



ROAR

July 2009

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS - ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



Greetings Top Cats!

It is good to know that our outrage, as well as that of the motorcycle community, concerning the circumstances and initially light charge against Lora Hunt for the killing of Anita Zaffke did not go unheard. As reported to us by Joe Rominski and Wayne Kirkpatrick at our last board meeting, the Lake County State's Attorneys office has been conducting an in depth investigation of the circumstances. Fortunately, one of the senior attorneys heading up the investigation is very knowledgeable about motorcycles and riding. To avoid possible double jeopardy issues the Prosecutor has dropped the initial charge leveled against Ms. Hunt while this proceeds. We will keep you informed of the progress of the case at the next membership meeting and by email, if necessary. Keep in mind that vigorous prosecution and new legislation does not necessarily make the world a better place for bikers; we must be every cautious and vigilant of what is going around us and be ready to avoid or mitigate bad circumstances.

For instance, on Sunday evening I received an email from the Director of Lake Shore HOG directed to all Chapter Road Captains about the ride they conducted that day. They had not one, but two, separate incidents of bikers in their own group slamming into others in front of them. Those in front had stopped at stop signs instead of following the pack through the intersection. On a bike you cannot assume what the person in front of you is going to do. Be ready at all times for anything that can happen.

On a happier note, please, please, please help us prepare; sell raffle tickets; get ready for and participate in our Ride for Dreams that is on July 26th. We need your help. The Charity Ride Committee has spent lots of time and energy on this, and we need all of our members to participate. Top Cats, this is our opportunity to help our community and the disabled children who are members of NISRA. See you at the next meeting. In the meantime, RIDE ON!

Carl

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR TOP CATS!!!

Larry Scalzitti of LRN2RYD is offering a chance to take his class at a discounted price of \$199 to Top Cat Members only. There are two class times available. One is on Saturday, July 11 and the other is on Sunday, July 12. Both will run from 8 am to 6 pm and are taught at the Westfield Hawthorn Mall in Vernon Hills.

There are only 4 people in a class, so it would be terrific if some of the members signed up. All participants would get a great mid season skills tune up! If interested, contact Larry. www.lrn2ryd.com 847-438-6588 scalzitti@mindspring.com



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Upcoming Events

July

July 7	General Meeting
July 11	Top Cats Picnic
July 12	Grass Class
July 14	Board Meeting
July 17	Route 66/Lincoln Ride
July 26	Ride for Dreams
July 29	Sturgis Ride

August

Aug 1	One Night Stand Ride
Aug 8	WI. State Fair Ride
Aug 11	General Meeting
Aug 16	Rustic Road Ride
Aug 18	Board Meeting

RIDE FOR DREAMS STILL NEEDS YOU!

By Joan DeRango



The Charity Ride date is set for July 26, 2009 starting and ending at the Volo Auto Museum. The ride committee has been formed and plans are well underway. The committee wants to keep *all* members informed about decisions made as well as let you know where we need your help. Look for articles in ROAR (like this one) and updates at all general meetings. Expect calls or emails from committee members to follow up on offers to help or requests for help if we think you may have a useful skill or contact.

A Special Thank You to...

The *Ride for Dreams* committee would like to pass on a very warm thank you to our Top Cats members who have made donations or found donors for our NISRA fundraiser:

Jeff Tietz has provided a large discount on a scooter
Frank Coletto has used his wiles to procure a donation of Cubs tickets worth \$500.
Larry Scalzitti has donated a 'Learn 2 Ride' lesson
Mike Bradbury has used his smile to get 4 Sox tickets w/parking pass
Tom Nichols has donated a blue tooth headset

These members have made donations early... and have given the committee a boost of energy as the work moves forward. Please help the NISRA efforts by talking to people you know. When you are shopping at your regular store, going to practice your golf shot, or getting your oil changed, ask for a donation. Get to know about NISRA and talk about how the donation will be used. It is worth the time and effort you would be making! Many thanks in advance!

"We need fun raffle items for our mini-affle drawing... we need members to obtain/donate these mini items."



"We must sell 2,000 to 2,500 tickets to meet our fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the raffle."

Raffle Details

Budget for Raffle prizes set at \$5,000.00

\$2,300 Scooter

\$1,000 Flat screen TV

\$ 700 Weekend Get-a-way

- Ticket prices will be \$5.00 per ticket – possibly 5 tickets for \$20.
- Must sell 2,000 to 2,500 tickets to meet fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the raffle.
- Members will be strongly encouraged to assist with ticket sales but not required.
- Members will participate in ticket sales at events and locations to be determined.
- No Silent Auction – smaller donated gifts will be raffled off on Ride Day to keep riders at the event and buying more tickets until the big prizes are awarded.

(Continued on page 11)



KAUTION KORNER

BEATING THE SUMMER HEAT

BY: BARD BOAND

Heat Stroke and De-hydration can kill you, so don't let it happen to you! 100+ degree days are common in August for Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wyoming, etc. So take a few simple precautions to protect yourself and those riding with you - and that will be "cool".....

A few basics:

When dressing, think LIGHT, COVERED and WET. Also, drink lots of water.

Dress in LIGHT colored clothes as they reflect the heat. Black leather may look cool, but it isn't! Dark colors absorb the heat.

Stay COVERED for sun protection and heat protection, especially if the temp is higher than 98.6 degrees. Do you get it...??? 98.6 degrees - that's the average body temp. So, if the outside air is hotter than that, you want to avoid having 98.7+ degree air blowing over your skin. The best hot weather riding wear for sun and heat protection would be a white long sleeve shirt, and a white or silver helmet. For added protection from a fall down, a light colored armored breathable riding jacket will be cooler than a black leather jacket.

Keep WET.....stay wet around the neck, head and chest. Do you all understand the principle of "air conditioning" and the technology behind it? Simply put, air conditioning is the result of moisture evaporation. When water or moisture evaporates, it cools. God made our bodies with built in air conditioning systems. When we sweat, that causes body moisture to evaporate, which gives a cooling effect. We bikers want to help that process along on a hot day, by wearing something wet around our necks, on our heads. And for the chest, you can wear a wet t-shirt. Wet neck wraps, when being hit by wind, cool the neck and the main artery and veins between the heart and brain. Buy an absorbent neck wrap or simply tie a big handkerchief around your neck and pour water on it every hour. I recommend you wear a

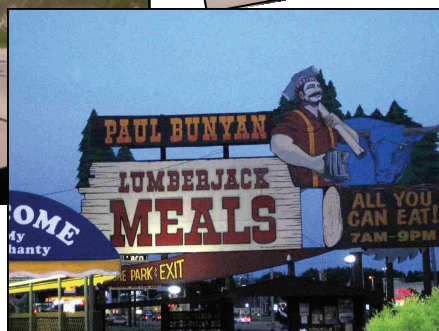
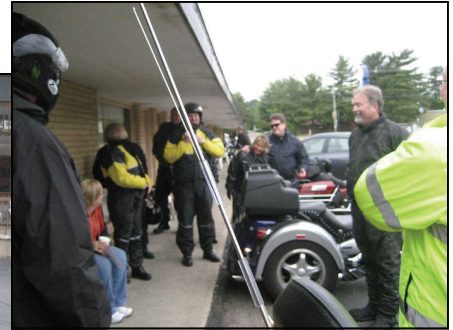
light colored helmet for many reasons, but if you're like me and don't do what you know you should do 100% of the time, at least put something wet on your head. I have a ROBO hat, a denim hat, when wet, at 60 mph, it turns my head into an ice cube...the 60 mph wind accelerates the evaporation process of the wet hat, and cools very quickly. This really does work well in 100 degrees plus weather.

Water, water, and more water along with special beverages that replace the salts and minerals in your body all can make a difference. At every rest/gas stop, drink at least a few pints of water. Carry water on your bike in an easily accessible place - which means, it isn't locked in your tour pack. ALCOHOL and CAFFEINE will dehydrate you very quickly. Did you ever wonder why, after a night out painting the town red, you wake up in the middle of the night thirsty? It's because of all the ALCOHOL you drank, and in the process of elimination, vital liquids are also lost. I know you are all adults and over 21, but for many reasons, I would appreciate that no alcohol be consumed during the riding day on my ride. Once the bikes are parked for the night, let the fun begin. Caffeine and coffee also dehydrate, so drink coffee in moderation if you must have a little jolt to get your body in motion in the morning.

Finally, lots of hi-tech micro fiber clothing is coming on the market which wicks the moisture from your body in the heat. It is very breathable for hot weather and works by insulating and keeping you warm in the cold. Go to your outdoor camping or outfitter store, or to a bicycle shop and check out the new socks, underwear and shirts. As you build your wardrobe of riding gear...think multi-purpose and all-weather. This new micro-fiber stuff also can be hand washed in your sink, and will dry by morning.

OK, boys and girls, are we all 'cool' with this? It also helps to pray for a 70 degree day!





Pics by Traveler & Pat Michaud



They say a picture is worth a thousand words...

**The
“House On The Rock”
...need I say more!!!!**

**the World
According to Andy**



Editor's Note: This photo was approved by Mark Heller

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

By Mike Bradbury



\$40,000.

For more information see Vogel's web site online at <http://www.vogelbilt.com>.

This bike may not get you through a whole day ride without a charge, but it sure is *something different!*

Saturday May 9th 8:00 am. It is 52 Here is proof that even a Hog can be “GREEN”. An all electric motor-cycle and to top it off, an all electric Harley-Davidson! Yes, you read that right, Harley-Davidson is going green!

Well, not exactly, but close. Carl [Vogel](#), an inventor-entrepreneur and a Harley enthusiast, has modified a Harley-Davidson chassis so that it houses 560 pounds of lead-acid batteries and a 79 hp electric motor that can achieve 85 mph. The bike is less powerful than a stock Harley and can travel about 60 miles, at 55 mph, on a single charge. The electric bike can be plugged into an electrical wall outlet and recharged in three hours. Vogel has been manufacturing the electric motorcycles since 2007 and will sell them for a price tag between \$29,000 and



By Mike Bradbury

When you think of summer what comes to mind? Mowing the lawn. Sunny days so bright you need your sunglasses. Pools and water parks for the kids. Catching up on all the little repairs around the house or “living unit”. Seeing car shows, motorcycle rallies, town festivals and fairs. And last but not least important, riding your motorcycle. In my household, whenever we have a major outing, the biggest question is whether it is on the bike (“OTB”) or not. Of course, for most of us riding our motorcycle is one of the biggest ways we want to spend our time in the summer. And one of the best ways to do that is on a ride with your fellow Top Cats.

Well, here is a ride that combines motorcycle riding on great roads with one of the biggest summer fairs in our area, the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee.

This ride will take us through select Wisconsin back roads to the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee for fun and frivolity and then a direct, non-highway ride home.

We will start at the Shell station located on the Southeast corner of Hwy 60 and Hwy 176. The pre-ride meeting is at 8:15 with departure by 8:30. Be gassed up and ready by the pre-ride meeting.

Once we get there, we will “do” the fair. The Wisconsin State Fair is a great time in the summer. The fair has everything to offer from cream puffs, pig races, corn on the cob, vendors, burgers and hot dogs, horse shows, funnel cakes, cigars, smoothies, live bands, “The Kids From Wisconsin” show (highly recommended) etc, etc., etc.. And there’s lots of good food for lunch too.

We will arrive just before noon for lunch and will spend 3 hours at the fair. Fair admission and parking is about \$15. Bring extra money for lunch and fair attractions. We’ll gather at our parking spot in time to get us all home in time for dinner at the latest.

This is the 158th annual Wisconsin State Fair. It has a lot to do and entertain us with. It is a great way to spend your day. There will be good roads, food and festivities so come on and join us in the good ‘ole summertime on the Wisconsin State Fair Ride with your Top Cats Club!

When: August 8th , 8:15 am

Where to Meet: Shell Station at Hwy 176 and Hwy 60

MOTORCYCLE SUNGLASSES

By Andy Konsewicz

Anyone who rides a motorcycle knows the importance of a good pair of motorcycle sunglasses. You need to have protection for your eyes from the glare of the sun, but more importantly you need exceptional motorcycle sunglasses so that you can see where you are going as well as the traffic in front of you.

There are certain features that make one style of sunglasses the best motorcycle sunglasses. Of course, the best style in motorcycle sun glasses is really up to the individual, but there are common features you should look for. When you want the best in motorcycle



sunglasses, you have to look for those with shatter-proof lenses. When you ride a motorcycle, the likelihood of small bits of debris hitting you in the face is very high. Therefore you need sunglasses that are hard to break.

Most of the lenses in motorcycle sunglasses are made of polycarbonate, which makes them stronger than ordinary lenses. You also need the best motorcycle sunglasses with a UV 400 filter to protect your eyesight. Another important feature to look for in motorcycle sun glasses is that they provide you with the ultimate protection from the wind. These sun glasses really need to be a snug fit so that nothing can in around the glasses.


If you look at photos of motorcycle sunglasses, you will see they are smaller than the usual sunglasses. This is because they need to fit tight on the nose and around the eyes. Because of this necessary feature, motorcycle sun glasses need to be lightweight. The best motorcycle sunglasses are made of nylon and metal for a better



fit and comfort. However, some motorcycle riders prefer to have all metal frames in their sun glasses because they know they are durable.

When choosing motorcycle sunglasses, you also need a vented frame. Because the sunglasses are tight to your face, they will fog up if there are no vents to let air circulate. To make the sun glasses as comfortable as possible while you're riding a motorcycle some designers have added foam on the ear pieces and foam padding around the frame. Although some riders wear helmets with tinted face masks, during the hot, sunny days of the summer you want to feel the warm wind on your face. The motorcycle sun glasses make the thrill of the ride that much more enjoyable.

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



WISCONSIN BRUNCH RIDE

May 31st
Road Captain:
Greg Smith



Pics by Traveler

JULY 2009

A NEW TOY FOR YOU MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS



The Gunbus 410 cubic inch V-Twin motorcycle is complete. The monster engine placed in a motorcycle frame of comparable size looked impossible and many who saw the photos were skeptical of the bike ever being finished, but I guess Clemens F. Leonhardt is one of those persistent guys who ignores the naysayers and keeps at his work.



The fuel-injected, 45 degree 6728 cc/410 cubic inch V-Twin runs through a 3 speed transmission with reverse and actually looks pretty good in its finished state. In fact, everything looks good! It puts out 523 foot pounds of torque. Seat height is 31.5 inches and overall length is 136 inches.

It is a little heavy at 1433 pounds so high speed corner carving might be an issue and there aren't any photos of the big bike on the road, so I guess we'll have to wait for the road test, that is if someone can actually road test this monster.

This is actually going to go into limited series production and a sidecar will be available as well, which might help with balance when waiting at a light.

I don't even want to think about a driveway tip over.

- Andy Konsewicz





(Continued from page 2)

RIDE FOR DREAMS

We are now at T-20 or so! It seems that we began meeting, planning, preparing, so long ago. So much has been accomplished due to the efforts of many people. Still - things need to be done! We welcome your assistance now or on the day of the event –

- Set-up – sell tickets,
- Help with take down- sell raffle tickets
- Help with registration –sell raffle tickets
- Help event goers to understand the mission of this event –sell raffle tickets

Pass the word on how much Top Cats would like new members to join us-sell raffle tickets!



There is a place for all to help for this event and to continue making this the great club that it is. We need all of you to help make this the best event ever! Everyone is hurting, the economy is bad –jobs and homes have been lost ; raises are non-existent, 401 K's have become 201K's.

Do yourself a big favor, talk with one of the recipients of our efforts. A child or family member of N.I.S.R.A. – watch their joy – watch their patience and understanding with those they feel are less capable than themselves – watch the effort that they put in to doing things we take for granted-watch them honor our club and all of us that are a part of it. Watch how excited and proud they are when they succeed at taking small steps – allow yourself to be a part of that for at least one day-you will never regret it.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the club members that have chosen to spend time in the planning, to spend their time to sell tickets, and some to donate phenomenal prizes and/or amounts of money. We each have our time, talents, and resources. There is room for all of us to help in some way. Don't miss out on this wonderful once in a year opportunity.

NISRA...

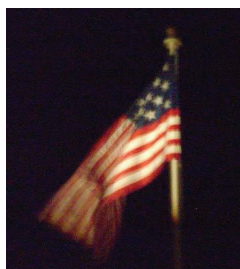
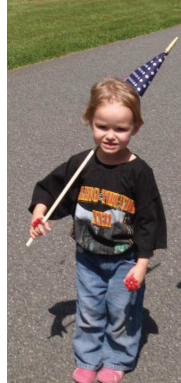
THE REASON TOP CATS ARE WORKING SO HARD!

For 13 years the Top Cats have been proud sponsors of the Northern Illinois Recreation Association – NISRA. **NISRA** provides year round recreation activities for people with disabilities. Since 1976, children and adults of all ability levels have enjoyed socializing, building skills and having fun in hundreds of weekly programs, special events, camps and trips each year.

♦ **Their Mission:** Enriching the lives of people with disabilities through meaningful recreation experiences.

♦ **Our Mission:** Raise money to help NISRA.





Pics by Traveler



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2009

Submitted by Mike Bradbury for Joan DeRango

Attendees: Mike Bradbury, Gary Brandt, Dennis Dougherty, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Carl Marcyan, Tom Nichols, Eileen Perry, Greg Smith

On Vacation: Joan Derango

Guest: Joe Rominski

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 at Gino's East in Lake Zurich.

2010 Elections: Gary Brandt. (Past President and Election Committee Chair)

Gary presented to the board that the committee had created an election process and has issued the recommendations for the next year's club officers to our President, Carl Marcyan who has approved both. Per our club by-laws, all incumbent board members, less one, are eligible to serve again in their existing positions for another year. Greg Smith is ineligible to serve again since he has reached the limit of two consecutive years served as the club's Activity Director. All incumbents have until August 15th to respond to Gary with their intents for serving next year.

Updates on the Laura Hunt Case; Wayne Kirkpatrick, (Director)

Joe Rominski reported to the board that the original charges for failure to yield to avoid an accident have been dismissed. The prosecutor's decided this was the best course of action while reviewing the case to avoid "double jeopardy" to pursue a greater charge such as reckless homicide. The prosecutor assigned to this case is expected to be sensitive to motorcyclists and motorcycling issues in general. He has been a motorcyclist for 35 years and owns 7 bikes.

Ride For Dreams/status and progress; Eileen Perry (Director)

Eileen is filling in for Joan while she is on vacation. Generally things are going well. Funds are being received for registration. Joan did drop by to hand off additional ride registrations and funds. The scooter event displays for ticket sales has started. The scooter was displayed at Buffo's in Highwood on May 30th with \$125

of tickets sold. The June events are; Barrington Cruizer Nite on June 11th, Volo Auto Museum for the Shelby Mustang Car Show on June 14th and Buffo's Cruiser Night on June 27th. Richmond Cruiser Night for June 12th was cancelled. *Raffle ticket sales will be crucial for success and providing the greatest donations possible to NISRA.*

Membership; Eileen Perry (Director)

No new member applications were submitted. Doug Jackson from Woodstock Harley is interested. Wayne has talked with him. Steve Hammer is riding with the club to Sturgis as a guest and may apply.

ROAR/Website Updates; Dennis Dougherty (Director)

The ROAR changes are an improvement. Those changes were a network of associate editors by subject, a new layout including margined article content list and upcoming events, more pictures as well as others. Mary Walters, as editor and the new system of associate editors, are getting articles submitted and is going well. The board has not received the new list of article requests from Mary. Mary has been gone on vacation but is returning and should be emailing at the end of the week.

The website needs a professional contractor to clean it up. The site was created with a lot of effort by Brian Rainey and has served okay but takes extra work to manage due to problems with the platform software. Dennis presented 3 options for addressing the needs of the website.

1. *Leave the website alone.* The site platform software is a mess now. This is due to bad code and garbage in the software when the site was launched. Links within the site are faulty and flawed. This creates a lot of extra work to manage and maintain the clubs information. This needs to be fixed because it is only a matter of time before it becomes a bigger issue.

2. *Update the Joomla software platform.* This option will create a more stable platform with the same functionality that exists now. A contractor could do this in phases so progress can be approved by the club stage by stage. This option is estimated to cost \$1,500 for the first phase.

(Continued on page 14)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES JUNE 9, 2009

(Continued from page 13)

3. *Start over and create a new website with a different platform.* This is the highest costing option and is more difficult to estimate depending on what the club wants. This could include all types of “bells and whistles” and enhanced web-site capabilities.

Dennis is pursuing finding a website designer and developer with Joomla experience. Carl requested Dennis provide the board information on the chosen designer/developer before any final commitments are made. In addition, Carl suggested Dennis contact John Sweeney for potential website support ideas.

Speakers, Products; Mike Bradbury (Vice President)

Speakers: Mike is looking for ideas for new speakers. Gina Woods from Open Road Radio was suggested by the board. Mike will contact and invite her to speak at the next general meeting.

Products: 31 total polo shirts were ordered from the membership. They are a nice quality and are black with white or yellow embroidered club patch logos. They have been purchased and should be done in a couple of days. Member pick up with collection of \$25 per shirt will be at the next general meeting and Mike will send an emailed announcement beforehand to the membership.

Mike has not ordered flags yet but will do so soon.

Financial Report: Tom Nichols (Treasurer)

A balance sheet and draft budget were presented to the board. Time was short and the matter was deferred for more discussion at the next board meeting.

Awards: Wayne Kirkpatrick (Director)

Wayne and the Awards Committee are going to present some ideas for new awards. Maybe a “Year” pin presented yearly showing the member’s # of years in the club. Wayne will report back soon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54.

The minutes were submitted by Mike Bradbury substituting for Joan DeRango, who was away presumably having a lovely time on vacation.

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



RIDES & EVENTS

DATE	RIDE/EVENT	LOCATION	DESTINATION	TIME	LEADER
Tuesday, July 07	General Meeting	Village Tavern & Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30 pm	Carl Marcyan
Saturday July 11	Top Cats Picnic	TBD	Moraine Hills State Park	TBD	Bradbury-Michaud
Sunday, July 12	G.R.A.S.S. Class	2100 Sanders Rd. #200	Northbrook	8:30 am	Ric Case
Tuesday, July 14	Board Meeting	Ginos East	Lake Zurich	7:30 pm	Carl Marcyan
Friday, July 17-19	Route 66/ Lincoln Ride-3 Day	Starks Corner	Springfield, Illinois	7:45 am	Dennis Dougherty
Sunday, July 26	Ride For Dreams	Volo Auto Museum	Volo	9:00am	Dougherty-Malia
Wednesday, July 29	Sturgis-Multi Day	TBD	Rapid City, SD	TBD	Bard Boand
Saturday, August 01	Mark Heller's One Night Stand-2 day	Twin Lakes Park, Palatine	Saugatuck, Michigan	8:00 am	Mark Heller
Saturday, August 08	Wisconsin State Fair Ride	Route 176 and 60	Wisconsin State Fair	8:15 am	Mike Bradbury
Tuesday August 11	General Meeting	Village Tavern and Grill	Buffalo Grove	7:30 pm	Carl Marcyan
Sunday, August 16	Rustic Road Ride	RT 12 & RT 120	Wisconsin	7:30 am	Mike Bradbury
Sunday, August 18	Board Meeting	Gino's East	Lake Zurich	7:30 pm	Carl Marcyan

Support the TOP CATS Sponsors



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

Membership Has Its Privileges!

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

Sign-up your favorite merchant today!



TOP CATS—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 **ROAR@TOPCATS.org**