



ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



nuggets of worthwhile biking days are interspersing with the wet and near cold ones... And just as the weather is revitalizing the spirit... There are many things that are energizing the club, too.

We are first and foremost a motorcycle club that enjoys riding, so it is good to see the riding season has begun and the calendar is starting to get filled. We had our Kick-Off Ride and our first multi-day ride in April. But there are still plenty of weekends for more rides so don't be bashful. Come forward with your "route inspirations"! If you are a road captain, step up and lead a ride (or two or three, there is no limit). If you are not a road captain but have an idea for a ride, see one of our RC's or Senior Road Captains or better yet, consider becoming a road captain. It is a fulfilling role within the club and one that you would probably enjoy. You won't know how rewarding it can be until you give it a try!

Calling all Top Cats! Our Ride for Dreams to the Valley of the Kings charity ride, on June 12th is rapidly approaching and will be upon us before we know it. Your Charity

Committee has been hard at work as they have all year, but we need more membership support. ALL Top Cats need to sell raffle tickets!! Also please register for the ride if you have not done so. Better yet, register and invite a friend to register! Our safety class, G.R.A.S.S., will be presented on May 22nd at Keller Williams, Palatine. This is a great opportunity to meet your membership obligation and take our safety seminar. At 12 noon, after the presentation, we will be looking for volunteers to distribute flyers. We will form three groups with places designated for each group to drop off our flyers and posters. Remember, The Ride for Dreams to the VTOK is our event and we all need to support it. There is much credit to be given to the hard work of your committee and the members who have stepped up and contributed. BUT we still need the rest of you fellow members, to register, sell raffle tickets, market the event to your riding buddies. Step up and make a difference!!

(Continued on pg. 2)



Raffle tickets
\$5.00 each
or
6 for \$25.00

Do not have to be
present to win!

May, 2016

Volume 16, Issue 5

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Upcoming Events

- MAY**
- 3 GENERAL MEETING
7-8 GALENA
 - 10 BOARD MEETNG
22 GRASS
 - 26-31 RT TO DC
- JUNE**
- 7 GENERAL MEETING
 - 12 RIDE 4 DREAMS TO
VOTK
 - 14 BOARD MEETNG

Talk to Gene Rigsby
and get your ideas on





President's Perspective, Cont...

Going forward we have other areas in the club that need support. See me, your board of officers and directors or any other senior members and ask how you can get more involved. It is a satisfying experience to participate, contribute, and support your club and to be a leader in a group of leaders.

Our May events calendar is chock full of ways to enjoy our club and its activities... Of course we have our May general meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd. Our guest speaker is from City Limits Harley Davidson service department and will give us a plethora of good maintenance tips and inform about the many attributes of their dealership. Greg Smith, one of our 'Senior' Senior Road Captains, is leading a weekend ride to Galena for May 7th and 8th. Bring the credit card and extra storage for all the tchotchkes you'll want to buy. Led by our venerable Vice President Ric Case, there will be a Top Cat's satellite ride. It is meeting early, so we can ride together as a club, to the Little Angel's Pledge Run Ride on May 15th. Lastly, we are invited to the Rolling Thunder's annual ride to Washington DC to remind our governing officials to never lose sight of our MIA/POW troops. Bring extra Kleenex as the sight of veteran support, memorials and gravesites will make you teary eyed and proud to be an American.

So that's all for now but remember to ride safe!

Motorcycle Mike Bradbury
President – Top Cats – Illinois

"Never trade the thrills of living for the security of existence."



 Ride for Dreams to the
VALLEY OF THE KINGS

SAVE the DATE
June 12, 2016
Ride Benefitting: Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association and VOTK



KAUTION KORNER



"Safely Go Round and Round"

An Essay on Roundabouts and How to Manage Them Safely

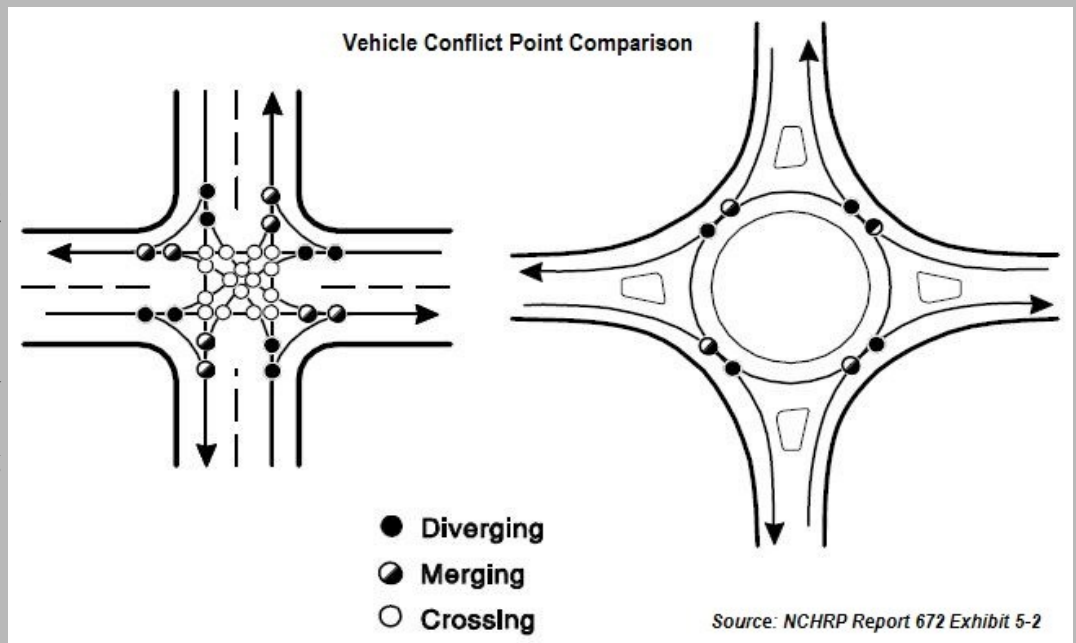
By: 'Motorcycle Mike' Bradbury, Senior Road Captain

Roundabouts are circular intersections where drivers travel counterclockwise around a center island. They are different from the typical four (or five or six in some rare cases) legged intersection. They are an increasing phenomena replacing the traditional intersections that we encounter on our roads today. And for a very good reason. That is because they are a proven tool that increases our overall safety.

Per year in the United States, intersection related crashes cause 7,000 deaths and 1 million injuries. In a conventional intersection, there are 32 conflict points vs. 8 conflict points in a roundabout. In a four legged intersection the conflict points consist of 8 merging (or joining) 8 diverging (or separating), and 16 crossing. In a roundabout you have only 4 merging and 4 diverging.

With roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of all traffic fatalities in the U.S. associated with intersections, roundabouts have proven to be a safer and more efficient type of intersection.

As the name suggests roundabouts are typically round but can be oval, teardrop, peanut and dog boned shaped. They are safer, more efficient, less costly and more aesthetically appealing than conventional intersections.



The fundamental and essential characteristics of all roundabouts include;

Counterclockwise Flow – Traffic travels counterclockwise around a center island.

Entry Yield Control – Vehicles entering the roundabout yield to traffic already circulating.

Low Speed - Curvature that results in lower speeds generally 15-25 MPH throughout the roundabout. For motorcyclists as well as automobiles who drive through a roundabout, there are a few guidelines to follow to handle it as safely as possible.

**KK Continued**

SLOW DOWN - slow down to 15-20 mph and watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

LOOK TO YOUR LEFT AND YEILD to traffic already in the roundabout and ready to merge before you can. If there is no traffic you may proceed without yielding.

Once you see a gap in traffic, ENTER THE ROUNDABOUT proceeding in a counterclockwise fashion. It is always better to stay by priority either in the through traffic or the right lane if it is combined with the through traffic option to either turn right at your designated choice or continue to the next right in counter-clockwise fashion. The roundabout geometry is simply a circle and when you are approaching it from the 6 o'clock position, typically your options are you could turn at the 3:00, 12:00, 9:00 o'clock positions or go a full 360° and make U-turn reversing your direction and going back from the same direction you came. **The right lane position is always better than the left position in a 2 lane roundabout because the right lane will keep you from having to merge to the outer lane to make your turn.**

When leading a group of motorcyclists the main things to remember are: to slow down, stay in the right lane and follow your router. You may or may not separate as a group but typically everyone can see the leader.

Currently there are 4,800 modern roundabouts operating in the U.S. many were constructed since 1990.

Even if you do not believe in the increased benefits roundabouts offer instead of multi-legged intersections, they are being created in increasing numbers worldwide, they benefit all motorists whether in an automobile, a truck or a motorcycle and we all benefit from utilizing them as safely as possible.



For more information on the history and statistics of Roundabouts check out the following websites:

<http://library.ite.org/pub/e26c7ba4-2354-d714-5173-345427dcd867> ,

<http://www.roundaboutsusa.com/history.html> and <http://www.roundaboutresources.org/map.html>

Ride Safe!

Mike



There are no MAY Celebrations!

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



We are doing a great job of bring in new members. But, let's remember we don't just recruit. We qualify our potential new members. When considering the possibility of extending an invitation, here are some guidelines to use:

Try to determine if that rider has a serious interest in group riding. Make sure they know we offer a plethora of ride types that appeal to all levels of riders. Short day rides, long day rides, overnight rides, and of course, our marquee ride to Sturgis that includes all levels of rides. Sturgis includes extended ride days, short day rides and a possible optional after Sturgis ride. The experience includes all types of terrain as well to increase rider skill and confidence. And don't forget our adventure rides!

Try to access the potential members desire to contribute to the organization. After all, they need to participate in one or more of our many committees. Get to know them. Are they going to fit into the organization? Are they going to be a giver or a taker?

Our achievement process is long, detailed, and contributory. Explain that.

If you are comfortable with their commitment, invite them to a ride and a meeting. Then, once they attend an event, introduce them to the others and introduce them to the Top Cat Culture! Let them know that they would be a welcome addition to the membership... as a brother or a sister!

VP's Vision: Membership

By: Ric 'Clutch' Case



Our Unique Top Cats' Vision Leaves the Other Clubs... Out in the Cold!

An Essay on the Micro and Macro Vison of TC Life!

By: Mary Kirkpatrick

All of us are in agreement: Top Cats is a great club filled with great people! Individually, we bring our uniqueness and create diversity in the group. We have all come to this one spot, though, because of the idea of riding and seeing the world from the seat of a Harley or an Indian, or a That idea and our individual spirit is the essence of Top Cats! So many times, I've heard that it is the safety component that makes us a unique club, but there are many other things that also add to the mix and create this very unique experience.

As we were traveling over this past week-end, the group passed other solo bikes and groups riding along the way. I began to think of a saying that an old friend recently sent to me ~ It went something like, "when you have good friends, you live many lives.. not just your own." Many ways to look at this idea, but those lone bikers reminded me of days that I was going and experiencing sites and places on my bike... alone. Good times, but only I remember them! When you ride with friends, you have multiple sets of eyes to use along the way. **At the end of the day, you can share the views and experience the ride over again, from the other's point of view.** That is the micro-study of Top Cats... the individual experience.

Now for the MACRO... The Big Picture! We are a group of individuals with a desire to understand and master the world around us... Top Cats is a group of 'like-minded' riders who enjoy going to destinations that are enlightening... not JUST fattening! We all are still growing, developing, learning... and the rides that our club schedules have offered opportunities to develop our intellect as well as our riding skills.

(Continued on page 6)



Unique TCs Cont...

The conversations that we have include new content as well as visions from each of our own 'heart and soul'. **Many clubs attempt this and are making this a goal, but I do believe that Top Cats was developed because of and has based the club on this concept... not just added it to the mix.**

A few miles down the road from these thoughts, we encountered a group of riders that looked pretty 'old school'. The stereotypical look of hard, tough, and ready to take on anyone who irritates them. The girls were wearing 'Property of..' patches on their back. It was a sad sight to see, by enlightened standards. Again, the idea of our Top Cats vision came to mind. Never in club History ~ even those first crazy years ~ is there evidence or memory of women included in that way. **Active membership was offered to anyone, of any race, color, creed or gender. It always has been and always will be. It is another 'gold standard' that is a part of our Top Cats culture.** As I looked at all of the pieces of information that I came across on this ride, it became clear why Top Cats has now spanned two decades. **The events, the people and the description of the Top Cats culture needed time to mature in my mind... maybe yours too?**

I am very glad to be a Top Cat and to share that membership with all of you! I am also glad for all of the Top Cats who went before and laid down the foundation of this club we now share. In thinking about this, the feeling of responsibility began to grow. We have been given an opportunity, a character, a vision of what Riding a Motorcycle brings to ANY community. But Top Cats has a unique twist on all of that. It is important to identify and celebrate the very unique place our club has in the Motorcycling community. What is our 'reputation'? What is our place and what are we doing to maintain and build that place within the community?

Let me know what you 'see' as the reason for Top Cats longevity and what makes the club a 'gold standard' kind of club! We can compile our 'views' and publish them. ***Why We Ride as Top Cats...***



Sounds like a good movie!

Why We Ride

Oil Spots

By Traveler

World Record for Longest Journey by Motorcycle in a Single Country



Danell Lynn on her 2006 Triumph Bonneville – photo credit: Triumph Motorcycles

Giant Loop has announced that sponsored rider Danell Lynn has set a new Guinness World Record for "Longest journey by motorcycle in a single country." Traveling for a year on her Triumph Bonneville equipped with Giant Loop gear, Lynn covered 48,600 miles while riding throughout the contiguous 48 states of the United States of America. Lynn is the first solo woman motorcyclist to hold the record.

Although her travels actually covered all 50 states, as well as three Canadian provinces, totaling more than 53,000 miles from September 2014 through September 2015, Guinness only counted the miles logged within the continental 48 states. Duplicate miles also did not apply to the record; each of the 48,600 miles covered different routes.

For her world record setting ride, Lynn used her 2006 Triumph Bonneville.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, Continued...

Simpson Funeral Home buys one-of-a-kind motorcycle hearse

For families who want an unforgettable way to bring their loved one to the cemetery, Simpson Funeral Homes has an answer. The funeral home has recently added a custom-built motorcycle hearse to its fleet – only the third such vehicle in the entire state of Michigan. A custom production of Tombstone Hearse & Trike in Tombstone, Arizona, the new hearse will appeal to families whose loved ones enjoyed motorcycles or just being unique.

"I believe funerals should be about celebrating a person's life and not just mourning their death," said Bill Simpson Jr., owner of Simpson Family Funeral Homes. "I strive to give families as many options as possible and help them celebrate their loved one's life and I really feel this motorcycle hearse will do just that."



Simpson Family Funeral Homes new 2016 Tombstone Hearse (PRNewsFoto/Simpson Family Funeral Home)

Simpson Family Funeral Home is only the second funeral home in the state of Michigan to own a Tombstone Hearse & Trike motorcycle hearse and the first and only one in the world to own Tombstone's new 'Signature Series.'

"Bill insisted from the beginning that he wanted something special," said Jack Feather, owner of Tombstone Hearse & Trike. "I'm proud to say that after being in business for 14 years, this is the most unique model that we have built and the only one with a unique custom paint scheme."

The Tombstone hearse began as a new 2016 motorcycle, which was disassembled and rebuilt to match the custom-built coach. Simpson Jr. provided input throughout the project to ensure the finished vehicle would meet the needs of the funeral home and the families he serves.

Families wanting to use this motorcycle hearse have a couple of options, Simpson explained. "For funerals arranged through my funeral home, there is no rental cost, it's included in every package we offer. For funerals arranged through another funeral home outside my area, the hearse and trike can be rented."



Bill

Simpson Jr., owner of Simpson Family Funeral Homes shows off the new 2016 Tombstone Hearse which was custom built for the funeral home (PRNewsFoto/Simpson Family Funeral Home).

Simpson said he is willing to travel as far as he needs to go to help families celebrate their loved one's life.

Simpson Family Funeral Homes has two locations in Montcalm County – Stanton, Mich. and Sheridan, Mich. Simpson Jr. is a second-generation funeral director.

Women Riders Get Ready for 10th International Female Ride Day

Passion and enthusiasm will fuel thousands of motorcycles piloted by women as they take to the world's roads on Saturday, May 7 for the 10th edition of International Female Ride Day.

International Female Ride Day (IFRD) is a global ride day occurring yearly on the first Saturday of May. Across all cultures the event brings women together through the common platform of motorcycling no matter the form or style.

(Continued on page 8)

Oil Spots, Continued...

The event highlights and profiles the many women who ride while shifting preconceived perceptions of motorsport for women.



IFRD has developed an ongoing momentum throughout its ten year rise building to activities for the one day synchronized ride day event. Serbia, Ireland, Canada, and India are on the long list of countries the world over joining in unison to “Just Ride!” – the events theme – on May 7. The event ignites female rider camaraderie, builds awareness for motorcycling and inspires others to take up the sport. The world’s largest women’s motorcycle ride day and 10th edition will assemble motorcycling’s diverse women riders across all borders, ages, brands, experiences and styles.

The significance IFRD plays in the lives of women riders and to the expansion of women and motorcycling has been a game changer to the activity. A decade ago women riders in countries such as Hungary, South Africa, or Australia to name but a few, were nameless. Through the calling IFRD has made to the planet’s female riders and to the role of every woman enjoying motorcycling, an extensive network has been revealed of motorcycle aficionados. Clubs, and friendships have formed – history has been made (2008 saw the first ever group of women riders ride through the streets of Tel Aviv) all as a result of this phenomenal supported action lead by women who ride.

IFRD continues to be a prime influencer to the global motorsport industry. Its popularity underlines the strength and importance of this market segment. IFRD has grown to be a platform through which the industry continues to speak and reach out to women riders.

IFRD has developed an ongoing momentum throughout its ten year rise building to activities for the one day synchronized ride day event. Serbia, Ireland, Canada, and India are on the long list of countries the

IFRD makes one request of women – “JUST RIDE!” – get on your bikes, be out there and be visible. The decennial celebrations will set another record of the event’s prominence as thousands of rider participants join in unity around the world. It continues to ride forward women’s involvement in motorsport. A “movement” as it’s often referred to – which has become not only unstoppable, but a must in every woman rider’s agenda.

Harley-Davidson V-Rod and Andrew Hines Claim Victory at NHRA Four-Wide Nationals



Harley-Davidson Screamin’ Eagle/Vance & Hines rider Andrew Hines scorched the Pro Stock Motorcycle final to win the NHRA Four-Wide Nationals presented by Lowes Foods at zMAX Dragway. Competing in a unique four-wide format aboard a Harley-Davidson V-Rod motorcycle, Hines finished second in two elimination rounds to advance to the final and won the event for the third consecutive year while claiming his first win of the 2016 season.

Hines qualified fourth for the event with a best run of 6.837 seconds. Hines won the final with an outstanding reaction time of 0.002 seconds to launch his motorcycle on a 6.844-second run and a top speed of 195.42 mph. The win this weekend was the 43rd career final-round victory for Hines and the fifth in his last six races at zMax Dragway.

Harley-Davidson Screamin’ Eagle/Vance & Hines rider Ed Krawiec, the Pro Stock Motorcycle points leader, also advanced to the Four-Wide final and finished second to Hines. (Continued on page 9)



Oil Spots, Continued

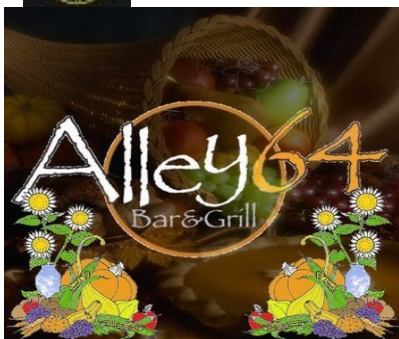
Until the final, Krawiec was dominating the event, riding his Harley-Davidson V-Rod motorcycle to the top spot in qualifying with a 6.818-second elapsed time on Friday, winning his first two elimination heats on Sunday and setting the quickest time of the weekend with a 6.810-second blast in the second round of eliminations. Krawiec has been the runner-up at the last four Charlotte Four-Wide events.

Hines and Krawiec race on competition motorcycles inspired by the unrelenting performance and sleek street style of the Harley-Davidson Night Rod Special, a motorcycle powered by a liquid-cooled 60° V-twin engine ready to breathe a little fire onto the street and available now at authorized Harley-Davidson dealerships.

After two of 16 Pro Stock Motorcycle events on the 2016 NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series, Krawiec leads the class with 232 points and Hines is in second place with 197 points.

The Harley-Davidson Screamin' Eagle/Vance & Hines drag racing team returns to action May 13-15 at the Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Southern Nationals at Atlanta Dragway in Commerce, GA.





Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP **MEETING MINUTES** **APRIL 5TH, 2016**

The Meeting **was** called to order at 7:30 PM by Mike Bradbury, President of Top Cats, Illinois.

The membership was asked to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance



President: Mike Bradbury

- ★ Meeting called to order - 7:30 PM and the members were asked to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance
- ★ The Guests were introduced:
 - ⇒ Judy Kaenel
 - ⇒ Wally Elliot
 - ⇒ Ben Chiakarishi
- ★ The Meeting Jokes were a great example of the *Classiness* that is truly a part of the Club and made the guests feel right at home!

Vice President's/Report Safety: Ric Case

- ★ There are sign ups on table for member support for April 16th, which is the WHD Open House
- ★ Ric spoke about the success of the G.R.A.S.S class that was presented on 3/13 at WHD. There were 50 attendees present and the class was well received.
- ★ The next G.R.A.S.S class will be held on May 22nd. If you have not taken the class recently, it is a good way to brush up on the essentials and discuss the current rider issues with the club members.
- ★ Kaution Korner was reviewed by Gene Rigsby and he encouraged all to begin thinking about the condition of their bikes as well as themselves. It's important to begin 'conditioning' and refreshing the muscle memory.
- ★ Ric also discussed his Vision article, which detailed 4 basic maneuvers that can be practiced to tune skills for the summer.

Charity: Noelle Rigsby

- ★ Noelle wanted the members to hear about the March 15th N.I.S.R.A. Recognition Dinner. She asked Wayne Kirkpatrick to speak to the opportunity that we had to see where our charity money goes. Wayne talked about the long standing relationship that we have with NISRA and how the participants are glad to see their 'old friends', The Top Cats. He also mentioned how motivating it is to see the energy of these families. The event highlights how much all the support for these events are appreciated.
- ★ Mike and Noelle attended the EAO March 29th General Meeting. They will allow us to have a table at no charge. Noelle asked for volunteers to work the table that day.
- ★ Members were given raffle tickets, if they had not received them in the past and the raffle gifts were highlighted.
- ★ There will be a table for the group on April 16th at WHD Open House.
- ★ Noelle asked for day of ride support from the members and a sheet was passed around for sign-up.

Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

- ★ The Event Schedule for the next 2 months was reviewed by Bob Stevenson and Gene Rigsby.
- ★ Wayne informed the club that if you find that you are interested in the STURGIS Ride, to add your name to the list and if rooms open, you will be informed. The hotel has been great about letting Top Cats know first, when rooms open up.

Past President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ★ Wayne encouraged all to participate in whatever way they can and passed the sign-up sheet again. (Continued on pg 11)



General Meeting, continued...

- ★ Wayne also awarded Emil Kornecki with a very GREEN shirt from Emil's in Grayslake. Wayne alluded to the 'light' feet that were patrons of this bar... Emil was grateful and will be shopping soon to find matching shoes to go with his new shirt.

Membership: Emil Kornecki

- ★ Three new Membership package presentation were given to
 - ⇒ Jim Heniff
 - ⇒ Amanda Schluter
 - ⇒ Brian Schluter

Guest Speaker:

- ★ Ben Chikiorishi from the Illinois State Police office was in attendance tonight and stated that he is always happy to attend a Top Cats meeting. The club is always glad to see him too!
- ★ Ben reviewed the things that all riders should think about to get ready for the season. Check the bike and practice, practice, practice!
- ★ Ben also is in charge of Bike Safe, a program that allows riders to ride for a time with an officer following. The team rides and then returns to the Bike Safe Start Point to review the riders form and areas for improvement.
- ★ Ben offered the club 8 spots in the class that will be held on July 30th.
- ★ Ben covered the new laws relating to motorcycles.
- ★ Lights on a bike are regulated by this new law. Details include, no blue or red lights. No horizontal lights can be added to the bike and no lights that are brighter than '25 candle' and the light beams cannot be farther than 10 feet surrounding the bike.
- ◇ See Wayne Kirkpatrick for any information from tonight. He receives and monitors information from the state and police authorities for any changes in Motorcycle Policies and Issues.

Guest Speaker: Dukane Abate, Judy Kaenel

- ★ There is 5 million in the Illinois State account for the Motorcycle Safety Class, but due to the frozen finances in the state, many of the classes and training has also been 'frozen'.
- ★ Recreational Trail Funds are being looked at for use in other areas, but ABATE is looking to stop this from happening.
- ★ Another bill is being formulated that would prohibit children under 16 from driving and ATV on their own property.
- ★ Two year requirement is being looked at for license plates. The financial burden shifts from the state to the individual. Many Riders will find this a frustrating situations.
- ★ For more information on Illinois State Legislative Plans affecting cycling, see Wayne Kirkpatrick, Judy Kaenel and the ABATE websites.

★ **Dukane:** <http://www.abate-il.org/Dukane/>

★ **Illinois:** <http://www.abate-il.org/>

Guest Speaker: Toy Run, Wally Elliott.

- Sunday, October 9th, 2016
- There are 18 different charities that are being supported by the Dukane ABATE events! Join ABATE and Support the Run...

50 / 50 Raffle: \$42.50 was donated by Roxray to the Charity... What a guy!!!

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm by Mike Bradbury, President Top Cats, Illinois!

Dukane Chapter of A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois

30th Annual Toy & Food Run

Sunday, October 9, 2016

\$10 p/p

Bring Unwrapped Toy & Food!

**VENDORS!
FOOD!
DOOR PRIZES!
MUSIC ALL DAY!**

ON STAGE!
International Recording Artist!

Back By Popular Demand!
The Nick Bell Band
Straight Outta Nashville!
The Fairview Union &
Second Shot Band

Multiple Start Points!
Starting at 9:30am! See Back!
End Point: Batavia VFW-Rt 25

PARADE Leaves ELBURN at 12:30pm

Come out and Support your Local Charities and Motorcycle Rights!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 12TH, 2016

Alley 64

2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick



Present: Mike Bradbury, Ric Case, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Emil Kornecki, Gene Rigsby, Roxray Adonis and Mary Kirkpatrick

President: Mike Bradbury

Call Meeting to Order at 7:30.

- ★ Club Status at this time is positive and Mike stated that he was encouraged by the number of people who stepped up to assist with Woodstock's Open House. The Board is encouraged by this and is looking for this attitude to become contagious to build morale and to hook in the new members.
- ★ Rox suggested that there be a blast sent out to the volunteers to remind them to wear their Top Cats gear to emphasize the strength of the club.

Vice President/Safety: Ric Case

- ★ The next GRASS Class will be on May 22nd. Ric will not be able to be in attendance, so he will identify the Road Captains who will present and support people to get the venue set up and refreshments in place.
- ★ July 31st is the Summer Class.
- ★ The board discussed the value in teaching all parts of the class. Ric suggested a rotating schedule which would allow each RC to experience and understand each section in more detail. It also allows all of the RCs to see the information through a variety of presenters and their perceptions.
- ★ Ric would like to open a class to the local clubs at Woodstock again on October 23rd.

Activities: Gene Rigsby

- ★ Gene reviewed the schedule for the summer. All information is on the Website.
- ★ Ric will follow up with Don DeLardo to ask about the dates that were identified at the RC meeting in January for rides.
- ★ Bob Stevenson has been taking care of the blasts and is doing a great job making sure the blasts are scheduled and sent in a timely fashion.
- ★ Gene has created a 'participation card' that members can use to get 'tagged' for each event. When the card is filled, you turn it in for a 'reward' and your card is added to the 'kitty' and prize winners are drawn at the end of the season or during the banquet.
- ★ Gene suggested that we push the members to be more 'visible' by wearing their Top Cats Gear. He asked the board for input and suggestions on how to make this happen.
- ★ The discussion then turned to how communications can be more effective and how to use blasts or other avenues to increase and streamline communications.
- ★ The board discussed the ride series for this year. There are a number of gaps and concerns that the board will continue to analyze and look for new ways to be effective.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ★ Wayne discussed how to build the momentum and commitment to developing the quality of the club. One suggestion he made was a 'lifetime' membership. The board will consider the option and bring this back to the table in the months to come.
- ★ Wayne proposes that the "Life Member" category of the by-laws be clarified and defined to allow full members to apply for lifetime membership at a price to be determined by the board. Mike was the second and the board agreed unanimously.

.(Continued on page 13)



Board Meeting, continued...

Secretary: Mary Kirkpatrick

★ Mike asked if any members had been approached to consider taking the position of Secretary. No candidates have been identified.

Treasury: Mike Bradbury

- ★ Quarterly Report will be rescheduled to May.
- ★ Ric submitted a bill for \$6.66. He purchased the dinner for Ben Chikiarishi at the General meeting on the 5th.
- ★ Gene purchased a stand for the new Banner and submitted a bill to Mike.
- ★ Mike purchased a new banner to be used when marketing the Charity Ride or identifying Top Cats at public events.
- ★ Club Account has not been transferred to Quicken Books at this time. The balances of both club and charity accounts were reviewed by the board and deemed to be correct. If any member would like to know the details of these accounts, please contact Mike Bradbury. Account totals are available, but will not be published.
- ★ Mike will be handing over the books in July to a volunteer.

Membership: Emil Kornecki

- ★ Mike Bradbury discussed advice that was given by an insurance presentation that all clubs renew the signatures at least every 2 years. The members will be asked to sign them for the 2016 riding season.
- ★ Waiver retention will be kept by Emil Kornecki along with the application.
- ★ The waivers will be given in the New Member Package and returned to Emil.
- ★ Member Expectation update discusses the 'white and black' patch and needs to be updated. Wayne will do that as he has the original document.
- ★ There are some people interested in joining and talked to Mike and Emil. They will pursue their information.
- ★ The processing of the new member information will follow this flow:
- ★ Application will go to Secretary to be scanned into an E-Doc and added to the Roster.
- ★ The scan will be sent to the board members.
- ★ The Membership Director will contact the new member to confirm their information and e-mail and to welcome them to the club.
- ★ Once the e-mail information is verified, the Activities Director will add them to the Blast list.
- ★ The hard copy of the application will be given to the Activities Director.

New Product Proposal: New Shirts, Hats, Decals Implementation will be researched. The Purcells will be asked to continue contributing to this area of the club.

Website: Rox Adonis

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 by:

Proud of your Top Cat Membership?

Want to celebrate? Need new ideas for Gift Giving?

What Products would you be interested in?

Let the board know...





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

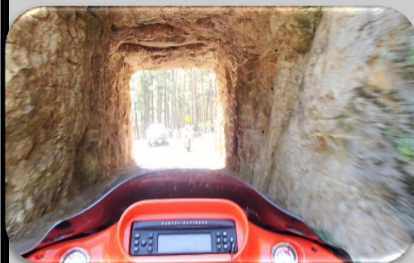
yet....

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, Cell: (847) 915-8428,

Bard; 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



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



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



2003 Harley Davidson V Rod

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: wkirkpa177@aol.com





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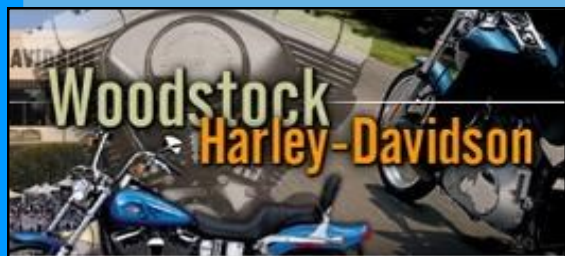
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Top Cats Get 15% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry Harley-Davidson



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GRASS Classes are held at the Keller -Williams Offices!

Thanks, Greg for supporting our Top Cat's Safety Class!

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.



Greg Smith

Keller - Williams Realty

Have one of our own Top Cats work with 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



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
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 15th	Ride to Little Angels		Little Angels	8:00 am	Case
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
Tuesday, June 7th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Sunday, June 12th,	Ride 4 Dreams to VOTK	Woodstock HD	VOTK	8:00 am	N. Rigsby
Tuesday, June 14th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury

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



Barrington Library

Location and Hours
505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300
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



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

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

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at

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