



ROAR

February, 2020

Volume 20, Issue 2

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Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 4 GENERAL MEETING
8 IMS
- 8 TC BANQUET
- 11 BOARD MEETING
- 16 CHILI COOK-OFF

MARCH

- 7 GENERAL MEETING
- 14 BOARD MEETING
- 22 CABIN FEVER—WHD

Talk to Greg Smith and Jim Purcell and get your ideas on the calendar!





ROAR

PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello Top Cats!!

Can you believe it is only 70-ish days until we ride.... Woo hoo...

The annual RC GRASS class was held this past Sunday (1/26). During this class each year, we review the GRASS presentation with all the RCs and discuss the actions involved with putting on a safe ride, OUR way. Believe me, it is a good amount of work and time that goes into taking our Top Cat friends on a great adventure, so show our RCs you appreciate their hard work by attending their rides. Also during the class, we make updates and changes to our GRASS presentation and make improvements for clarity, so it is kept up to date . This is also the time when the RCs get their rides on the calendar and there are some great rides to enjoy this year. So go to the club calendar now and write all

the event dates in YOUR calendar or put them in your phone or whatever so you can plan all the event.

Speaking of events, our annual breakfast and trip to the International Motorcycle Show is set for (2/8). RSVP to me by (2/5). That same day (2/8) is our annual club award dinner. Dinner will be at the same place as last year, The Onion Pub, which was great. Good food and beer. The next event coming up quickly, is the 2020 Chili Cook-off on (2/16) with the Purcells (Thank you Jim and Lisa). There are some very fun, extra activities planned for the cook-off so don't miss it. RSVP now.

Look for the blasts that have been sent out, and check the club calendar for details about these activities.

Only weeks into the new year and we already have some great events to attend, as well as a good number of great rides on the calendar! So much to look forward to and enjoy during the 2020 riding season. This is why Top Cats - Illinois is the premier motorcycle riding club in the Chicagoland area.

Please feel free to reach out to me at anytime via my email: Gene.rigsby@gmail.com, or phone, 847-770-9425.

Looking forward to seeing you there....
Gene "Lucky" Rigsby

KAUTION KORNER



**By: Mike
"Motorcycle"
Bradbury
Senior Road Captain**

A concept integral to motorcycle riding safety is.....



What a simple concept for a broader based philosophy contributing to success in all areas of life is simply the term, planning. Planning is an important contributor to being safer when riding your motorcycle. What do I mean by that you ask? Plenty I say!

Planning your motorcycle maintenance and service schedule leads to being a safer motorcyclist. Plan to commit your service check-ups per your manufacturer's recommended schedule and to least interfere with your riding season. You can do this by monitoring their recommendations vs. your mileage and have the service performed earlier than recommended if it fits your riding schedule better. I plan service during what most consider is a non-riding season, which us Midwesterners call "Winter".

(Continued on page 3)



KAUTION KORNER

Plan to regularly monitor your tire and brake components to ensure they are not below the recommended thicknesses and that your brake pads and rotors are not excessively thin and worn. These are huge contributors to your riding safety and are important. But without proper planning, you may find you can't get this done before a particular ride so it's easier to say, "nothing will happen to me" but usually when I think that is when I learn I am wrong. I always plan this type of service as recommended but I especially plan for this if needed before my major multi-day rides.



The same with your motorcycle fluids. Keeping the oil, transmission and crankcase fluids level and changed per your OEM's recommended schedule is extremely important. Leveling fluids and changing them when dirty as per schedule can make a huge difference for having a properly operating motorcycle, let alone protecting your investment. But, I also plan to schedule those changes on time or earlier in relation to my ride schedules. Without a plan, it's too easy to neglect and, under pressure for time, procrastinate getting this done.

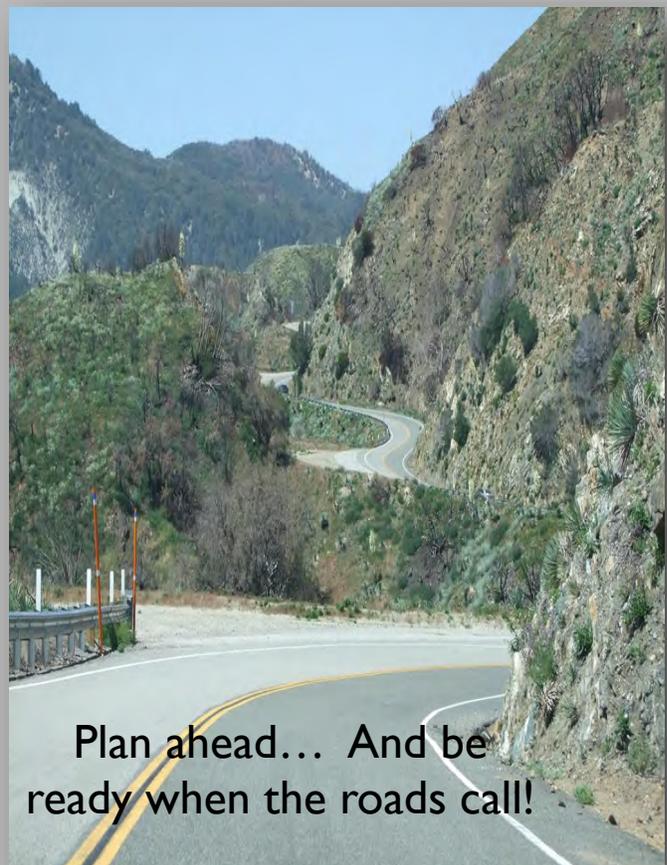


All aspects of motorcycling are improved when you plan properly. Proper and good fitting riding gear including motorcycle helmets, gloves, jackets, chaps, rain suits are all factors helping us ride safer. But what if your gear is worn and damaged, but you never plan to doing anything about it?

Good planning has a secondary benefit. It will save you money! Building a plan to review your equipment before a rally, or show like the International Motorcycle

Show affords you a better chance to shop and take advantage of deals before the need stares you in the face. My rain suit pants are ripped and need to be replaced now. I plan to get them during winter so I have them for the riding season. How does having undamaged gear like rain suit pants help us be safer? By not trailing fabric that would interfere with my foot controls, could catch in a moving part or cause me to fall while putting on or wearing. But to get to replacing them by the riding season, I have to have a plan. So planning for this need now, helps me be a safer motorcyclist.

Planning for all motorcycle activities and maintaining your motorcycle makes you safer. Training, practicing maneuvering and operating your motorcycle are some of the many things to accomplish to be as safe as possible. Review all areas of motorcycle riding and with a good plan you can address them thoroughly and properly with the least interference with doing rides all to be a safer rider.



Plan ahead... And be ready when the roads call!





Oil Spots

By Traveler



Furthermore, the MSF has admitted the BRC does not comply with NHTSA Model National Administrative Standards for State Motorcycle Rider Training Programs (published 2011) and has refused to take corrective actions.

Out of 20 similar rider training products, the BRC is also apparently the only one to have suffered fatalities.

MSF, MIC, Basic Rider Course Under Fire



In November 2019, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) filed a complaint against the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) and the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC), claiming that they are incorrectly reporting injuries and fatalities stemming from the MSF Basic Rider Course (BRC) curriculum.

It is alleged that the BRC violates state laws and Federal Trade Commission requirements by failing to investigate and report deaths that occur in rider training classes.

The complaint indicates that since 2001, the BRC was distributed into interstate commerce by an “unapproved educational facility” (the MSF), resold to consumers for recreational purposes, and responsible for an estimated 30 deaths of curriculum users. The most recent death occurred June 28, 2019, in Virginia.

The CPSC claims that since 2009, the MSF chose to self-insure (unregulated), to prevent having to report the outcome of liability claims. Training sites were reportedly pressured into both purchasing the insurance and keeping any injuries and fatalities confidential.

The MSF has admitted to at least 12 fatalities in the BRC through 2008, but they stopped reporting after becoming self-insured.

Rider training is not required for most adults in the U.S. (but is for minors), as a riding test can usually be performed at the DMV. However, the BRC is considered easier than the DMV test for most riders. The BRC requires only five hours of classroom and 10 hours of low-speed parking lot riding, plus a short skills test. After successful completion, participants receive a DMV riding test waiver in most states, which is easy to convert into a full motorcycle endorsement.

By way of comparison, Canada has a 32-hour program that also includes an on-road evaluation and puts several limits on first-year riders, including no riding at night or with a passenger.



Most European countries have a tiered licensing structure, where new riders must start on a small displacement bike,

(Continued on page 5)



then retest after a certain period of riding, if they want to upgrade to a larger displacement bike.

Because the MSF and MIC are funded primarily by motorcycle manufacturers and government grants, some experts believe the BRC is both a monopoly and a conflict of interest. The indication is that manufacturers have more incentive to create new motorcyclists (quantity) than to ensure the proper training of motorcyclists (quality).

E15 Cautions!!!!



Owners of any vehicle built before 2001, beware: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing a rule approving the sale of E15 gasoline year-round, so use extra care when gassing up this summer.

In the United States, ninety-eight percent of gasoline sold already contains some amount of ethanol. Motorcycles produced in the past two decades or so generally have no problem burning the common E10 blend, which contains 10 percent ethanol. Some stations have offered E15, which bumps the amount of ethanol to 15 percent, since 2005, but the EPA had previously banned its sale during the summer amid con-



cerns that it contributed to the creation of smog. The EPA is poised to rescind the ban and make E15 available throughout the year under a rule it could finalize by June 1, 2020.

The change won't happen overnight, and you'll still be able to get E10. Still, riders will want to be mindful when filling up. Not all motorcycles are certified for the higher concentration of ethanol, which can gum up fuel systems and cause corrosion in engines that haven't been designed to burn it.

The number of cars approved for E15 has increased for 2019, according to the Renewable Fuels Association, which represents ethanol producers however....motorcycle manufacturers have not certified any engine for E15 fuel.

Ethanol is a simple alcohol that, when added to gasoline, acts as an oxygenate. Federal regulations have mandated ethanol-blended gasoline to reduce carbon monoxide, hydrocarbon, and particulate emissions while increasing the use of renewable fuels.

Yet, even if the ethanol had not been mandated, fuel producers would still use it because it is a cheap, and safe, octane booster.



Pure ethanol has an octane rating of 130.

There's no need to panic, but you'll want to be vigilant.

Any gas pumps dispensing ethanol should have a sticker affixed that explicitly identifies the ethanol content of the gasoline. If you don't see it, ask a gas station employee.



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ROAR

Oil Spots, continued...

If you ride in New Jersey or Oregon, where attendants do the pumping, make sure they use the right one.

Using gasoline with a higher concentration of ethanol than the automaker recommends could damage metal and plastic parts. This is especially true in motorcycles, which can experience other problems associated with burning alcohol. Ethanol absorbs moisture more easily than gasoline, which can cause corrosion problems in fuel tanks and gum up filters and carburetors. It also can dissolve rust in the fuel tank, which could then find its way into the fuel system.

For winter storage, use only ethanol-compatible gas-storage additives.



If you want to avoid ethanol altogether, look for small vendors that sell pure gasoline. You can usually find them at or near marinas, drag strips and small airports. Check pure-gas.org for user-updated lists of such places in the U.S. and Canada. Just be aware that these smaller vendors are getting harder to find (and tend to charge much more).

So....add one more item to a road captains' checklist for the pre ride.....fuel rating!

[Honda Reaches 400 Million-Unit Milestone in Cumulative Global Motorcycle Production](#)

Since the introduction of the Dream D-Type in 1949, Honda's 70th anniversary of motorcycle mass-production marks the company's 400 million-unit milestone for global motorcycle production. Honda was founded in 1948 and began mass-production of motorcycles at its first overseas produc-

tion facility in Belgium in 1963. Since then, Honda has expanded its production globally in accordance with its fundamental principle of producing locally where there is demand. Honda currently produces a wide range of motorcycles, from 50cc commuters to 1,800cc models, at 35 facilities in 21 countries.



Since its foundation, Honda has developed and provided products that meet the needs of customers in many countries and regions, based on its belief that "the purpose of technology is to help people." As a result, Honda achieved its 100 million-unit milestone in 1997, and its 300 million-unit milestone in 2014. In 2018, Honda exceeded an annual production of 20 million units for the first time in its history and enjoys strong support from customers in the Asia region and worldwide. Honda will continue to construct its development and production structure to meet rising demand. And, Honda will strive to realize its 2030 vision, to serve people worldwide with the "joy of expanding their life's potential."

Takahiro Hachigo, chief executive officer, Honda Motor



Co., Ltd. said: "For 70 years, Honda has provided to customers worldwide motorcycles that make life easier and enjoyable. As a result, we have achieved our 400 million-unit milestone. I am grateful to all of our customers, and everyone involved in development, manufacturing, sales and service of our products. We will continue to do our best to provide attractive products that meet the needs and dreams of our customers worldwide."

(Continued on pg. 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

Honda's path to 400 million unit global motorcycle production

- 1948: Honda Motor Co., Ltd. founded
- 1949: Honda releases its first major motorcycle model, the Dream D-Type
- 1958: Honda releases its first Super Cub, the Super Cub C100
- 1963: Honda begins motorcycle production in Belgium (its first motorcycle factory outside of Japan)
- 1967: Honda begins motorcycle production in Thailand
- 1968: Honda reaches 10 million-unit milestone for cumulative global motorcycle production
- 1971: Honda begins motorcycle production in Indonesia
- 1976: Honda begins motorcycle production in Brazil / Honda begins motorcycle production in Italy
- 1979: *Honda begins motorcycle production in North America*
- 1980: Honda begins motorcycle production in Nigeria
- 1984: Honda reaches 50 million-unit milestone for cumulative global motorcycle production
- 1992: Honda begins motorcycle production in China
- 1997: Honda begins motorcycle production in Vietnam / Honda reaches 100 million-unit milestone for cumulative global motorcycle production (achieved in 48 years)
- 2001: Honda begins motorcycle production in India
- 2004: Honda exceeds 10 million-unit annual motorcycle production for the first time
- 2008: Honda reaches 200 million-unit milestone for cumulative global motorcycle production (11 years since 100 millionth unit)
- 2013: Honda begins motorcycle production in Bangladesh
- 2014: Honda reaches 300 million-unit milestone for cumulative global motorcycle production (6 years since 200 millionth unit)
- 2018: Honda exceeds 20 million-unit annual motorcycle production for the first time

2019: Honda reaches 400 million-unit milestone for cumulative global motorcycle production (5 years since 300 millionth unit)

2020 GMC Sierra Harley-Davidson Truck Preview



[Harley-Davidson](#) unveiled its latest in a long line of limited-edition H-D branded pickup trucks. For the first time ever, the truck is a GMC Sierra. Harley is still collaborating with longtime partner Tuscany Motor Co. to build these special sweet trucks, so if you want one,



simply put your name down for one of the 250 units being built and be prepared to shell out \$94,995 for the right of owning this bad boy.

The 2020 Harley-Davidson Limited-Edition GMC Sierra is built by longtime H-D collaborators from the Tuscany Motor Co. It will be available in either Summit White or Onyx Black versions.

“Harley-Davidson and GMC are two of the most recognizable and admired American brands in the world,”

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Oil Spots, continued...

said Jon Bekefy, general manager of brand marketing at Harley-Davidson Inc. “We’re proud of the new Harley-Davidson edition GMC Sierra. It truly reflects Harley-Davidson’s passion for giving committed riders new ways to share their affinity for the brand and for riding.”

The Harley-Davidson GMC features beautiful hand-stitched leather seats and matching interior designed by Tuscany Motor Co. with plenty of strategically placed H-D badging. *Harley-Davidson*

Love it or hate it, the H-D Sierra is a good-looking truck and the folks from Tuscany know a thing or two about building awesome 4x4s, so you are guaranteed to get a truck that’s built to stand the test of time.

The instrument panel gets a touch of Harley-Davidson with orange backlighting and H-D badges in the corners of the display.

The 2020 Harley-Davidson Limited-Edition GMC Sierra features a BDS suspension lift with Fox shocks and 35-inch all-terrain tires which combine to create its classy appearance.



Check out the trick, Harley-Davidson-branded 22-inch milled aluminum wheels styled after the wheels found on the popular Harley-Davidson Fat Boy.

The back side of the Harley-Davidson GMC includes a custom designed rear bumper with dual H-D exhaust tips and a tailgate with a sharp-looking Harley appliqué.



The custom design Harley-Davidson grille features the Bar & Shield logos symmetrically cut out of the grille insert.

The custom design Harley-Davidson grille features the Bar & Shield logos symmetrically cut out of the grille insert.



All four corners of the 2020 Harley-Davidson Limited-Edition GMC Sierra includes custom fender flares,

while functional fender vents and a complete front bumper redesign cap off the look of the H-D Jimmy.

A color-matched tonneau cover with debossed Harley-Davidson Bar & Shield logo, a carpeted bed mat with Harley-Davidson logo, and, of course, Harley-Davidson floor mats combine to offer more Harley logos than you can shake a stick at.



Underneath the H-D GMC is a BDS skid plate, LED light bar, and a pair of orange tow hooks, just in case you push it a little too hard.

The 2020 Harley-Davidson GMC will be available to the public at select authorized GMC dealers beginning February 2020.

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Dreams Come True!

V.P.'s Vision

By: Mary 'Trooper' Kirkpatrick

Gene has forecasted that the first ride will be in about 70 days... So, if the kick-off ride is given good weather, we only have about 10 weeks of winter left! That sounds like the right amount of time to 'plan' as Mike has directed. And, in Mike's planning, he is forecasting at least 37 riding days in our season. That was before I added another 5 days.. And if weather permits... that is almost 8 straight weeks worth of riding together! With all of the planning, this year is promising!

I'm going to take advantage of being the editor/publisher and give you a little 'teaser' on the upcoming events. There are some awesome day rides on the horizon... with food as the main destination. The *Meaty Ride*, a *Prime Quarter* ride, a ride to New Diggins and a ride to *Psycho Silo*.



Then, there are multi-day rides to:



Field of Dreams,
Door County,



The Sturgis 80th Anniversary Ride,
and the Post Sturgis Ride into Beauty!



Mike is adding an Ozark
Adventure Ride in September!



Right now, it seems that all we can do is dream but,
What great things to have in our dreams!

Check the calendar for dates and begin to PLAN! Get your bike ready, get your schedule ready and one day SOON...

Our Dreams will come true!



Respectfully Submitted
by:
Diana Lanute

BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 14TH, 2020

President – Gene Rigsby

- Meeting called to order 7:00 pm
- **Committee Meeting (Charity):** Lisa Purcell to head up “Ride for Dreams”, one more year.
- Jim Purcell will assist Lisa as needed.
- \$25 ride fee and free Volo admission. \$10 “Ride-In-Bike Show” participation.
- **New Board Members (Welcome)** Don De Lordo Treasurer: Diana Lanute, Secretary
- **2019 Awards Dinner:** February 8, 2020. We must guarantee 25 people, please RSVP. Awards categories were discussed.
- **Immediate Needs:** None
- **Ride for Dreams review with new committee chair:** Jim Purcell will look into banner for this event.

Past President – Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Nothing to report

Vice President – Mary Kirkpatrick

- We need to find new ride destinations – places people want to go, thereby injecting energy into the rides.

Activities – Greg Smith

- Chili Cook-off at the Purcell home: date to be rescheduled. Prizes will be awarded.
- Road Captain’s meeting is 01/26.
- International Motorcycle Show and Awards Dinner on 02/08.
- WSHD Cabin Fever on 02/22

Safety – Ric Case

- We need someone to develop a spreadsheet for the Safety Committee
- RC Meeting, January 26th Preparation
- Safety Committee is still in need of a chairperson
- Wayne requested a change to the RC requirements to one ride per year. This will be discussed at the meeting.
- Training with Rolling Thunder _ Need GRASS Classes together in March or April.
- First Aid (Basic)/ Advanced Training. Ric will check with Steve Johnson and Rich Lanute

Membership - Ted Makarewicz: Excused. Gene gave a short report for Ted.

- Membership Committee: We will have Membership Cards at the February meeting.
- No Additional Members at this time.
- All were asked to think of membership drive ideas.

Charity / Products – Lisa Purcell

- Ride for Dreams Date: 06/14/2020, Noelle Rigsby will assist as needed.
- An anonymous \$500.00 donation was received. Donor name to be kept in Charity Account.
- Woodstock HD will support us as needed included parking.
- VOLO Museum is good too.

Treasure - Don De Lordo

- Don will be reviewing the information that he has just received from Noelle Rigsby and will give report in February.

Secretary – Diana Lanute

- January General Meeting Minutes submitter to Gene Rigsby for approval
- Gene Rigsby noted that recreational marijuana is not allowed on Federal Property. Wayne noted that we can’t use in public.

Meeting Adjourned – Gene Rigsby: 8:09 pm



February Birthdays and Anniversaries!



February 8th
TC Banquet!
Come to see
who Gene
will 'Call Out'
This year!
And enjoy
our great TC
friends!



No Birthdays
On the List for
February..

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities
for February!!
Let us know your special Dates so that
we can celebrate with you!



Anniversaries

2nd - Jim
and
Lisa
Purcell



January 16th
Chili Cook-Off
Prizes.... But
who cares when
the taste testing
is sooo much
fun!
New Venue:
The Purcell's
Home



*Top Cats Buy, Sell, Trade....
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have stuff to sell!



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**GET READY...
ICE SCULPTING IS AVAILABLE
FOR WINTER ACTIVITIES...
A FEBRUARY EVENT?**



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your fellow
Riders here...**



Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Doug Jackson and Staff Support our Top Cat's Ride for Dreams!



PALATINE, IL

Home to Alley 64,
Top Cat's Monthly Meeting Spot!

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.

Sign-up your favorite merchant today!



Greg Smith

Keller - Williams Success Realty

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60010**

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Have one of our own Top Cats work with you to buy or sell your home!



Winter Wonderlands...
Time to explore before the Riding Begins!





RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, February 4th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, February 8th	International Motorcycle Show	Tiffany's Cafe	Stephens Convention Center	8:30 am	Rigsby
Saturday, February 8th	TC Banquet	Lake Barrington	Onion Pub		Rigsby
Tuesday, February 11th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, February 16th	Chili Cook-Off	Lake Barrington	Purcell's Home	11:30am	Rigsby
Saturday, February 22nd	Cabin Fever	Woodstock	Harley Davidson	10:00 am	L Purcell
Tuesday, March 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, March 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Rigsby

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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