



# ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S MINUTE



If we look at our 2014 riding season, we'll see a lot of momentum gained throughout the year in terms of safety, riding experiences and, the quality of our members. New members have enriched our club "gene pool" with their experience and ideas and recent members have jumped on the band wagon with a positive attitude and an excitement that's contagious.



We just returned from our annual Sturgis ride with members and guests that included a few old Top Cats from out of town, the Director of the National Corvette Museum, the owner of the world's largest vintage car and motorcycle collection and, a professional photographer who captured the entire trip.



Next year is the 75th Black Hills Bike Week and indications are that it will be a sold-out event. As usual, we have a

block of rooms reserved for Top Cats. Details as soon as we finalize the contract.

Elections are right around the corner with dues due by mid October, nominations due by 19 Nov and elections held on 2 Dec. We'll discuss our election process at the next few general meetings.



September brings us to our Top cats' Memorial Ride in honor of our members who have passed but... whose mem-

ories will remain with us forever. Thanx to Ric Case, it's our way of appreciating them as Top Cats.

We can't let a month go by without reminding ourselves of the "ride to eat, eat to ride" motto, can we?



This month, 14 September, Mike and Kathie Bradbury will take us on a 130 mile ride to gain a few pounds at an undisclosed lunch stop. (McDonalds?)

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September, 2014

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### Upcoming Events

#### SEPTEMBER

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 7 GRASS CLASS
- 9 BOARD MEETING
- 16 FRANKS AND FIRES
- 20 RIDE FOR CHEESE

#### OCTOBER

- 4 GENE'S RIDE
- 7 GENERAL MEETING
- 14 BOARD MEETING
- 21 FRANKS AND FIRES
- 26 GRASS CLASS

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!





## KAUTION KORNER

### *Look, and then... Look again!*

By: Larry Scalzitti, Road Captain



“Situational Awareness” is never more important than in motorcycling. It’s up to each of to be forever vigilant – always on guard – always scanning ahead – ready to react to what ever may come our way. So we must train ourselves to Look and then Look Again.

In my mind there are three big things that every rider should be well versed in. The first item is awareness and visibility. A rider needs to be visible to others and be able to see and be aware of everything around them. Next, the rider needs to understand how their bike turns, both at slow speeds and higher speeds. And finally all riders must master the two main collision avoidance techniques: Swerving and quick stops. This article addresses the first item.

Too many times you hear about a rider who has had a crash or a near miss. Generally the focus of their anger is on the other person or thing that put them in a place outside their comfort zone.

We’ve all heard these comments before:

- ◇ “That idiot pulled out in front of me . . .”
- ◇ “I couldn’t believe they stopped in the middle of the intersection . . .”
- ◇ “The turn didn’t look that sharp . . .”
- ◇ “Where did that car come form . . .”

All of these and more can probably be avoided if we take a hard look at the incident without our egos leading the discussion. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Basic Rider Course (BRC) espouses an excellent strategy for all riders: SEE – Search – Evaluate – Execute. No magic here, the concept is pure common sense. It’s just that easy to think through the road that lies ahead.

The first part of the visibility equation is the S in SEE. Courses that I’ve taught over the years have the rider searching anywhere from 12 to 20 seconds ahead. Well, just how far down the road is 20 seconds? Ra-

ther than struggle with speed related calculations, I think what everyone is trying to say is look down your path of travel as far as you can see and search for things that may cause you harm. If you can do that and continue to look down the road aggressively, you won’t be surprised.

In order to effectively search ahead you will need to place your bike in a position that allows you to see. Sometimes your vision of the road ahead may be blocked by a large vehicle. If you’re on a multi-lane road, then change lanes and move past that vehicle to allow you to see ahead and regain your ability to search the entire area coming into view.



If you have but one lane to travel down, then increase your following distance, in order to open up space between you and the larger vehicle ahead. This will give you a better view of what lies before you. You should also change your position within the lane. Ride in the left track for awhile and then the right



track. Vary your time in each track, scanning down the road ahead and try to build a complete picture, even though that large vehicle in front of you may be blocking the middle

of the road. The more information you can gather and piece together about what’s ahead, the better able you be able to spot and avoid trouble before it becomes a problem.





KK Continued...

be able to spot and avoid trouble before it becomes a problem.

By changing tracks you also give the traffic ahead of you a better chance to see your bike. As you ride in the left, then right track, and fall back from the vehicle in front, the oncoming traffic will be more likely spot you, especially those vehicles entering the roadway from any cross streets or driveways ahead.

**Bottom line – Remember to choose your position on the road based on both your ability to see and your ability to be seen by others.**

You can also choose to make you and your ride easier to see. Since we're more difficult to see than cars, it becomes our duty to increase our visibility to others.

Wear brightly colored clothing. Lots of manufacturers have brightly colored gear for all kinds of riding conditions. You can also add a high visibility vest over your leather jacket to get more attention. Don't forget helmets, black look cool, but other colors will make you stand out rather than blend into the scenery. In the rain wear gear that has retro reflective materials. This is



a great time of year to buy clothing. Last year's gear is still good and the prices are slashed to clear remaining inventory. Check out one of my favorite places for deals – [www.motorcyclegear.com](http://www.motorcyclegear.com)

Ride with your high beam on during the day. It will help you stand out from the crowd of day time running lights. Bonus - If you're riding a cruiser with a single headlight, you'll



increase the life of your low beam filament. Also, I highly recommend adding additional lighting both fore and aft. The more visible you are, the more likely you'll be seen and the safer you'll be.

Brake lights. Remember that a flashing light attracts more attention than a steady



one. If you're the last vehicle in line at a stoplight or stop sign, remember to be in first gear, keep an eye on your mirrors for fast approaching vehicles, have an escape path and pulse your brake lights as a vehicle approaches.

In the final analysis, when you're on your bike there is no one to blame but yourself. We need to be constantly looking for potential problems and we need to take action before those potential problems develop into real bad problems for us. Our goal is to eliminate or minimize every potential problem that lies down the road. The only way to do that is to be aware of everything coming towards you and to let everyone know where you

are. Stay visible and remember to put yourself in the best possible position to see and to be seen. Ride safe! Remember to Look and the Look Again!



Prepare now for October's Progressive Dinner Ride by: 1.) dieting now, 2.) working up a hardy appetite, and 3.) volunteering to host; soup/salads, main course, desserts, campfire, etc. More on this at our meeting.



Finally, our September general meeting will host a few new members who will be presenting a professional photo show recap of our 18th annual



Top Cats Sturgis Ride. If you've never been there, it's a great opportunity to see what's in store. If you have been there before, it's a great opportunity to revive old memories and see how our activities and venue have changed. Hope to see you all there....



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

*Traveler*

President

Top Cats – Illinois



## **September Celebrations!**

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



11th - Mary Walters

16th- Randy Braun

11th - Gary & Muriel  
Brandt





## Oil Spots

By Traveler

### Polaris debuts three-wheeler Slingshot

And now for something completely different.

Polaris Industries, not content with being a dominant force in SxS and ATV sales, nor with manufacturing a well-regarded range of motorcycles with its Victory and Indian brands, has unleashed a stunning three-wheeled road vehicle, the 2015 Slingshot.



The unique motorcycle design is a surprise thanks to its wild styling and unusual specification. Compared to conventional trike designs with paired rear wheels, the Slingshot uses a pair of front wheels with the third wheel on a motorcycle-style swingarm.

The Slingshot is legally a motorcycle, and will require a motorcycle helmet in states with helmet laws on the books. But the rider and passenger sit in tandem, in automotive-style bucket seats with three-point harnesses, a steering wheel and conventional car foot controls. The Slingshot uses a front-mounted General Motors motor.

The 2.4L DOHC Ecotec engine is rated at 173 hp @ 6,200 rpm, with 166 lb.-ft. of torque @ 4,700 rpm, and a 7,000 rpm redline. Power is transferred via a hydraulically actuated, single-plate dry clutch and a gated H-pattern Synchromesh five-speed-plus-reverse transmission, delivered to the rear wheel via a driveshaft "secondary" and a 36mm carbon fiber-reinforced belt final drive.

Finally, braking is provided by 298mm vented rotors

at each wheel. To maintain control of the wheels, and the chassis as a whole, the Slingshot mounts several rider aids, including Electronic Stability Control and ABS. Total curb weight for the Slingshot is claimed to be just over 1,700 lbs.

The entire vehicle is waterproof, so when things get dirty, just hose it off. There are small luggage compartments behind each seat. Auxiliary lighting is provided by LEDs with four projector beam headlights.



Pricing for the base Slingshot is \$19,999 while the upmarket, windscreen- and audio-equipped SL model will sell for \$23,999. Compared to a well-equipped Spyder RT at \$22,999, or a K1600-powered T-Rex at around \$65,000, the Slingshot looks to be very competitively priced as well.

### Indian introduces luxury touring Roadmaster for 2015

Indian Motorcycle plans to go head-to-head with Harley-Davidson in the luxury custom touring segment after announcing its new 2015 Roadmaster.



The Roadmaster, which takes its name from the original 1947-1953 model, comes with an MSRP of \$26,999, putting it in competition with Harley's FLHTK Ultra Limited. The Roadmaster comes loaded with premium features for touring practicality, comfort and performance.

(Continued on page 6)



## Oil Spots, Continued...

Based off the 2014 Indian Chieftain, the Roadmaster adds lower leg protection, a quick-release top trunk, expansive passenger comfort, improved upper-body wind deflection, and enhanced, adjustable ergonomics.

With the new luggage, the Roadmaster boasts nearly 38 gallons of waterproof storage, and the locks can all be remotely controlled with the keyless ignition system.

As with the Chieftain, the windscreen is also power-adjustable. The characteristic Desert Tan leather seating is now heated front and rear, and comes with improved UV-resistance for additional durability. The Roadmaster

also mounts standard ABS, tire pressure monitoring, cruise control, and the new Pathfinder all-LED

headlight and lighting package. Finally, Bluetooth-equipped infotainment combines communication, navigation, telephone and audio into a central unit.



As with the rest of the Indian lineup, the Roadmaster is powered by the Thunder Stroke 111 c.i. engine, a 49-degree, air-cooled V-twin mated to a 6-speed overdrive transmission.

## Willie Davidson named AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame Legend

AMA Motorcycle Hall of Famer Willie G. Davidson, the grandson of Harley-Davidson founder William A. Davidson, will be honored as an AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame Legend on Oct. 17, in Orlando, Fla.



"Willie G.," as he is

known to his admirers, is responsible for many innovative motorcycle designs that ushered in a new era for the iconic company.

"Few motorcycle designers have contributed more to the modern motorcycle landscape than Willie G. Davidson," said Ken Ford, a member of the Hall of Fame executive committee.

AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame Legends are existing members of the Hall of Fame whose lifetime accomplishments are showcased as part of the annual induction ceremony of new Hall of Famers.

"I feel the same humility today receiving Legend status as I did 15 years ago when I was inducted into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame," Davidson said. "It's an honor to know that the creativity and emotion that's part of every Harley-Davidson motorcycle has helped fulfill dreams of personal freedom for millions of motorcyclists around the world.

In addition to his work at the design table, Davidson was a savvy businessman. He was one of the 13 company executives who raised the funds to buy Harley-Davidson back from conglomerate AMF in the 1980s. As such, he was crucial in laying the foundation for Harley-Davidson to become one of the most successful, profitable and fastest-growing corporations in the United States over the next three decades.

## Continental recalling 9,000 tires in U.S., Canada

Continental Tire is recalling about 9,000 120/70 ZR 17 and 120/70 R17 motorcycle tires worldwide.



(Continued on page 7)





## Oil Spots, Continued...

"Market feedback indicates that some of these tires have exhibited a condition in the tread and/or belt which may lead to separation and possible air loss," the manufacturer announced. The company said it has not received any reports of accidents or injuries related to the condition.

The affected tires were sold as OEM and replacement worldwide between 2007 and 2014. The tires with their DOT serial numbers are as follows:

- 120/70ZR17 M/C 58W TL ContiSportAttack - CP8B 1008 to 2614
- 120/70ZR17 M/C 58W TL ContiSportAttack 2 - CP8B B5M4 2811 to 2614
- 120/70R17 M/C 58H TL ContiAttack SM - CP8B BXM9 1011 to 2614
- 120/70ZR17 M/C 58W TL ContiRaceAttack Comp. Soft - CP8B B5M1 1907 to 2614
- 120/70ZR17 M/C 58W TL ContiRaceAttack Comp. Medium - CP8B B5M1 2307 to 2614
- 120/70ZR17 M/C 58W TL ContiRaceAttack Comp. Endurance - CP8B 918B 3011 to 2614
- 120/70ZR17 M/C 58W TL ContiRoadAttack 2 GTW - CP8B 91E9 2513 to 2614

Consumers are being directed to: [http://www.contionline.com/www/motorcycle\\_de\\_en/for more information](http://www.contionline.com/www/motorcycle_de_en/for_more_information).

Morgan 3 Wheeler Ltd. is recalling certain 2012-14

## **Morgan to recall 235 three-wheelers for warning light install**

model year 3W vehicles so that dealers can install a brake fluid indicator warning lamp, NHTSA announced.

The vehicles are classified as three-wheeled motorcycles. The recall affects about 235 vehicles in the United States.

Affected motorcycles were manufactured without a lamp that illuminates when the brake fluid level is low; as such, these vehicles do not conform to U.S. federal



safety standards.

According to the recall, Morgan will notify owners. Dealers are asked to install a warning lamp free of charge. Owners may contact Morgan's U.S. agent, New Mexico-based [Vehicle Services Consulting Inc.](#), at 505.570.1845.

## **NHTSA rolls out VIN-driven recall search engine**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has unveiled a new, free, online search tool to find out if a vehicle is directly impacted by a recall.

The new lookup tool is available on [www.safercar.gov/vinlookup](http://www.safercar.gov/vinlookup) and provides a quick and easy way to identify uncompleted recalls by entering a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

All major light vehicle and motorcycle brands can be searched.

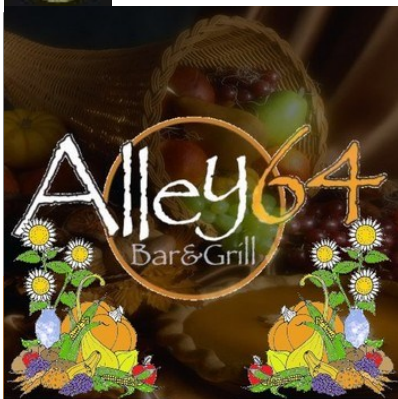


After entering the VIN into the field, results will appear if the consumer has an open recall on their vehicle, and if there are none, owners will see "No Open Recalls."

Also taking effect under the new NHTSA mandate, all major light vehicle and motorcycle manufacturers are required to provide VIN search capability for uncompleted recalls on their own websites. This data must be updated at least weekly. NHTSA's new VIN look-up tool directly relies on information from all major automakers, and regularly updated information from the automakers is critical to the efficacy of the search tool.

"Just as every single automaker should never hesitate to recall a defective vehicle, consumers should never hesitate to get their recalled vehicle fixed," said NHTSA Deputy Administrator David Friedman. "By making individual VIN searches readily available, we're providing another service to consumers – the peace of mind knowing that the vehicle they own, or that they are thinking of buying or renting, is free of safety defects."





## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

### AUGUST 5TH, 2014

Alley 64  
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Walters



**7:35 PM – Meeting called to order** by Mike Bradbury, Past President of Top Cats, Illinois

- The membership was asked to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

◆ Guest Speaker and Associate: Beth Brown and Keith Dircks of Law Tigers

#### **Past President's Report:** Mike Bradbury

- Mike is substituting as meeting chair for Top Cat's President, Wayne Kirkpartick while Wayne and others are riding at Sturgis, South Dakota.
- Bob Brizzolara went down on his motorcycle near Custer Park in South Dakota while doing the Sturgis Ride. He was in the right track and understeered a left turn leading him into the grassy right shoulder into a ditch. It was reported that Bob and his bike are okay.
- Member Fred Creed has had a minor heart surgery in July and is recovering.
- Sunday's Fly-In Ride lead by Stewart Johnson and held 7/20 had 8 bikes. Ride pictures are on our web site.

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

Larry was out of town and was not in attendance tonight.

#### **Secretary's Report:** Mary Walters

Mary Walters was riding in Sturgis and is not in attendance tonight.

#### **Treasurer's Report:** Stewart Johnson

Stewart was not in attendance tonight.

#### **Activities / Awards:** Gene Rigsby

- Gene announced and spoke on the upcoming activities;
  - o 08/19 – Franks 'N Fries night starts at 6:30 at Hot Dog Ritchies in Palatine.
  - o 08/31 – Cantigny Park Ride to be lead by Rich Flynn
  - o 09/07 – Memorial Ride for All Fallen Top Cats to be lead by Ric Case
  - o 09/16 – Franks 'N Fries at Gene & Jude's in River Forest
  - o 09/20 – The Ride for Cheese to be lead by Mike Bradbury
  - o Gene discussed ideas for other rides, but there was no interest shown by the members in attendance at this time.
- There was no update tonight from the Awards Committee.

#### **Safety / Charity:** Ric Case

##### **Charity**

Noelle Rigsby updated the members on the recent Ride for Dreams charity ride, held on 07/27. The ride had terrific weather and an okay turnout. A band called Pulse Beat played impressively for it's age. The band played classic rock cover tunes and consisted of an 11 year old drummer player, a 12 year old guitarist. The hard work of the Charity Committee proved a success. We had a great ride put on by great people with good character and the dedication to NISRA, their fellow riders, and Top Cats. An initial tally of \$2000 is expected to donate to NISRA

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## Safety

- Gene Rigsby asked if there was an interest in having a GRASS class before the scheduled class in October. The class will be scheduled for September 7th at Keller-Williams in Palatine.
- Dennis Dougherty's explained his Safety Tip for Seasoned Riders. As riders age into their Senior years, more attention, care, possible exercise must be utilized to meet the increased physical challenges someone in their Senior years has in riding a motorcycle. Vision, Hearing, Strength and Stamina, Reaction Times, Control Sensation and Comfort all become affected by aging. Our riding capabilities change as we get older and we need to adjust to these changes to ride safely. These topics were expressed in detail in Dennis Dougherty's Kaution Korner article published in the August ROAR called "Seasoned Riders".



## Guest Speakers:

- Our guest speakers were Beth Brown and Keith Dircks from Law Tigers. Beth told the meeting attendees that Law Tigers is a professional organization of personal injury lawyers that focus but not exclusively to motorcyclists. They are comprised of riders and others that specialize in representing motorcyclists. They work on contingency basis with no up front costs to clients and provide free consultation by phone or visit. Their fees are only charged when they obtain favorable verdicts or settlements for their clients. Keith added his comments interspersed through Beth's presentation. Keith handed out Law Tiger booklets that hold your insurance card and registrations in your bike. Beth and Keith are from Kelly Law Offices, located at Crown Point, Indiana.



## Products / Membership: Emil Kornecki

### Membership

- Emil announced to the members that he has (2) new member applications to present to the Board at the next meeting August 12<sup>th</sup>. Mike Bradbury also advised that (3) new member applications were to be presented from guests of the Sturgis Ride.

### Products

- Lisa Purcell did not attend tonight. No news on Products was presented.

## History/Web Site:

- Jeff Tietz was not asked by Mike Bradbury to present an update for the meeting.

**50 / 50** Jim Purcell did not attend tonight. No volunteers offered to run the raffle.

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!

For everyone!



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 12TH, 2014

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

**Present:** Wayne Kirkpatrick, Ric Case, Mike Bradbury, Emil Kornecki, Gene Rigsby, Mary Walters

**Absent:** Stewart Johnson, Larry Scalzitti, Jeff Tietz

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

**President: Wayne Kirkpatrick**

- ✦ All is in order for the invoices to be sent out at the beginning of September. This will allow plenty of time for the members to submit payment by the October 30th deadline.
- ✦ The board will decide at the October meeting if there will be a need for absentee voting this year and the guidelines for requesting a ballot
- ✦ The Ride to Sturgis was great again this year. One of the participants was a professional photographer and will be bringing a video for us to view at the September General Meeting. This will be the start of marketing for Sturgis' 75th next year!
- ✦ The Post Office Box lock had been changed. Wayne will look into the reason for this and report back to the Board.
- ✦ The video screen was left at Keller-Williams after the last GRASS class and will have to be brought back to Alley 64 for the Sturgis viewing.
- ✦ The final count on the new insurance is 3 million in coverage at a lower rate than Top Cats has been paying for the past 10 years.

**Vice President: Larry Scalzitti**

- ✦ Larry is out of town this week.

**Secretary: Mary Walters**

**Roar**

- ✦ The ROAR was difficult for Rich to get uploaded this month due to some issues on the website. He has resolved the issue, but it illuminated the need to update our website. It IS up now and all is well.

**Rosters**

- ✦ The Rosters are current.

**Treasurer: Stewart Johnson**

- ✦ Stewart is at a family function this week, but sent totals that were reported by Wayne Kirkpatrick.

**Past President: Mike Bradbury**

- ✦ The General Meeting went well and Mike stated that he enjoyed the opportunity to lead the group again.

**Director: Gene Rigsby**

**Activities**

- ✦ Gene reported on the events that are coming up in the club.
- ✦ There was a discussion on some new rides and it was decided that Wayne would lead a ride to Milwaukee for the Harley custom bike show on the 31st of August in place of Rich Flynn's Catigny ride. There was another event there that week-end and that was causing some challenges.

There was nothing to report tonight from the Awards Committee

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## Board Meeting, Continued

### Director: Emil Korneki

#### Membership

- ✦ Rich Agromonti has submitted an application and was unanimously voted in as a new member
- ✦ There are four others who are interested and will possibly be submitting applications as well.
- ✦ A question was raised on whether or not name tags should be given to new members. This topic was tabled until next month.

#### Products

- ✦ Lisa Purcell has asked for a budget to purchase new products. She would like to look into getting Belt buckles and will be given the information on where they were bought in the past.

### Director: Ric Case

#### Safety

- ✦ There will be another GRASS Class held on September 7th.

#### Charity

- ✦ With all of the final bills paid, Top Cats will be able to donate \$2,000 to NISRA
- ✦ The last 50/50 was collected by Jim Purcell. The money that was won was donated back to NISRA, but needs to be transferred to the charity account. \$26.50 will be transferred.

### Other Information:

The Alex Johnson has traditionally been the place that Top Cats stay during Sturgis. A contract is being negotiated for the 2015 trip - the 75th Annual Sturgis Event. The schedule may be adjusted forward a day and arrival would be a day earlier than usual. This would allow the club to take advantage of lower rates.



There was an e-mail sent out to see who would volunteer to cook for the progressive dinner ride. More information will be coming after the hosts are identified.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.



## Planning Makes Perfect...

By: Mary Walters

September. Beautiful colors and cooler days. Children are returning to school and the long summer days are waning. September riding is filled with the smell of sweet corn and sweet grass. The sun coming up on a Saturday morn-

ing is accompanied by the sounds of the harvesting machinery starting up. But these signify the beginning of the end of riding season. Slowly, ideas are creeping in... about winter and about having to store the bike for a time... for most of us anyway. For those who ride through all types of weather, turn the page and read the rest of ROAR...

For those who are going to stay in front of fires and plan for spring, here are some tips for storing your bike during the cold months. If you start planning now, you won't be caught scrambling in the cold, changing fluids or looking for a good place to park and cover your 'baby'...

Let's start with what you can do to ensure a quick start in spring:

Moisture is going to be the focus of this first part of 'winterizing'. For those who do not have a 'temperature regulation system' in your storage unit, moisture is the number one focus of storing your bike during winter. Motorcycle mechanics talk about the large amount of work that is needed to correct pitting in cylinder walls when a bike has been sitting in bad conditions over winter. Boring cylinders and replacing pistons and valves are essential then and very costly.

For those who are mechanically inclined you can address by:

- ✦ Removing the spark plugs,
- ✦ Ingest a small amount of oil and work it through the cylinder, pistons and valves by putting the bike in top gear and spinning the rear tire.
- ✦ Replace the plugs with the old plugs... and plan on putting new plugs when getting your bike ready for the new season in spring!
- ✦ Change your oil at this time... leaving the old filter in place. Change again when getting your bike ready for the new season in spring.
- ✦ To protect the fuel tank from rusting, fill the tank and add a fuel stabilizer to the tank using the suggested amounts on the bottle. (Sta-bil or another similar product)

***For those not so inclined, make an appointment with your mechanic.***

- ✦ Washing and waxing the bike before storing will make sure that the season's dirt and grime will not add pitting to the outer portions of the bike.
- ✦ Batteries are the next concern. Batteries discharge energy, even when the bike is not running. Keeping the battery healthy, can be done by using a 'battery tender'. There are many on the market, they are easy to find, and easy to use when you follow the directions on the container. Checking the battery posts at this time is recommended by many mechanics. Greasing the threads of the bolts will keep them corrosion free.
- ✦ Finding a good place to store your bike is essential. Dealers will have storage plans if you do not have room in your garage. Prices tend to be reasonable and pretty similar from one place to another. Some people rent a small storage unit is a 'temperature controlled' location near home. But most of us keep our bikes at home. When choosing a cover, make sure that it is 'breathable'. Using something that is waterproof is not necessary in a garage and will tend to hold moisture underneath the cover. This is counter productive! Polyester is suggested.. but check with your local dealer. These covers can cost anywhere from \$50 to \$150. Shop around now, while you have time...
- ✦ Finally, if you can get the bike off the floor, with a center stand, do so. If not, try to keep the rear tire off the ground by parking it on something. Plastic or something that will be moisture resistant.

Oh.. One last thought... If you have 'critters' that may enjoy building a winter home in your tailpipes, there are plastic covers that you can purchase to keep them out...

I know we hate to be thinking about these things already... but, if you begin your planning little by little... it will be less painful later on. You won't have to be rushing to get things done between holiday dinners and shopping... It won't be rushed and you'll be glad you did when your bike is in good running condition for next year!





## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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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
Tuesday, September 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Sunday, September 7th	GRASS Class	Palatine	Keller- Williams	8:00 am	Case
Tuesday, September 9th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday September 16th	Franks and Fries	River Forest	Gene And Jude's	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Saturday September 20th	Ride for Cheese	Hwys 12/120, Volo	Monroe, Wisconsin	8:30 am	Bradbury
Saturday, October 4th	Gene's Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Rigsby
Tuesday, October 7th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, October 14th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, October 21st	Franks and Fries	Buffalo Grove	Weiner's Take All	6:30 pm	Scalzitti
Sunday, October 26th	GRASS Class	Palatine	Keller-Williams	8:00 am	Case

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

**[ROAR@TOPCATS.org](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)**