



ROAR

MAY 2010

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The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Carlton R. 'Top Cat' Marcyan



WEBSITE ENHANCEMENT

Lots of discussion, planning and hard work have gone into our new website that will be debuting if a few weeks. Director Dennis Dougherty led the charge to search and locate a very good designer. Dennis "rolled

out" the beta version at our April membership meeting, and the audience was very enthusiastic about its look. Keeping the website useful and current to Top Cats and the biker community will be a top priority for the future. It is important that you provide information and stories to the website editor to help us keep it interesting. Dennis, thanks for the great leadership and thanks to the board as well for focusing on this important activity.

Speaking of

the April meeting, we had a tremendous turnout of more than 50 members and guests at the Villa Sofia. 4 applications for membership were received that evening and we admitted 2 new Top Cats. You can certainly feel spring in the air with the great enthusiasm of our members and anticipation of another great riding season. Already we have planned more rides than we had in 2009, and more members are sending in their ideas

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Upcoming Events

MAY

2	Grass Class
4	General Meeting
8	Galena Ride
11	Board Meeting
23	Aunt Millie's Ride
29	Wisc Back Roads
30&31	Stayin' Safe

JUNE

1	General Meeting
5	NISRA Fishing Derby
8	Board Meeting
12	Poopy's Run
15	Frank N Fries Ride
18	Little Sturgis Ride



How My Fob Kept Me From Having a Fab Time Or

How I missed Andy's Kick-Off Ride

By Eileen Perry

6:00 a.m.	Get up	check
6:15 a.m.	Shower, brush teeth, etc.	check
6:45 a.m.	Get dressed in multiple layers	check
7:00 a.m.	Do a load of laundry	check
7:15 a.m.	Call brother in Eastern time zone	check
7:30 a.m.	Check email, Face Book, Linked in, Twitter, etc	check
7:45 a.m.	Wake Jon so he can volunteer to go get me Starbucks	check

KAUTION KORNER TIRE TALES

by Traveler

Many things inform us on a motorcycle; warning labels, caution stickers, our owner's manual, caution lights, warning alarms, and tire data. We can pretty much read and understand the warning lights, owner's manual, labels and alarms but, how many of you understand the data on your tires?

As important as tires are, you would think that we all would read our tire sidewalls to find out how much weight we can carry on the bike, how fast we can safely go on these tires, what our maximum air pressure is, if they are installed correctly, how old they are, if they are on the correct wheel, how many plies of material they are constructed with, and the DOT Safety Spec that they meet. This information and much more is included on every tire of every modern motorcycle today. Look and see....

Tire Description



The **tire size and service description** provides a lot of information like size, intended use, construction, load capacity, and speed rating. The number above, MT90B16 72H tells us that this tire is a motorcycle tire (MT), width of the tire in millimeters from sidewall to sidewall (90), Bias construction versus radial (B), wheel diameter (16), load capacity (72) which equates to 783 lbs and speed rating (H) for 130 mph.

Federal Specifications

DOT sets high **standards** for tire material, construction, load and speed ratings. Above, we see the DOT standards that this tire has been con-



structed to as of the date of manufacture. You can find additional data on these specifications at the National Highway and Transportation Agency <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/import/fmvss/index.html>

Tube Be or not Tube Be

Tubeless tires will be marked like this above. They will be stamped "Tubeless" and also "Use a tube if mounted on tube type rim."



Tubeless Wheels

Tubeless tires are as useless as boobs on a chicken if they aren't mounted on a tubeless wheel with tubeless tire valves. Most, not all,

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Tech Talk

Technology That Can Impact Your Life

MOTEL KEY CARD

Now that the riding season is upon us and people will be staying in various hotels, motels, and motels, there is something you should all know about that little plastic key card that lets you in your room every night. Unless, of course, you leave it behind, to your embarrassment as you walk out of your room in a drunken stupor at 3 AM and lock yourself out and your significant other doesn't let you back in. So here it what is on that little piece of plastic:

A. Customer's name B. Customer's partial home address C. Hotel room number D. Check-in date and out dates and E. Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner.

An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense. Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee re-issues the card to the next hotel guest.

At that time, the new guest's information is electronically "overwritten" on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process.

But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with YOUR INFORMATION ON IT !
The bottom line is:

Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them.

NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them Into the front desk when you check out of a room.

They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader.

For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket.

Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip!



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tubeless wheels are so marked. If in doubt, have your dealer check.

Direction of Rotation

An **arrow** on the tire sidewall will indicate direction of travel in forward motion. Check it when



you have new tires installed to be sure the tech put them on correct!

Maximum Air Pressure - Cold

This will also be reflected separately, on the side-



wall as shown below, along with the **max air pressure** of 40 psi cold in this case.

Correct Wheel

Tires are typically marked "**Front**" or "**Rear** wheel fitment only" when incorrect mounting could affect the handling of the motorcycle. One



of our past presidents had one local dealer incorrectly mount a "Rear wheel only" tire on the front years ago. Check them when you have them replaced.

Carrying Capacity/Speed

The **Load Range** or Rating is a letter that designates the tire's ability to withstand load based on construction, materials, and speed rating. Load Range H shown above, indicates that this tire is



rated for up to 130 mph.

Tire Age

Date of manufacturer is stamped on every tire using a four digit code. Older tires have a five digit code. On current tires, the first two numbers reflect the number of the month of manufacture.

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The last two digits reflect the year of manufac-



ture. On older tires with five digit codes, the first three digits indicate consecutive day of the year followed by two digit year code. The picture above shows a tire manufactured in February, 2009.

Construction

Tire construction is also included in most tires. The Dunlop tire above shows us that this tire



tread is constructed with 5 plies of material; three polyester plies and two fiberglass plies. The tire sidewalls, shown below, are constructed with 3 plies of polyester.

Materials

Typical motorcycle tires are constructed with a

combination of **materials** such as fiberglass, polyester, butyl rubber, carbon black, etc, de-



pending on the manufacturer. Worry not, they all must meet DOT Specs in force at date of manufacture regardless of type material.

Dry Rot!

Over time, tires start to **deteriorate** and lose their load and speed ratings. As a general rule, tires



should hold their ratings up to seven years. Even if the tread depth is good, tires seven years or older, should be replaced. The above tire is seven years old and shows signs of hardening and sidewall cracking. It must be replaced.

Tread Gage

Check tread depth with a good depth gage, not a penny or a dog tag or anything else that won't give you an accurate reading Don't just check

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tread in one place on the tire. Measure at four opposite points on the tire and on the center, left, and right side of the tread.

Tread Depth

Any measurement less than **2mm** on any tread of the tire is justification for replacement.



Many factors affect tire life. Tires with "Normal" claimed mileage of 10,000 miles+ can wear excessively due to such variables such as:

- ♦ Riding style (aggressive acceleration/braking /cornering)
- ♦ Weight (Fully loaded w/co rider),
- ♦ Distance riding (10 – 12 hour / days),
- ♦ Speed (Long duration high speed riding),
- ♦ Surface temperature (Hot road surfaces),
- ♦ Improper inflation (Heat buildup)
- ♦ Wheel Alignment (Slightly out of line)
- ♦ Wheel Balance (Out of balance shimmy)

And finally....One of the most important things to remember about all of the information that is included on your tires is that, your tires only meet those ratings and specifications on the day of manufacturing, not 8,000 miles later or five years later.



the World According to Andy

WEIRD TOWN NAMES

1. Hell, Michigan

If you've always wanted to see Hell freeze over, visit this place in winter, when the Highland Lake dam often gets icy enough to stop the water flow. In summer, when temperatures are moderate, the town has a "Satan's Holidays" festival and a road race called "Run to Hell." In October is the "Halloween in Hell" Celebration. The town got its name in 1841, when George Reeves, an early settler in this low, swampy place in southeast Michigan, was asked what the thought the town should be named. "I don't care," Reeves said. "You can name it 'Hell' if you want to."

2. Slapout, Alabama

Oscar Peeples, the town grocer in the early 1900s, was forever waiting on customers who asked for things he didn't have. "I'm slap out of it," Peeples would say. This central Alabama community, north of Montgomery, is now little more than a crossroads, with a church, bank, barber shop, and the tumbledown remains of Peeples' old store.

3. Noodle, Texas

In the late 1800s, Texans often used the word *noodle* to mean "nothing," which is exactly what they found when they arrived at this locale near Abilene. Now there are two churches, a store and an old gin. For nearly a century, the population has held steady at about 40 people.

4. Joe, Montana

When quarterback Joe Montana signed on with the Kansas City Chiefs in 1993, a Missouri radio station urged the folk of Ismay, in southeast Montana near the North Dakota border, to change the town's name to "Joe." The sports-minded citizenry, all 22 of them, voted in favor of the change, and a new industry was born. In fact, money raised from selling, "Joe, Montana" souvenirs enabled the town to build a new fire station.

5. Lizard Lick, North Carolina

Since 1972, the residents of this town, 16 miles east of Raleigh, have held lizard races every fall to herald the farming community's unusual name. It dates back to the days when the area was home to a federally operated liquor still, and lizards were brought in to cut down on the insects. Traveling salesman noticed the creatures and dubbed the community Lizard Lick

6. Chicken, Alaska

The village, in the Alaskan wild near the Canadian border, is named for a bird, but not the one you think. In the late 1800s, gold miners found a reliable meal in the

abundance of *ptarmigan*, a grouse-like critter whose white feathers make it look, from a distance, like a chicken. When the townsfolk decided to incorporate in 1902, none of them knew how to spell *ptarmigan*. So they went with the look-alike Chicken to avoid the jokes of misspelled name would incur. Unfortunately, poultry jokes now abound. The town has a full-time population of about 30 people and mail delivery every Tuesday and Friday. There's a saloon, but no telephones or central plumbing. Incidentally, the *ptarmigan* is now the Alaska state bird.

7. Spot, Tennessee

A dot in the road about an hour west of Nashville, Spot was named by a sawmill operator who was always writing folks about business. One day, pen in hand, the sawmill operator sat at his desk, worrying over a letter from postal authorities wanting to know what to call the town. A spot of ink dropped onto the sawmill operator's white stationery, and the town had its name. By town, we mean a couple of houses and a ramshackle store.

8. Peculiar, Missouri

In the spring of 1868, Postmaster E.T. Thomson decided to name his town "Excelsior," but postal officials told him it was already taken. Thomson reapplied with new names, and received the same response time after time. Exasperated, he finally told postal officials to assign the town a unique name, one that was "sort of peculiar." Peculiar, near the Kansas border just south of Kansas City, is home to about 1,800 people.

9. Zap, North Dakota

A Northern Pacific Railroad official, in charge of naming settlements on the line, named Zap after Zapp, Scotland, because both places had coal mines. The city, about 15 miles south of Lake Sakakawea, encompasses one square mile and is home to about 300.

10. Embarrass, Minnesota

If faces are red here, it's only because the town - 205 miles north of St. Paul - is typically the coldest spot in the continental United States. The midwinter temperature often drops to -60 °F, and snow has been known to fall in June. The name comes from early settlers, who used the French word for obstacle - *embarras* - to describe the hardships they faced in the frigid territory. Today, the population is largely Finnish. They celebrate their thriving community with a Finnish-American Festival every summer.

ONE HECK OF A KICK-OFF RIDE!

By Mary Walters

It was worth the wait! Three years in the making, this first ride of the 15th Top Cats' riding season was a great start to what promises to be a great year! Andy Konsewicz led eighteen bikes through very pretty roads on the southern end of Wisconsin to Charcoal Grill in Burlington. Trees were budding, tulips and daffodils were blooming, and Andy was rolling. He has been planning this ride for the past three years, but cold, rain, and snow has gotten in the way. For this year, though, the weather Gods smiled upon him.

Riders met at the McDonalds at Routes 12 and 176 and, after a thorough pre-ride talk, took off. The forty degree starting temperature required a good deal of leather and fur (ask Joan DeRango for details), but twenty-one riders bundled up and followed Andy. The bright sun took a bit of the chill off of the wind and lit up the roads so that the riders could enjoy the views.

Stopping for lunch, there was a good deal of laughter while everyone shared their winter stories. Don Schaffer and Stewart Johnson looked especially happy to be out after a long Tax Season, Amy Tober came all the way from Michigan to join the crowd and enjoy the food, and Mike Bradbury has great stories, as usual – but this time he is celebrating his good fortune. (Actually when there is talent involved, fortune is only a small part of the story.) And finally, Bob Carmody is working on bringing Diana's Banana's to the world – more effectively and efficiently.

These are only a few of the stories... I didn't get to everyone, so this is a call for all of you to submit your Top Cat Riding experiences to the ROAR staff! Tell us what is happening and what you see on the rides this year, and use the ROAR to keep us all in touch! Let's make the 15th year of Top Cats one that we will bring us ALL smiles for many years to come! Thanks for a great start, Andy!

Birthday Shout Outs to:

***Joe Romanski on May 2nd
Muriel Brandt on May 3rd***

*Send me your birthdates so that
we can recognize all of our mem-
bers on their special day!*

Roar@topcats.org



EXPERIENCE(?) – BASED TRAVEL TIPS

By Traveler

We are about 130 +/- days away from the 70th Annual Black Hills Rally and from a long standing Top Cats' tradition....our annual trek to Sturgis.

Many years ago, in 1996, our first ride to Sturgis was planned over many months, at weekly meetings, in extreme detail, in a bank vault in Barrington by the Barrington Biker Contingent, one of the founding groups of Top Cats - Illinois. The result was a ride that was so "entertaining" that eleven years later, in 2007, Touchstone Pictures made a movie out of it starring John Travolta. Well, they could have based Wild Hogs on that ride. The similarities were amazingly close, the incidents and vignettes were eerily similar and, of course, there was an almost perfect match of riding skills.



With over fourteen years of experience, our Club now enjoys the expertise of many of our members in planning, coordinating, and leading our annual ride to the Black Hills. No longer, we hope, do we look like the Wild Hogs rolling down the highway on an aimless quest for the Poser of the Year award.

Just the right touch of structure, organization, discipline, and planning results in one of the highlight rides of the year for Top Cats, our annual journey to the Black Hills and back.

Actually, way more than fourteen years of riding experience goes into the planning and execution of this ride and the many rides we conduct daily in the Black Hills, as well as our return – home rides. It is more realistically around a few centuries of experience but no one will own up to their real age and how long they've really been riding so, we estimate it at a few centuries.

With that much experience and repeated opportunities to learn from mistakes, here are some of the

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lessons learned from our vault of Club experience on packing and traveling for extended periods.

The longer the trip, the more clothes you'll need. Many riders mail clothes ahead to their destination so they have more room on the bike when traveling.

If you are staying in the same hotel for a few days, mail ahead those bulky items that you prefer to take like hair dryers, cosmetics, spare boots, comfortable shoes, etc.

Take self addressed mailing labels with you to send old clothes and new purchases home.

T-bags and saddlebags are not waterproof, contrary to manufacturer's advertising. Wrap all of your clothes in trash bags or zip-lock bags.

When you have to stow your wet rain gear and continue with your journey, pack it in a trash bag so it won't get anything else wet.

Make absolutely sure that you have the required safety gear for the states you are traveling through. Check the Harley Travel Guide to determine laws for helmets, eye protection, mirrors, windscreens, headlights modulators, handlebar height, after market pipes, etc.

Carry rubber gloves. Surgical gloves make excellent glove liners in the rain and prevent leather gloves from staining your hands black from bleeding dye.

Buy, carry, and keep current, the quality of first – aid kit that you would want someone to use on you if needed.

Rain gear is always packed on top of T-bags or saddle bags for quick, easy access. Check your rain gear before a trip to make sure that it hasn't dry rotted, the fasteners all work, elastic is still good and all the pieces are there.

Carry some tape or a spare bungee cord to keep your rain suit pant legs from blowing against the exhaust and melting.

Suntan lotion, bug spray for campfire time, and a towel should also be readily available. It is so much easier with a clean towel, to wipe away those dead bugs that smash into your forehead and drip their guts down your face.

Some riders have cup holders. Some riders bungee cord a water bottle to the handlebars. Be careful where you place any drink container. It must be within easy reach and you don't want it to chaff

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your paint or chrome through vibration.

REMEMBER, anything you install on your handlebars or around your "cockpit" to use on a trip will become a distraction when you are attempting to use it. Visually clear the highway first.

If you're following a new route, mark the highway numbers on the side of your windscreen or on your mirror with a grease pencil or marking pen. You won't have to refer to a map while riding. Permanent marking pens work well on mirrors and they are water proof. Markings can be removed with WD40.

Don't overload on tools. A combo tool like a Leatherman , and any tools specific to your bike are OK. If you are riding with others, decide in advance who will carry what tools. You don't need a set of Allen wrenches with every bike.

Removing bugs from windscreens is so much easier when the windscreen is coated with a polish such as a good wax, RainX, or Dry Wash.

Wax or polish the inside of your windscreen and your mirrors also. That allows the rain to run off easier and improves your visibility.

Make copies of your registration, insurance, and drivers license to carry somewhere. If you lose your wallet, or otherwise lose your drivers license and registration, you shouldn't have the problem of having your bike confiscated in Frog Hollow, Arkansas because you don't have proof of a license or registration.

If you scan your registration and drivers license into a document, you can carry it on a disk, email to yourself so it's available via internet, or take a picture and carry them on your cell phone.

Zip lock bags are excellent for storing additional cash. Stash the money securely under the seat, next to the battery, in a fuse box, or some other hidden area.

One of the worst maintenance problems you can encounter is a flat tire. A can of tire sealer, compressed air is good insurance. When your buddy's tire goes flat, you can usually triple your money when you sell him that can.

A road side service card, such as A.M.A.'s Extra mile, or AAA's Plus RV, are necessities on long trips. Most of these services today, however, are only good for a one – time response. So, if you use your AMA Extra Mile or HOG Roadside Assistance for your buddy, guess what? You have no coverage for the rest of the year.

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Pack clothes for the worst possible weather you can imagine. Never just pack for "Today's" weather. Always pack for tomorrow's sleet and snowstorm.

And finally, all the planning, preparation, coordination, and execution will become meaningless if you don't make your hotel reservations for Group One or Group Two, now!

Group One (Bard Board):

Wed. Aug 4, City Center Hotel (old Holiday Inn Downtown), Mankato, MN. Top Cats Special Rate: \$74.94. Phone: (507) 345-1234 / (877)345-5577. Make reservations under Top Cats' block of rooms.

Thurs Aug 5, River Lodge (old Kelly Inn), Pierre, SD. \$59.00 single, \$65.00 dbl. Phone: (605) 224-4140 ask for Sonya. Make reservations under Top Cats' block of rooms.

Fri, Aug 6, Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD. Price per contract. Phone: 800-888-ALEX (2539) ask for Jasmine Markis, if she is available talk to her directly. Must ask for the Top Cats' block of reservations, then they will send you an agreement to fill out and return. Or, see Wayne for a copy of the agreement.

Group Two (Gary Brandt):

Thurs Aug 5, Holiday Inn Fairmont, MN. . \$109.99 / night. Phone: (507) 238-4771

Make reservations under Top Cats' block of rooms. We only have 10 rooms reserved and when they are booked, our chances of getting any more are slim. Book now!

Fri, Aug 6, Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD. Price per contract. Phone: 800-888-ALEX (2539) ask for Jasmine Markis, if she is available talk to her directly. Must ask for the Top Cats' block of reservations, then they will send you an agreement to fill out and return.

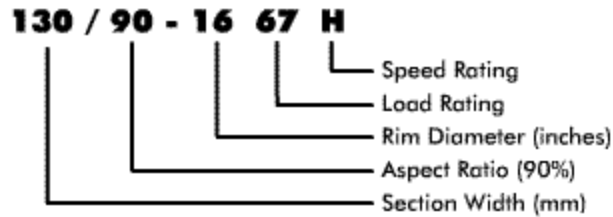
Remember, Group 3, led by Wayne, will form up at the Alex Johnson Hotel, in Rapid City and depart on 11 August for a five or six day ride home via the Rocky Mountains, Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, The Great Sand Dunes, Angel Fire, Red River, and the Santa Fe Trail. Five or six days? Yes, recall the thesis that good rides are based on flexibility? This ride will be about 2,000 miles over 5 days with the option, on any given leg of the trip, to cut the ride short and head directly back home for those who have to be back by a particular date / time.



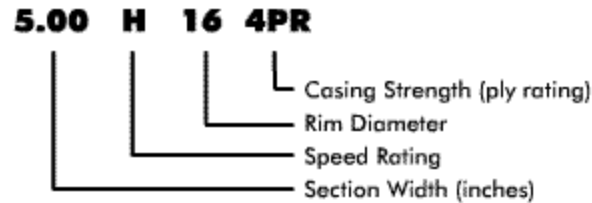
How to Read Tire Service Descriptions, Size, Load Index & Speed Rating

By Traveler

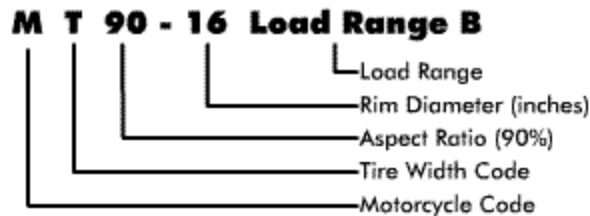
Metric Designation



Inch Designation



Alphabetical Designation



Front Tires

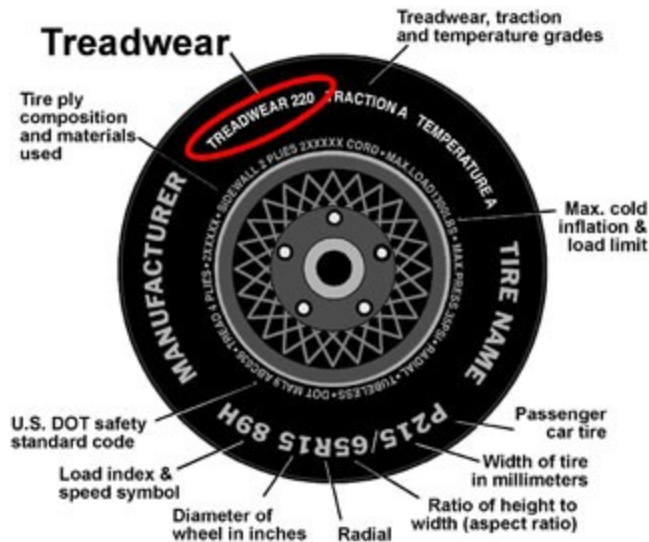
metric	alpha	inch
80/90	MH90	2.50/2.75
90/90	MJ90	2.75/3.00
100/90	MM90	3.25/3.50
120/80		4.25/4.50
120/90	MR90	4.25/4.50
130/90	MT90	5.00/5.10

Rear Tires

metric	alpha	inch
110/90	MP85	4.00/4.75
120/90	MR90	4.50/4.75
130/80		5.00/5.10
140/80		5.50/6.00
140/90	MU90	5.50/6.00
150/80	MV85	6.00/6.25
150/90	MV85	6.00/6.25

(Continued from page 15)

Typical Tire Data Location



HOW I MISSED ANDY'S KICK-OFF RIDE

(Continued from page 1)

8:30 a.m.	Take cover off bike- quick clean/once over	check
8:45 a.m.	Helmet, gloves, leather—all on; ready to roll!!!	check
8:46 a.m.	Start bike	NOT
8:47 a.m.	Start bike	NOT
8:48 a.m.	Start bike	NOT
8:49 a.m.	Say a special mystical incantation; then start bike	NOT
8:50 a.m.	Start to panic	check
9:00 a.m.	Call H/D"—no help; "battery probably dead	check
9:10 a.m.	Search for battery charger (didn't find)	check
9:20 a.m.	Call Andy to gracefully bow out of ride	check
9:25 a.m.	A Starbuck's induced epiphany!!; read M.O.M.	check
9:29 a.m.	Retrieve spare FOB from neighbor's garage	check
9:30 a.m.	START BIKE	check

This is all true and accurate! I missed Andy's Kick Off Ride because I couldn't start my bike on time!

Later that same morning I went to Lakeshore Harley to pick up some parts. While there I also picked up 2 spare batteries for my fobs; and one to keep in my tourpack. The service department guy told me that I wouldn't believe the number of bikes that they've picked up to be serviced where the only thing that needed "work" was the battery fob. It seems that the fobs begin to go bad after 2 years. Obviously not everyone rides a Harley. Obviously, not all Harley riders require a key fob. Just as obviously, Harley was unaware of this potential issue. I am—and now, you are also!!

The fix? A \$1.95 battery!

The moral to the story? Keep your M.O.M handy; M.O.M. always knows best!



Index(LI) Ratings (Lbs per wheel)

LOAD INDEX (LI) RATING CHART

LI	lbs.	LI	lbs.	LI	lbs.	LI	lbs.	LI	lbs.
20	176	33	254	46	375	59	536	72	783
21	182	34	260	47	386	60	551	73	805
22	187	35	267	48	397	61	567	74	827
23	193	36	276	49	408	62	584	75	853
24	198	37	282	50	419	63	600	76	882
25	204	38	291	51	430	64	617	77	908
26	209	39	300	52	441	65	639	78	937
27	215	40	309	53	454	66	661	79	963
28	220	41	320	54	467	67	677	80	992
29	227	42	331	55	481	68	694	81	1019
30	234	43	342	56	494	69	716	82	1047
31	240	44	353	57	507	70	736	83	1074
32	247	45	364	58	520	71	761	84	1102

Speed Ratings

Motorcycle Tire Speed Ratings TIRE SPEED RATING CHART

Maximum Design/Test Speed

J Type 62 mph 100 kph

N Type 87 mph 140 kph

P Type 94 mph 150 kph

S Type 112 mph 180 kph

H Type 130 mph 210 kph

V Type 149 mph 240 kph

Z Type 149+ mph 240+ kph

Tires with 2.00, 2.25 & 2.50 nominal section widths are rated for 75 mph.

*ZR classifications for these wheels are for vehicles capable of over 150mph/240 kph but NOT exceeding 168mph/270kph or 185mph/300kph respectively.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

and requests for additional ones. There are plenty of open dates remaining, so do not be hesitant. Let us know your ideas, and anyone of our Senior Road Captains will assist you in scoping out, mapping and carrying out your favorite ride.

As we go to press

the Anita Zaffke memorial ride will be happening on May 1st and the trial of the defendant will commence the following Monday. Lots of Top Cats are participating in the ride which, undoubtedly, will be well attended by bikers throughout Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin.

Finally,

Enjoy the better weather, stay safe and

Ride On,
Carl

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

HELP WANTED WEBSITE EDITOR

The Top Cats Board of Directors is looking for an enterprising and creative individual to assume responsibility for coordinating the content on our soon-to-be upgraded website. No 'technical' website experience is required.

The primary responsibility will be to work with the webmaster and various individuals who 'own' certain areas of the website to ensure our content is fresh and inviting as well as come up with ideas for additional content and enhancements to the site to bring more value to our members.

For more information contact any board member or Dennis P (Wombat) Dougherty at wombat@dpdougherty.com



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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6TH, 2010

VILLA SOPHIA RESTAURANT - WAUCONDA

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Carl Marcyan, Top Cats President

Opening

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

It was noted that former Top Cat Karl Schiffmayer (Fritz) had passed away and that the wake and services were later in the week.

Guests: Andy Hay, Bob Malmen, Marc Peter, Mano Gawat and Helen Aninag

Carl welcomed Brian Shahinian and Jillian Geise from NISRA.

Guest Speaker was Greg Zaffke Jr. who spoke about the upcoming Epic Memorial Ride 5/1/10 to honor his mother, Anita Zaffke, who was killed by a distracted driver. The ride is intended to inform the public of the dangers of driving while distracted. In this case the driver was polishing her nails. You can see more details on the web site www.blacknailbrigade.org

Vice President-Mike Bradbury

Mike asked members to let him know if they needed to place an order for any Top Cat merchandise.

Charity-Joan DeRango and Mike Bradbury

The Charity event will be held on July 25th. The raffle tickets were available for people to take and start selling. Mike asked if members could take flyers and pass out to businesses. Mike also asked for volunteers to sell raffle tickets the day of the event. Joan asked everyone to try and get donations from motorcycle dealers or other businesses. Brian Shahinian showed a video about NISRA and talked about the amount of money, more than 230,000, Top Cats have donated so far and expressed NISRA'S appreciation.

Past President-Gary Brandt Gary Brandt talked about the upcoming Top Cat's 15th Anniversary Celebration Weekend, July 16th, 17th, and 18th. There will be dinner on Friday night, a door to door ride, pig roast and bonfire on Sat, and a brunch ride on Sunday to Eagle WI (site of Top Cats 1st Charity Event. Gary asked members to save the dates and to R.S.V. P. when asked. Wayne Kirkpatrick passed out a 15th Anniversary patch to all members. They will be available at all of the general meetings this summer.

Each Top Cat member will receive one complimentary and be able to purchase more.

ROAR -Website- Dennis Dougherty, Andy Konsewicz and Mary Walters

Dennis showed a detail presentation of the new website. He demonstrated all of the various functions available to members as well as the general public. The completely redesigned site is a major project for 2010 and will be launched in May.

Safety/GRASS/Road Captains-Wayne Kirkpatrick/Don Schaffer/Ric Case/Gary Brandt.

Wayne announced that the next G.R.A.S.S class will be May 2nd at Keller Williams, Harris bank building in Palatine at N.W. highway and Rt. 53. Wayne also said he has Top Cat coins available for purchase. Don Schaffer said to contact him or Gary if anyone wanted to help get a group together to attend, and help road captain, the Epic Memorial Ride for Anita Zaffke.

Safety Tip-Chuck Prettyman

Chuck suggested investing in a good rain suit and to try it on ahead of time so you know it fits. It was also suggested that you keep your rain gear in your right saddle bag, for easier access because of the angle of bike when parked. He also said to exit your bike on the right when traffic is on the left.

Activities-Larry Scalzitti/Greg Smith

Greg talked about the Kick-off Ride for April 17th. Top Cats will have a Franks and Fries Ride which will be once a month. Details are on website. John Lunde talked about the Little Angels Ride will be on May 16th. Meet at Caribou coffee in Algonquin (Randall Rd) at 8am.

Membership-Stewart Johnson/Eileen Perry

Two new members were presented this month, Ed Sotor and Fred Creed. Eileen asked that if anyone wanted to order more name tags to let her know.

Meeting adjourned by Carl Marcyan at 9pm.

50/50 Raffle Sgt at Arms-Chris Marcyan

This month's winner was Joan DeRango



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 9TH, 2010

D&J BISTRO - LAKE ZURICH

Submitted by Muriel Brandt

Present: Carl Marcyan, Gary Brandt, Mike Bradbury, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Muriel Brandt, Stewart Johnson, and Greg Smith for Larry Scalzitti

Absent: Tom Nichols, Dennis Dougherty and Larry Scalzitti

President-Carl Marcyan called meeting to order at 7:34pm.

Carl thanked Greg Smith for filling in for Larry Scalzitti.

Vice President-Mike Bradbury

Mike spoke about the plans for selling raffle tickets at various locations and times during the summer. He also will be speaking at the Jersey Pine Cruiser meeting to promote our clubs charity event.

Mike will be placing an order for more Top Cat merchandise ordering a few extra things for auctioning at the charity event.

Carl asked Mike to try and get next months General Meeting off-site at Lakeshore Harley.

Treasurer- Tom Nichols

Carl Marcyan passed out the balance sheet and budget (provided by Tom Nichols) which the Board looked over and discussed. There were questions regarding expenses that will be addressed at the next board meeting.

Membership-Stewart Johnson

Mano Gawat application was presented to the Board. He is an ex-Top Cat, who is back in the area. His application was approved. Three other applications were reviewed and deferred to next month's board meeting due to lack of information.

Wayne Kirkpatrick said the membership process on the website needs to be checked for accuracy. Gary Brandt thought that the committee head for membership should gather the applications and bring them to the board meetings.

Mike Bradbury suggested Carl talk about how to apply for membership at the General Meetings.

Safety and Awards-Wayne Kirkpatrick

Wayne discussed ideas for safety tips during pre-ride meetings. He used an example of having riders check their tires

for correct air pressure at the beginning of a ride. He will be discussing this with the safety committee. He mentioned the upcoming May 2nd G.R.A.S.S class.

Wayne will be placing an order for key chains for the Top Cat coins.

Wayne talked about a leather patch, which in the early years of Top Cats was awarded to a member bringing in a new member. This is reinstated and to be awarded to one of our members who recently brought in 2 new members.

Past President-Gary Brandt

Gary reported on 15th Top Cat Anniversary kickoff at the general meeting. The response seemed to be favorable from the membership. Anniversary patches were passed out at the last General Meeting and will be available to members at all the upcoming meetings. Starting next month, one Past President will speak at each general meeting about the history of Top Cats. Gary said the Anniversary committee is continuing to plan the rides/events for the Celebration Weekend in July.

Activities-Greg Smith

Greg reported that the goal for 2010 riding season is to have at least 30 rides on the calendar, and to date there are 29 already. There are 2 in April, 7 in May, 4 in June, 8 in July, 4 in Aug. 3 in Sept. and 1 in Oct.

Roar/Website-Dennis Dougherty

No report

Secretary- Muriel Brandt

Nothing to report

Old business/New Business

Wayne Kirkpatrick and Carl Marcyan talked about attending the recent POSSE meeting and reported that out of 15 clubs, 12 were represented. The purpose of the POSSE is to help make sure that we don't interfere with each others' primary fund raising rides.

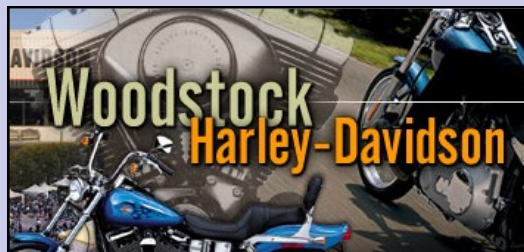
There continue to be many positive comments about the Top Cat's G.R.A.S.S. class by the other clubs.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

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RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Sunday, May 02	G.R.A.S.S. Class	TBD	TBD	8:30 AM	Ric Case
Tuesday, May 04	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, May 08	Galena Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Tom Nichols
Tuesday, May 11	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, May 15	Battle Ride Ride	City Limits HD Pala-tine	Russell Military Museum	8-9:30 PM	Wayne Kirkpatrick
Sunday, May 16	Little Angels	TBD	TBD	8:00 AM	TBD
Sunday, May 23	Aunt Millie's Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Tony Loden
Saturday, May 29	Wisc. Back Roads Tour	TBD	TBD	TBD	Larry Scalzitti
Sun & Mon, May 30 & 31	Stayin Safe	TBD	TBD	TBD	Larry Scalzitti
Tuesday, June 01	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, June 05	NISRA Fishing Derby	TBD	TBD	TBD	Joan DeRango
Tuesday, June 08	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, June 12	Poopy's Run	TBD	Savannah, IL	TBD	Tony Loden
Tuesday, June 15	Franks and fries	Gene & Jude's	River Forest	6:30 PM	Larry Scalzitti
Friday, June 18	Little Sturgis	Rt120 and Rt12	Davenport, Iowa	8:30 AM	Gary Brandt
Tuesday, July 06	General Meeting	Villa Sofia	Wauconda	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
Saturday, July 10	Big Cats Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Stefen Levy
Sunday, July 11	Byron's 5 Alarm Firehouse & Pub	TBD	Byron, IL	TBD	Tony Loden
Tuesday, July 13	Board Meeting	D & J Bistro	Lake Zurich	7:30 PM	Carl Marcyan
July 16 17 & 18	TC's Celebration weekend	TBD	TBD	TBD	Past Presidents
Tuesday, July 20	Franks and fries	Scooters	Lake Bluff	6:30 PM	Larry Scalzitti
Saturday, July 25	Ride For Dreams	Volo Auto Museum	Volo	9:00 PM	Mike Bradbury

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This offer is for Top Cats business owners only. We are not accepting advertising for other businesses at this time.



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

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