



# ROAR

April, 2016

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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Your club and some of its members have been visibly active as Top Cats, even in the off-season. They've been getting and keeping the TOP CAT name 'out on the street.' Others, though, have missed the opportunities to keep in touch with the club and have avoided representing our interests and participating in our events. I will take this opportunity to share a few of my impressions and overall opinion of some of the most significant winter events.



Your Safety Committee and Senior Road Captains presented a G.R.A.S.S. class at Woodstock Harley Davidson on March 13th. It was attended by fifty people. Six TOP CAT members, 4 TOP CAT presenters and 40 other members from clubs in the area. The local clubs represented included McHenry H.O.G. chapter, the Rock River H.O.G.s, Fire & Iron 53 Firefighters MC club, the Furies MC, Red Hawk Riders, City Limits H.O.G., Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 and the Take Up Your Cross MM of Illinois. Ric Case did a terrific job organizing the event. All the presenters did a terrific job as well. Our G.R.A.S.S. presentation was well received judging from the

multi-club attendees expressed appreciation and interest in our safety program.

This event reminded me of the fact that we are a greatly respected club in the area and the positive feedback, received since then, confirms that fact. This presentation was a great opportunity for our own members to satisfy the GRASS attendance requirement in the off season. Our lack of overall Top Cats turnout was an extreme disappointment to me. For those that did not come, you missed a great chance to see the respect other clubs give us and to hear why we are considered a premier motorcycling club in Illinois, with an excellent group riding safety system. Our information is appreciated here and beyond. For those who were not in attendance, either our rules, protocols and membership requirements that we all agreed to follow mean something to you, or we have to question their value. I will be raising this issue with our board and we will be addressing this issue soon.

In another recent event, there were only five of us who attended the N.I.S.R.A. Recognition Dinner on March 15<sup>th</sup>. This dinner, held at The Centre Ballroom in downtown Elgin, was terrific! I got to see Troy, and all the other NISRA benefactors, that have become special to me over the years. They really look up to us. In this case out of fifty-nine active members, we had five attending. What? In an off riding season? In the past, we typically have ten members attending, and it is usually the same board and committee chiefs each year. Where were you, Top Cat members?

(Continued on pg. 2)

### Upcoming Events

#### APRIL

- 5 GENERAL MEETING
- 12 BOARD MEETNG
- 17 KICK-OFF RIDE
- 23-24—AMA, COLUMBUS OHIO

#### MAY

- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 7-8 GALENA
- 10 BOARD MEETNG
- GRASS
- 26-31 RT TO DC

Talk to Gene Rigsby and get your ideas on





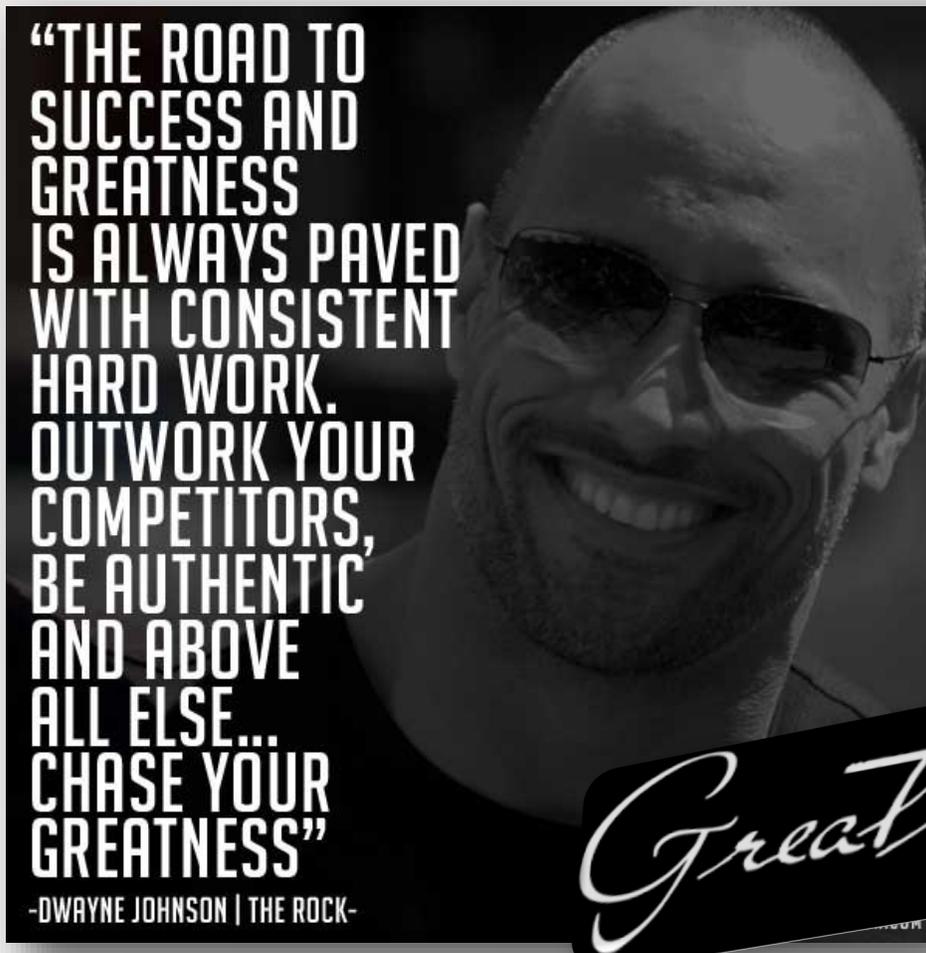
President's Perspective, Cont...

Over the years, I have grown grateful to be able to support this organization. I have taken the time and made the effort to learn about them and how much the NISRA organization means to them. It is extremely heart-warming to see the respect they give us as Top Cats. They make me grateful to be as healthy, capable and complete a person as I am! With this knowledge it is easy to support them with our club! But, this was another great opportunity missed by the greater majority of our members.

We have the potential to be a great club with a lot of factors in place that to start that process and will support that growth. Some of those factors are; Road Captain planned and coordinated rides, single day, multi-day and long distance rides, dynamic speakers at our general meetings, entertaining, friendly social dynamism, awards and achievement recognition. These are just a few of the many things that already are in place. With your participation, we can become even greater. It takes all of us to support and contribute to the fundamental building blocks that will lead to our greatness. I hope some of you come out of your shell and participate in the club activities more often. Your participation and contributions to its activities are what builds strength!

I'm beginning to question as to whether we do too much and we are leaning to heavily on a few members. Possibly we need to reduce our activity levels. Judging from our recent event attendance, it is a practical consideration. The health and growth of the club is compromised when there are so few doing most of the work. Maybe it is okay to some of you to be a mediocre club, but I cannot accept this mediocrity. It will be the contributions of the many that will ultimately define our greatness. I want Top Cats – Illinois to be the great club I have seen it be in the past! Everyone do what you can and positively contribute something of yourself to support your club and we will be that great club I envision!!!

Sincerely, Your President,  
Mike Bradbury  
Top Cats – Illinois





## KAUTION KORNER

### *It's That Time...*

*By: Gene 'Lucky' Rigsby, Senior Road Captain*

What time is it, Gene???



It's time to take out, and shake out your bike and yourself and get ready for your (our) first group ride! That's what time it is...

Most every early or pre-riding season article I've seen is about prepping your bike, prepping yourself and starting off slowly to rebuild the muscle and mental memory to get moving at a higher speed, safely on the road again. This article will be no different as it is a very important process in kicking the riding season off right, and with our kick off ride quickly approaching (April 16<sup>th</sup>, Shhhh...) the time to prepare is now. Just like any other ride during the season, the RC will expect everyone attending the first ride of the season to be prepared mechanically, physically and mentally, and this article will help you get there.

#### *First. Let's talk about your bike and getting your bike out of storage and ready to ride:*

Just a quick note to all that may winter store their bike with a dealer and have the bike prepped or "summarized" so they just have to pick it up and go. Great if you do, but I would warn you to trust but verify. I know some of our club members have had out of storage issues, so keep in mind that no matter how good the service is from your dealer, people make mistakes and remembering it is your rump on that seat and maybe even a with loved one, and let's not forget about a whole group of club members you may be riding with for your first ride... That's not a risk I would like to take or have taken with me riding in the group.

#### *"I do not dealer store/prep," you say? This is what you need to do to get your bike ready.*

By the way, some of the items in the "Obvious" list are part of T-CLOC(S/K), which is a great tool for getting and keeping your bike in top riding condition through the season, but I added important notes here in case you didn't get that far down in the article.

#### *Addressing your bike -*

##### *Start off with some obvious items like:*

- ◇ **Coverings** – Remove all covers or plugs you may have used to keep dust off and pests out
- ◇ **Look for leaks** – Check for leaks BEFORE you move your bike from it's winter storage area. If you noticed any spots on the floor you may want to trace the leak to it's origin and repair the cause. Look over the shocks and forks as well.
  - ◇ **Tip:** If you think you have a leak but it is hard to determine new spots from old spots on your floor, place a cut open brown paper bag, under your bike to help highlight new leaks.
- ◇ **Battery** – Install and check charge level is good. Charge, "jump" or replace as needed. Reset electronics as needed. I would recommend Battery +. They will test the old one and install the new one for free (won't take a tip either)
- ◇ **Gas** – Top off if not already and run some fresh fuel into the fuel system
- ◇ **Oil and lubes** – Check levels or change as needed
- ◇ **Wash** – A good time to wash as you may have items that you remove for storage (I do)
- ◇ **Inspect for loose parts** – You can do this as you wash as you are touching all the parts anyway
- ◇ **Replace add-ons** – Now that the wash is done... But I would not recommend adding new things at this point. Wait until after you have had a chance to ride the bike first and make sure nothing is broken. Then when you add the new thing, if something does not work, you can somewhat safely assume it is because of the new thing or the work to get the new thing on, rather than an out of storage issue.



KK Continued



### *After you have your bike out of storage but before ride:*

Performing a T-CLOCS or T-CLOCK review is a great way to start examining your bike. As all bikes are different, you must look up the proper specs and adjustments for your bike. There is a lot of online help if you need a hand getting started.

#### *T-CLOCS/T-CLOCK is:*

- Tires or Wheels
- Controls
- Lights
- Oils
- Chassis
- Stands / Kick-Stands

I'll be sending out a check list to our members soon, so watch for the blast and if you didn't get it, ask for it at the April general meeting.

This is also a good time to look over and try on your gear so you don't find "gotchas" when getting ready for or out on, your first group ride.

### *Now to get yourself ready*

After you have your bike in riding shape, take your bike out for a short ride (alone and without the bike loaded down) to see if anything seems out of place or adjustment and address. When all is ready, you need to take some time ramping up your riding complexity to get really reacquainted with your bike. Do this by adding your normal load and then a passenger if you want. Do all of this BEFORE you dedicate yourself to a group ride.

I know this sounds like a lot to do before getting out on your (our) first group ride, but keep in mind that this is as important as requiring everyone in our club (and for that matter, as many other folks in the riding community) attend G.R.A.S.S. on a regular basis for the safety of the group. I believe you would expect this same level of preparation from other folks attending our (or any other) rides you would attend.

With this issue addressed, we can look forward to a very safe kick-off ride and a full riding season with great friends and great adventures





She Lives to Ride...

In Our Own Neighborhood!

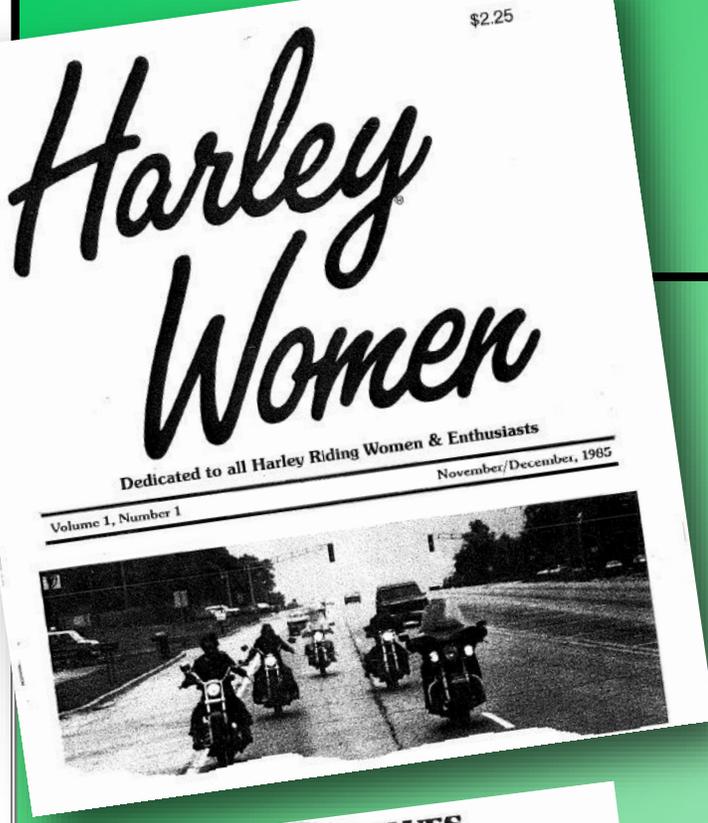
Jo Giavanonni and Harley Women

By: Mary Kirkpatrick

So you didn't make it to our movie premier of *She Lives to Ride?* Now, that's a shame! I'm going to add to your shame and tell you what you missed!

1. You missed... Seeing a great movie about some very impressive bikers. Yes, they were women, yes they lived in years gone by, yes it is a bit of 'History'... but YES... the stories were inspirational. YES... These ladies broke the mold. AND YES... They have lived and ridden many roads that the rest of us will never have the chance to see! Unless, of course, you travel with Traveler... He tends to find many unpaved and 'Historical' roads!
2. You missed.... Hearing about Dot Robinson, who rode coast to coast with her husband in 72 hours... with a side-car. 194... Roads paved? Not really...
3. You missed... Meeting one of the stars of the video, Jo Giavanonni, who talked about traveling with some of the first ladies of biking. She herself was an 'upstart' who began riding motorcycles in 1967, authored the first *Harley Women* magazine and started the 2nd chapter of *Women in the Wind* also in 1985.
4. You missed... Seeing the very first edition of *Harley Women*... and the pictures of Jo and her staff working to 'print' and mail the publication to their subscribers.
5. You missed it all!

I've included a few of the pages from the first Edition, so that you can get a small taste of the true biker history that was a part of the day. Whether you are male or female, this day was inspirational for all! Here were the stories of entrepreneurs, upstarts, mold-breakers. Their stories are unique. They get you thinking about stretching and reaching farther, pushing your own limits... Everyone who sees this movie starts to dream bigger! And for us ladies ~ there is a little something extra special that comes with this experience. A sense of honor and pride... to be a part of this great group of lady riders!



INTRODUCING OURSELVES

Well, we finally did it! After years of riding together and "dreaming" of starting our own magazine for women riders, we finally decided to give it a shot. We're not professional writers and don't have much experience, but we're going to try our best to bring you something for the woman rider, written and put together by "Harley Ridin' Women".

We are definitely not new to the Harley Davidson scene. Jo has been riding Harleys for the past 18 years and at one time was probably the only lady Harley Davidson rider for miles around. She has owned a couple of Harleys, but presently rides a '75 Fat-Bob Glide with "hand-made" leather fringe saddle bags that she and another friend made. Jo has ridden a lot! Last year she rode over 9,000 miles! Cris has been around Harleys for the past 10 years. She started riding dirt bikes as a teenager and has been riding her own Harleys for the last 5 years. Presently she rides a basically stock, "pampered", '81 Sturgis. One of her other Harleys was a '79 Super-Glide that she helped her husband rebuild from the frame up, that was bought as a "basket-case".

Both of us have lots of riding experience, both around town and cross-country touring. Also, though neither one of us claims to be a mechanic, we've both got a fair knowledge of Harley mechanics and maintain our own motorcycles and do some of our own "wrenching".

One of the main reasons for starting this magazine, besides bringing "Harley Women" together, is that there just isn't anything out there for us lady riders. And, we're not sure if you've noticed, but every day more and more women are hitting the streets and highways on their own motorcycles. We think that's great!

We're sure that many of you out there, like us, read and subscribe to many of the "male" oriented bike magazines. Even though they have come a long way and are doing more coverage on lady bikers, they're just not geared towards the woman rider, and don't pretend to be. This is o.k. with us, don't get us wrong. There's nothing "wrong" with these magazines and we'll continue to read them, but sometimes it does get a bit embarrassing, at the check-out counter of the local store. Or, how about when your relatives are over and see a magazine on the coffee table with your name on the mailing label, not your husband's?

The reason we're basically trying to center this magazine on Harleys and not the other models is clearly because we love our Harleys! That's what we live and know, and want to write about. We're also going to steer clear of feminist issues, even though we may or may not share some of their beliefs, we don't think they belong in a motorcycle magazine. We just want to write about motorcycles!

We're starting out small because we're not rich and don't have lots of money to sink into a full scale, color, magazine. We'd also like to learn the business gradually. Please bear with us and with your support and interest... who knows? Maybe someday we could evolve into a "real class" magazine! We can use any ideas, suggestions, editorial contributions, photos, etc. that you can send. It would be greatly appreciated, and even though we can't afford to pay for it now, someday when we can - we will. Remember - This Is YOUR Magazine - So Give Us Your Support And WATCH US GROW!

Ride Safe.

Jo and Cris



## VP's Vision: Top Performance!

By: Ric 'Clutch' Case



How do you get to Carnegie Hall, where the most prestigious orchestras perform? It's called practice, practice, practice. The new riding season is now upon us. If you read the most recent Top Cats blast, you will notice that the kick off ride included a t-clocks check list. Follow that list judiciously. Before starting out on that first ride, the most important step is to check and verify that your tire pressure is correct.

**Suggested practice time for each of the following exercises is about 15 minutes :**

First, a quick stop should be executed. If you have ABS take the brakes to the point just before the ABS engage. The technique is to squeeze the front brake so that the front suspension begins to compress then squeeze harder while simultaneously easing up on the rear brake. If you do not have ABS then you should take the brakes right to the point before a skid starts. If you do skid the front tire just release and reapply.

Second, a slow tight 90 degree turn should be executed. Remember to shift your weight to the opposite side of the turn and press on that foot peg or floor board. Shift right on a left hand turn and left on a right hand turn. Try to stay within a width of about four feet.

Now we can speed your riding up. The next two practices should be executed at about 20 mph. A ride toward an imaginary barrier. Swerve to the

right. Next time swerve to the left. Swerving to the right is most important because you rarely swerve into the on-coming traffic lane. Again about four feet in either direction should give you a good feel for the movement. If you are going quickly enough the motorcycle should move underneath you and you will remain upright. Try not to lean. You may want to try slowing by braking before the swerve. Or braking after the swerve. BUT never break and swerve at the SAME TIME.



the turn, then as you slow press the hand grip in the direction you want to go as you accelerate and power on. If you are going quickly enough the motorcycle will lean in the direction of the turn. You will not be able to turn the handle bars. Practice in both directions, left and right. You bit harder because you are leaning in that direction while your throttle hand is beneath the hand grip. Whatever way is most difficult... practice, practice, practice in the direction that is most difficult.

Once you have mastered these maneuvers, you will be ready for your Carnegie Hall of Motorcycling!



**There are no April Celebrations!**

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



## Oil Spots

By Traveler



### Once again, Erik Buell Racing is Back



EBR Motorcycles recently announced that it will resume production beginning March 1 with a stable financial plan in place from Liquid Asset Partners. The new company, EBR Motorcycles, LLC, will start with production of 2016 1190RX and 1190SX

motorcycles. The first bikes were scheduled to roll off the line, in East Troy, WI March 17.

Now the clouds have cleared; EBR is able to shift into gear knowing that it has financial stability, a profitable multi-year plan, and a 5-10 year vision. There is still room for new partnerships or investment, but it is not critical. EBR is on solid ground and moving forward. They are turning the key and twisting the throttle!

"I am really looking forward to the launch. I have dedicated my life to this and want to get the word out on how great our motorcycles are," said Erik

The next steps for EBR Motorcycles are to identify the 2016 top U.S. dealers and to work closely with them for the re-launch. Riders can prepare to buy from these premier dealers, helping to grow and solidify EBR Motorcycles in 2016. Information on EBR's aggressive new 2016 MSRP, warranty for 2016 bikes, and plans for racing will be forthcoming.

### Indian Jim's" First Restoration Turns Out Perfect

Indian" Jim Anderson, of Peoria, Ariz., was hanging out with his friend Larry Wood, in his shop near Daytona

Beach, Fla. While he was there, Wood got a call about a 1947 Indian Chief that was for sale. The streamlined Chief was coming to the Antique Motorcycle Club of America antique bike meet in Eustis, Fla.



Wood said that he wasn't interested in the motorcycle, but Anderson was. When the Chief was trailered into the meet, the owner looked Anderson up. Jim went to the man's trailer and saw an unrestored, running, original 1947 Indian Chief. He bought it right there and then, even before it was taken out of the trailer.

Dick Ollhoff had done a number of Indian restorations for Anderson over the years and although he is now retired, he invited Anderson to restore the antique motorcycle in his Wisconsin shop anytime he was able to visit and spend some time there.

It took Anderson a great deal of time to complete his project. He worked on it full time for the entire three months. "I only had one bike to do and many professional restorers

work on more than one unit at the same time," Anderson pointed out. "We got new fuel tanks, rather than rewelding the existing ones."

Anderson reused the original fenders, frame, fork and engine. The bottom end of the engine was so "tight" that it was reused as is. However, it was the only major power plant component that wasn't rebuilt.

A new overdrive transmission was installed, as was a modern generator. Anderson also added an electronic distributor. All upgraded parts came from Mike Tomas, the New Zealander who owns [Kivi Indian Motorcycle Co.](#)

"What I ended up with was what I always wanted to have, an original-looking Indian Chief that was reliable and could cruise all day at 70+ mph," says Anderson.



(Continued on page 8)

**Oil Spots, Continued...**

## Indian's New Springfield



Named after the birthplace of Indian Motorcycle and designed for a pure riding experience, the Indian Springfield features a traditional style, quick-release windshield and all-weather, remote-locking saddlebags. It can be stripped down into a cruiser when the windshield and saddlebags are removed or become a fully loaded touring model. The Springfield was developed with a unique, trunk-compatible chassis that allows for higher loading.

Other comfort features such as a buck horn bar and adjustable passenger floorboards come standard along with Anti-Lock Brakes, a tire pressure monitoring system, cruise control, and dual driving lights. Standard front and rear highway bars allow mounting of accessories and offer protection in a tip-over scenario. The Indian Springfield is available in Thunder Black and Indian Motorcycle Red.



Powered by the highly regarded Thunder Stroke 111 engine, the Indian Springfield features over 119 ft/lbs of torque (North American models) to conquer any highway in any weather.

The Indian Springfield starts at \$20,999 in Thunder Black and \$21,549 for Indian Motorcycle® Red. The Indian Springfield comes with a two-year unlimited mileage factory warranty and, as with all new Indian Motorcycles, includes free membership in the Indian Motorcycle Riders Group for one year.

## Sturgis Motorcycle Museum Hall of Fame Class of 2016

From pioneers and innovators to customizers and dealers, the 2016 inductees into the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum Hall of Fame represent every aspect of what makes motorcycling great. Arguably the most diverse and deserving

group ever inducted into the Hall of Fame, the Class of 2016 will be honored during the annual Rally on August 10, 2016.



“The Hall of Fame’s mission is to honor those who have made a positive and significant impact on the sport and lifestyle,” explains Tigra Tsujikawa, Marketing & Development Director for the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame. “It honors the men and women who have dedicated much of their lives to improving, promoting and advancing motorcycling.” While the Museum certainly pay tribute to the heritage of the Rally, the Hall of Fame transcends the Black Hills of South Dakota, she adds.

“Having a living off-road legend like John Penton, demonstrates that the Hall of Fame recognizes all aspects of our great sport,” says Tsujikawa. “Many consider John to be the godfather of the dirt bike industry and his pioneering of small, lightweight 2-strokes changed the world of off-road motorcycles.” Not to mention shaping and defining KTM to this very day. In addition to Penton, four other equally deserving inductees have been named to the Class of 2016.

### **The Class Of 2016**

**Bert Baker** – V-Twin motorcycle drivetrain innovator, businessman and patriot, Bert Baker is committed to using materials, labor, creativity, know how and grit born of America.

**Jerry Covington** – Whether it is on TV or the cover of virtually every biker magazine in the world, it is hard to miss custom builder Jerry Covington. What does get overlooked is Covington’s behind the scenes commitment to the motorcycle community, his selfless donation of time and resources to those less fortunate through has various charity projects.

**John Penton** – One of the most influential figures in off-road motorcycling in the world, John Penton developed a legendary brand of motorcycles that bore his name (better known as KTM today). He also founded Hi-Point, an accessory and distribution company that had 50% of after-market sales in the U.S. and set the mold for modern distribution powerhouses like Parts Unlimited, Tucker Rocky and WPS.

(Continued on page 9)



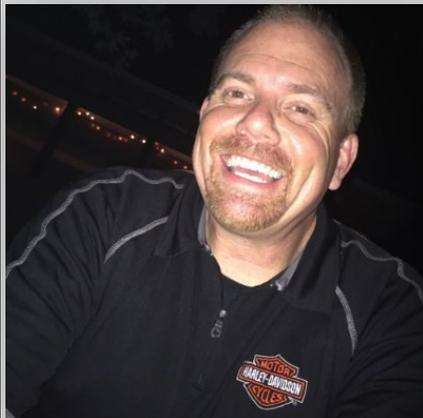
## Oil Spots, Continued

**Gary Spellman** – Using motorcycle as means to further charitable causes, philanthropist Gary Spellman has been quite effective in utilizing motorcycles to raise money for charities benefiting first responders and their surviving families. He has also brought major business owners into the family of motorcyclists as well as creating the Peace, Love and Happiness Charity Ride with fellow Hall Of Famer John Paul DeJoria.

**Buddy Stubbs** – Talk about being born into the business, Buddy Stubbs was raised in his father's Harley dealership in Decatur, Illinois and has spent his entire life in and around dealerships, including opening two of his own in the greater Phoenix area. This year marks his 50th year as a dealer and more significantly an ambassador to the motorcycle lifestyle.

The 2016 Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame 2016 Induction Breakfast will be August 10, 2016 at the Lodge at Deadwood in Deadwood, South Dakota.

## [Johnson named COO of Harley dealer group](#)



Justin Johnson, formerly general manager of Power 50 dealership Harley-Davidson of Scottsdale in Arizona, has been named chief operating officer of the Chicago-based Windy City Motorcycle Group.

Johnson oversees Wild Fire Harley-Davidson in Villa Park, City Limits Harley-Davidson in Palatine, Illinois Harley-Davidson in Countryside, Fox River Harley-Davidson in St. Charles, Windy City Harley-Davidson at O'Hare Airport, Windy City Triumph in St. Charles and Starved Rock Harley-Davidson in Ottawa.

## [Harley-Davidson to launch 'Live Your Legend' TV ad campaign](#)

Harley-Davidson announced its newest global marketing campaign: 'Live Your Legend.' The campaign shows how a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle can enable riders to create deeper bonds and share richer experiences – allowing them to live their own legend.

In a brand first, Harley-Davidson launched the new campaign during the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. 'One Day,' the first of the new ads, ran the first week of the tournament. The ad – which features the new Harley-Davidson Low Rider S motorcycle – focuses on the bond shared between a father and his young son.

Other 'Live Your Legend' ads include snapshots of life-enriching moments, as well as the unique and unforgettable bonds of friendship that are developed by riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Along with the Screamin' Eagle Twin Cam 110-powered Low Rider S, the campaign will showcase a variety of new and recently launched Harley-Davidson motorcycles including the Street Glide Special with Project RUSHMORE features, Forty-Eight, Iron 883 and Street motorcycles.

"'Live Your Legend' is designed to inspire a new generation of riders to invest in experiences today that will build a richer legacy for themselves and those around them," Paxton added.

The fully integrated campaign will roll out globally throughout the year, including activations at South by Southwest and through Harley-Davidson's UFC partnership.

## [Royal Enfield signs first North American dealers](#)

Royal Enfield's North American team released information on several developments as the company continues to build its brand.

Baxter Cycle in Marne, Iowa, and Go Moto in Minneapolis are the company's first North American dealers.



Royal Enfield unveiled a one-off, custom build during a recent event at Royal Enfield headquarters in Milwaukee that highlights the ease of customization with bolt on parts.

(Continued on page 10)

## Oil Spots, Continued...

### 2d Annual Veterans Charity Ride to Sturgis

Full Vision Productions has announced that the second annual Veterans Charity Ride to Sturgis (VCR) will be hosted in summer 2016 and a new nomination program, "Hero's Ride of a Lifetime," has been added. Starting in Los Angeles on July 30, the nine-day ride to Sturgis, SD will provide 20 veterans a chance to use motorcycle therapy as a way to decompress from the challenges of post-war life.



Founded in 2015 by veteran Army Paratrooper Dave Frey and Emmy-award winning director Robert Manciero, VCR uses motorcycle therapy to provide a healing and fun

experience for a select group of veterans who need support.

"Giving veterans an outlet for their stress, and creating a way for them to find emotional balance, is critical," said ride founder Dave Frey. "As a veteran myself, I've used long motorcycle rides for years as a mechanism to decompress. It occurred to me that others would benefit from the power of motorcycle therapy. VCR provides a group of veterans with the benefits of riding, plus a camaraderie and brotherhood that veterans often have difficulty finding on their own."



VCR 2016 will give 15 ambulatory and five amputee/disabled veterans of various military branches – the majority of whom are post-9/11 vets – the opportunity to work toward overcoming their post-war challenges on the open road. Riding from Los Angeles to Sturgis, the veterans travel through the most scenic back roads of the western United States on the latest Indian Motorcycle models, some with Champion sidecars and custom trikes. They experience the great outdoors and the beauty this country has to offer, using motorcycles as a mechanism for healing.



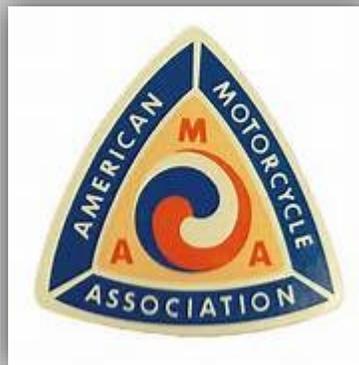
### AMA Will Partner with Cycle Trader

The American Motorcyclist Association has announced a new partnership with [CycleTrader.com](http://CycleTrader.com) that provides a 20 percent discount for AMA members on top-of-the-line classified ads to sell or trade their motorcycles.

AMA members can take advantage of the discount by using an exclusive promo code found in the members-only section of the AMA website. Additionally, powersports enthusiasts can now access bikes for sale on Cycle Trader through the AMA website,

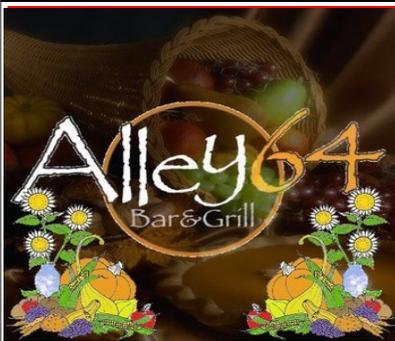
[www.americanmotorcyclist.com](http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com), under the heading, "Classifieds."

This unique partnership also includes a new resource page on CycleTrader.com showcasing information on the American Motorcyclist Association for potential new members. CycleTrader.com features nearly 400,000 units for sale and attracts more than 2 million visitors each month. This provides greater exposure for AMA to recruit new powersports enthusiasts to become AMA members. AMA and CycleTrader.com will work together on additional promotions in the future.



For more information go to the AMA site at:

[www.americanmotorcyclist.com](http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com) > [Membership Info](#) > [Benefits of Membership](#).



Alley 64  
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 1ST, 2016**

Meeting called to order - 7:30 PM by Mike Bradbury, President of Top Cats, Illinois. The membership was asked to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance



**President's Section:** Mike Bradbury

- Guests: Brian and Amanda Schluter. They took the floor and introduced themselves as Rox's Friends. The crowd didn't hold that against them and enjoyed their company for the meeting. Their intention is to apply to the club and become members and we look forward to having them as new members!
- Ed and Gretchen Flavin from the Little Angels Ride. They came to present information on the 2016 Ride.
- In response to the very nice observations that the Schluters made about the club, Mike expanded on those observations and explained the focus of the club. It is an opportunity to ride with like-minded adults, who love to ride safely and responsibly.
- Mike spoke about the success of the 2016 Awards Banquet celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Top Cats existence. It was a great night with a very strong sense of Top Cat Community shared among all attendees.
- The Meeting Jokes were of the usual 'salty' style that has become the opening drill of Top Cats events... start collecting your best 'bad' jokes... and get ready...

**Vice President's/Report Safety / Charity / Charity:** Ric Case

- Ric talked about the upcoming G.R.A.S.S. Class on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The club will hold this one in the upstairs area of McHenry Harley Davidson, thanks to Ashely Lambert. Motorcycle groups in the area have been contacted and invited to attend. A number of them are looking to adapt the presentation for their own club.

**Charity Ride:** Noelle Rigsby

- Cabin Fever was a great success. With 5 pre-registrations and a large number of Raffle tickets sold, the day was productive.
- For the event, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, all members will be asked to register and bring a friend.
- Each member in attendance was given Raffle Tickets to pre-sell.

**Activities / Awards:** Gene Rigsby

- The Event Schedule for the next 2 months was reviewed by Bob Stevenson. See the Website and calendar for all details. Wayne Kirkpatrick gave the details and reminders to make reservations for the STUGIS Ride

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

- Mike asked Wayne to discuss club activity, participation and volunteerism. This was the topic of the March President's column in ROAR. Wayne's previous column, from 2013 was also included in the ROAR.
- Mike and Wayne have talked often about the importance of these areas to the health of the club. It is so important to have each member amplify the energy of the club by being active and involved.
- Wayne highlighted the idea that the 'heart' of the biking community is our giving spirit. The idea of GIVING is the core of the biker character. Bringing that to the forefront of the club and developing that reputation within our membership is the goal of the board and Mike and Wayne are challenging the members to bring their 'heart' to the club!

**Membership:** Emil Kornecki

- Kim Nicolai was given her new member packet and all were glad to have her on board!

**Guest Speaker:** EAO

- EAO and Little Angels Ride was represented by Ed and Gretchen Flavin. This will be the 29<sup>th</sup> year for the event. First prize is a Heritage Softail or \$10,000. Second place is a 90 day Motorcycle rental. Other great prizes were also identified.
- The Flavins have been the Committee Chair for this event for the past three years and are working to streamline expenditures and minimize the overhead.
- The children who benefit are the selling point of the ride. They depend on the generosity of others to keep them housed.
- Top Cats members were offered the opportunity to pre-register at a discounted price and they could also purchase raffle tickets.

*Ed thanked Top Cats for their continued support of this very worthy charity.* Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### MARCH 8TH, 2016

Alley 64

2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick



#### President: Mike Bradbury

- Call Meeting to Order at 7:34 without Roxray Adonis, who arrived at 7:55.
- The Club Status was reviewed and Mike stated that the climate of the club is very positive at this time. There is a lot of activity and growth. The board discussed the process of welcoming newcomers and agreed that it is important to make sure that each newcomer finds a comfort level in the club and more importantly that they find a place to use their skills and contribute to the wellbeing of the club.

#### Vice President/Safety: Ric Case

##### GRASS

- The March 13<sup>th</sup> G.R.A.S.S. presentation was discussed. Ric Case has contacted Woodstock for the accommodations. There will be approximately 40 attendees. Ric will get the projector and screen and Wayne will get the outlines copied.
- G.R.A.S.S. Presenters committed to the presentation will be Ric Case, Don DeLordo, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Gene Rigsby and Mike Bradbury. All is in place for the event.

#### Membership and Products: Emil Kornecki

- Brian and Amanda Schluter completed an application at the GRASS class and it was presented to the board. They were accepted unanimously and will become members upon receipt of their dues for 2016.
- Jim Hennif will be submitting an application to Mike. Upon receipt, Mike will send out a message to the board and ask for an electronic vote on his application. The board agreed to accept him as a new member.
- His application and fee will be processed and filed by Mike Bradbury.
- New Product Proposals were discussed. The Products would include decals, T-Shirts, hats and other items that can be ordered with the Top Cats logo.



**Other Business:** The Board discussed how to increase attendance at events. It was agreed that this is a very difficult topic to address. Because of the large number of new members, it will be necessary to develop their connection and pride in the club. It is difficult to create change, but as members develop their sense of 'belonging' and find ways to use their talents to contribute, the results should spur others into action as well. The board agreed that the first step is identifying the talents of the members and ways to include those talents within the club.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 by Mike Bradbury, President of Top Cats Illinois.



## Website Changes:

**Mike will send Roxray all of the contact information and access information. Roxray will begin to address the following:**

- ◆ Uploading current content including 2015 ROAR and Photos. Mary Kirkpatrick will send Roxray Adonis the files to upload and make this current.
- ◆ All photo folders with different years are showing the same group of photos. A discussion was had by the board as to why these pictures are appearing in the present state. Roxray will contact American Creative to discuss this and get the pictures corrected.
- ◆ Creating a page for Products information but not for ordering, unless reasonably feasible.
- ◆ Creating a page for the charity. There will be a short summary of the Charity history and current activities. The page would include the PDF flyer front and back with a list of corporate donors and sponsors.
- ◆ Member access to a truncated Roster list consisting of member names and email addresses will not be created. The club is small enough that this is not needed at this time.
- ◆ A document "repository" will be created where the latest single versions of our own operating documents will reside. The GRASS presentation, roster, RC data, position definitions with duties and responsibilities, attendance. There was a discussion on what form the documents will be in when uploaded. PDFs would not be able to be downloaded and changed.
- ◆ Board and Officers will have access to club documents in the repository
- ◆ Top Cat email accounts by position for board and committee members will be created (i.e. secretary@topcats.org).
- ◆ Redirection of Top Cats Board and Officer Club email addresses to personal email addresses will be managed by the club, so you would not have to check both and we can change the "who" when needed.
- ◆ Event page will show the next 30 days of events from the event calendar.
- ◆ Verification and modification will be done regularly and as needed, to make sure the website flow connects to the correct link when you click on a button.
- ◆ An open "join" option will include meeting information. Gene Rigsby stated that it is best to have our meeting information there and have them attend a meeting. This is preferable to having individual contact info on this page.
- ◆ All agree to change "Who We Are" background to the largest group photo possible excluding years 2011 and 2014.
- ◆ Banner will read Top Cats – Illinois, not Top Cats – Chicago.
- ◆ Website Text will be changed from "base also includes others that combines to provide safety instruction should be changed to: ***base also includes others that combine(s) to provide safety instruction.***"
- ◆ Also "host our annual Ride for Dreams each July should be...***host our annual Ride for Dreams each year***"
- ◆ "Join & Ride..." with "Sign-up today" button. Selecting this button navigates to the contact page. This sign-up today button should direct candidates to come to a general meeting.
- ◆ Selecting the "Kaution Korner" button navigates to the Recent Articles page which will display Kaution Korner articles nor recent articles. The most recent article is from January 2015.
- ◆ Alley 64 should be added to the Patron page.
- ◆ "To Apply for a Membership, contact Top Cats Today! should read ***To find out more about membership, contact Top Cats Today!***". The button should be changed from "Apply" to "***Contact***". When you click on the button now, you navigate to the contact page so no change there. If possible, it would be good to include a link button to the calendar and suggest the candidate look up the next meeting.
- ◆ Remove "Group Riding Safety" and G.R.A.S.S. & Safety Grams from the bottom of the Safety section page.
- ◆ Add link to Motorcycle links: <http://www.indianmotorcycles.com/en-us>

## Website Maintenance:

- ◇ The main website photo background structure should be changed at least once a year to refresh the photo background content.
- ◇ Mike suggested and all agreed, that a maintenance schedule is needed. The following schedule was agreed upon:
- ◇ Change background photos every 6 months
- ◇ Updates to the Officers list every January
- ◇ Updates to the Directors list every January
- ◇ Update photo folder with Event photos once a month
- ◇ Update Charity page once a year every January





*Are you Creative?*

*Do you Enjoy Riding?*

*Do you want to see new things  
In the ROAR?*

*Here is a chance for you to  
enhance the quality of the club!*

*Talk to Mary Kirkpatrick  
And help to fill these pages with  
Top Cats Memories in the ROAR  
each month!*



## Another Call.... Sturgis 2016!!!

By Traveler

When we hear "First Call" it typically indicates the first chance to get in on something. 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. Don't wait for "Last Call"!



This year is the 76th Anniversary of the legendary Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and, again, one of the most exciting Top Cats' group rides of the year.

The increasing interest of our members in this iconic rally,

combined with special hotel rates and rally expenses appears to be generating the excitement we traditionally experienced as a club over our annual rides to Sturgis.



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 might be the best, long – distance Top Cats' ride to the Black Hills

yet....

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.



## Sturgis 2016....

By Traveler



As this edition goes to publication, we are close to 30 days away from our cut - off date of 1 February 2016 for making 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, Pikes Peak, Angle Fire, Dodge City, Kansas back roads, or directly home.



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 before the cut-off but you can't re-negotiate our contract room rates after the cut-off dates.**

For the next Black Hills Bike Week we have negotiated our annual contracts with the following hotels.



**Here's the info for hotel reservations.**

### **Tue, 2 August 2016**

**City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN.**

Rates: \$77.00 / night

Phone: (507) 345-1234, Identify yourself as a Top Cat for special rates.

**Cut-off Date: 2 July 2016**

**Note:** Only 10 rooms blocked

### **Wed, 3 August 2016**

**River Lodge, Pierre, SD.**

Rates: Single \$62.76, 2 beds \$69.00

Phone: Ron, Teresa, or Katherine (605) 224-4140

Identify yourself as a Top Cat for special rates.

**Cut-Off Date: 1 July 2016**

### **Thur, 4 August – (?) 2016**

**Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD.**

Rates: Contracted @ Thurs: \$159, Fri: \$189. Sat forward: \$204 / night

Phone: Jessica Pulscher, 800-888-ALEX (2539) and Identify yourself as a Top Cat for special rates.

**Note:** Cancellation within 44 days prior will result in a one night's rooms charge

Please contact Wayne or Bard when you make your reservations, so that departure times and other details can be finalized.

Wayne; [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com), Cell: (847) 915-8428,

Bard; [bard.board@att.net](mailto:bard.board@att.net), Cell: (847) 721-7470, ,

*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...*





## Top Cats Buy, Sell, Trade....

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### 1970 Triumph Bonneville T120R

Immaculate and 99% original, iconic Triumph Bonneville, 650cc. Restored engine with 4+ hours on it. 4,900 original miles. New period paint, original parts with no upgrades, Perfect condition and ready to roll. \$7,500. Contact Traveler: [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com)



### 1993 Harley Davidson XL Sportster.

883cc. VERY clean and fast. 10,000 miles. Custom paint, engine upgrades, S&S Super E carburetor, windscreen, passenger seat and backrest. Good tires, major service performed. Ready to roll. \$3,600. Contact Traveler: [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com)



### 1985 Honda Rebel CMX 250

7,500 miles, Custom Saddle bags by Kelly's Leathers. Low, easy – to – ride bike with 27" seat height. 50 mpg+.

\$1, 500. Contact Stef Levy

[stefanlevysearch@gmail.com](mailto:stefanlevysearch@gmail.com)



### 1998

### Harley

### Davidson Road King Classic

Old reliable. Great over the road bike. 1340 cc fuel – injected Evo engine. Leather covered, classic saddlebags. Many new parts, fresh engine overhaul,

good condition all around.

\$6,800.

Contact Traveler





## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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Immaculate VROD well maintained. Deep red with ghost flames. Ready to ride with only 4,000 miles on it. This bike needs nothing but a tank of fuel and a good rider. \$7,000. Contact Traveler: [wkirk-pa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirk-pa177@aol.com)



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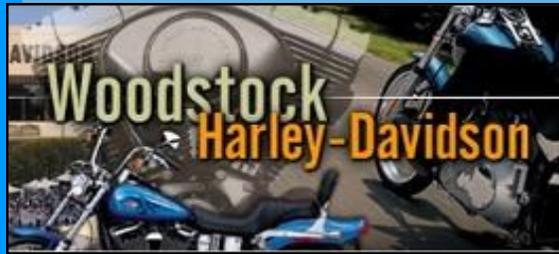
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### Membership Has Its Privileges!

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

GRASS Classes are held at the Keller -Williams Offices!  
Thanks, Greg for supporting our Top Cat's Safety Class!



**Greg Smith**

**Keller -  
Williams  
Realty**

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our own Top  
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you to buy or  
sell your home!**

**800 E Northwest Hwy  
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847-241-2200**

**WANTED**

**Top Cats Historian**

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

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

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

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



## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, April 5th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, April 12th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Saturday, April 17th	Kick-Off Ride...	BP at Rts 176 and 12	Shh... It's a secret	8:45 am	Bradbury
April, 23rd and 24th	AMA	TBD	Columbus, Ohio	TBD	Whiteside
Tuesday, May 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Sat/Sun May 7th & 8th	Galena	Shell Station at Rts 176 and 14	Galena	8:00 am	Smith
Tuesday, May 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Sunday, May 22	GRASS	Palatine	Keller-Williams	7:30 am	Case
Th—Tu May 26 to 31	RT to DC Open to TC	Hinsdale Oasis	Washington, D.C.	8:00 am	Kirkpatrick

All ride and event information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at [www.TopCats.org](http://www.TopCats.org).



### Barrington Library

#### Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway  
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300

[balibrary.org](http://balibrary.org)

See the Top Cats Archive

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.TOPCATS.org)

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at [ROAR@TOPCATS.org](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)