jett & the Blackhearts, □Lupe Fiasco.
- Aug. 30: Gabriel Sanchez & The Prince Experience □, MAD MEX □, Jonathan Tyler and the Northern Lights, □ ZZ Ward □, Shooter Jennings, □The Dirty Heads, □Foxy Shazam □, ZZ Top □, Gaslight Anthem □, Sublime with Rome, □Buckcherry.
- Aug. 31: □D.B. Bryant Band, □Moderatto, □The White Buffalo, □Tyler Bryant & the Shakedown, □The Whigs, □Halestorm □, Katey Sagal & The Forest Rangers □, Common, Brantley Gilbert.

Additional activities in Milwaukee include fan-organized rides, a parade, activities at the Harley-Davidson Museum, parties at participating Harley-Davidson dealerships and street parties around the city.

Posted by Holly Wagner

Arrest leads to tri-state chop shop operation

Authorities in Bucks County, near Philadelphia, have arrested a man they say ran a motorcycle chop shop operation tied to a motorcycle theft ring in neighboring Mercer County, N.J.



Mercer County police executing a search warrant for the car the men were driving in New Jersey turned up a handwritten list of New Jersey and Delaware

apartment complexes with notes on motorcycles at each complex, police told the newspaper. They also found handwritten lists of motorcycle parts and related eBay, Pay-pal and shipping costs.

Bucks County detectives and a Pennsylvania state police auto theft task force officer found eight sportbikes and one motorcycle engine at the suspect's house while executing a search warrant, according to court documents. Detectives matched five of the bikes and the engine to theft reports out of six different communities.

The suspect was arraigned Wednesday on charges of owning and operating a chop shop and nine counts of receiving stolen property. He was released on \$300,000 unsecured bail.

Posted by Holly Wagner

BMW Motorrad begins working on bikes below 500cc

BMW Motorrad has announced a long-term cooperation agreement with India's TVS Motor Company, signaling BMW's entry into the below 500cc segment.



Various stages of production will be planned by both companies, but implemented with different focal areas that leverage the strengths of each. Both BMW and TVS will offer their own derivatives of the bikes, selling them through their own distribution channels in India and globally.

"In view of changing motorcycle markets, demographic developments and increasing environmental demands we are expanding our product range so as to tap into fresh growth potential. We have a highly expert and experienced partner in the TVS Motor Company. This means that in future we will be able to offer vehicles in smaller capacity classes in addition to the BMW Motorrad core segments. Various types of motorcycle are conceivable. They will meet the expectations of a BMW motorcycle in terms of riding fun as well as setting a new benchmark when it comes to stability, agility and performance figures. I regard this long-term cooperation as an important step along the road to profitable, sustainable growth," said Stephan Schaller, president of BMW Motorrad

(Continued On Pg 13)



Oil Spots Continued...

Venu Srinivasan, chairman of TVS Motor Company, added “With BMW Motorrad, we see an ideal long-term strategic partner who shares our core values: focus on quality, engineering prowess, innovation and customer satisfaction. We intend to leverage each other’s strengths to deliver a new series of products offering cutting edge technology for our customers.”

Legislative Watch: E15 Update

by John R. Paul
April 16, 2013



Ethanol is back in the news this month with a number of state proposals that seek to limit E15's presence in the marketplace. Here's the latest on the bills to watch in 2013. The debate over ethanol has again begun to boil over with legislation being considered in a number of individual states, as well as on the national level. Florida, Oregon and West Virginia have all drafted legislation proposing the removal of the requirement of ethanol and, more specifically, E15 from the marketplace. Additional states, including Maine, have been discussing similar legislation; however, as of this publication, they have not drafted or submitted any language for review.

Most strikingly, Florida Senate Bill 320 (House Bill 4001) has been approved by committee and will be reviewed by the Environmental Preservation and Protection committee. This has been a fairly quick process. The bill was only filed this past January and has a proposed effective date of July 1st.

On the national level, Wisconsin congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R) has submitted H.R. 875 (S. 344), which requires further ethanol testing on the part of the EPA to determine its safety and sustainability. Sensenbrenner’s bill requires a minimum of 18 months of rigorous testing to determine, among other things: tailpipe emissions; engine and fuel system durability; materials compatibility; operability and drivability; fuel efficiency and economy; as well as durability of storage tanks, piping and dispensers for retail.

Following up on last year’s dismissal by the United States Court of Appeals, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Association of Global Automakers, Outdoor Equip-

ment Institute and National Marine Manufacturers Association have filed a petition with the Supreme Court to overturn the decision. The group is again challenging the EPA’s 2011 decision to grant partial waivers approving the sale of gasoline containing up to 15 percent ethanol for vehicles 2001 and newer.

Ride To Work Day

The 22nd Annual Motorcycle and Scooter Ride To Work Day is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2013. The purpose of Ride To Work Day is to encourage riders to leave their gas guzzlers at home and instead ride their more fuel efficient motorcycles to work. With the price of gas who wouldn’t want to do this anyway? Plus riding your bike is so much more fun! If you need anymore incentive to ride then think about this. Bikes take up less space on the highway, fewer parking spaces, get better gas mileage and gives off less exhaust pollution. If you don’t ride everyday at least try to Ride To Work on May 17th.



22ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE & SCOOTER
Ride to Work Day
June 17th, 2013
ridetowork.org

(Continued on page 18)

Top Cats...

Coming together ...

New adventures...

New stories...

Moving into a great summer...

2013

is here!





GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 2, 2013

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Wayne Kirkpatrick
Members were asked to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance

Guests for tonight included Jimmy Quillan, representing Jeff Smith from
City Limits Harley Davidson, as our guest speaker.



President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Kick Off Ride will be the memorial Ride for Jerry Dederich on 21 April.
We will need to know an accurate count of how many people will go for making reservations at the Log Cabin. The ride will include many beautiful roads and a Ferry Ride across a beautiful lake in Baraboo. Pat and Jason, Jerry's wife and son, are hoping to join us. Starting point will be the BP at Rte 12 and 120. See the Website for all details.
- ◆ This year's President's Ride will be made to Spring Green, Wisconsin and House on the Rock in June.
- ◆ High Ground in Niellsville, is being planned for 14 September, 2013. It will be a two day ride.
- ◆ The NISRA Banquet will be held this Thursday and we have 10 members of the club who are planning on attending.

Past President's Comments: Mike Bradbury

- ◆ Mike will be traveling again in the next week and will miss this month's Board Meeting.
- ◆ Mike is planning another ride to Trempeleau with all of the great sites and experiences that Wisconsin has to offer for the 5th of July, 2013. It will be a multi-day ride.

Vice President's Report: Larry Scalzitti

- ◆ Larry was unable to attend tonight, but wanted to have the membership directed to read his article in the ROAR for this month.

Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- ◆ ROAR will be up soon. The website is being updated and worked on at this time. New ideas and columns are always welcomed.
- ◆ Roster changes should be sent to Mary so that Mass Blasts can be sent to all members in a timely fashion.

Treasurer's Report:

- ◆ All paperwork is in order for the 2012 taxes.
- ◆ All books are in order and the accounts are balanced.

Products / Membership: Emil Kornecki

- ◆ All orders for Top Cat Wear should be directed to Emil. He will be sure that you get your products quickly.
- ◆ New people should be introduced to Emil so that he can

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TOP CATS ILLINOIS

829 - Longsleeve Denim Polo

G200 - Short Sleeve T-Shirt

12479 - Longsleeve Turtleneck Shirt

8800 - Polar Fleece Jacket

Low front cap

To Order - email Noelle Rigsby at genoe88@gmail.com



discuss the advantages of Top Cat membership

Guest Speaker: Jimmy Quillan

- ◆ Jim is the Service Manager at City Limits Harley Davidson. He discussed the talent that is a part of the dealership, and the five new recently acquired dealerships.
- ◆ Jim reviewed the events that the dealership will be sponsoring this summer. See their website for dates and details.
- ◆ VIP cards are a thing of the past for many dealerships, but members of Top Cats are considered VIPs. Jimmy took e-mails and information from the members to ensure service to all of us.
- ◆ Jimmy also reminded the club that the Dealer website has a 50,000 member data base. Any Top Cat with a business is welcome to put their business information into the data base.

Safety / Charity: Ric Case

Safety

- ◆ The Safety Tip was written this month for ROAR by Bard Board. He was unable to present his ideas tonight, but Ric summarized the information that you should think about when packing for trips. For the full article, see the April Edition of ROAR.
- ◆ The last GRASS Class included good discussions and stories that illustrated the need to be very aware of Group Riding and Safety.
- ◆ Next GRASS Class is May 11th at Keller Williams. The class will also be offered in June and July.
- ◆ Wayne discussed a publication called *Motorcycle Consumer News* that highlights issues for the motorcycle community. They are direct and clear in the presentation of information and it is a great source for finding useful information.
- ◆ Charity
- ◆ Charity Updates were given by Noelle Rigsby. The membership was reminded that **July 28th IS THE DATE!** **Start planning!**
- ◆ Road Captains are needed! Talk to Gene if you will be willing to lead a group
- ◆ Donations are also critical. Noelle asked all members to develop donations that we can use to make 'themed baskets'.
- ◆ May 18th will be a Rolling Thunder Ride out of City Limits Harley. We will be attending this event in order to advertise the Top Cats *Ride for Dreams* at that event.

Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

Activities

- ◆ Gene reviewed the upcoming events and rides. See the website/calendar for all of the details or contact Gene Rigsby.
- ◆ Sturgis 31 July – 10 Aug. The trip schedule was highlighted.
- ◆ Posse Meeting 13 April was announced.

Awards

- ◆ No major updates at this time.

History/Web Site: Jeff Tietz

History

- ◆ Top Cat History is still available at Barrington Library Website.

Web Site

- ◆ The Website will be up and running again soon. Rich is working on this as we meet.

50 / 50 was pulled by Ron Freudenberger and it was won by Emil.
The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Membership Cards!



Remember....your 2013 Top Cats membership cards will be available for pick up at each general meeting and most of our events. See Emil or Greg.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2013

ESKAPE ENTERTAINMENT, 350 MCHENRY RD, BUFFALO GROVE, IL

Submitted by Mary Walters

*Present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Gene Rigsby, Ric Case, Emil Kornicki, Jeff Tietz, Mary Walters,
Excused: Larry Scalzitti, Stewart Johnson, and Mike Bradbury*

President Call to Order at 7:45 by Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◇ The Guest Speaker position for May is open. June's guest will be a Law Firm representative.
- ◇ Web site updates included:
- ◇ Discussion of the safety of the club's Website.
- ◇ The information on the site is being verified and updated by board members to ensure the most current club information is presented.
- ◇ Financial Rumors were addressed and all paperwork for the purchases and prize money have been documented and the paperwork is accurate and available to members of the club.
- ◇ The Board discussed a 'safety' event for the club. This event would include reviews of riding issues such as; measuring arm position, foot positions, backrests, etc., to determine the safety of each rider and their bike. To be discussed again in the future with more details.
- ◇ The board discussed the possibility of having an event using the WSHD Precision Riding School, possibly at a cut-rate price. To be discussed again in the future with more details.
- ◇ Non-member/non spouse recurring participation was also discussed. It was decided that two events would be an acceptable number of time for guests to spend with the club in order to know if you would like to join. Non members who have attended two events must apply to join the Club to attend more than two events

Vice President: Larry Scalzitti

- ◇ Updates/comments will be made when Larry is free again after Tax Season. He will continue to add his comments to the ROAR each month.

Secretary: Mary Walters

- ◇ ROAR is always looking for new ideas. Please don't hesitate to bring any new ideas to the Board meetings or to Mary directly.
- ◇ Master Roster updates have been completed and the newer roster will be sent with the minutes from the April Meetings.

Treasurer: Stewart Johnson

- ◇ Financial Reports are available to members on the internet.
- ◇ At this time, we are completely solvent.

Past President: Mike Bradbury

- ◇ Past President updates will be held for next month when Mike is back in town.

Director: Gene Rigsby

Activities

- ◇ The Dederich Ride status was discussed and the ride route was reviewed. It will include a 2.5 hour ride each way.
- ◇ The first *Hot Dog Night* is scheduled for next Tuesday to Franks for the Memories, in Mundelein.
The final costs for the Awards Banquet will be covered at the next meeting when Stewart Johnson is available.

(Continued on page 17)



Director: Emil Kornecki

Membership

- ◇ No new members at this time.
- ◇ Updated membership info will be completed on the website soon. All of the board members will be reviewing sections and ensuring the accuracy of the website information.
- ◇ Membership requirements will be sent out in a Mass Blast reminder along with the information for the May meeting.

Products

- ◇ Emil made suggestions on how to move the inventory that is presently being held by the products committee. Possibilities included:
- ◇ Making inventory items a part of the 50/50
- ◇ 50% off - or 2 for 1.
- ◇ Using them for the Charity Event Staff with a "RFD Staff" logo on the back.

Director: Ric Case

Safety

- ◇ Ric gave a BikeSafe Update.
- ◇ The next GRASS is on May 11, 2013
- ◇ Safety Tip / Kaution Korner Schedule was updated.

Charity

- ◇ Committee Updates included the review of the activities that are taking place at this time:
- ◇ Donations are being gathered.
- ◇ The next meeting will be held at the Rigsby home on 9 May, 2013.
- ◇ The Reimbursement of \$10/person will be made to the NISRA Awards Banquet Attendees. Three people who attended would like their \$10 to be donated to NISRA.

Director: Jeff Tietz

History

- ◇ Nothing to report on History at this time.

Web Site

- ◇ Status of purging old members was reviewed. Rich Flynn and Jeff Tietz are working on the review of the entire website to ensure that the access and information for membership is current.
- ◇ It was noted that the Website, Charity, and Activity committees are all doing well and that the club is enjoying the benefits of the donation of time, insight, and creativity of our multi-talented members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.



May 3rd
Muriel Brandt

May Celebrations

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



Membership Reminders:

Send all Changes in your
contact information to
MAWalters57@gmail.com

AND>>>

To keep your
membership current, you
must attend 5 events
during the year!

What are the Odds?

Are you one of those people who feel that the deck is stacked against them? That the odds of something bad happening to you are greater than for other people? Well, if it makes you feel better there are lots of other people in the same boat. To prove it Esurance has released an Infographic that the details of a survey that compare the odds of events happening on the road, compared to other activities. The Esurance research shows that:

- ◆ The odds are 1 in 11.5 of being pulled over by a cop in a given year. Which are about the same odds, 1 in 12, as pulling an ace out of a shuffled deck of cards.
- ◆ However, the odds of getting a ticket once you are pulled over are 1 in 1.8. Which is less than the odds, 1 in 2, of correctly predicting the flip of a coin.
- ◆ While out on the road, the odds of getting into an accident while on a thousand mile road trip are 1 in 366. While that may seem high, the odds of dating a millionaire are actually better at 1 in 220.

Esurance states that unfortunately accidents do happen, but if you drive defensively, obey the law and avoid distractions you can decrease the odds of being in an accident. BTW the survey also says that you should be able to go over a decade before getting a ticket. Of course this depends on your location and driving habits.

Source and image: Esurance

esurance presents

what are the odds?

Odds are funny things. When it comes to some low-probability situations, it's tough to wrap our brains around the figures. To help you get a better grasp of your odds on the road, here are some helpful comparisons.

- ...of being pulled over in a given year: 1 in 11.5
- ...of pulling an ace out of a shuffled deck: 1 in 12
- ...of getting a ticket when an officer pulls you over: 1 in 1.8
- ...of flipping tails: 1 in 2
- ...of being in a car accident on a 1,000-mile trip: 1 in 366
- ...of dating a millionaire: 1 in 220

Not bad, actually. Based on a 2008 survey, it's about the same as your odds...

It varies by location, but you should be able to go more than a decade without being stopped.

Not so great. You have a better chance...

Not so great. You have a better chance...

Not so tragically uncommon, but you still have a better chance...

Unfortunately, accidents do happen. But if you drive defensively, follow the law, and avoid distractions, you can at least decrease the odds of causing one. Stay safe!

Content generated from independent sources.



2012....

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

The Barrington Area library has finished archiving about **150** pages of our club photos.

They are found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barringtonhistory/tags/topcats/>.
Check them out... and see how things used to be..

TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS

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Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Office: 847-726-1405
Cell: 847-207-5160

E-mail: scalzitti@mindspring.com

Support the TOP CATS Patrons

Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at City Limits Harley-Davidson

Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry Harley-Davidson

Membership Has Its Privileges!

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

**HELP WANTED
WEBSITE EDITOR**

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

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

For more information contact any board member or

Richard Flynn
RichFlynnJr@aol.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, May 7th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, May 11th	GRASS Class	Palatine	Harris Bank Bldg.	8:30 am	Case
Tuesday, May 14th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 p m	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, May 19th	Little Angels Satellite Ride	Shell Station 12 and Lake Cook	Woodstock HD	8:30 am	Rigsby
Tuesday, May 21st	Franks and Fries	TBD	TBD	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Saturday, June 1st	NISRA Fishing Derby	Wauconda	Lindy's Landing	8:00 am	Rigsby
Tuesday, June 4th	General Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, June 9th	GRASS Class	Palatine	Harris Bank Bldg.	8:30 am	Case
Tuesday, June 9th	Board Meeting	Buffalo Grove	EsKape	7:30 p m	Kirkpatrick
Friday—Sunday June 13th—16th	Turkey Run	TBD	TR, Indiana	TBD	Rigsby
Tuesday, May 21st	Franks and Fries	Libertyville	Slots Hots	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
June 23rd	Bikers Hangout	TBD	Promo for RFD's	TBD	Brandt
June 29th –30th	The President's Ride	TBD	House on the Rock	TBD	Kirkpatrick

All ride and event 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

ELECTED OFFICERS & DIRECTORS		COMMITTEE LEADERS		ROAR	
President	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com	Activities	Tony Loden Tloden@strbr.com	Executive Editor & Board Liaison	Mary Walters Mawalters57@gmail.com
Vice President	Larry Scalzitti scalzitti@mindspring.com	Archives	Open	Editor-in-Chief	Mary Walters mawalters57@gmail.com
Treasurer	Stewart Johnson studawn@sbcglobal.net	Charity	Noelle Rigsby genoe88@gmail.com	Publisher	Terri Loden Tber06@comcast.net
Secretary	Mary Walters mawalters57@gmail.net	Membership	Emil Kornecki EKornecki@wmblair.com	ASSOCIATE EDITORS	
Past President	Michael Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net	Awards	Open	Executive & Board	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com
Director	Ric Case Riccase@Comcast.net	Safety	Gary Brandt cgb002@comcast.net	Safety & Road Captains	Gary Brandt cgb002@comcast.net
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Founder	Carl 'Virgo' Bender 1941-2001			Motorcycle Community	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com

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