



ROAR

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Inside This Issue



Top Cats of Illinois has had a safe, successful riding season and fruitful year with so much happening in our club. We had over 41 events scheduled for 2015, leading to an active year that was a benefit to all members. Working off of that energy, NOW is the time for planning and gearing up to make 2016 a successful, event filled year as well!

while creating the foundation for our club's future sustainability. A tradition that is also key to that sustainability, is the Road Captain position. I have been asking for candidates to step up and train to be a road captain and I am proud to report Jim Purcell did just that by successfully leading a terrific October fall colors ride. Jim was presented his Road Captain rocker at the November general meeting.

Congratulations Jim!!

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The process to ensure a great 2016 begins with our elections to fill the empty positions of the Board at the December general meeting. In accordance with our by-laws, we are accepting nominations and voting on two Director's positions, a Secretary and Treasurer to serve in their specific functions and as Board members. With each position we have the solemn important duty to elect the people we believe are dedicated, passionate and capable of performing the duties of these positions. This is an exciting time! We will begin our season with responsible leadership and fresh ideas, while following our successful, popular traditions. We do these things in order to maintain our positive and progressive club. Now is the opportunity to build on the existing club leadership

I am looking forward to the coming new year as we ride together with our fellow Top Cats.

Be Good Everyone!
Mike Bradbury
President
Top Cats – Illinois

*"American by birth,
biker by choice"*



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 1 GENERAL MEETIN
- 8 BOARD MEETNG

JANUARY

- 5 GENERAL MEETING
- 12 BOARD MEETNG

Talk to Gene Riggsby and get your ideas on the calendar!





KAUTION KORNER



Sharing the Ride...

By: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Senior Road Captain



Many riders will ride two – up at some time or another during their riding lifetime. Passengers, or co-riders, will fall in to two categories; trained and untrained. Trained

co-riders make riding two - up safer and enjoyable. Untrained co-riders can pose a hazard and...it's all up to the rider to 1.) determine their level of experience and 2.) train them to ride safely.

However, I would suggest that most riders have never been passengers or at best only have minimal miles of passenger experience so, their knowledge of what it is like to be a co-rider is very limited.

Let's change that and look at some of the dynamics of being a co-rider and how to ride with a co-rider....

When you carry a co-rider you have weight that can shift and affect the handling of the bike thru turns and curves, during stops and acceleration and mounting and dismounting the bike. If these weight shifts are sudden, unexpected, and drastic, they can contribute to an incident or accident. So, here are some tips for both the rider (**R**) and the co-rider (**CR**).....

Mounting / Dismounting

#1 R: Explain to the CR how you will be ready for them to mount / dismount i.e. when you have the bike stopped and balanced or kick stand down or engine shut off and when you say "OK".

CR: Always communicate your intentions to mount or dismount by asking if the rider is ready.

#2 R: Teach the CR what to step on, what to hold on to, and what not to touch (heat!) when getting on or off.

CR: Not sure? Ask.

#3 R: Leaning the bike on the kick stand provides a lower left side for easier access, assures that the bike is stopped and, gives you a more stable platform for the CR to get on / off.

CR: Let the rider know what is best for you, placing your leg over the rear seat and sliding on or stepping up on the floor board.



Accelerating/ Stopping

#1 R: Explain that the weight shifts to the rear when accelerating, making the front wheel light with less traction.

CR: Ride like you are best friends. It is OK and preferred to hold on to the rider. Makes for a more stable ride by keeping weight in the center of the bike. Leaning toward the rider during acceleration helps.

#2 R: Be prepared to brake harder with a passenger because you are carrying more weight and will take longer to stop. Look further ahead and slow down earlier.



(Continued on page 3)



CR: Don't slide forward into the rider under heavy braking. This pushes the rider forward and shifts weight forward making the rear wheel lighter with less traction. Keep from sliding forward by holding on to something on the bike, squeezing the rider with your knees and keeping your legs straight on the floor boards or pegs.

Turns / Curves

NOTE: A turn is a slow, 90 degree left or right like you'd find at an intersection. A curve is an open road bend to the left or right normally taken at posted speed limits.



#1 R: Teach your CR to read the road ahead and to mimic your movements.

CR: Anticipate what road conditions will cause the rider to swerve, stop, accelerate, or lean into a curve. Adjust your movements accordingly.

#2 R: Set up for curves by anticipating the additional weight of a CR. More weight = more momentum going into a curve thus more speed requiring earlier braking.

CR: Learn to lean no further than, but in the same direction as, the rider. Squeeze the rider with your knees to keep the center of gravity close to the center of the bike.

#3 R: Many turns are executed after a stop. Expect the CR to move and shift weight at a stop simply to remain comfortable. Start your turn after the CR is still.

CR: Remain as still as possible with no sudden moves at stops. It's OK to shift your weight a bit while stopped but remain upright and still during a turn.

Communicating

One of the most important aspects of riding with a Co - Rider is communications. Intercoms work

great but, if you have no intercom, establish some rules.

#1 R: Teach your CR to minimize chatter and to speak over the same shoulder each time.

Turning your head left and right to find out which ear your CR is talking into is a distraction.



CR: Learn to speak over the same shoulder to minimize distractions to the rider. Remember, everything you say to a rider may distract them from concentrating on the road ahead.

#2 R: Ask your CR for feedback and make corrections during each ride.

CR: Tell the rider when you are uncomfortable or hear a strange noise or need a rest stop. If you aren't comfortable, neither of you will have an enjoyable ride.

#3 R: Show the CR as much about the motorcycle as you can like, how the GPS works, what the gages should read, what a strange noise or vibration is. They can be a great help to you.

CR: By learning how to read the GPS, you'll know when the rest stops are, how long to the destination, if or when the rider will be slowing to turn. Learning about the gages will also let you know things like oil pressure and voltage which is critical to safe operation. If something looks wrong, tell the ride immediately.

Riding together improves with experience and communications. Remember.....

- ▶ No sudden moves,
- ▶ Minimal and succinct communications
- ▶ Mutual concern for safety and comfort
- ▶ Identical safety equipment.....

.....will make any ride, for any distance, under any conditions, safe, enjoyable, and memorable.





VP's Vision

By: Ric 'Clutch' Case



Since I became Vice President of Top Cats, I have been using this column to present ideas for our organization to try to improve it. That why this column is exclusively in ROAR. I hope that when the ideas in the column reach all of you and after you think about it.. That it will be the starter of good conversations and new ideas.

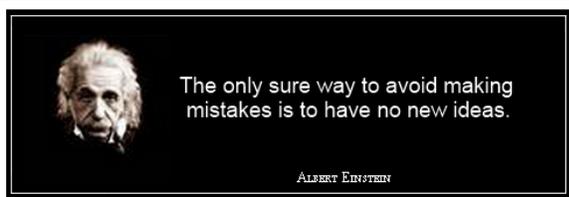
So, now it's your (the members) turn. Give me your ideas for any of our existing committees or ideas for new ones. Maybe some new activities... anything that might be

considered for improvement or development for the club.

Do not be bashful (as if I have to mention that to any Top Cat). Send me your ideas! We can discuss how it will benefit the club, and then I will present it to the Board for consideration. Complete with your suggestions on how to implement and develop the idea. I also promise I will not make you implement it yourself ~ unless you WANT to take the lead.

Let me close by wishing each and every one of you the Happiest of Holidays.

Your VP in action,



Oil Spots

By Traveler



Motorcycle thefts down 6 percent in 2014

Motorcycle thefts in the United States were down 6 percent in 2014, according to a report the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)



released today.

A total of 42,856 motorcycles were reported stolen in 2014 compared with 45,367 reported stolen in 2013—a decrease of 6 percent. The drop comes as overall motorcycle sales in 2014 increased by 4 percent over their 2013 total, according to Motorcycle Industry Council figures.

The top 10 states with the most reported motorcycle thefts in 2014 were California (6,355), Florida (3,981), Texas (3,274), South Carolina (2,146), North Carolina (2,117), New York (1,544), Indiana (1,508), Nevada (1,488), Georgia (1,455) and Maryland (1,127).

The top 10 cities for motorcycle thefts in 2014 were Las Vegas (1,163), New York (1,034), San Diego (650), Miami (541), San Francisco (516), San Antonio (447), Houston (439), Indianapolis (422), Los Angeles (397) and Albuquerque, N.M. (390).

(Continued on pg 5)



Oil Spots, Continued...

The top 10 most stolen motorcycles in 2014 by manufacturer were American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (8,045), Yamaha Motor Corp. (6,728), American Suzuki Motor Corp. (5,987), Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (4,497), Harley Davidson, Inc. (4,146), Taotao Group Co. Ltd (1,730), Astronautical Bashan (535), Jonway Group Co., Ltd. (503), KTM Sportmotorcycle AG (489) and Genuine Cycle (449).

The most motorcycle thefts occurred in August (4,965) and the fewest in February (1,978) reflecting a weather-influenced pattern that is consistent with previous years.

[Harley-Davidson to cut 250 salaried jobs](#)

Harley-Davidson will cut about 250 salaried jobs as part of a reorganization to focus on increased marketing announced in the [Motor Co.'s third quarter financial report](#).

The company said Oct. 20 it expects to incur one-time expenses of about \$30 million to \$35 million in the fourth quarter, primarily for employee separation and reorganization costs.



Spokesman Tony Macrito elaborated to the [York Daily Record](#), saying the cuts would not affect hourly employees.

"An early retirement incentive program will be offered to eligible employees in advance of what we believe will be a global reduction of around 250 salaried positions across the company, largely completed by the end of the year," Macrito said. "Adjustments in positions and structure will be made in essentially every part of the business to achieve the right focus and support the increased demand-generating investments."

[Final Love Ride raises \\$1 million for Wounded Warrior Project](#)

The final Love Ride held last weekend raised more than \$1 million for the Wounded Warrior Project,

organizers say.

Grand Marshal Jay Leno, Foo Fighters, Social Distortion and a star-studded cast of riders including the Harley-Davidson Royal Family - Willie G, Nancy, Bill and Karen Davidson - actors Peter Fonda, Robert Patrick, Emilio Rivera, Lorenzo Lamas, Kristy Swanson, Sean McNabb, Phillip Winchester, Mark Boone Junior, George Gray and countless others joined forces last weekend to support the Love Ride Grand Finale concert and festival - the largest and longest-running one-day motorcycle charitable fundraising event in the world, put on by an army of 750 volunteers.

Riders and attendees who participated won prizes such as a 2015 Harley-Davidson Black Street Glide motorcycle, an all-expense paid trip to the Harley-Davidson Factory and Museum in Milwaukee, a tour of Jay Leno's Garage and more. Full winners listed on the Love Ride website at www.loveride.org

After 32 years of service, this was the Love Ride's curtain call. In the words of the festival's founder, Oliver Shokouh; "It's been my honor to serve these causes for decades. I'm eternally grateful for the outpouring of support that so many gave this year as we ride off into the sunset with over \$1 million raised for Wounded

Warrior Project and a total legacy of over \$25 million for charities to date. Lives are changed because of your tendance and



participation over these years and I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

[Ride in Peace: Chris Hoak, McHenry Harley-Davidson](#)

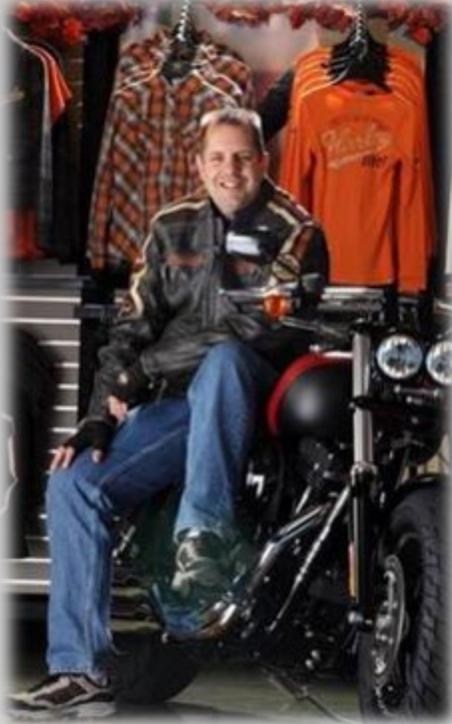
by [Mary Green Slepicka](#)

ON A BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN AFTERNOON, hundreds came to a small town in northernmost Illinois to honor the memory of Chris Hoak, general manager of **McHenry Harley-Davidson**, who lost his long battle with cancer Oct. 21. He was only 43.

(Continued on page 6)

Oil Spots, Continued...

When we interact with someone “in the business,” usually we have a singular view of that person. His other interests and priorities are not visible to us. We’re not aware of how much this person loves his wife and children, how devoted he is to his faith and his church, what his other interests are, or what he’s like on vacation or relaxing with his buddies.



But at this service, casual acquaintances were in the minority—the church was standing room only, filled with family and friends, and co-workers, customers and others who had become friends along the way.

There were hundreds of motorcyclists, some of whom had arrived early to witness the many others who participated in a memorial ride that ended at the church about 15 minutes before services began. There were dozens of people from the local Corvette Club, some of whom had one final memorial cruise for Chris before storing their vehicles for the winter. Many from the Methodist church were there, supporting their lifelong and devoted friend. Many others were dressed in Hawaiian shirts, in tribute to the vacation spot that Chris loved the most.

Chris was an admired and respected GM. I first met him after McHenry Harley-Davidson had won its first of multiple Top 100 awards, and then got to know him a little better when we were working on the dealership’s [cover story back in November 2013](#).

McHenry H-D was a reflection of Chris’s personality—friendly and relaxed, but with an uncanny attention to customer. I had visited quite a few dealerships where I could walk around for a half hour without not so much as eye contact with a staff member. But at McHenry H-D, I walked in and was greeted in 18 seconds. I told Chris how much I appreciated that. He raised his chin slightly, looked out at the showroom with a soft smile, and whispered, “OK, well, we’re having an event. It should have been 10 seconds.”

Ride in peace, Chris.
You were one of the good ones.

[Honda recalls 145,000 motorcycles](#)



American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (Honda) has issued a recall affecting 145,219 bikes after it was determined that a rear brake that drags may increase the risk of a vehicle crash. Also, extended riding with the rear brake dragging could generate enough heat to result in a fire.

This recall involves certain model year 2001-2010 and 2012-2015 GL1800, 2001-2005 GL1800A and 2013-2015 GL1800B motorcycles. The rear brakes of the affected motorcycles may drag after the brakes are released.

Honda will notify owners, and dealers will replace the secondary brake master cylinder and the rear brake master cylinder, and flush the brake fluid, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Honda customer service at 1-866-784-1870. Honda's number for this recall is JV6. Note: This recall supersedes recall 14V-472.

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

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Oil Spots, Continued

Senior management changes at Harley-Davidson



Harley-Davidson “has confirmed that Mark-Hans Richer, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) has left the company. Richer had been SVP of Marketing since 2007 and eventually had marketing, global demand (sales) and new customer outreach among his direct reports as CMO. Sean Cummings, who joined HOG in 2014 and recently led Latin America sales, will become SVP of Global Demand. Shelly Paxton will become VP of Marketing and Brand.”

Stay Safe Out There!

By now most of you likely have seen on social media or in news reports the road rage incident in Texas where a driver, apparently intentionally, swerves into a motorcycle passing him on a double yellow centerline. The passenger on the motorcycle received serious injuries and the driver of the car, on a video filmed by another rider, when asked why he did it, said, “I don’t care.” Fortunately, this incident didn’t result in a rider fatality, but plenty of other road rage incidents, usually involving cars, have, including a recent one where a four-year-old child was shot and killed.

There is something in the psyche of some car drivers, which demonstrates the disregard for people operating vehicles smaller than theirs and can trigger a road rage.

At the risk of pointing out the painfully obvious, motorcyclists, even those wearing full protective gear, are no match for a 4,000-pound or heavier vehicle. As riders, we have to choke-



down our emotions and not do something, like delivering a certain hand gesture or yelling profanity, which may trigger road rage behavior.

It is appropriate, if the opportunity safely presents itself, to respectfully let an offending driver know when their actions have put the rider in danger. Most drivers will respond positively to this and perhaps be more vigilant in the future. Absent that opportunity and driver response, though, it’s best to just let it go and live to ride another day.

In the Texas incident, however, it was the overt act of the motorcyclist passing the driver on a double yellow centerline, which, apparently, triggered the road rage. At some time or another, probably most, if not all, of us have been stuck behind a slow vehicle and been tempted to pass, or have passed, on the double yellow. The superior power-to-weight ratio of a motorcycle, compared to other vehicles, often means that there may be more room for the motorcyclist to safely pass others than the yellow no passing lines are calibrated for.

Other forms of perceived, or real, aggressive riding by motorcyclists also may trigger an unexpected, life-threatening road rage response from a seemingly normal and sane driver. Even if these “ticking-time bomb” drivers are a small percentage of the total driving public, they are virtually impossible to identify in advance from the seat of a motorcycle. Riders must be fully aware of the additional risk they are assuming when engaging in behaviors that might trigger a road rage response. This is just something to keep in mind as you share the road with much larger vehicles.

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Indian recalls 7,611 motorcycles with rear brake assembly problem

Indian Motorcycle Co. is recalling certain 7,611 motorcycles from the 2015 and 2016 model years to replace the rear brake master cylinder piston assembly.



Affected are 2015-16 Chief Classic, Chief

Vintage, Chieftain and Roadmaster motorcycles, and 2016 Dark Horse models, all manufactured from Jan. 2 to Oct. 23. Due to the problem with the existing rear brake master cylinder, the motorcycles may experience a reduction in, or complete loss of, rear brake power, NHTSA announced.

"We recently discovered that our supplier provided a portion of the rear brake master cylinder that does not meet Indian Motorcycle quality standards," the OEM told owners. "Indian Motorcycle dealers will replace the rear brake master cylinder piston on all motorcycles that could potentially be affected by this issue." The recall (NHTSA Campaign No. 15V721000) is expected to begin Nov. 13. Indian said service parts will be available for dealers to order immediately.

Woodstock H-D to raffle IMS custom trike in Veterans Day benefit

After two years touring the country in a fundraising campaign at Veteran events, rallies, conventions and trade shows, an International Motorcycle Show stage-built custom trike will get a forever home on Veterans Day. The H.E.R. (honor, encourage and recognize) Project trike will be raffled off at **Woodstock Harley-Davidson**. In partnership with the dealership, which donated the trike, the [XX Chromes All Women Bike Builders](#) built the trike on stage at the IMS in 2013. It traveled around the United States in and has been to Washington, D.C., with the Rolling Thunder motorcycle organization and a million other motorcyclists.



"We have raised \$22,000 for Disabled American Veterans with the help of Woodstock Harley-Davidson. Owners Doug and Cricket Jackson and their entire

team are huge supporters of Veterans and their families," said Gina Woods, creator of the H.E.R. Project. "It's been an amazing journey meeting and talking with the men and women of our great country that have served or have had someone in their family serve. We have had an outpouring of support on this project since the beginning with Tammy Duckworth's endorsement and signatures from celebrities such as Gary Sinise, former Chicago Bear John Janata and Green Bay Packer Lee Roy Butler."

House Adopts Highway Bill Amendments Beneficial to Motorcyclists

The U.S. House of Representatives adopted amendments to the federal Highway Bill last week that includes good news for on- and off-highway motorcyclists, the American Motorcyclist Association announced.

The Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015 approved last week by a vote of 363 to 64 provides \$325 billion over six years.

Amendments and other provisions passed by the House and supported by the AMA include:

- Continued funding for the Recreational Trails Program which provides funding to states for maintaining, improving and expanding off-highway recreational opportunities;
- A prohibition against using federal funds for motorcycle-only checkpoints;
- Reestablishing a Motorcycle Advisory Council to coordinate with and counsel the U.S. Department of Transportation administrator on infrastructure concerns of particular interest to motorcyclists.

Authorization for a study to be performed by the National Academies of Science on ways to prevent crashes; and

(Continued on page 9)



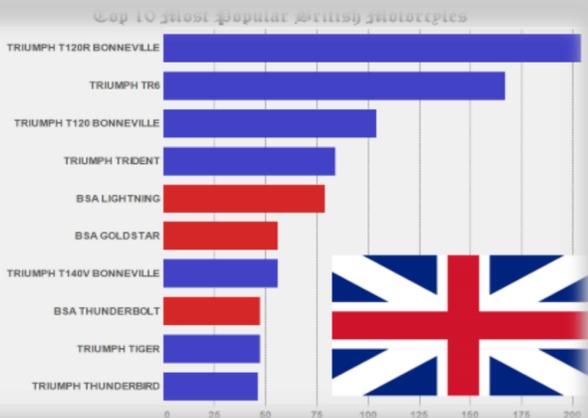
- Funding of highway safety grants that include programs to reduce distracted driving, including language that make it easier for states to successfully qualify for and receive the money.

The AMA supported a provision that would have banned the U.S. DOT from lobbying local, state or federal governments about policy issues. The House Rules Committee removed that amendment from consideration. However, the AMA hopes to get the language restored as the bill moves forward.

The Highway Bill now goes to conference committee, where differences between the Senate and House versions will be worked out.

GRAPH OF THE WEEK: THE 10 MOST POPULAR CLASSIC BRITISH MOTORCYCLES

By: Andrew Newton



Classic British motorcycles and their enduring popularity have a similar story to British sports cars. The United Kingdom lived by the “Export or Die” mantra during the immediate postwar years, and Britain’s industries ramped up production for sale abroad, particularly across the pond in the U.S. Motorcycles actually made up one of Britain’s largest industries behind automobiles for much of the post-war period, and almost everyone who was buying a large bike that wasn’t a Harley was buying something made in the British Isles. The period from the end of World War II until the Japanese invasion of the 1970s was a golden age for British bikes.

American riders bought Vincents, Nortons, Velocettes, Ariels, Royal Enfields and more, but as far as sales and popularity go, there are two marques that

stood above the rest: BSA and Triumph. This is shown in their popularity as classic motorcycles today.

After acquiring Triumph Motorcycles in 1951, the BSA Group quickly became the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world and the majority of both Triumph and BSA production for much of the 1950s and 1960s was exported. During the 1960s, Triumph had about half of the U.S. market for large bikes.

For both Triumph and BSA, the massive number of examples built (over 28,000 [Bonnevilles](#) in 1967 alone), ample parts availability, and rich history that includes racing success and appearances in pop culture make them practical, appealing classic bikes and explains why they’re the two most ridden classic British makes today.

Harley-Davidson extends free military rider training

Harley-Davidson will extend its offer of free Riding Academy motorcycle training to all current and former United States military for another year, making the training available through Dec. 31, 2016.



To continue its salute to the military, Harley-Davidson managing director and former U.S. Army officer Christian Walters will escort fellow veterans, including Dorsey Fyffe, a former U.S. Air Force flight engineer and Wounded Warrior Project peer mentor, to America's Parade in New York City aboard a Bell 407 U.S. Army helicopter Nov. 11.

The original offer of free Harley-Davidson Riding Academy kicked-off prior to Armed Forces Day aboard the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier in Charleston, S.C., making it only fitting to take to the air to announce the free training extension.

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Oil Spots, Continued...

All stateside military and veterans may take advantage of the offer by visiting a local Harley-Davidson dealer or going to h-d.com/AmericanHeroes. If Riding Academy is not available in a particular area, Harley-Davidson will reimburse the expense of attending a certified motorcycle safety program. Those currently deployed outside the U.S. also can submit the form by Dec. 31, 2016, and will receive a voucher for free motorcycle safety training good through 2017 when they return home.

To date, Harley-Davidson has donated more than \$1 million to support those who serve through fundraising initiatives, the Harley-Davidson Foundation and the Operation Personal Freedom MotorClothes collection. To learn more about Operation Personal Freedom visit www.h-d.com/military.

Indian Motorcycle Unveils the 2016 Scout Sixty



Indian Motorcycle has introduced the latest addition to its 2016 lineup — the all-new Indian Scout Sixty

— from the floor of the EICMA International Motorcycle Show in Milan, Italy. The new 999cc Scout Sixty promises a broad appeal to new rider segments with a premium motorcycle at the lowest MSRP yet for the brand.

The new Indian Scout Sixty offers many of the same features and components of the Indian Scout. The new Scout Sixty shares the Scout's identical chassis, suspension, brakes and core engine — all mated with a new 60 cubic inch engine. Featuring 78hp, the highest horsepower in class, and a dry weight of 542 pounds with a potent 65 ft./lbs. of linear torque, the Scout Sixty is paired with a silky smooth, easy-to-shift 5-speed transmission. Offered in three colors, the Scout Sixty features a black seat, matching black frame and wheels, and is compatible with the many accessories already available for the Indian Scout.

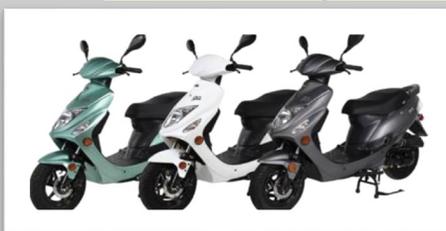
The Scout Sixty is available in Thunder Black start-

ing at \$8,999, with Indian Motorcycle Red and Pearl White color options starting at \$9,299. “We expect the Scout Sixty to accelerate the already unprecedented success we have had with the new Scout platform,” said Indi-

an Motorcycle Marketing Director Scott Meek. “The custom community has really embraced the Scout and we have experienced intense enthusiasm from DIY customizers, dealers, pro-builders and the aftermarket.”



Chicago Scooter Company Debuts with \$1099 ‘go.’ Scooter



The Chicago Scooter Company opened its doors for business this week, offering its first new

scooter, the “go.” The “go.” boasts standard features that far out-weigh other competing economical scooters, including alloy rims, 7 amp battery, Duro Brand tires, three Coats of UV Resistant Paint and anodized hardware to resist rust. Additional features include telescopic fork front suspension, single shock rear suspension, front disc brakes, rear drum brakes and high quality wiring harness.

The “go.” will be sold through dealers across the country and is available in mint green, white or matte titanium. Powered by a 49.6cc, 2.0 horsepower restricted forced air engine, the “go.” will reach a top speed of 30 mph, is drivable in most states with a standard auto driver's license, and features 100 miles per gallon gas mileage.

With a MSRP of \$1099, the “go.” comes with a one year limited parts warranty.

For information: www.chicagoscootercompany.com

(Continued on page 11)



Oil Spots, Continued...

[Harley-Davidson gift guide has something for everyone](#)

Tis the season for ugly sweaters, awkward holiday parties, and too much time with the in-laws, but Harley-Davidson wants to help enthusiasts break out with gifts from classic-cool leather to tech and audio toys.

The gift guide at H-D.com/Holiday offers hundreds of branded items to rev up the holidays and add some rebellion to the season. With most items priced under \$100 and dozens under \$50, Harley gifts won't break the bank, but they'll definitely break the mold.

Gifters may shop from the Harley-Davidson Motor-Clothes collection for stuff like the [Vintage Leather Biker Jacket](#) (\$425), a modern piece inspired by the roots of rocker biker culture. For women, the [Miss Enthusiast 3-in-1 Leather Jacket](#) (\$475) offers a contemporary take on an old-school biker look.

Whether it's after a long ride through the country or a long day at the office, everyone loves to relax and enjoy a drink. For the man cave there are Harley-Davidson [Rocks Glasses](#) (\$45) and [Logo Whiskey Stones](#) (\$40) to add



style to cocktail hour.

This year, stuff the most badass stockings on the block are stuffed with items like the Harley-Davidson [Tool Kit](#) (\$85). And staying warm this winter doesn't have to mean sacrificing flair, with options like the [Windshield Gauntlet Gloves](#) (\$90) for him, and the [Lace Accent Hoodie](#) (\$85) for her, there are Harley-Davidson gifts for every rebel on the list.

Non-rider on the nice list? No problem, just give the [Harley-Davidson Riding Academy](#) course offered at Harley-Davidson.com/learntoride and dealers. And the bikes. There's always the bikes.

Finally, for a gift that really helps gives back, the Harley-Davidson [Operation Personal Freedom Collection](#) offers cool styling with 10 percent of the proceeds donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.



First 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.



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.

(Continued on page 12)



Sturgis 2016....

By Traveler



As this edition goes to publication, we are close to 60 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 cutoff 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](tel:5073451234), 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](tel:6052244140)

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 \(2539\)](tel:800888ALEX) and Identify yourself as a Top Cat for special rates.

Cut-Off Date: 1 Feb 2016

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.boand@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...





ELECTIONS 2016....

By Traveler



Annually we have the opportunity to either vote to confirm a slate or to choose candidates for our Board of Directors and our Executive Committee for the coming year. Annually, we verify our members who are eligible to vote and who are eligible to run for office based on Club participation, dues, GRASS attendance, committee service, etc, consistent with our Bylaws.

As we approach this key, and critical, Club event all of us should be reminded of the impact of our vote....

Ideally, with our vote we are continuing the great legacy of Top Cats – Illinois into our 21st year and selecting the best possible candidates to run our Club consistent with our By Laws. Ideally, each of us will cast our vote to select or confirm candidates based on their proven performance, dedication, and contributions to the Club. Ideally, our selections will not be based on personal friendships alone, animosity, or in retaliation toward the Club, its leadership, or its members.

When you find yourself faced with a selection decision, simply look at your choices and determine 1.) Who has the best interest of the Club at heart, 2.) Who has a proven record of dedication to the Club, 3.) Who has the experience for that particular position and, 4.) If all else is a tie, ask yourself who you see at every ride, every meeting, every committee activity, every Club event, and every charity ride. That should help you decide.

NOMINATIONS. We have a wealth of eligible candidates this year and we are very fortunate to have each incumbent accept a nomination for another term. The positions up for election / reelection this year are:

Secretary
Two Directors

Eligibility for nomination includes; dues paid, attend a combination of 5 meetings/events per year, GRASS attended within the last 3 years, service on the Board or on a committee. In addition to the incumbents, members eligible for nomination to run for President, Vice President, or director, subject to their acceptance will be published after the 30 Oct due date for dues. At that time we ask that nominations be received by a serving Board member by 15 November 2015.

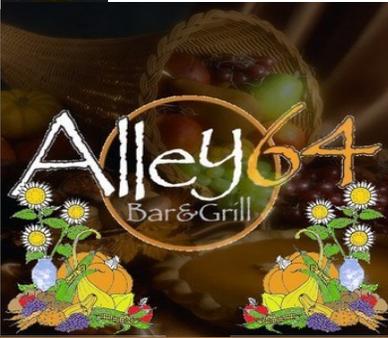
Please be cautious of candidates who violate Club policy of no campaigning or who try to influence voting. That kind of lack of integrity will only result in a negative impact on one of the finest Clubs in this area....Top Cats – Illinois.



VOTING. To be eligible to vote...by 30 November each year each Top Cat must have been a member in good standing for one year, attend GRASS within the first year of membership and within the past three years thereafter, and attend a combination of 5 meetings/events per year.

The Board can waive certain requirements on an individual basis for unforeseen hardships or circumstances.

Your Responsible Actions
Will Build A Strong Club!



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our President,
Mike Bradbury

Guests:

- *Wilson Chua and Robert Laroco, Friends of Mano Gawat, have already attended three Top Cats events. Two meetings and the fall colors ride.*
- *Steve Humphreys and Joe Sadlow, are friends of Roxray and Joe has already attended two meetings*

All four of the guests have filled out applications.



President: Mike Bradbury

Pledge of Allegiance

- The Meeting Welcome was made memorable by all of the great jokes. You will have to be here to appreciate the levity as the people are good, but not always the jokes!
- Rich Lanute and Tina Schiffmayer were given their new member packet.
- Mano Gawat and Roxray Adonis introduced their guests to the membership.

Vice President: Ric Case

Safety

- Ric talked about the necessity of taking the GRASS class in order to maintain your position as a member in good standing.
- The schedule for next year will be published in the December ROAR
- The last GRASS class was used for updating the slides for the presentation as there were no attendees at the class.

KK Safety Tip: Dennis Dougherty

- Dennis presented a highlighted version of his detailed article, *Mind the Gap*, that was in the November edition of ROAR. Be sure to read the entire article as it is filled with many good tips about riding safely in a group.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

November 7th will be Woodstock Harley Davidson's Patriot's Day event. The bricks that have been bought by the club for Top Cats and for Mr. Canger have been placed. Wayne encouraged all of the members to come out and celebrate the dedication and to honor and remember those who gave so much to keep our lives rich and free.

ROAR Newsletter: Mary Kirkpatrick

- The members were asked to help 'recapture' the attendance. Most of the year was documented in pictures, but having the double check will ensure accuracy.
- The next edition of the ROAR will be the last one for our 20th anniversary year. Each member will be asked to send a favorite memory this month along with their picture to be included in this final edition!



General Meeting,, Continued

Charity: Noelle Rigsby

Committee Status

- Ride For Dreams to the Valley of the Kings will be held on June 12, 2016. Noelle gave the members a taste of what the event will hold with stories and a few pictures (thanks to Lisa Purcell). It has great potential for making great memories for the club... and then for the participants of NISRA who will receive our donation!
- Mike Bradbury strongly urged the members to all be involved this year. He discussed the importance of the event and the importance of each member's participation.
- Noelle gave a N.I.S.R.A. Fashion Show event reminder and there are 10 members who have committed to attend.

Nominations: Mike Bradbury and Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Dues status for eligibility was reviewed and members were asked to be sure that their 2016 dues have been paid.
- Nominations were requested. At this time, there were no nominations for the following positions.
 - ⇒ Director positions
 - ⇒ Secretary position

Activities: Gene Rigsby

- Gene introduced Bob Stevenson who will be the new activities committee chairman. He will work with Gene to ensure that the calendar is full for the next year!
- The group began to talk about Event Solicitations for the next year. Wayne suggested a ride to the AMA for three days in April to get the year under way.
- The group was given a review of the next Sturgis trip. There are so many good memories and fun built into the 'routine' that there is always something to look forward to each year. From the conversation, it looks like it will be another good group going in 2016.
- Announcement of future 2015 events were then reviewed
- January 23rd will be shoot-out, arranged by Ric Case. We will have breakfast at the Island Café and then shooting will begin at 9am.

50 / 50 Raffle was pulled by our Sergeant at Arms Jim Purcell. The 50/50 was won by Rox Adonis... Congratulations!

Meeting Adjourned at 9pm by Mike Bradbury,

Be Sure to Check out the new

Top Cats.org

Website...

It is a beautiful thing!





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 10TH, 2014

Alley 64

2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

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

Excused: Greg Ludwig, Jeff Tietz

President: Mike Bradbury

- Board Positions and Nominations were reviewed. Other nominees were explored as well.
- NISRA 2015 Donation was discussed. Noelle Rigsby has submitted a budget for the 2016 Charity Event and the board suggested that we leave a little extra for unseen incidentals in the account. Leaving that amount in the account, the donation would be \$3000.00 for this year.
- Ric made the motion that we donate \$3000.00 to NISRA at our annual awards banquet. Mike was the second and the board agreed unanimously.
- Mike also asked for the purchase of more patches for the club. The supply is getting low. Wayne will get the information to Mike on the supplier.

Vice President: Ric Case

- The G.R.A.S.S. Schedule for 2016 was presented to the board. Meeting dates are:
 - ⇒ January 31 will be the Road Captain Meeting
 - ⇒ May 22nd
 - ⇒ July 31
 - ⇒ October 23rd
- All classes will run from 8am to noon.
- The October GRASS Class meeting was used to update the GRASS Presentation. The KK articles were also reviewed.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Discussion was had on the Kaution Korner. It was decided that the person who wrote the column for the month should also be at the meeting to present their information. Ric will address this with the Road Captains. Wayne suggested that the members who have left the club be sent an invitation to the Awards Banquet. The board agreed and Wayne will create a roster of old members to send invitations and get that to Mike and Gene to send out when the invitations are ready.

Activities: Gene Rigsby

- Gene reviewed upcoming 2 months of activities. There was discussion on events that can be held during the winter months.

Email BLASTS will be sent out more than once in advance. Presently Gene has been sending them out twice before the event.

ROAR/Secretary: Mary Kirkpatrick

Roster Updates will be sent to the board reflecting the new members from this month and the paid members for 2016. The Attendance Roster will also be sent so that the eligible voters can be identified in advance of the December elections.

Membership: Emil Kirkpatrick

- New Candidates Applications. Guests of Rox Adonis and Mano Gawat applied at the General Meeting. Their applications were reviewed and the board voted to accept these applications:



Board Meeting, Continued

- Wilson Chua – Mike 1st, Gene 2nd, and The board voted to accept Wilson unanimously.
- Robert Laroco - Mike 1st, Wayne 2nd and The board voted to accept Robert unanimously.
- Steven Humphreys - Mike 1st, Gene 2nd, and The board voted to accept Steven unanimously.
- Joe Sadlow – Mike 1st, Wayne 2nd, and The board voted to accept Joe unanimously.
- New Member Package Presentations were discussed and the patches and pins that are given in the packets were discussed. Emil reported that these items were running low and The Board agreed to reorder these to resupply the inventory.
- The New Member Application Process was reviewed and adjusted. The process will now include:
 - ⇒ Get the application and check to Emil
 - ⇒ Emil will present to the board
 - ⇒ Application will go to secretary for addition to the Roster
 - ⇒ Check will go to Treasurer for deposit
 - ⇒ Application will be scanned in by secretary and sent to board
 - ⇒ Hard copy of the application will be returned to membership who will keep them for two years.

Website: Mike Bradbury

- Jeff will be completing the final pieces with American Creative.

Updates to last meetings action items:

- Change the agent of record will cost \$32 and Mike will become the agent of record. This is the person who will be contacted by the state concerning tax and other financial pieces for the club. Ric motioned that we approve the \$32. Gene was the second. The board agreed unanimously.
- Mike brought up the tax document 990 EZ that he is completing. They will be done by the end of the month and sent in to the state.

Meeting Adjourned by Mike Bradbury at 9pm.



December Celebrations!

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

17th – Emil Kornecki
30th – Dennis Dougherty

Happy New Year!!





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Contact Traveler





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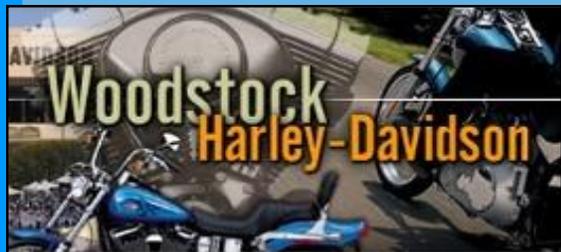
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Membership Has Its Privileges!

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

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our own Top
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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.

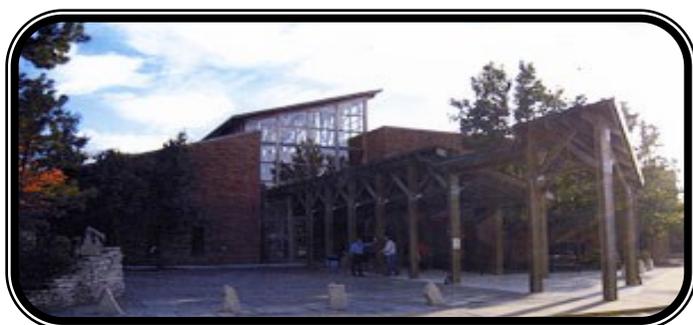
If you have an interest in becoming Top Cats Historian or being a part of this activity please contact Dennis P. (*Wombat*) Dougherty at wombat@dpdougherty.com



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, December 1st	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, December 8th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, January 5th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, January 12th	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



ROAR



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

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

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