

# The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

### PRESIDENT'S MINUTE

Hmmmm. Should I be setting in front of a key board or a set of handlebars? Today's weather makes

that a tough decision but...just like riding in the rain....gotta do it.

This month, it's pretty easy to look around and decide on what to write about...the absolutely incredible performance of our members who don't hesitate to saddle up and put on a Top Cat – class ride.....

### **CHARITY RIDE**

As I write this, we have not yet held our annual Ride for Dreams however, I have no doubt that the efforts of such dedicated Top Cats as the; Rigsbys,



Brandts, Smiths, Peiffers, Mary Walters and Ric Case will result in another proud accomplishment for our Club and NISRA. The work of this core group, assisted by so many other Top Cats, is one major reason why so many of us are so proud to be.....Top Cats. Thanx to everyone who helped.

### **RIDE TO KEGEL'S AND THE AUTO MUSEUM**



In Early July, Rich Flynn got antsy and decided he needed more miles on his bike before an oil change so....he recruited Bard Boand as his mentor and planned a ride to the Roscoe/Rockford area that included lunch at Kegel's HD and a tour of the Historic Auto Museum. Awesome ride, well attended and Rich's multiple pre rides (one in the rain) resulted in a great back roads route. Thanx. Rich!

### **TREMPEALEAU**

Waaaay back in the day, Top Cats journeyed to a little river town called Trempealeau, WI. The roads were

great, the town was quaint, the riding was fantastic. food was good, prices





sonable and the camaraderie was sky high.

So...why go back?

(Cont. Pg 4)

### August, 2013

Volume 13, Issue 8

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Next General Meeti	ng:
August 13!	
Changed due to Stur	gis.

### Upcoming Events AUGUST

10 RFTNIS 11 Mendota Sweet Corn 13 General Meeting 20 Board Meeting 18 Lions, Tigers, and Classics 24 – 25 President's Ride 27 Franks and Fries 30 National HOG Rally **SEPTEMBER** 3 General Meeting 10 Board Meeting 14-15 Highground Memorial Run

17 Franks and Fries

**BIKERS WHO MEAN BUSINESS** 



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## ROAR

# KAUTION KORNER

### "Bend over and say... aahh ... I forgot to check my tire pressure!"

By Greg Snuth Senior Road Captain

How many times have you found yourself chatting with other motorcycle enthusiast and the importance of tire pressure (PSI) and especially the need to check it on a regular basis comes up ... But Do We Check It?

After having been reminded to "check your tire pressure" and having it drummed into our heads all the years we have been riding, why do we still get on the bike, start it, and take it for a ride without checking the tire pressure? Think about – we have all done that.

We have been lead to believe that a tire pressure deviation of +/-2 lbs. is



acceptable. However, consider this; we rely on a tool (our tire gauge) that in many cases may be off  $\pm 0$  to 5 lbs. With a tire gauge off  $\pm 5$  lbs. plus a deviation of 2 lbs., your tire pressure could be off 7 $\pm 1$  lbs. This could cause a significant change in the handling of your motorcycle. Now add in that the average rider checks their tire pressure once to twice a year, and when you fail to regularly check your tire pressure the potential of extreme improper tire pressure increases; now you have a huge problem and recipe for disaster. A good quality tire gauge is a must and preferably two.

The tire pressure or PSI of your motorcycle tire is calculated by the manufacture to give the maximum handling factor on a motorcycle. It controls everything from the tire's contact patch on the road to side wall flex, and thus effects tire road grip / overall handling / wear / and of course fuel consumption. Any PSI deviation, either up or down, affects one or more of these.

Tire pressure should always be checked when tires are cool, before a ride or at least 3 hours after the last ride. Get in the habit of checking your tires at least once a week and every time you go for a ride. Never exceed the maximum inflation pressure (PSI) listed on the tire's sidewall, or the tires load limit. Doing so can cause tire failure. Remember many motorcycles require you to adjust the pressure to account for weight load such as a passenger or extra luggage.

The Top Cats have put out the MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) "T-CLOCS" inspection check list. The first Item on the list is T = Tires. Keep this list handy.



Remember, the small Patch of contact of the front and rear tires are the motorcycle's only source of traction. Take an interest in your tires, check their condition often and check the air pressure every time you ride. BUY a good Tire gauge ... but more importantly...

<u>USE IT</u>.

Stay Safe

BIKERS WHO MEAN BUSINESS





Where has the month of July gone?! Not having to worry about the motorcycle school this year has given me my summer back and I'm loving it. I'm on day 27 of my 34 plus day journey. I'm writing this in Coleville, Washington and should be in Glacier National Park tomorrow. As of today, I've ridden over sixty five hundred miles and been to eleven states - not bad for an old man.

It's also been a very special trip for me because Judy was able to fly out to Portland, Oregon and join me for ten days. We started with three days at the BMW Motorcycle Owners Association (BMWMOA)

Rally in Salem, Oregon. On day two we took advantage of a bus tour to three local wineries for tastings and a catered lunch at one of the vineyards. Not your typical rally offering, but it was fun and we were able to have some of our favorite finds shipped back home to enjoy another day.

After the rally ended, we had six more days to explore Oregon and Washington. We started by spending a day at the magnificent Crater Lake National Park and were able to stay at the Crater Lake Lodge in the Rim Village. From there we headed west to the coast and steadily worked our way north. We met a number of other riders and one couple told us to stop at Ruby Beach in northern Oregon. It was a great stop and the hike to beach was more than worth the time it took for the stop.



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Although we had dry weather, the coastal temperatures hovered in the low fifties while we were there. We stayed on 101 and circled around Olympic National Park. We took advantage of a long, twisty back road that led to the Hoh Rain Forest at the foot of Mount Olympus. It was a trip Judy's parents had made many years before and one that her Mother



remembers fondly to this day. It'll be a shared memory for them from now moving forward.

Next it was off for Mount Ranier and Mount Saint Helens before heading back to Portland. We had some fantastic seafood meals, rode almost 1800 miles together and had more fun than we could imagine. Judy and I hope to make these trips an annual event!

I ran into a forest fire yesterday and had to route around a closed highway. It worked out for the best because I found a fantastic road and got to see and smell the destructive forces of nature. Here's a roadside shot of what blocked my path. More on the trip another day.

> Ride safe and ride often, Larry

#### {President's Minute.. Continued

Because Mike Bradbury said that is the way a ride is supposed to be! And, so, we have benefited from Mike's planning and coordination of this Independence Day Weekend ride numerous times. This year was no different. Starting the day with an outstanding rural ride, visiting attractions like Elmer's Junk Yard and ending it with a great meal and a good campfire can't be beat. If we had a "Signature" series of rides....this one would head the list. Thanx Mike and Kathie!

### SHOOTOUT



For the second time this year, we have gathered for breakfast and...headed to the range for a few hours of recreational shooting. While not a ride, it had all of the ingredients of one of our rides with a bit of mystery, some intrigue, many laughs, some hits and misses a lot of brother/ sisterhood, and....we learned which of our sisters we'd want on our side on the battlefield.

### **FRANKS & FRIES**

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, let this shot explain it all.... And...there was no line to with in.



### **FLY IN**

An awesome ride typical of what Stewart Johnson plans and conducts..... An early start, a scenic ride, a great venue, and an enjoyable day thanx to Stewart. We rode the Ride in / Fly in to the East Troy Airport for their annual

fly - in including a pancake breakfast, antique planes and classic cars, and plane rides. Even though most of us had to give up Saturday morning car-



toons, I could not think of a better way to spend a great Saturday morning.

Thanx, Stewart!

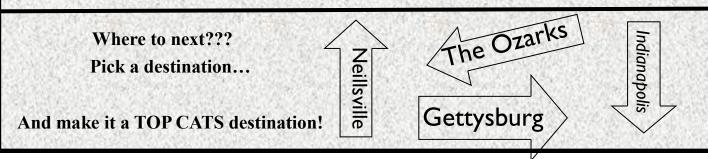
Coming up this month is; 12 riders off to Sturgis, President's Ride, Ride for Those Not in Sturgis, Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, Lions and Tigers and Classic Cars ride,



Franks & Fries and...the Harley 110th Anniversary Party. Check our web site for details and take the time to thank every one of our brothers and sisters who make this all happen!!!!!!

Let's roll,

**Traveler** President Top Cats – Illinois



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## Name that Top Cat!

There are many opinions about who is in this early American Biker Snapshot... Send your ideas to Mary Walters or study the picture and bring your ideas to the next General Meeting. The results will be published in the September ROAR!

View this with at least a 150% zoom... these faces are timeless!

To Ride or Not to Ride.... That is the Question!

A short reflection by Mary Walters

And by the looks of this picture, it has been for many years! Some ladies here are passengers and others look like they are standing in front of their own 'ride'...I wonder what some of the ladies had to face when deciding what to do back in the early 1900's....

It's 2013 now, and I am in the 'fortunate' position of having to decide if I should take my own 'ride' out to Sturgis this year or hang on to the back of a more experienced rider and just enjoy the views... What a choice! For me, I am feeling a sense of gratitude and excitement as I undertake the decision making process on this dilemma.

On the one hand, I can experience the twists and turns with throttle in hand. I can pack more gear and not worry about turning clothing inside-out and wearing it one more time. I might even be able to include a curling iron... I know, I know. Some of you will understand and others of you will not even know why this is being mentioned... But it's one of the deciding factors. Might even be the one that tips the scale.

Aside from that, I begin to think of other aspects of riding solo. I can see the roads ahead. I can feel the breezes rushing past my face. I can smell the pine and damp forest floors. It is something that is difficult to describe, but so easy to recall. (continued on page 7)

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ackstory

## Let's Ride

LONG BEFORE HARLEY OWNERS GROUP® BECAME A FORCE IN THE MOTORCYCLE WORLD, Harley-Davidson® riders gathered and formed clubs to ride and share their passion. This photo, which originally appeared in *Motorcycle Illustrated*, depicts a 1912 gathering of a Chicago group.

As described by the magazine: "One of the most pleasant features of the first annual picnic and field day of the Chicago Motorcycle Club, held on June 29, was the interest manifested by the women riders of the city. Many of them accompanied the club as tandem passengers and a few piloted their own machines. Over 150 enthusiasts participated in the program."

To read more about early Harley-Davidson clubs and events, see Archives on Page 64.

There is something about it that has healing properties, and I've always wondered if this is what led early humans to begin the 'healing traditions' of the Shaman and other mystical healing ceremonies. Did they go out into the forests, smell the smells, become healed and then connect the two? O.K., much too enigmatic for anyone at this point... including me. But, as I think of this, I realize that no matter what you experience while riding individually, you can put it into words and can share it later with anyone who is along on the ride. They'll understand. So this becomes a neutral point. It can be experienced from both sides.

On the other hand, if I'm on the back of another bike as a passenger, I can SEE the twists and turns and burn into my memory some very gorgeous sites as well as experience all of those enigmatic aspects of the ride. AND THAT carries more weight than anything else that I can put down on paper... so, even though this paragraph is so short, the weight of the argument is immeasurable with words.

But now, the decision.... I want to do both. Can I do both? Why can't I do both?

HARLEY

Well, in talking to the person who would work with me on this dilemma, it IS possible to do both! I can pack, ride, and experience the comforts of riding to our destination by being on my own bike. I can then decide to park the bike or ride on back to experience whatever comes along down the road... I have the option of being the passenger for those REALLY important times... All while holding the hand (for a few minutes) of the very important person who shares the seat with me. So, now... I have to admit to all that I'm feeling pretty lucky. Blessed might be a better word... I get to take my bike and park it too! Now, on to the packing! YAHOO!



## ROAR



### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES JULY 2, 2013

J and D's, 24600 N. Rand Rd, Wauconda, II 60084 Submitted by Mary Walters

### Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Wayne Kirkpatrick

The meeting started in the parking lot with an instruction on bike inspections. Each of the Road Captains assisted members in an inspection of their bikes. Findings varied, but that led to discussion on the variances for tire

pressure, fluid levels, handle bar location, and other aspects of the bike that can influence the safety of the ride. Wayne created a checklist using AMA's information and standards. The form can be used at the beginning and end of a season or before and after every ride... depending on individual preference.

It was a great opportunity for each participant to get to know the specifics of their bike, and all agreed it would be worth doing again in the future.

The meeting then moved inside, where members were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. No guests were present for this meeting.

### President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- The President's Ride destination will be Spring Green, Wisconsin. The attractions in the area include *House on the Rock, Cave of the Mounds*, and the *Frank Lloyd Wright House, The Taliesan*. It will be an overnight with a great ride also.
- Because of Sturgis the first week in August, the next general meeting will be held on 13 Aug.

#### Past President's Comments: Mike Bradbury

• Mike said he is looking forward to leading the ride to Trempeleau at the end of the week. As are those who are planning on attending. Mike highlighted the main events for the trip.

#### Vice President's Report: Larry Scalzitti

• Larry is on the road for a month-long ride to and through the West and Northwest. We look forward to hearing and reading about his adventures in the months to come.

#### Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- As Always, the ROAR is looking for riding stories, ideas, comments, and insights. Please forward your thoughts to Mary and become a part of the club's documented history.
- Any changes to your contact information should be forwarded to Mary, so that the master rosters can be kept current and accurate. This will insure that you will receive of all club updates.

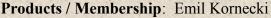
#### Treasurer's Report: Stewart Johnson

• Stewart is in the process of completing all of the quarterly updates to the books. All of this month's information is balanced, accurate, and up to date. Members will be able to locate all reports on the website under the membership section.



(Continued on page 11)

BIKERS WHO MEAN BUSINESS



Membership

• The board has accepted Greg Ludwig as our newest member. Greg was unable to make it to the meeting tonight, but will be traveling with the club to Trempeleau. It is a given that Greg will feel welcome and will enjoy his summer much more – as he rides his newly acquired bike with the club.

Products

• There are still shirts and other Top Cat Items available for members.

#### Safety / Charity: Ric Case

Charity

- The Charity Event is in the final phases.
- The route is complete and there will be a pre-ride for the Road Captains on 20 July, 2013.
- The Raffle Items are still being collected and a 'Biker Quilt' will be a part of the event.
- A Mass Blast will be sent out asking for your time on the day of the event.
- All other pieces will be addressed at the final meeting.

Safety

- The July Grass Class has been postponed and then next scheduled class is 20 October, 2013.
- Gary Brandt spoke on the necessity of being aware of your surroundings in all situations, but specifically in a storm. His Safety article can be read in the July edition of the ROAR.
- A summary of the findings from the earlier bike assessment was presented to the members at the meeting. Tires, fluids, and other safety issues were discussed. Over-inflation of tires can be as dangerous as under-inflation, so be sure to know the specifications of your tires and check them regularly.

#### Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

Activities

- All upcoming events were reviewed and details can be seen on the website. Some of the highlights included:
- Trempeleau, 5-7 July; The Big Cat Ride, 7 July; Range Day, 13 July; and Sturgis, 31 July through 11 August. See the calendar for details. Updates to the calendar will be made continually as new information is developed.

Awards:

• Nothing to report at this time.

### History/Web Site: Jeff Tietz

History

• Nothing to report at this time. Information on Top Cats History is available on the Barrington Library Website.

Website

- Rich Flynn was unable to make the meeting tonight, but has stated that the website is now running well without any incidents.
- Activities on the Calendar will be updated and some of the missing information will be added to the events.

The 50 / 50 was pulled by Stan Lukasik and the winner was Stan's good friend, Emil Kornecki...Very Interesting... wonder where they are going after the meeting?!

The meeting adjourned at 9:05





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## ROAR

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

### JULY 9, 2013

J and D's, 24600 N. Rand Rd, Wauconda, II 60084 Submitted by Mary Walters

### **Top Cats of Illinois** 07/09/13 Board Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:35

Present: Stewart Johnson, Mike Bradbury, Jeff Tietz, Ric Case, Emil Kornecki, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Mary Walters Excused: Larry Scalzitti and Gene Rigsby

### President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- There will not be any guest speakers at the next few meetings.
- The August meeting will include a presentation on the functions of a GPS. Wayne Kirkpatrick, Tom Malia, and other Road Captains will show how a route can be loaded, recorded at the end of a ride, and other pieces of information that will make using a GPS less intimidating.
- It is time to start thinking about the elections. The following schedule was proposed and discussed by the board:
- August: Announce that elections are upcoming. The positions that are open for this year are: Secretary, Treasurer, and two director positions.
- September: Invoices will be sent on or before 15 September with a due date of 30 October. The members eligible to vote will be those whose dues are current and whom have attended at least five events during this calendar year. This will also allow for time to consider any special situations for members who would like to maintain their membership, but are experiencing challenges at this time.
- November: Elections. Larry Scalzitti will be asked run the process and to officiate at the November general meeting.

### Vice President: Larry Scalzitti

Larry has started his month long journey to the west. He will update us on upon his return.

### Secretary: Mary Walters

- ROAR is going well, but as always could use some new materials. Stories from Road Captains, Previews of rides, and other motorcycle related data would help to keep it fresh.
- Master Roster updates are current for all participation and contact information.

### Treasurer: Stewart Johnson

1. Stewart is in the process of completing all of the quarterly updates to the books. When all of the information is balanced, accurate, and up to date, he will forward the information to the board for review and then have the data uploaded to the website.

### Past President: Mike Bradbury

• Mike asked for a regular spot for speaking at the general meeting each month. He would like to work with Wayne to identify areas in the club or the schedule that he could emphasize or clarify for the members.

### Director: Gene Rigsby

Activities

• Gene is traveling with his family out west and will update us when he returns.

(Continued on page 13)

- Mike brought up a discussion on the accuracy of the activities listed on the website. He suggested a number of changes and updates to the calendar on the web. Wayne stated he would create a list of the suggestions and send them to Gene for review upon his return.
- Other discussion on Activities included:
- Changing the Hot Dog nights to coincide with Cruise nights in various towns.
- Setting a date for a picnic at Cantigny in September.

#### Director: Emil Kornecki

Membership

- Discussion was had on possible venues to investigate for spreading information and the Top Cat name.
- Emil will contact Randy and Nancy Woods to let them know that we all enjoyed their presence at the last general meeting.
- Emil also stated that the guests on the ride to Trempeleau enjoyed the camaraderie and the riding techniques used by the club. They said that they felt safe and enjoyed the level of riding that was done on the trip. The live so far south, thought, that it would be difficult for them to attend many of the Top Cat events.

#### Products

• A few items have been requested from products. Emil will order those and then we can hopefully sell the other inventory or use them for raffle items.

#### Director: Ric Case

Safety

- The next GRASS Class will be held on 20 October, 2013.
- The past classes have been successful and many positive comments have been made on the structure and value of the information presented.
- The Schedule for the next Kaution Korners and safety tips were reviewed.

#### Charity

• The next meeting will be on 15 July at the Brandts. Final adjustments will be made and responsibilities will be identified for each of the needed posts on the day of the event. The ride route is compete and will be pre-ridden on 20July.

#### Director: Jeff Tietz

History

• All is well at the Barrington Library.

Web Site

• The advertisement on the website needs to be updated. Jeff will contact Rich to have him eliminate the ads that are older and 'extinct'.

#### Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.



### August Celebrations

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



16th Jane Smith 24th Greg Smith 28th Noelle and Gene Rigsby 30th Tony and Terri Loden





BIKERS WHO MEAN BUSINESS

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## 2013....

Record our Top Cat History! Take pictures... Write Stories.... And Submit them to the ROAR!

The Barrington Area library has finished archiving about 150 pages of our club photos.

They are found at http://www.flickr.com/photos/barringtonhistory/tags/topcats/. Check them out... and see how things used to be..

### TOP CATS BUSINESS MART BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS



SCALZITTI FINANCIAL SERVICES, L.L.C.Taxes Financial Planning Insurance Annuities Notary Public"A Good Guy to Know at Tax Time"Image: A Good Guy to Know at Tax Time"Larry Scalzitti836 N. Fernandez Ave.Arlington Hts., IL 60004Arlington Hts., IL 60004Office: 847-253-7316Fax: 847-749-4354Cell: 847-207-5160

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## ROAR

### Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Top Cats Get 20% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry 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.

### 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 soonto-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

**Richard Flynn** 

RichFlynnJr@aol.com



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(Zanos

RIDES & EVENIS							
Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader		
Sunday, August 4th							
Saturday, August 10th	RFTNIS	TBD	TBD	8:30 am	Scalzitti		
Sunday, August 11th	Medota Sweet Corn Ride	TBD	TBD	8:30 am	Johnson		
Tuesday, August 13th	General Meeting	Wauconda	J and D's	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick		
Tuesday August 20th	Board Meeting	Wauconda		7:30 p m			
Sat/Sun August 24th-25th	President's Ride	Citgo / McD's at 14 and 176	Dodgeville, Wi	9:00 am	Kirkpatrick		
Tuesday, August 27th							
Friday, August 30th- Sunday September 1	HD's 110th Anniversary	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	TBD	Kirkpatrick		
Tuesday, September 3rd	General Meeting	Wauconda		7:30 pm			
Sunday, September 8th	Progressive Dinner	All Around Town	Fun	TBD	TBD		
Tuesday, September 10th	Board Meeting	Wauconda	J and D's	7:30 p m	Kirkpatrick		
Saturday-Sunday September 14th and 15th	Highground Memorial Run	Citgo / McD's at 14 and 176	Neillsville, WI	7:00 am	Walters		
Tuesday, September 17th		Lake Zurich					

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

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

ROAR@TOPCATS.org