



ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S MINUTE



No! No! Say it ain't so!!!! Summer is almost over? As you read this we are looking at

52 days until the Autumn Equinox on 22 Sept. That's 1,248 hours. Subtract 416 hours for sleeping, 104 hours for eating, and 272 hours for working and, we only have 456 hours left to ride.

Now, the flip side of pessimism is optimism! From that perspective, we have 4 and a half months until the official start of winter on 21 Dec. So, come Sunday, 21 Dec, sit down in front of the fireplace with a warm drink and reflect on your riding 2014 season. Hopefully, you'll have some great memories of rides and events like;



Loden's California Adventure Ride and Millies Brunch Run,



Stewart Johnson's Famous Fly In Ride and Corn festival



Gene Rigsby's Sunrise Ride,

Rich Flynn's Cantigny Park Picnic



Mike Bradbury's Father's Day Brunch Run, Ride for Cheese, and Rustic Roads Ride



August, 2014

Volume 14, Issue 8

Inside This Issue

KAUTION KORNER	2
OIL SPOTS	6
RIDE FOR DREAMS	10
General Meeting	12
Board Meeting	15
Business Mart	17
TOP CATS Patrons	18
RIDES AND EVENTS	19

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

- 5 GENERAL MEETING
- 12 BOARD MEETING
- 19 FRANKS AND FRIES
- 31 CANTIGNY

SEPTEMBER

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 7 TC MEMORIAL RIDE
- 9 BOARD MEETING
- 16 FRANKS AND FIRES
- 20 RIDE FOR CHEESE

Summer is coming to a close! Let's make a few more good memories to take us through the winter! Get your ride idea published HERE!



(Continued on pg. 5)

KAUTION KORNER

Seasoned Riders

By: Dennis 'Wombat' Dougherty, Senior Road Captain



I was sitting at the back of the room during one of our recent club meetings and I noticed how much our club membership has 'matured' over the years since I joined. More and more of us probably have more riding days behind us than we do in front of us. Like it or not, we're all getting older.

Those of us 45 or older have crossed over into the category of 'Seasoned Rider'. We're talking age, not skills. Many younger than 45 have lots of miles and are road tested veterans with lots of riding experience. On the other hand, there are others in the club that are older than 45 with little riding experience. This discussion is simply about 'seasoning' due to age and the impact it has on our skills and judgment whether you've been riding for 40 years or 40 days.

What I'm about to write about won't be the most fun thing to think about. But getting old is a fact of life. Understanding the impacts of aging on our riding skills is key to a long life of safe riding. I read once that a lot of people get old and quit riding. I believe the opposite is true; *you get old when you quit riding*. Hopefully some of what is covered here will help us all ride happily and safely far into the halcyon years of our life.

There are five primary areas that are impacted most as one gets older:

Strength and Stamina

Have you noticed that your bike seems a bit heavier this year or takes a little extra effort to maneuver it around when not under power? Well, once you hit the ripe old age of 30, you lose about 10% of your

strength per decade. So, by the time you reach 60, unless you were on a rigorous strength *building* routine, you would have lost about 30% of the strength you had at 30.

Also you get older, your natural endurance decreases as your body processes oxygen (O2) less efficiently than it does when you're younger. You may find you tire more easily or run out of breathe sooner.

Vision

Night vision in particular rapidly deteriorates as you get older. It becomes more difficult to resolve objects and movement at night and usually there is more glare and 'flaring' from oncoming lights. As you age, you need 4 times as much light at night to see as clearly as you did in your younger days.

In addition, bright light is often more blinding as older eyes are more sensitive to it. More than ever, a seasoned rider should use sunglasses on a sunny day.

Peripheral and depth perception often decrease as well, potentially causing you to misjudge depth and distances, both in front and behind you. It will take more effort to get a complete and accurate 'picture' of the riding environment surrounding you.

Hearing

Loss of hearing is a natural part of aging. Once you hit your 50s you naturally lose about 20% of your hearing. This increases to 30% as you hit 60. If you've been riding for a while hearing loss can be accelerated, especially if you didn't wear earplugs over the years.

(Continued on page 3)



KK Continued...

Reaction Times

We all like to think that we are as quick on the draw mentally and have the reflexes we did when we were younger. But the fact is, our reaction times significantly decrease as we get older. This is due to both natural physical and mental deterioration. At 50 we don't move as fast or think as fast (process information) as we did in our twenties. Our mental acuity continues to decline naturally as we age. It is not unusual for reaction times to double by the age of 40 from what they were in your 20s. Over 55 they can quadruple (4X).

Control Sensation and Rider Comfort

Remember the days when you could 'feel' the slightest variation in your ride just by touching your controls or listening to your engine and road noise? How about riding hard from dawn to dusk with only short stops for fuel and sustenance? Well, all your senses start to dull through aging and your stamina decreases. Continuing to rely on those sensations and pushing yourself past your stamina comfort level can be a very dangerous thing. Couple that with reduced reaction times, it can be a recipe for disaster. If you are on a multi-day ride, it can have a compounding effect. It will move you into a much higher risk riding profile, and most likely take a lot of the pleasure away from the ride itself due to increasing fatigue and lack of comfort.

So is it time to take the last photo of your ride and put your trusty iron steed up for sale in Cycle Trader? Absolutely not! As I said earlier, you get old when you *quit* riding! With a little bit of planning and common sense most people should be able to ride well into their retirement years.

Here are a few hints and recommendations to help you SAFELY transition into the *Seasoned Rider* phase of your life. If you're already there, they may make you a safer rider and keep you riding longer:

- ✦ First of all, be honest with yourself. Accept the fact that you're older and start to watch for some of the signs of aging mentioned above and their impacts on how YOU ride. Come up with a plan to minimize or counter act aging impacts and stick to it! Realize that you will need to update your plan and perhaps do other things as you continue to age.
- ✦ Prepare for riding season. During the months leading up to riding season, spend some time getting in shape to ride. This includes both strength and aerobic training as well as mental preparedness. If you ski or golf or participate in any other physically demanding sport, I imagine you do exercises in preparation for those sports to help avoid injury. Well, riding is a very demanding sport both physically and mentally. Get both your body and mind in shape. Compared to most sports, the downside of not being in good shape both physically and mentally for riding can be much more disastrous.
- ✦ Get your eyes tested at least annually. The closer to riding season the better. Consider tinted lenses or other options to improve both your day and night vision. It may make sense to have prescriptions and tints that you only wear when riding. As you get older, seriously consider minimizing night riding for all the reasons mentioned before. Riding at night requires a higher level of reaction skill and perception acuity than riding during the day. If you do ride at night, give yourself plenty of room, slow down, and don't override your headlights.
- ✦ Rightsize your ride. If that big honker cruiser or lightning fast sport bike seems a bit too much to handle as you get older, consider downsizing or moving to a different style ride. If a new ride is not required, customize the one you have to make it safer and easier for you to ride.

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KK Continued...

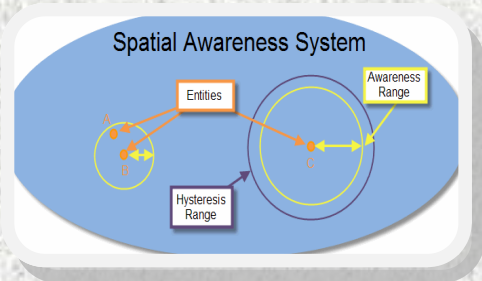
I've gotten older my doctors seem to think I need some help keeping my body functioning properly and its chemistry in line. Be more aware of drug interactions and impacts particularly related to perception, acuity and reaction times. If any drug or combination says "Don't use when operating heavy machinery", think at least twice about riding on the days/times you are taking them. In my book a motorcycle is 'heavy machinery'. Check with your doctor. Tell them you ride and ask if what you are taking could have an impact. If they do, ask his advice on alternatives that cause you less risk.



✦Increase space and distance. Give yourself A LOT more time to Search, Evaluate, and Execute when riding down the road. Space and distance can do a lot to offset increased reaction times, declining eyesight and help to maintain spatial awareness. As Top Cats one of the things we teach in G.R.A.S.S. class is how we ride in formation, using the 2 second behind, 1 second adjacent guideline. It is a beautiful sight going down the road. Not only is it something to behold but it also creates somewhat of a safe cocoon for the riders in the formation as everyone shares the same riding behavior expectations. Having said that, riding in formation takes skill and practice. If you are riding with us and find some of those skills may have diminished and/or you're not as comfortable riding by those guidelines, talk to your road captain in advance of departure and they will work with you to find a place in the formation that will allow you more space and distance to help keep you and the other riders safe.

✦PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! It may seem odd to suggest to someone who has been riding for 10 or more years to practice, but that is one of the best approaches to keeping your riding skills sharp and your reaction times low. At the beginning of riding season, take a few water bottles filled with sand

or rocks and go out to a spacious vacant parking lot. Practice maximum performance braking (quick stops), swerving, braking in a curve, and limited space maneuvers. These are the most critical maneuvers that rely heavily on reaction time and skill. When riding, constantly practice spatial awareness techniques.



I call it the 'Bobblehead Mambo'. Keep your eyes and head constantly moving from side to side searching and looking to keep you aware of what is coming at you from in front and sides well down the road as well as what may be sneaking up on you from behind. You may be surprised at what you start to see.

✦Perhaps one of the easiest and most fun ways to practice is to take a riding class. They cost anywhere from free to a few hundred dollars. Put yourself in the



hands of a professional riding instructor some week-end early in the season to help polish and maintain those all important skills. There are many courses to choose from. However, one of the best to sharpen your basic skills is a Basic Rider Course. You've already got your 'M' endorsement on your license (or at least you should have) so you don't need to worry about the skills evaluations. Just focus on improving your own technique. If you feel you have the basics mastered, take an advanced course. They cover a wide range of skills development and you almost always do them on your own motorcycle.

(Continued on page 5)



KK Continued...

As an MSF instructor, I'm particularly aware of the impacts of aging as we cover it as part of our curriculum. However, as a 'Seasoned Rider' myself, I'm specifically aware of them through my own personal experience. Each year it takes a little more effort to ride skillfully and keep my head in the game. Frankly, one of the reasons I teach, besides the personal satisfaction I get from sharing my passion for riding, is the fact that I have to keep my personal mental and riding skills sharp to demonstrate proper riding technique as flawlessly as possible to my students. I spend many hours each riding season practicing the basic riding skills as well as consciously exercising the mental focus that one needs to be safe. I continue to practice different skills on each and every ride I take.



Legend has it that Ponce de Leon searched Florida and Puerto Rico for the Fountain of Youth. Well, he never found the magic elixir.

As such, we're all doomed to the same fate of aging. Personally I feel one of the best things to keep you young is riding a motorcycle. With a little bit of self awareness and honesty, a disciplined approach to keeping our physical and mental skills sharp, we all should be able to ride safely for a very long time. One of the things that makes our club great is the legacy of our Seasoned Rider membership. I'd like to see that portion of our membership continue to grow through our existing roster and attracting others to the club. And who knows, maybe one day we will plan a Top Cats Adventure Ride to Florida to carry on Ponce's quest!

Ride Safe!
Wombat

President's Minute Continued...

Ric Case's
Fallen Top
Cats Memorial
Ride,



Bard's Annual
Black Hills
Ride,

And, of course, our most important ride of the year...our Ride 4 Dreams developed by Noelle Rigsby and her Charity Committee and, supported by all dedicated Top cats.



So, as we look back on 2014...think of what it took to put on those rides and events and thank those dedicated members, road captains and Board members who all stayed the course, remained committed to their brothers and sisters and....gave us all another year of great memories!

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

*Traveler
President
Top Cats – Illinois*

Oil Spots

By Traveler

Couple Sues Harley-Davidson

A couple is suing Harley-Davidson in a case asserting product liability because antilock brakes were not offered as an option on their motorcycle.



Mark and Pamela Jones filed a lawsuit against Harley

-Davidson Inc. in Texas.

According to the complaint, Mark Jones was driving and his wife, Pamela, was a passenger on their 2012 Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Classic last July 6, when a car cut in front of the plaintiffs, forcing Jones to make an emergency stop. He claims the motorcycle's wheels locked up, causing the bike to fishtail and pitch in the opposite direction, flinging Jones and his wife some distance.

The complaint states he suffered skull fractures, broken bones and a severe brain injury, and Pamela Jones suffered a skull fracture, brain injury, a spleen injury and a shattered elbow.

According to the complaint, the motorcycle did not have ABS as an option when the couple purchased the motorcycle. They seek more than \$75,000 in damages on claims of strict product liability, failure to warn/marketing defect and negligence.

J&P Cycles Mops Up After Tornado

A summer storm-driven tornado in eastern Iowa caused heavy damage at **J&P Cycles** June 30, forcing the retail center to close temporarily for cleanup and

the distribution center to switch briefly to manual processes.

The storm hit just one day after J&P's annual open house, which drew about 45,000 visitors, according to retail and events director Tara Blanchard. Visitors and vendors had gone home, but J&P was still dismantling the outdoor showroom area.

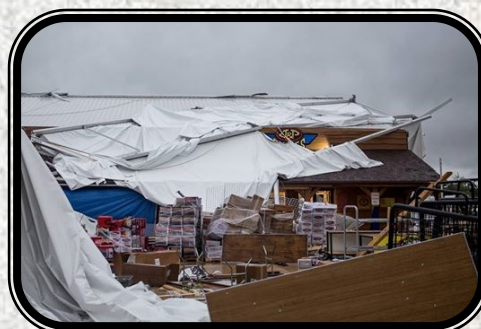


"The rally ended at five on Sunday and the storm started around 1 p.m. Monday," she said. "The team was working to get the extended showroom out of the tent. Unfortunately we can't tear that down in one day. They had gotten maybe through half of it before the storm took place."

By 3 p.m. Monday, employees and four shoppers took shelter in the J&P facility's storm shelter for about half an hour as the worst of the storm hit.

"It does feel like forever when you can hear things hitting the side of the building," Blanchard said. "There's no phone service so you don't know what's happening outside. It gets warm – that's a lot of bodies to be crowded together."

When they emerged, the storm had picked up the tent outside and vaulted the tent poles into the building in several places.



Meanwhile, work went manual in the distribution center. The shop was running on a generator until power was re-

stored Monday night, which halted some systems. Some of the community was still without phone service or power Tuesday.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, Continued...

J&P was able to take orders, but operations were interrupted for cleanup and repairs. It was too early for damage estimates, as insurance adjusters were just arriving on the scene to make their assessments.

Anamosa was particularly hard-hit. Downed power lines and trees trapped some people in their houses. Straight-line winds reached speeds of 75 to 80 miles per hour.

They suspect that the tornado bounced over the Anamosa penitentiary and just bounced over here," Blanchard said.

Janesville Hosts 2015 Wisconsin HOG Rally



Wisconsin State HOG officials have chosen Janesville as the site for the 2015 Wisconsin HOG rally July 9-11, with **Kutter Harley-Davidson** serving as host.

Organizers expect about 2,000 people to attend and spend up to \$700,000 at hotels, restaurants, stores and

gas stations as Janesville hosts the gathering for the first time. The Holiday Inn Express in Janesville will be the host hotel.

Riders will be offered self-guided tours with destinations that include cheese makers in southern Wisconsin, a winery and the New Glarus Brewery.

The event will be an opportunity for local restaurants and artists to get their creations in front of people from all over the state.



Cool Springs HD Drops Brentwood Bid Over Noise Protests



If **Harley-Davidson of Cool Springs** moves, it won't be as soon as the dealer hoped.

The motorcycle dealership, sited next to the Cool Springs Galleria in Franklin, TN, received site plan approval for a new site from the Brentwood Planning Commission in March. But nearby homeowners protested that noise from bikes and events would intrude on the neighborhood.

A Mallory Park developer, [Southeast Venture](#) received a letter of intent from the motorcycle dealership June 30 to terminate the sales contract on land for a two-story, 51,200-sq.-ft. showroom, rider training area and stage.

Originally the owners sought blanket approval of special events as long as they conformed to a protocol, but backed off the proposal.

Originally the owners sought blanket approval of special events as long as they conformed to a protocol, but backed off the proposal.

Harley-Davidson Recalls 66,000

The iconic motorcycle-maker says the bikes' front wheels could become locked if brake line gets caught.



Harley-Davidson is recalling 66,421 motorcycles from this year's model line over problems with the bikes' anti-lock brakes.

The Milwaukee-based company says the recall affects 2014 Touring and CVO Touring motorcycles that were built between July 1, 2013 and May 7, 2014.

The front wheels of the bikes can lock up without notice when the front brake line is caught between the vehicle's fuel tank and frame. The pinched line can cause a build-up of brake fluid pressure that locks the front wheel, the company says.

(Continued on page 8)

Oil Spots, Continued...

The defect has led to five crashes and two minor injuries. Harley-Davidson plans to contact individual owners and will replace affected bikes' brake lines for free.

Earlier this year the iconic motorcycle-maker voluntarily recalled more than 18,000 bikes from its Breakout and CVO Breakout model lines due to a fuel range indicator defect. Another 29,000 motorcycles with hydraulic clutch system issues were recalled last fall.

The defect was first discovered last September, when a police motorcycle was being set up for duty. Harley-Davidson has received 39 reports that may be related to the issue, one involving a minor injury. The recall is expected to begin in this month.

Owners may contact Harley-Davidson customer service at 1 (800) 258-2464, or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 (TTY 800-424-9153), or online.

Indian Two-tone Chiefs for 2015

Indian Motorcycle over the weekend revealed two-tone paint schemes for the 2015 Indian Chief lineup.



The paint palettes were unveiled during Vintage Motorcycle Days in Ohio. Additional details will be provided at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. The bikes will be on dealer floors this fall.

Featured two-tone colors for the Indian Chief lineup include:

The 2015 Chief Classic, available in Indian Motorcycle Red/Thunder Black as well as in solid Indian Motorcycle Red;

The 2015 Chief Vintage (shown in photo) in Indian Motorcycle Red/Thunder Black, Indian Motorcycle Red/Ivory Cream, and Willow Green/Ivory Cream, as well as solid red and solid Thunder Black; and

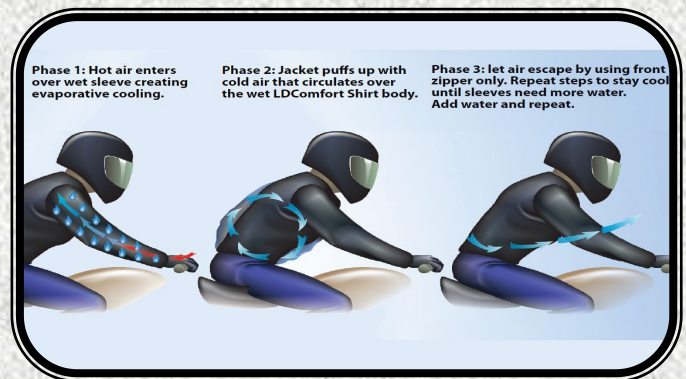
The 2015 Chieftain (shown in photo) in Indian Motorcycle Red/Thunder Black, Indian Motorcycle Red/Ivory Cream, and Springfield Blue/Ivory Cream, in addition to solid red and solid Thunder Black.

"Two-tone paint schemes are among the most iconic elements of vintage Indian motorcycles dating back about 80 years, giving the bikes a look and feel that is instantly recognizable and beloved by motorcycle fans," said Steve Menneto, vice president of Indian Motorcycle. "It is exciting to reintroduce two-tone paint for our 2015 Indian Chief models. These paint schemes pay tribute to Indian bikes of the past but come coupled with the exceptional technology and power that the 2015 Chief lineup offers. They are simply stunning, and the quality and craftsmanship of the paint jobs is exceptional. We're excited to share these beautiful bikes now, and will share more news with our fans on August 2nd."

LDComfort Dryline Longsleeve Turtleneck Top

THE ANSWER TO RIDING COMFORT

LDComfort Riding Tops are an undergarment made with the same dual layer material used for the Tights. It transfers and keeps moisture away from your skin and helps regulate your temperature. This 4-way stretch material allows for a perfect fit. The fabric also offers anti-microbial properties to help prevent the growth of odor causing bacteria. The mock turtle neck design helps protect the rider from chafing of outer garments and can keep you cool with the addition of water on hot days. The Long Sleeve Top is the perfect garment for competition or endurance riding.



(Continued on page 9)



Oil Spots, Continued...

The design of LDComfort Riding Tops helps regulate the body temperature. This versatile garment can be worn in any weather situation. Temperature extremes from near freezing into triple digits can be managed with the addition and subtraction of air and water. This Top keeps you warm in the cold and cool in the heat eliminating the need for extra packing on trips.



LDComfort Comfort Riding Tops pack small, wash easy, and give you the ability to stay comfortable in any weather making multiple days of riding a breeze.

Made in the USA. Price ~\$56.98

Website points to motorcycle insurance policies

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Quotes Pros announced a new web portal that enables consumers to find motorcycle insurance available in each of the 50 states. "One unique element to our system is that any bike that requires insurance protection can be matched with a policy using our tool due to connections with multiple insurers," said Quotes Pros in a press release.

"Any user of our website uses a real ZIP code to find respective rates from state or national insurers providing coverage policies at a reduced rate," the company noted. QuotesPros.com provides insurance rates data through a public portal. A database of state, national and local insurance agencies can be tapped into by the public free of charge.

NISRA IS THE BIG WINNER!

*ANOTHER GREAT YEAR OF
COLLABORATE WORK FOR
TEAM TC / NISRA*

SEE THE NEXT PAGES FOR PICTURES...



August Celebrations!

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



16th - Jane Smith

24th - Greg Smith

17th - David & Laura Whiteside

28th - Gene & Noelle Rigsby

30th - Tony and Terri Loden

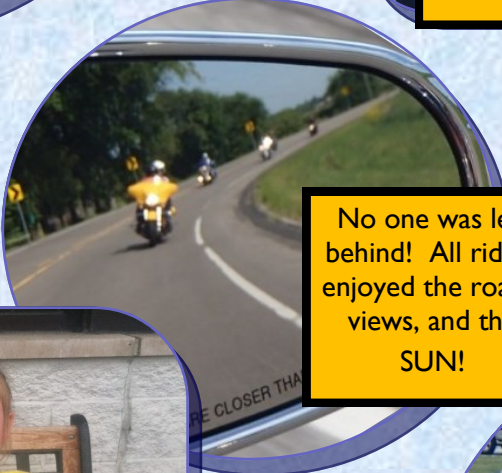
Ride for Dreams 2014



The
Send-Off!
The 2014
*Ride for
Dreams*
was under way
with a wave!



Great People with a great mission
came to support NISRA!



No one was left
behind! All riders
enjoyed the roads,
views, and the
SUN!



It takes a
lot of
muscle to
get the
job done!



People
enjoyed the
company
and the
setting!

Thanks to
Woodstock
Harley-
Davidson
for their
support



Ride for Dreams
All Proceeds Benefit NISRA
Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association

Support For This Event Was Provided By:

Woodstock HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Van Ness Chiropractic Barrington	Jimano's Pizzeria Fox River Grove
On Target Crystal Lake	Sparrow's Nest Cary
Horseshoe Bar & Grill Barrington	Red 27 Jewelry.com
Dawson's Treasures Wauconda	Galati's Pizza & Pasta Cary
Andy Hay Tower Lakes	Dave Wechselberger McHenry
Costco Wholesale Lake Zurich	Real Time Pain Relief At a location near you!

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT
BY BECOMING ONE OF THEIR PATRONS!

Support For This Event Was Provided By:

Woodstock HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Antonucci Salon & Spa Lake Zurich	Tin Man's Pub Lake Zurich
Bacchus Nibbles Lake Zurich	Julie's Nails Fox River Grove
Kojack's Restaurant Cary	Hannah By Design Schaumburg
Periwinkle Florist Cary	Lee's Martial Arts Cary
Ace Hardware Fox River Grove	Tracks Bar & Grill Cary
Konica Minolta USA	

Thank you to all who made donations in support of our day!



The Music of the day began with a very special group...
Pulse Beat
Their music and talent is dedicated to bringing awareness and support to Lurie's Children's Hospital in Chicago... check out their website and be inspired!
Pulsebeatband.com

Some wonderful girls came to help!

The Top Cat Charity Committee, Chaired by Noelle Rigsby, brought together talent, intellect and kindness to create a successful event that will benefit NISRA,
Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association.
The weather was perfect, riders rode back roads filled with twists and beautiful sites, and the music that filled the air all worked together to create success!
Thank you to Woodstock Harley Davidson, to all who came, and to all who supported the cause!
And a special thanks to NISRA, who inspires many to do great things with their ideology as well as their programs!



The Screaming Eagles...
A two-man band that really ROCKS!



The connection between NISRA and Top Cats remains strong!
Jim and Wayne represent the teamwork that made today a success!

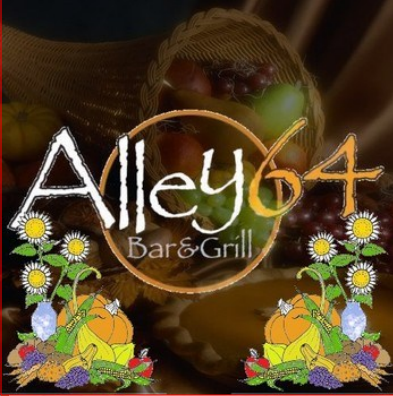


GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

JULY 1ST, 2014

Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Walters



The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Wayne Kirkpatrick, President.

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

Guest and New Member: Mano Gawat

Guests: Regan Rellova and Wilson Chua came along with Mano for the meeting tonight.

President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ✦ Our Charity Ride is on track and are envisioning a very successful event for this year. The committee is collecting donations and getting out flyers. ALL club members are encouraged to show support by inviting friends, talking to the communities, and handing out flyers so that we ensure a large turn-out.
- ✦ The Presidents Ride, in June, was a great success. The attendees were welcomed by the Mayor of Pontiac and the tour of the town included museums, a car show, Victorian homes, a large number of Murals. AND... some very good food! There was even some line dancing at the end of the evening. Everyone had a good time and returned safely.
- ✦ Thanks to Mike and Kathie Bradbury, Road Captain and support, as well as Tony and Terry Loden, photographers, for the Rustic Roads Ride. It was a beautiful day ride through the back roads of Southern Wisconsin. The ride earned a quadruple S rating for the Scenic roads, the Sunny day, and the Superb Social Connections that were made! Pictures of the group were taken at each Rustic Road sign and those who were in attendance will be receiving a patch.

Past President's Comments: Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Mike stated that he was enjoying the rides and camaraderie this year... as well as the SAFETY focus of our club!

Vice President's Report: Larry Scalzitti

- ✦ Larry was not in attendance tonight.

Secretary's Report: Mary Walters

- ✦ The ROAR is always looking for new scripts to add to the monthly publication. Bring ideas to Mary Walters and get your ideas published.
- ✦ Roster changes have been made and the present Roster is complete. Member attendance has also been updated.

Treasurer's Report: Stewart Johnson

- ✦ All is good at this time. The books are balanced and any questions can be answered by addressing them with a board member.

Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

- ✦ The activities for the next 2 months were reviewed by Gene Rigsby. Highlights included:
 - ⇒ Mary Walters previewed a ride to Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin
 - ⇒ Bard Boand previewed the ride to Sturgis.
 - ⇒ Wayne Kirkpatrick previewed the post-Sturgis ride.
 - ⇒ Stewart Johnson previewed his fly-in ride and wanted everyone to know that the starting point will be at 45 and Peterson...NOT Gurnee! It will be a great opportunity to see old and unique planes as well as enjoy the company of fellow Top Cats.
 - ⇒ Gene Rigsby reminded everyone of the *Ride for Dreams* on the 27th of July!

(Continued on page 13)

General Meeting, Continued**Awards**

- ✦ There was no update tonight from the Awards Committee.

Safety / Charity: Ric Case**Charity**

- ✦ Noelle Rigsby updated the members on the progress being made by the Charity Committee. The Square is now operational and can be used for taking pre-registration and other cash donations for the event.

Safety:

- ✦ An additional GRASS Class before the October class will be considered. With new members to the club, it may be good timing to schedule a class before the end of the riding season.
- ✦ Safety Tip was given by Gene Rigsby who wrote this month's Kaution Korner. He suggested adding a physical adventure to some of our rides. He also reminded the membership that you need to be prepared for all the challenges that you may face on a ride. When you add a physical dimension, there are even more things to prepare for so that everyone arrives home safely. See his article for full details in the July edition of ROAR.
- ✦ Road Captains are to develop and maintain their skills in the area of Leading Rides as well as managing Emergency Situations that may occur on a ride.
- ✦ Gina Woods from Open Road Radio and Steve Johnson, of Wisconsin ABATE have volunteered to give an Accident Scene Management Class for the club if there is an interest.

Guest Speakers: Board & Committee Chiefs

- ✦ The President of the club organizes and handles monthly meetings and coordinates information between members and committees when needed. The President steers the direction of the club, keeps things moving forward and establishes the 'tone' of the club. Presently, this position is held by Wayne Kirkpatrick
- ✦ The Vice-President position is in place to support the President and to assist in developing and maintaining a positive direction for the club. He/she will also carry out any duties as directed by the president. Presently, Larry Scalzitti is the Club's VP.
- ✦ The Secretary documents the events that are a part of the club and records the information presented at the General Meetings and the Board Meetings. The Rosters are also kept current by the secretary. Rosters include contact information, attendance at GRASS class, Road Captain positions, and attendance at TC activities. Mary Walters presently holds this position.
- ✦ The Treasurer not only balances the bank books, but ensures that the club maintains it's 501(c)(7) status. There are papers that need to be submitted annually along with the tax forms. There are monthly deposits made for new members and charity donations that pass through the position of the treasurer. Stewart Johnson is presently the club's treasurer.
- ✦ The Membership Director focuses on bringing in new members to the club. It is a position that requires knowledge of the club so that all personal contacts can include a discussion of the benefits of joining our club as well as the uniqueness of the group. The ability to communicate these aspects of the club as well as identify possible members with qualities that will help to build the club are the keys to being a good Membership Director. Emil Kornecki, our present Director, is a good example of how to successfully build the club's membership.
- ✦ The Products position brings Top Cats products to the members. Shirts, hats, belts, Flags, and other items that carry the Top Cats logo are made available at each meeting. Development of new ideas and maintaining an accurate inventory are important requirements of this position, which is presently held by Lisa Purcell.
- ✦ The Safety Director develops, updates and maintains our club's Safety Class called GRASS. Group Riding and Safety Seminar. The Road Captains are required to teach one segment of this class each year. Road Captains are monitored by the Road Captain Committee which falls under the direction of the Safety Director. Ric Case holds this position and has developed the reputation of being reliable and fair, two important qualities in establishing the trust of the club that is essential in the position.
- ✦ The Charity Committee falls under the Safety Director. The Committee works to gather money throughout the year that will be donated to Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association or NISRA. It is a not-for-profit organization that provides services to people with special needs. The Committee Chair organizes, monitors, and

(Continued on Pg 14)

**General Meeting, Cont.**

maintains steady progress of the entire committee as they work toward the one big fund raising event the club has each year, *The Ride for Dreams*. Noelle Rigsby presently chairs this committee and her dedication, commitment, and soft-spoken strength have created an effective and efficient committee of friends.

- ✦ The Activities Committee is led by the Activities Director. All club events are channeled through this group and they ensure that the rides and other events are representative of the Top Cats professional reputation. Safety is key and Gene Rigsby, who is our current Director, sets a high standard. This position requires the ability to balance and develop the ride ideas that come to the committee and Gene has been persistent in his drive to fill the calendar.
- ✦ The Awards Committee is under the direction of the Activities Director. This committee keeps track of the year's work and effort put forth by the members. Recognition of these members is done at the Annual Awards Banquet. Mike Bradbury has taken on this position and has used his sense of humor to ensure that the Banquets are memorable and that all members are included often. He will tell you that it is easy with all of the talent in the club, but it also takes a trained eye to figure out ways to recognize and reward – as well as entertain!
- ✦ The website is the club's key to effective communication. Jeff Tietz has been a very effective website Director. His ability to innovate and understand the most current technology has allowed the club to maintain a solid communication structure.
- ✦ The History Committee ensures that the recorded information of the Club is secured and maintained. At this time, The Barrington Library has archived ALL of the records that are a part of the Top Cats past. Jeff also oversees the History Committee.
- ✦ The ROAR has an Editor and a Publisher. Both positions are currently held by a single member, Mary Walters, who also acts as the liaison to the board. The ROAR is the monthly publication identifying the things that the club is doing as well as information that keeps members informed of the changes and developments in the motorcycle community. It is also the main source that will be used for documenting the club History.
- ✦ The Sergeant at Arms sets up and takes down the flags and other items that are needed at the meetings. This person also runs the 50/50 at the meetings. Jim Purcell, one of the club's newest members, has taken on this position and is a great 'salesman' for the club's raffle at each meeting. 50% of the proceeds is put into our NISRA charity fund each month.

Products / Membership: Emil Kornecki**Membership**

- ✦ Emil was unable to attend this evening, and at this time we have one application for membership from Mano Gawat who was in attendance tonight. Mano is a past member, who has been traveling, but would like to return to the club at this time.

Products

- ✦ Lisa Purcell asked the members for new ideas. She is investigating new lines with better quality materials. She is also looking to expand the product choices that are being offered to the women of the club.
- ✦ Flags are also being researched to identify a supplier whose flag material would be more durable.
- ✦ Completed information on these topics will be brought to the board in the near future.

History/Web Site: Jeff Tietz**Web Site****History**

- ✦ These updates will be addressed at the next meeting in August.

New Business:

- ✦ August's meeting will be led by Mike Bradbury, the club's present Past President. Wayne Kirkpatrick will be attending the Sturgis event.

Jim Purcell pulled the winning ticket and the **50 / 50** was won by and a T-shirt was won by Mike Bradbury.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JULY 8TH, 2014

Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois
Submitted by Mary Walters

Present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Mike Bradbury, Gene Rigsby, Ric Case, Mary Walters, Larry Scalzitti

Excused: Emil Kornecki, Jeff Tietz, Stewart Johnson

Meeting Called to order at 7:30 by Wayne Kirkpatrick, President, Top Cats, Illinois

President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

✦ Elections timeline:

September = Invoices sent to the membership

30 October = Dues payment deadline

November = Membership review to identify qualified candidates and voter eligibility

December = Election and Management Changes

- ✦ Beth Brown from Law Tigers has been asked to speak to the club. The topic will be determined by what the club is interested in learning from an attorney. The board discussed a number of options and time frames. Mike Bradbury volunteered to pursue this speaker.

Vice President: Larry Scalzitti

- ✦ No updates at this time.

Secretary: Mary Walters

- ✦ ROAR is still in need of new material and ideas from the members.
✦ Rosters will be updated and sent with the copy of this month's Board Meeting.

Treasurer: Stewart Johnson

- ✦ Stewart will be unable to attend tonight, but sent copies of the financials for the quarter.
✦ The board reviewed the report and all agreed that the account is in order.
✦ Stewart will send invoices in September. The board reviewed the deadlines and anyone who has been a member for less than 6 months will NOT receive an invoice for 2015. The dues paid in 2014 for these new members will carry over to the new year.

Past President: Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Mike will take the lead for the August meeting in the absence of Wayne Kirkpatrick.
✦ Mike will pursue the guest speaker from Law Tigers for August's meeting.

Director; Gene Rigsby

Activities

- ✦ Gene reviewed the rides for the next two months and identified a few rides that need to be verified by the Road Captain and information updated.
✦ The board discussed the possibility of creating a forum for women to develop events and activities for the club. Gene, along with Mike Bradbury, will present this idea to the club at the August meeting.

Awards

- ✦ The membership longevity rockers will be given in the next few months at the General Meetings to the members who are in attendance.

(Continued on Pg. 16)



Director: Emil Kornecki

Emil was unable to attend tonight, but sent a request for the board to address the following items:

Membership

- ✦ New members: Mano Gawat has applied to the club. Wayne made a motion that Mano be admitted to the club, Larry Scalzitti was the 2nd and the board approved unanimously.
- ✦ The board identified the flow of membership applications as follows:
- ✦ The secretary will accept the application and scan it into a digital document, which will then be sent to the membership Chair.

Products

- ✦ Ric Case motioned that the board set aside \$200 for Lisa Purcell to begin developing product lines. Larry Scalzitti was the 2nd and the board approved this unanimously.

Director: Ric Case

Safety

- ✦ A GRASS Class will be held before the 26 Oct date. Gene will send out a MASS BLAST to identify the importance of taking the class to maintain membership and to let all know when the class will be held.
- ✦ Gary Brandt has stepped down from the position of the Road Captain Committee Chair.
- ✦ Until another member takes this position, Mary Walters will maintain the Road Captain spreadsheet.
- ✦ Bike Safe has not developed a course at this time. Ric will continue to pursue this with the State Police.
- ✦ Safety Tip / Kaution Korner Update was made to the board identifying the next month's authors.

Charity Committee

- ✦ Randy and Faye Braun resigned from the Committee and their responsibilities have been reassigned.
- ✦ The next meeting will be at JJ Twigs on July 14th. All members are welcome.

Director: Jeff Tietz

Jeff was unable to make it to the meeting tonight.

History

- ✦ All is well and the Library will be archiving 2014 at the end of the year.

Web Site

- ✦ Jeff will inform the board on what will be done to update the website at the August board meeting.

New Business:

- ✦ There was a question as to the process of board information and how it is to be handled. There are sensitive topics that are covered and it is expected that all board members maintain a high level of professionalism.
- ✦ Insurance information was discussed and it was decided that there should be one person on the board who would be the contact with the new insurance agent. The Board decided that the Treasurer would be the natural position for dealing with the financial payments / review of the payment each year.
- ✦ Ric also thanked the Board for the donation that was made to NISRA on his behalf. This was done in place of flowers when Ric had his surgery, as he requested.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

We now have a SQUARE that will allow us to make direct payments to our Club account for purchasing products, making payment for annual club dues, or making donations to NISRA and our Ride for Dreams! Try it out!

This will make Club business easier and more convenient!



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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

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



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Wed 7/30 to Sun 8/6	Sturgis	Mc D's at Ela & 12	South Dakota	8:00 am	Boand
Tuesday, August 5th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, August 12th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, August 19th	Franks and Fries	Hot Dog Ritchies	Palatine	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Sunday, August 31st	Cantigny	TBD	Wheaton, Il	9:00 am	Flynn
Tuesday, September 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, September 7th	Memorial Ride for Fallen/Past TCs	TBD	TBD	9:00 am	Case
Tuesday, September 9th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday September 16th	Franks and Fries	Gene and Judes	River Forest	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Saturday September 20th	Ride for Cheese	Hwys 12/120, Volo	Monroe, Wisconsin	8:30 am	Bradbury

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



Barrington Library

Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300
balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

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

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

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

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org



ROAR



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

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ROAR is the official publication of the **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**

and is published on the 1st of each month.

The content and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**

For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org