



# ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S MINUTE



Wow! That pretty much sums up our recent California Adventure Ride. As you will hear, the

Lodens put together a terrific ride that required tremendous coordination and planning, timely execution and....had a very high "Fun" factor.

The down sides of this ride? Emil's Indian died, the weather was a bit chilly, and....the group almost missed the April Top Cats meeting. Somehow, however, Tony and Gene Rigsby were able to connect both groups from Palatine to Santa Barbara via video conferencing.

Stay tuned for more of these Adventure Rides as they are becoming a signature of Top Cats – Illinois.

The mainstay of our "Adventure Rides" has always been our annual trek to Sturgis, planned and executed by Bard Board.



This year is no exception and, as added value, I'll be leading a group home from Sturgis via scenic back roads through Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, and Iowa.



As we look down the road to our summer, we'll be seeing more theme type rides being offered such as Mary Walter's ride to the Livingston County War Museum



The great Fly In Ride that Stewart Johnson is now renown for.



As part of our commitment to support worthwhile local charities, we'll be showing up at the Annual Little Angels ride in May as we had years ago when we were the largest Club to attend the event and, we used to lead it. (Cont on pg. 11)

May, 2014

Volume 14, Issue 5

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### Upcoming Events

#### MAY

- 4 Grass Class
- 6 General Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting
- 18 Little Angels Satellite Ride

#### JUNE

- 4 ANNUAL BREAKFAST RUN
- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 21-22 LIVINGSTON LIVE!

The Riding Season is HERE!





## **KAUTION KORNER**

### ***Spring Back... on the Bike!***

By: Rich Flynn, Road Captain

Spring is in the air. The birds are chirping and the roars of motorcycles make the noises of the new season. But don't forget that there are dangers with the approach of motorcycle season. Proper preparedness for the bike and gear, your skills may be a little rusty even if you have been riding forever, four wheeled motorists forget to look for their two wheeled counter parts, snow may be still melting; or falling and re-melting as weather is forever changing, animals awoken from their winter slumbers, and the start of the dreaded road construction season.

Just as you have had a winter vacation from all things warmer (unless you took a trip somewhere other than Illinois), your motorcycle has also taken a vacation from being used. A safety checklist will help you get your bike back into riding condition. All about Bikes recommends checking tire tread and pressure, all fluid levels, all lights for function and illumination, controls to ensure no leaks or rusts, the throttle and clutch, brakes, horn, mirrors, and your personal gear. Just because the weather is nice, it does not mean you yourself should ride unprotected. Inspect your helmet, jackets, gloves, and chaps for any damage and for all proper safety features.

According to Senior Airman Tong Duong of the 17<sup>th</sup> Training Wing Public Affairs claim that studies show it requires 2,500 individual skills to operate a motorcycle. Taking a season off, as we are forced to in our part of the country may require you to brush up on your own basic riding skills. Taking a class may help you brush up those rusty gear shifters!



Curtis Carper a Yahoo Contributor Network says "The dreaded four wheeler, people driving cars have forgotten all about motorcycles over the past few months." During the winter months, there are little, if any motorcycles on the road. It is hard enough for motorists to see the smaller bikes. Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles recommends that when following a car it is best to choose the portion of the lane that would make you most visible in the rearview mirror.

Even though we may feel that spring has sprung, Mother Nature may have another plan in store for us. As we have seen lately, the weather changes from warmer to snow to cool rain, to warmer again.

However, the Farmers Almanac temperatures from April through June plan to increase to an average of 57°F to 73°F. Hopefully the weather gods will cooperate with great riding weather from here on out!

As we have awakened out of our peaceful comatose winter, so have the wildlife and with that comes more road hazards. Now that the animals have woken from their winter slumber, they are more likely to cross into traffic and become a hazard as well as a hazard to us bikers.

(Continued on page 3)





KK Continued...

Although squirrels and rabbits pose a slight threat to bikers, Motorcycle Assistant recommends that if given the choice between hitting a small animal or swerving into a larger hazard, chose the animal and steer straight. The biggest difference is when a motorcyclist is faced with a larger animal such as a deer. These animals tend to be unpredictable and it is most likely best to swerve. DMV suggests that if you find that an animal like a dog is chasing your bike, it is best to slow down as you approach the dog and speed up as you pass.

The worst part of new spring riding has to be the road conditions. From months of salt and sand, there tends to be a bigger buildup of debris and gravel on the roads, in turns and intersections, as well as uneven road conditions, potholes and the dreaded road construction. The center of the lane tends to have a buildup of oil and car fluids, which could cause some slippery conditions. Yet, the sides of the road and the center of the road collect debris, trash, sand and gravel. With the road being scrapped down with plows and such, the road gets uneven, cracked and creates potholes. Motorcyclecompensation.com claims that potholes are a nuisance to the four wheeled drivers, yet can be deadly for bikers not because of the fall, but because other motorists not stopping in time. Due to the pot-

holes,  
road construction

crews will be out and about repairing the road for spring, summer, and fall months. This creates a great attraction for more accidents to happen.

It goes to show that no matter what the season or conditions, we as motorcycle enthusiasts and riders need to stay on top of our game and keep vigil of all the dangers that are around us. The start of the season is upon us and we need to awaken our senses back up before and during all of our riding in every type of weather and condition. It is up to the motorcycle rider to be aware of our surroundings

and not just of the motorists around us. It is possible to avoid dangers and accidents if we stay aware. Go out, have fun, and be safe!



**Save the Date!**  
**July 27th, 2014!**

**All Proceeds will benefit the programs of**  
**NISRA**

**Top Cat's Ride for Dreams!**



## Urban Riding

**By: Gene 'Lucky' Rigsby, Road Captain**



Many years ago my first experience as a rider was on the streets of Chicago. I rode for many years there and along the way have had many great and a few not so great times, though most of my not so great times, other than riding in the rain or cold, came in the form of negligence on the part of other vehicle operators. Well most of the time. I'll get back to this later.

I won't claim to be an expert but I do feel I have good experience to share and I hope it may prove helpful as the situations I will present are found in rural environments as well. You just don't have as many opportunities to experience them as you do riding in an urban setting.

Riding in an urban environment taught me several elements about riding defensively. One point for example, is that defensive driving, for a motorcycle rider is not always slow and cautious like when driving a car. Maybe you need to be a bit fast and cautious so you can move yourself into a better riding environment. Or for example, if the traffic situation is not conducive to motorcycle riding, then get off the street. The good part of riding in Chicago is that the streets are in a grid pattern and if one thoroughfare does not work, turn left or right to another and try again. Just be very cautious if passing through an ally. Most drivers do not stop, or even honk, at the ally intersections even if there is a stop sign.

I haven't been riding in Chicago for some time, but still remember the points below which I need to keep in mind, and some stories that may evoke some thought as well. Here are some lessons learned.

**Keep looking ahead.** Way ahead. And even through cars up ahead. *Don't let yourself be distracted!*

**Watch for blind spots behind other vehicles.** *Someone may drive right at you as they turn behind another vehicle. This has happened to me. Now I stay back a bit until the vehicle in front of me moves enough for the other vehicle to see me.*

**Watch for pinch points** *Those spots where there is nowhere to go if your path is blocked or space invaded. Always give yourself an "out", which constantly changes as you ride which is why keeping your focus is even more important. Got to have an escape path.*

**Use your horn.** *I wrote an article about this a couple years ago for the ROAR. Check it out!*

**Keep your light on.** *Even your high beam. Not sure why, but I see people ride without their light on. I can't turn mine off. But really, the more light the better (within the law). I had a driver flash his high beams and give me the finger when I have my highway lights on, which was great because I knew he could see me.*

**Even if you think a driver sees you, they may not.** *Always consider they cannot. I've had drivers pull out in front of me several times and found that it happens less when I ride in the left track or if possible, ride in the left lane of a 4 lane street. The headlight/brights on as well*

**Ride slower... most of the time.** *Just like above, tailing too close to the vehicle in front of you may make it hard for other drivers to know that you are your own vehicle and that they need to watch you independent of the leading vehicle.*

(Continued on pg 5)



**Ride faster.** Just like being on the highway and passing a truck. Sometimes you need to move faster to be defensive. This may also be a time when you find you have no escape path and speeding up will open one up.

**Give other vehicles space.** Not just for yourself, but for them. They may need to change lanes or turn. This also applies in group riding situations. Open the road so others can maneuver or you may get a driver worked up to the point that they make a mistake and hit a car, another rider or even you.

**Passing on the left is bad. Period!** I was passing a cab that was pulled over to the right between 2 parked cars (maybe dropping off a fare) when the guy decided to make a "U" turn. I turned with the cab, bounced off the driver's rear quarter panel and ended up standing in the street with my bike lying down between my legs. WOW. Only 8 more lives left.

**I know what I just said.... but... passing on the right may be worse yet.** I just bought my Virago and was heading home. Noelle and the kids following behind me in our van. Mind you, she really didn't want me to buy a motorcycle with two young kids, (I can tell you how I convinced her later if you ask) but I assured her that I am older and wiser and fortunately or unfortunately I was given an opportunity at that moment. I was riding behind an Acura SUV and the driver turned on their left turn signal and moved the vehicle toward the center line, opening the right track right at the intersection. Historically, I would have cracked the throttle and cut around the right side of that vehicle. Thinking for a moment I decided not to, which was the absolute right thing to do, as within the blink of an eye, the driver made a right turn. It was a good example to Noelle (and me) that I really was older and wiser. Not too sure about the SUV driver.

**Watch for slippery surfaces.** Or at least try to "logically" avoid them. One particular evening, I was riding very slow, following Noelle to her house (yep. That long ago). She stopped at the sign at intersection and then proceeded. I attempted to do the same. I had been riding in the middle track and now was only applying my front brake thinking I would make a "quick" stop and get on my way as well. The front tire locked, the tire slipped, the fork turned to the right and down I went. Tore a hole in the knee of my nice corduroy slacks. The "logic" part comes in as we all know NOW, from understanding that most 4 wheeled vehicles can have motor and/or transmission leaks which land mostly in the middle track at intersections with stop signs or lights and this is why the middle is not usually a good track to ride in in the city.

**Pay extra attention when going over a hill or bridge.** You never know what's on the other side that you may need to avoid. Also, many bridges have metal gates for road beds which are very slippery when wet and not even a good surface to stop on when not wet.

**Debris.** Could be in the road or even blowing around. Plastic bags are a big pain.

**People (not just kids) are a big problem.** Some folks don't have common sense and don't look both ways so you need to be alert for them. And it's not so good for them if they enter the street if you're in a car OR riding, but for you... on your bike.... not so good for you either.

**Keep your bike in gear and your hand on the brake at a stop.** I have heard folks talk about keeping your bike in gear, but keeping your hand on the brake is just as important. Sitting in traffic on the way to the expressway I was ever so slightly "bumped" by the car behind me. Maybe the driver was not keeping good pressure on their brake, but when I was hit, I just rolled forward a bit (inches) and stopped. If I didn't keep my hand on the clutch AND the brake, I may have been knocked right over which would have not been good.

I know this was a great deal of information, but there is heaps more to consider, like bicyclist, animals, buses, construction, pot holes, other motorcyclists, sprinklers, exhaust pipes (Lefty has a story about this) etc... Again, not completely different from rural riding, just multiplied by 5 or so in the city limits.

Well, I hope this article was not too much of a bore and more so over, I hope it benefits you or someone you know.

Also, I am planning to lead a ride into the city this year and I will do my best to keep us away from situation similar to the ones mentioned.

See you on the road, and ride safe, Lucky





## A Tale of Two Dragons!

By: Terri Loden

So let me begin by saying that I will never underestimate the importance of planning and the attention to detail that is necessary to make a trip successful, and this trip in particular had it all. Lots of planning, organizing, coordination, peanut gallery advice, but in the end it was the people in the group that really made it successful and memorable. A group of people from different backgrounds and points of view coming together to share a good time, camaraderie among ourselves, and, of course, the main event. The Ride!

So, let me tell you the story:

After months of planning and poring over road maps, making adjustments to routes, checking climate conditions and road conditions, our Road Captain, Tony Loden, said we were ready to begin!

First for those of you whom have rode the Tail of the Dragon at Deals Gap NC, with its 318 curves in 11 miles, this ride was 1000 times that, with its thousands of curves and twisties set over hundreds of miles of mountainous terrain which lasted days, not hours... What goes up the mountain has to come down the mountain and I don't think I have ever seen as many twisty, curvy road signs as I did on this part of the trip! Curve, twisty, take a breath, curve, twisty, take a breath, hold on and LEAN! This was pretty much my mantra for the next several days. Exciting, breathtaking, something I have never experienced before and yet to be determined if I ever will again, lol. But, we made it... all of us; each rider at their own skill level and comfortable pace.

(Continued on page 7)



## May Celebrations!

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



3rd Muriel Brandt

31st Rich Flynn

1st The Creeds

2nd Rich and Jessica Flynn



## Adventure Ride, Continued...

Our first day out began on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> with an early am pre-ride and kick-stands up from our Tempe hotel to Beaumont, Ca; a total of 340 miles door to door. Now, normally, that is not a huge amount of miles, but what began as a long ride through the desert to the Colorado River and Palm Springs soon changed to those dreaded twisties and switchbacks as we entered the mountains west of Palm Springs CA. Several adjustment stops and a lunch/museum stop in between and we finally arrived in Beaumont in the early evening ready to take a break for the night. For the first day out, everyone agreed that they were sore from not riding for so long.



Day 02, Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> had us leaving again early with a group photo op at the Onyx Summit of Sugarloaf Mountain on the way to Big Bear Lake and then heading west to lunch at Paula's Crestline Café in Crestline, CA, just a small mountain town of about 10,000. The mountain scenery and air were perfect; temps in the high 50's and sunny. This was a great day to be on a motorcycle along the winding mountain terrain of the San Bernardino and Los Angeles National Forests. Just 204 miles this day and the group arrived in Palmdale, California in plenty of time for a leisurely dinner.

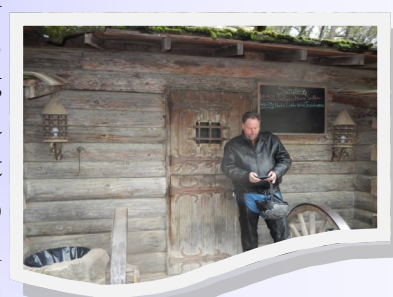
Day 03, Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> started out with a private tour of the Blackbird Airpark in Palmdale, CA for those who chose to go. The tour guide spared no detail in explaining how the Air Park came



to be, the history of the planes, and shared many stories with some in the group who had been in service to our country.

On this day our trek to Santa Barbara, CA started after lunch. Due to an unexpected cold front the night before which brought freezing weather and SNOW above 5,000 feet in the Los Padres National Forest, the original route had to be revamped at the last minute to keep the route below 3,800 feet and into at least 50-degree weather. Instead of going over Frazier Mountain, we ended up going around the mountain through vineyards, winding country roads, and much, much greenery and scenery. Several areas of the ride took us through some of the devastation from the forest fires experienced last year in this area with blackened hillsides and only trunks of trees with gnarly black branches devoid of life. Rocks on the roadway within this area were a common hazard with cautionary signs for potential mudslides in the steeper terrain. Another 165 miles and arrival at Santa Barbara was timed perfectly to give us enough time to relax, enjoy the boardwalk along the ocean and meet for dinner and drinks at an Oceanside restaurant.

Day 04, Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> was an open day for everyone to do what they preferred. Kathy and Mike went off for horseback riding, others went south down the coast for a ride, and a few of us went up to Cold Spring Tavern for lunch, a quaint, 100 year old building tucked deeply in a mountain gorge that was once a stage stop on the way to San Louis Obispo. Rain was in the forecast, but left us alone till almost the end of lunch where it down-poured for 15-minutes, just enough to wet the pavement and remind the best of riders that we ARE riding in the mountains. After traveling back to our hotel, we were on our own till dinner where we gathered with friends at Brophy's, a seaside restaurant on the edge of the Santa Barbara Harbor.



(Cont. on pg. 8)



## Adventure Ride, Continued...

Day 05, Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> had us again riding through the vineyards and beautiful two-lane back country roads through sleepy little California towns away from traffic and congestion. First adjustment stop was at an eccentric little Corner House Café for Cappuccino and scones in Los Olivos, CA. The locals here are so relaxed and laid back nothing, not even a pack of motorcycles would rile them.

Back on the bikes and onward to Mojave, CA but not without stopping at Tina's Diner in the town of Maricopa, CA for lunch. Tina is the local mayor, restaurateur, one woman show in town. She dabbles in spiritual readings, does all the cooking, and opened up her own restaurant 40 years ago and it is definitely a tribute to her and her unique décor. What a nice welcome we got from Tina!



Continuing our trek to Mohave, CA through the San Joaquin Valley where farm fields with oranges, grapefruits, grapes and green vegetables stretch as far as the horizon. Harvest crews could be seen in the distances picking what might have been the very vegetables you bought last week. As we continued east towards the Tehachapi Pass which is a principal connector between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert, thousands of wind powered turbines began to sprout. The area east and south of the pass is home to the Tehachapi Pass Wind Farm, one of California's larger wind farms.

Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> as Day 06 headed us towards Needles, CA where the route aligned itself with the Historic Route 66 outside of Barstow, CA. This portion of the ride was filled with lots of photo and adjustment stops which included the Famous Bagdad café in Newberry Springs. It was here that we became the tourist attraction as we roared up as a crowd of Euro-

peans were departing their tour bus and snapped photos of the group and our bikes. A second stop included the famous

Roy's on US 66 in Amboy, CA. When Route 66 was the only route from East to West, Roy's was the place to stop, refuel, spend the night and continue on the journey between Needles and Barstow CA.



Day 07, Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> was our final route from Needles, CA back to the Phoenix area. A total of 255 miles, but how they flew by! Again we followed the route of the Historic Route 66 through a working ghost town in Oatman, CA, climbing up the tight winding and twisty roads to Sigreaves Pass (El 3,550) for another group photo op, a quick stop at Cool Springs Camp, a throwback 1920 stone gas station with gas pumps showing \$0.29 per gallon to a final lunch at Mr. D's Route 66 Diner in Kingman AZ. The ride was coming to an end with an afternoon of flatland riding enroute to home base in Phoenix... the time and miles just disappeared.







## Oil Spots

By Traveler

### Johammer Electric Cruiser



Out of Austria, this is offbeat styling at its best – but with a 200 km range it's an electric bike which can get you places with a minimum of fuss

The Johammer electric cruiser is an Austrian crafted machine and, outside of the snail 'influence', it does have a few striking ingredients: the speedo and charge indicator are integrated into the stand-out-like-the-proverbial mirrors, it has hub-centre steering, the electric motor is enclosed in the rear wheel hub, and it has two sets of foot-pegs: one to accommodate an upright riding position and one for laid-back cruising.

There are in-house developed battery modules, and the company claims a 200 km range when fully charged. Guaranteed service life of the battery is 200,000 km or four years without dropping below 85 per cent of the new battery's capacity.

Price? The 8.3 kWh version will cost \$US 31,860, and the 12.7 kWh option \$US 34,630. Production is said to be very close.

Want to try before you buy? You can take one on a guided tour through Austria that'll cost \$US 420, including a factory tour.

### Ducati Airbag technology



Dainese partnered with Ducati to introduce the first airbag system that is fully integrated with a motorcycle. The Ducati Multistrada D-air comes standard with a system for wireless communication with D-air Street Ducati and Dainese jackets.

Dainese's D-air system features a built-in airbag that is designed to protect the rider from the initial impact in a crash, with a total bag deployment time of just 45 milliseconds. A control unit mounted on the bike includes accelerometer sensors on the forks and frame, which can detect an impact. The unit then sends a wireless signal to the rider's D-air gear to deploy the airbag.

Last year, Dainese worked with BMW to produce the OEM's DoubleR RaceAir racing suit, which utilized the same airbag technology. Dainese also sells the D-air Street system as an aftermarket add-on for motorcycles.

### Jensen unveils Viking concept bike with Wisconsin-built engine

Danish OEM [Lauge Jensen](#) motorcycles has unveiled the Viking Concept at the Top Marques luxury brands show in Monaco.

The premium motorcycle is billed as a design study that blends the talents of two of Denmark's most creative talents.

The bike retains a classic cruiser look sculptured into a dynamic, flowing design. In particular the tank, seat and rear fender blend together to create a seamless effect.

(Continued on pg. 10)

## Oil Spots, Continued...



The Viking Concept is powered by a 45-degree V-twin producing 100 hp, making the bike capable of more than 130 mph. It's the first motorcycle of its type to comply with new, much more stringent Euro IV emissions regulations that come into effect in 2016. The engine, built in Wisconsin, has been carefully developed and tuned to achieve this without losing its trademark V-twin sound or soul.

Lauge Jensen also produces the limited edition Great Dane custom cruiser, which starts from €42,800 (US \$59,124). The company intends to build a bike based on the Viking Concept at higher volumes and with a lower price tag than the Great Dane.

## AMA Go Ride Safely! Week



AMA Go Ride! Month, sponsored by the American Motorcyclist Association, rounds out its month-long motorcycling celebration with AMA Go Ride Safely! Week. Motorcyclists nationwide are encouraged to take rider training and use appropriate riding gear while motorists are urged to watch for motorcycles as millions of riders take to the roads.

"The AMA strongly encourages its members and all motorcyclists to learn everything they can to manage

riding risks so that every outing is safe and enjoyable," said AMA President and CEO Rob Dingman. "When it comes to riding responsibly, that means taking training and wearing protective gear."

"We urge America's motorists to avoid distracted driving behaviors, such as talking on cell phones and texting, and to watch for motorcycles as we take to the roads in the spring season," said Dingman. "It's never too early to emphasize safety as we approach Motorcycle Awareness Month in May."

At the end of AMA Go Ride! Month, one Grand Prize winner will be chosen from everyone who "likes" or comments on an AMA Facebook page post between March 31 and 4:45 p.m. on May 2. The prize package includes a FLY Racing Roller Grande gear bag, a Cortech Super 2.0 8-liter tank bag, a \$100 gift certificate from BikeBandit.com, a Rental car voucher from Avis and one night's lodging from Red Roof Inns.

Contestants do not have to be AMA members to win and can enter as often as they wish during AMA Go Ride! Month.

Contest rules are: [www.americanmotorcyclist.com/GoRideContest](http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com/GoRideContest).

## Indian shipments spark record-setting quarter for Polaris

Polaris gained market share in motorcycles – led by increased shipments of its new Indian models – and continues to add to its Indian dealer network, executives said in a conference call announcing quarterly results Wednesday morning.

"We are modestly more optimistic about 2014 as we enter the second quarter," said Scott Wine, chairman and CEO of the company, which saw a 19 percent sales increase year over year, to \$888 million, in the quarter.



(Continued on Page 11)





Oil Spots Continued...

## **INDIANS, Continued...**

North American sales are up 7 percent for Polaris, highlighted by motorcycle sales in the Sun Belt. In all, motorcycle sales are up 52 percent year over year as Indians are shipped, said COO Bennett Morgan.

Victory sales declined in the first quarter for Polaris, but executives expect a boost based on the introduction of the Gunner, which made its [debut](#) at the Chicago International Motorcycle Show and will be priced at \$12,999. Its unveiling was met with positive reactions from dealers and customers, Morgan said.

A total of 150 North American dealers have been signed for Indian, and 70 international. Of the 150 in North America, about half are currently retailing.

North American dealer inventory for the company was up 13 percent year-over-year, with 3 percent in existing models, 3 percent in new dealers and 7 percent in new models and categories.

The company is planning to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary during its dealers meeting this summer.

President's  
Minute...  
Continued



Finally, and most importantly, we will all assemble to support our most cherished event of the year....our annual Ride for Dreams charity ride on 27 July. Put it on your calendar now so all of us will be able to do what we've done for years....support the wonderful young people of NISRA.

And, gang, please join me in hoping for cold and wet weather because....I never get what I hope for....

Let's roll...safely.....

*Traveler*  
President



# ROAR

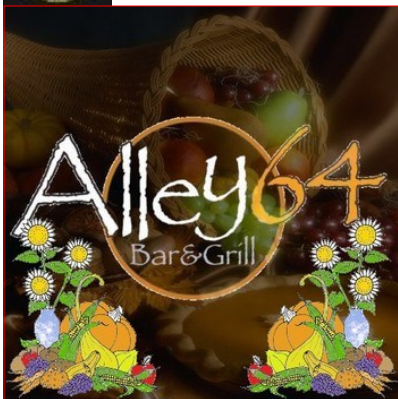
## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 1ST, 2014

Alley 64

2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Walters



### Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

by Gene Rigsby, Director Top Cats Illinois

Membership was asked to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance

Due to the Adventure ride, and other events. the attendance at Alley 64 was minimal.

Reports by the President, Wayne Kirkpatrick; Vice President, Larry Scalzitti; Past President, Mike Bradbury; Treasurer, Stewart Johnson; Director Emil Kornecki; Director, Jeff Tietz; and Director Ric Case were all held until next meeting.

### Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- The ROAR was published early this month due to the Adventure Ride. Rosters are current with all new member information in them. The Mass Blast should be reaching all members at this time.

### Charity Report: Given by Noelle Rigsby, Committee Chair

- The Charity committee is looking for Volunteers for the Little Angels Ride Event. Top Cats will have a table there and will be advertising the *Ride for Dreams*. Volunteers must be registered for the Little Angels Ride.
- Flyers and save the date cards are being printed for all members to hand out.
- The Donation Letter is ready, but has not been put on the website yet.
- Members should begin to collect donations for the event.
- The ladies are planning a day to collect donations for a Saturday in May
- The next meeting will be April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Brandts.
- If anyone is interested in helping... Contact Noelle Rigsby.

### Products: Report was given by Lisa Purcell, Committee Chair

- Lisa is planning on surveying the membership to see what new products the group would be interested in purchasing.
- A new flyer with options will be developed

### Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

- Gene reviewed the upcoming events. They can all be found on the Website's Calendar.

Gene introduced our **Special guests** for the night..... The Adventure Riders made an appearance by way of FACETIME....

The events of the ride were highlighted and it looked like California was agreeing with the crowd!

The **50 / 50** was pulled and won by Jim Purcell, who donated the money to the NISRA foundation!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 – Illinois time. The members in Illinois went home to bed.... The Members in Cali went on to finish their dinner and evening festivities!





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**APRIL 15TH, 2014**

**Alley 64**

**2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois**

**Submitted by Mary Walters**

Meeting called to order at 7:24 by Wayne Kirkpatrick, President of Top Cats, Illinois.

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

Excused: Jeff Tietz, Larry Scalzitti

### **President**

- 1st Annual Adventure Ride was a great effort by Tony Loden. The planning was very detailed and that led to a great experience for all of the group. That created a level of comfort that carried over to the entire group of 19 people and 15 bikes. The scenery, the rides, and the accommodations were all memorable! Stories were told about the adventures... but, they will be detailed in the article by Terri Loden in this same issue of ROAR.
- Wayne gave a comparison quote for the experience of trailering vs. shipping. It seemed to be that the costs were equal, but trailering added 6 days to the trip.
- There was a short discussion on the Second Adventure Ride and the length of that ride. There is some thought that two per year may be too ambitious. But others felt that it would offer a great deal of variety.
- Discussion of Dealership Development in Phoenix was discussed. Also the new McHenry Dealership will be opening soon. It will have an upstairs classroom and areas that have potential for meetings and GRASS classes.
- 2014 Web Site review is on hold for the moment. Rich Flynn is still recovering from surgery and will begin working on this again when he is feeling better.
- There was a discussion on the Facebook page that has been developed without the approval of the board. It was thought that since it is a closed group – available only to the members – that it was o.k. to see how it develops. David Whiteside is the administrator and has been posting pictures. One concern was the need to maintain multiple sites. It will be monitored for the near future.
- Insurance Quotes status
  - ⇒ Jeff Tietz has a tool that he is using to do a comparison of the insurance quotes. There are some very interesting options that are available, but we will look those over when Jeff is able to be in attendance.
  - ⇒ We will extend the present policy on a month by month basis and take a closer look at our options when Jeff is able to present.
- The conceal/carry class is still being considered and updated information will be forthcoming.

### **Vice President:** Larry Scalzitti

- Larry is finishing up Tax Season today, so he was not in attendance.

### **Secretary:** Mary Walters

#### **ROAR**

- There is a new system in place for checking the final copy each month to ensure that the content and dates are correct. Apologies to Mike Bradbury and Jeff Tietz for the inconvenience of coming last week. The ROAR had not been changed to reflect the adjusted Board Meeting Date for this month.

#### **Rosters**

- All new members are on the Roster at this time. Updated versions will be sent to all board members with the minutes of the meeting. As well as to the 'webmasters' so that contact information can be verified.

### **Treasurer:** Stewart Johnson

- Financial Report was passed out and all of the numbers are current and look very good at this time
- IRS 990 was filed as well as the IL State Report has been filed for the year.

(Continued on pg 14)



## Board Meeting, Cont.

### **Past President:** Mike Bradbury

- Mike added many comments to the discussion on the Adventure Ride and illuminated the many wonderful details of the transport, the ride, the accommodations and the camaraderie of the group!

### **Director:** Gene Rigsby

- Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>, will be the kick-off ride for the year!
- June 1<sup>st</sup> will be the New 'Millie's Ride'... led by Tony Loden
- Gene reviewed the rides for May and June. The details are on the Top Cats Website. Many week-ends are still open for rides.
- Ideas were discussed on how to get rides on the calendar NOW, rather than wait for the weather to inspire the RC's to get busy.
- Gene is looking into a Flag that we can use at Ride starts and or meetings. It is a lighter weight version of our TC Flag.
- A motion was made by Ric Case to spend up to \$100 for the purchase of this flag. Second by Emil Kornecki. It was passed unanimously.

### **Director:** Emil Kornecki

#### Membership

- Emil told the story about a man on an Indian... who he followed into a gas station. Emil talked to him about the Club and he seemed very interested. Emil has his information and is following up.
- The membership brochure will be updated with the membership costs and then publish new brochures.

#### Products

- For 2014 - Lisa Purcell is working on putting together a catalogue. She is also interested in knowing what other products people will be interested in purchasing.

### **Director:** Ric Case

#### Safety

- GRASS Class for May 4<sup>th</sup> is in planning stages. Ric is soliciting instructors for that day
- Safety Tip / Kaution Korner is being done by Rich Flynn this month.
- CPR Class, Accident Scene Management classes are being looked into. There are many people interested in both. Wayne will also check with the people at the POSSE meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> to see if we could combine groups and develop a large enough group to have both classes.
- Stewart asked about getting emergency information updated for all members. It was suggested that a Mass Blast be sent out to the members to remind them to update.
- Ric also asked that any money that would be spend on sending him Club sentiments during his surgeries be turned into a donation to NISRA.

#### Charity

- The committee is moving ahead and all is on schedule
- There will be a 'ladies day' for gathering donations. Date TBD.
- Flyers will be available for members to pass out soon.

### **Director:** Jeff Tietz

- Jeff was unable to attend tonight due to business commitments.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm**







## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

*BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS*

### 2014....

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..

**CHASE**

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## Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Top Cats Get 15% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry Harley-Davidson



Top Cats Get 15% 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.

## 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

Richard Flynn

[RichFlynnJr@aol.com](mailto:RichFlynnJr@aol.com)

## 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](mailto:wombat@dpdougherty.com)

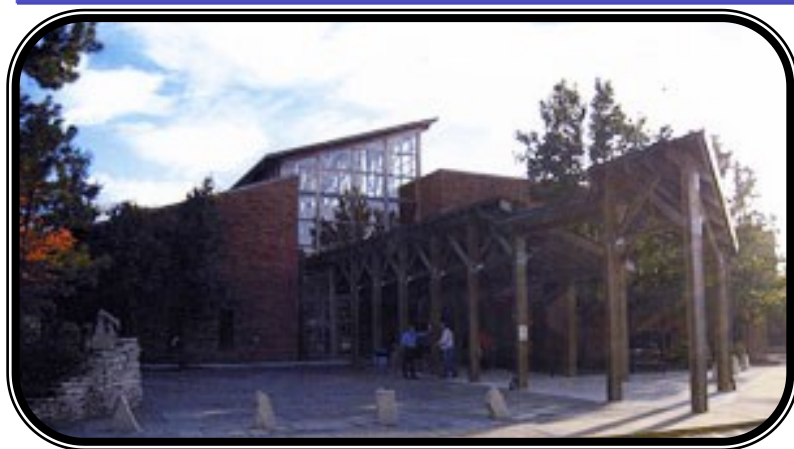




## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Sunday, May 4th	GRASS Class	Palatine	Keller—Williams	8:00 am	Case
Tuesday, May 6th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, May 13th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, May 18th	Little Angels Satellite	TBD	Woodstock Harley Davidson	8:30 am	TBD
Sunday, June 1st	5th Annual Breakfast Run				
Tuesday, June 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, June 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sat/Sun June 21st—22nd	Livingston Live!	Crystal Lake 176/14	Livingston County	8:00 am	Walters

All ride and event information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at [www.TopCats.org](http://www.TopCats.org).



### Barrington Library

#### Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway  
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300  
[balibrary.org](http://balibrary.org)

See the Top Cats Archive

### FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

**Attention all Top Cats business owners!**

As part of our ongoing philosophy to support our members and goal to provide a more value-rich publication, we are now offering free advertising space in ROAR for Top Cats business owners.

Each business owner can submit advertising content and graphics up to 2 X 3.5 inches (Business Card size) for their company.

We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it.

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

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at [ROAR@TOPCATS.org](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)



**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](http://www.TOPCATS.org)**

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