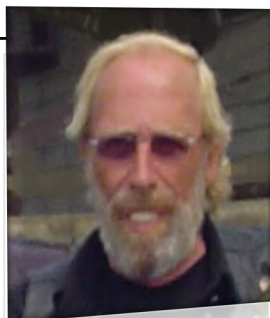




ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S MINUTE



Back in 2002, as I was completing my 27 months as President, I wrote the following....

meanor of all of our current members...it becomes clear that our emergence into our second decade of motorcycling will be an exciting one, an accomplished one and, one that will enrich the legacy of the most elite and distinguished motorcycle organization in the Chicago-land area.

Many nights, and early morning hours, as I sat at my keyboard, I anticipated with great joy, the opportunity to write my last "President's 5" column. Well, it's here and it just isn't as satisfying as I envisioned in those late night hours.

What is satisfying, however, is the great slate of candidates nominated for Board positions. On, or before, December 3, 2002, you will have the opportunity to vote to select or confirm the nominees for 2003.

Not much has changed in regards to anticipating the end of a presidency however, this time the emotions are so much more intense.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to lead the area's finest motorcycle organization. I am a bit sad to see my tenure end and, I am ecstatic about the future of Top Cats under the leadership of our new President and his Board of Directors.

When you combine the dedication, experience and incredible passion that our Board of Directors displays, with the enthusiasm, loyalty, safety consciousness and professional de-

To the members of the 2013 – 2014 Board, my sincerest thanx for your contribution, your countless hours of effort, your innovations, and, of course, your patience and tolerance. I am proud to be a part of your team as your serving past president during the next term.

To the members of Top Cats, thanx for allowing me the privilege of riding in your cherished "Two Spot" for the past 24 months and my sincere appreciation for the camaraderie and friendship that you have consistently extended to Mary and me throughout my term.

As we ride down our highway of excitement and challenges remember, we have succeeded because each of you were strong enough to stand alone and wise enough to know when to stand together.

Let's roll into 2015...safely.....

Traveler
President
Top Cats – Illinois

December, 2014

Volume 14, Issue 12

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Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 6 MOTORCYCLE TECH SESSION
- 9 BOARD MEETING
- JANUARY**
- 6 GENERAL MEETING
- 13 BOARD MEETING

Summer has come to a close, but good friends will continue to find ways to enjoy the days... What Ideas do you have to get everyone together? Talk to Gene Rigsby and get your ideas on the Calendar!



KAUTION

Riding Imperfections

By: Traveler, Senior Road Captain



those who rode before us. One of the major reasons is that old riders take every opportunity to learn from every incident they encounter. Here's what I mean.....

INCIDENT: Throttle cable failure. I have had throttle cables break and jam wide open. I have also had cables freeze open from water collected in the cable combined with below – zero wind chill temps. In both cases, the first reaction is a surge of adrenalin. The second reaction is uttering the famous old words “Oh S%#@! The third reaction is to immediately decide what to do and...do it. In this case, I fumbled with the kill switch the first time, then turned off the engine and coasted to the side of the road. The second time, it was simply a case of turning the kill switch off to slow down and turning it on speed up until the cables thawed out.

LESSON LEARNED: Take every opportunity to mentally rehearse anything that you can imagine that could go wrong and what immediate action you would take. That will save you incredible and valuable micro seconds in an emergency.

INCIDENT: Highway obstacles. Riding east on I 70 behind a pickup truck carrying junk with a tarp over it. The tarp was inflated from air rushing into it. I decided to pass the truck before the tarp blew off. Too late. All of a sudden, the tarp blew off and took a cinder block with it. The tarp flew up in the air, the cinder block fell on the highway and I was distracted by the tarp. Looking up at the tarp, I failed to clear the highway and, upon realizing that I was headed for the sliding cinder block, I tried to swerve



and, fortunately missed it and missed the tarp.

LESSON LEARNED: Two; always clear the highway ahead, always and, learn to execute immediate and aggressive swerves. Practice safe aggressive swerves until you are comfortable with swerving at highway speeds. Don't let an emergency be the first time that you have to execute a swerve.

INCIDENT: Mechanical failure. 1993, Phoenix, CO. Rode to meet friends at the Buck Snort Saloon for dinner. I didn't perform any safety check but, I knew that I had a low beam burned out on my headlight. Now, we had to get down off the mountain before nightfall because of many deer in that area and a very twisty road. Half way down that steep mountain road we encountered about five deer slowly crossing the road. Obviously alarmed by the noise of the bikes, they scattered everywhere, including toward us. My first reaction was to rev the engine and make a lot of noise. Then, hit the horn and turn off my high beam so they don't stare into it and stop. Well, I forgot about my burned out low beam being until I hit the switch and all of a sudden....darkness and a full charge of adrenalin! I was frantically fumbling with my headlight switch to get lights while I inadvertently ran off the road into a guard rail and onto the shoulder. It was not a good night but, I didn't hit a deer, I didn't go down, I only had cosmetic damage to me and the bike. Much more luck than skill.

LESSON LEARNED: Do a mechanical safety check of your bike every time you ride it. BUT, more importantly, fix anything that isn't working before you go riding. You never know when you'll need something as innocent as your low beam headlight.

So, if you want a good adage to ride by, try this....if it can go wrong, it will go wrong and...what will I do if it does. Practice that enough and you'll have a much better chance of being one of us old riders....



2015 Elections

By Traveler

Excitement builds as we approach our 2 December 2014 election date for two directors, our President and our Vice President to serve during 2015 and 2016.

Our nomination window closed on 15 November 2014 with a solid list of experienced candidates for our 2015 Board.

As a quick review, here is a summary of our process and our policies.....

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS:

On Tuesday, 2 Dec, we will be voting on a President, Vice President, and two directors. Each will start a new, two – year term on 1 Jan 2015 and serve through the end of 2016.

OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates for President and Vice President, must have three years as a Full member in good standing in the Club and served as a committee chair or in a Board position, for one year.

DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates for director have a minimum of one year as a Full member in good standing and served on a committee or in a Board position for one year.

TERM LENGTHS:

Officer and director terms are two – year terms, not to exceed three two – year terms.

ELECTION CYCLES:

The President, Vice President, and two directors will be elected to serve for the 2015-2016 term. At the end of 2015, we will have elections for our Secretary, Treasurer, and two directors who will serve for the 2016-2017 term.

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR

2015 - 2016:

Full Members who are eligible and have accepted a nomination for a director position are:

Emil Kornecki

Gene Rigsby

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT

2015 - 2016:

Full Members, who are eligible and have accepted a nomination for President and Vice President, running unopposed, are:

VOTING:

Voting will be held at the 2 Dec 2014 General Meeting. To be eligible to vote members must be Full Members in good standing i.e. attended five Top Cats events during 2014, and 2015 dues paid.



(Continued on Page 4)

2015 Elections, Continued

Member will vote upon validation of voting eligibility at the 2 December 2014 meeting. Results will be announced during that meeting.



CAMPAIGNING:

As is our tradition, we do not believe it is in the Club's best interest to campaign. A candidate's history of contributing to the Club as well as their demonstrated leadership, committee performance and experience will speak to that candidate's qualifications for office. We do not allow unsolicited mass emails, mass letters, social networking or telephone solicitation of our members by nominees or their supporters.

All members who participate, support, and contribute so much to our Club realize, and accept, their **obligation** to elect a strong Board. One that is reliable, capable, trusted, skilled, and experienced.



Our Club is worth it, our members are worth it, and our future deserves it.....

NISRA Annual Holiday Fashion Show

By Traveler

For a growing number of Top Cats, the term NISRA is an abstract acronym that doesn't, necessarily, generate any particular thoughts. To the tenured Top Cats, NISRA brings thoughts of great times, great people, and a great cause.

How do you get from one end of that spectrum to the other? All you have to do is attend a NISRA event with your fellow Top Cats. It never fails....those who attend one for their first time always seem to have the same reaction....that it was awesome!

So it was this past month when NISRA held their annual Fashion Show, silent auction, and Christmas Tree raffle.



The Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA)

Foundation's 17th Annual Holiday Fashion Show & Christmas Tree Raffle was held on Saturday, 22 November from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

The event is a major fund raiser for NISRA and provides entertainment, raffle opportunities and a fashion show highlighting the beneficiaries of NISRA as models.



(Continued on page 5)



NISRA... continued

As we have done in the past, Top Cats had subsidized the \$50.00 a plate tickets by buying two, 10 person tables and paying \$30.00 of the \$50.00 ticket. This most recent event had a unique twist to it...we had 9 guests attend. The great thing about that is that the guests were close friends and family who were able to share in the fun of the event and the good feeling of helping others.



Thanx to **Ric Case** and **Noelle** and **Gene Riggsby** for their effort in arranging the Top Cats attendance this year and for bringing their guests **Amanda** and **Charlie Riggsby** and Ric's guests **Bob** and **Tara Maxey**.



Attendees included **Mary** and **Wayne Kirkpatrick** with Granddaughters **McKenzie** and **Emily**, **Lisa Purcell**, her daughter **Mia** and guest **Kim Niccoli**, **Margaret** and **Emil Kornecki**, and **Greg Ludwig** with daughter **Leah** and her friend **Conner**.



In addition to some incredible items at the silent auction, the 5 theme Christmas Trees were, once again, outstanding raffle opportunities. Worth \$2,000.00 each the theme trees this year included; the Man's Tree with power tools, large gas grill, BBQ sauces, etc, the Gourmet Tree with gourmet appetizers, spices etc, the Party Tree with wine, and party related items and...two other trees.



The event was undoubtedly a success for NISRA and a fun event for Top Cats. Attendees have a valuable opportunity to put a face with the opportunity we help provide to send a child with a disability to day camp, a Special Olympics athlete to tournaments, or help purchase a wheelchair-accessible bus to transport a disabled veteran to a fitness center.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to interact with the NISRA staff and the wonderful beneficiaries of NISRA, you really need to get that off of your bucket list!

Oil Spots

By Traveler

Mercedes Buys 25 % of MV Agusta

Mercedes-AMG, the sports car and performance arm of Daimler AG, will buy 25 percent of MV Agusta and appoint a member to the motorcycle manufacture's board, as the result of a partnership between the two manufacturers.



Mercedes-AMG GmbH is the sports-car and performance brand of Mercedes-Benz Cars,

and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler AG.

"In MV Agusta, we have found the perfect two-wheel partner for Mercedes-AMG," said Tobias Moers, chief executive of Mercedes-AMG GmbH. "MV Agusta with a long tradition and Mercedes-AMG are connected not only by a long and successful racing history, but also by shared values and goals for the future – allowing the experience of utmost perfection, optimal performance and motorsport technology for the road."

MV Agusta will be announcing its new models at the forthcoming EICMA international motorcycle fair in Milan, including the Brutale 800 RR and the Dragster 800 RR.

MV Agusta will be entering the touring segment with the new Stradale 800 and Turismo Veloce 800.

"Mercedes-AMG will help MV

Agusta to further expand globally and to accelerate



our growth," said Giovanni Castiglioni, president and CEO of MV Agusta Motor S.p.A.

Dealernews announces Top 100 Dealers of 2014

Dealernews, the premier business information resource for North American powersports retailers, announces the winners of the 23rd Annual Top 100 Dealer Awards, the motorcycle and powersports in-



dustry's largest, longest running and most prestigious retail competition.

Based in Boise, Idaho, WPS is the fastest growing nationwide delivery system of powersports industry products, with regional warehouses in California, Idaho, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

More than 30 states and two Canadian provinces are represented in this year's Top 100. States with the highest number of winning dealerships are Texas (13 winners), Missouri (8), Ohio (8), Illinois (6) Virginia (5).

The powersports industry will honor the Top 100 Class of 2014 at an awards gala Dec. 4 at the historic Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago, in conjunction with the 2014 Dealer Expo and the National Retail Conference presented by Dealernews. The Awards Ceremony will reveal the 2014 Dealer of the Year, Special Merit Award winners and this year's recipient of the Don J. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award.

Our congratulation to Top Cat Doug Jackson and partners, Cricket Jackson, Arnold Horwich and Tracy Lancaster for having, not one but, two of their dealerships included in the Top 100 Dealerships of 2014.



(Continued on pg 7)



Oil Spots, Continued...

Hiring ex-cons:

How to think outside the cell

WANTED: Motorcycle mechanic. Must be experienced, reliable, bondable, and an ex-con. But before dismissing the idea, remember: celebrity builder Billy Lane is an ex-con now. Other ex-offenders were mechanics or fabricators when they went in, and still others are training in prison to give themselves a chance on the outside.

Despite the initial reaction, former offenders might be a viable source of



labor for some dealers. At least two state prisons, one in Colorado and another in Nevada, have custom motorcycle shops training inmates to work for dealers, custom and repair shops when they get out. All that's left is for dealers to think outside the cell.

Old Max Choppers

It's almost a cliché to think of inmates stamping out license plates in a prison shop. But that was the genesis of [Old Max Choppers](#), the shop at the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility in Canon City, Colo. The shop, part of Colorado Correctional Industries, had the equipment so the motorcycle program seemed like the next direction to go. Of 80 inmates in the license plate shop, five are in the Old Max Choppers program, which started three years ago.

Inmates make about \$4 a day working at Old Max Choppers, and state law would require that they be paid more if the bikes, which have been on display at local shows, were sold outside the state. The shop would work with a dealer if someone wants to sell them on consignment, Dunsmoor said.



The shop also sells logo T-shirts and commuter mugs, as well as custom-painted tanks and accessories. The corrections system does not track released inmates, but Dunsmoor said he knew of at least one ex-offender who went to trade school to continue with powersports after his release, and another that opened an auto shop in another state. He also said the graduates who have been released after the program have not been back to prison.

Government incentives ease the risk

The federal government offers employers a Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for hiring ex-felons. The credit is offered based on the individual's hours worked and wages earned in the first year. If the individual works at least 120 hours, the employer may claim a tax credit equal to 25 percent of the individual's first year wages, up to the maximum tax credit. If the individual works at least 400 hours, the employer may claim a tax credit equal to 40 percent of the individual's first year wages, up to the maximum \$2,400 tax credit.

The UNICOR Federal Bonding Program provides theft insurance up to \$5,000 to employers who hire ex-offenders. The ex-offender must have been a federal inmate who worked in UNICOR for at least six months during incarceration in a federal correctional institution, and sought coverage within one year after release. Employers who hire eligible ex-offenders may apply for the insurance at no cost to the employers or the employees. In the event of theft of money or property, this insurance will reimburse the employer up to the bond value.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Federal Bonding Program protects employers from employee dishonesty, covering theft, forgery, larceny and embezzlement. The program provides the guarantee through fidelity bonds that cover the first six months of employment at no cost to the job applicant or the employer. In most states the bonds are made available through the state agency responsible for workforce matters. Almost every state has its own program helping ex-cons find work and employers access the hiring benefits. Six states – California, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, and Texas – offer state income tax credits to employers who hire people with criminal records. Illinois recently increased tax credits for employers who hire ex-offenders from \$600 to \$1,500 per employee per year.

(Continued on page 8)

Oil Spots, Continued...

New Generation at Fox Valley Cycles

The torch is passing at **Fox Valley Cycles**, as Bob Conley, a partner who's been with the store for 42 years, is really retiring.

"I bought a 1964 used Honda Dream in 1969 and have loved motorcycles ever since," said Conley, 69.



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He started as a mechanic at the shop and later became a co-owner. After he retired in 2010, he retained a small ownership stake with his two partners. Recently the men decided to fully retire and let the next generation take over. Conley's son, John, and daughter, Chris Tracy, and partner Jim Cromwell have managed the business since 2010 and are now in a 10-year deal to eventually pass full ownership to the next generation.

Conley saw the business expand to three stores with 35 employees, when the recession hit, the stores consolidated into one. The array of Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki and other brands were trimmed down to just Honda.

Moto Guzzi Unveils Innovative Cruiser Concepts



Most of the cruisers out there today come by way of Japan or the US. Though the Triumph name is making a comeback in this

arena, many assume that the Europeans have been consigned to just making sport bikes. However, it only took the renowned Italian manufacturer Moto Guzzi one concept to remind us why that wasn't exactly the case.

Don't let the retro look and styling deceive you either. Called the MGX-21, this concept from Moto Guzzi incorporates some of the latest technology available in a motorcycle. Featuring Guzzi's 1400 cc V-Twin, the new bike features ride-by-wire throttle control, traction control, and final shaft drive control. Advanced instrumentation and LED lights also make sure that, despite the aged feel, this bike is as advanced as any on the road.



Moto Guzzi built this prototype of its California 1400 model, and, to date, they have unveiled two model variants. The first, pictured above, is called the Eldorado. Featuring conservative 16 inch wheels, it hearkens back to the 'American Cruiser' theme. The second, pictured below, is called the Audace. The Audace is intended to be more sinister, with a look and feel that is profound, yet stylish.

With a massive 21 inch carbon-fiber disc wheel, and the ominously sweeping body work that encapsulates much of the bike's rear end, the Audace is certainly unique. Both variants are expected to go on sale in the US next summer, though pricing has yet to be announced.

BMW 2015 Model Pricing

BMW Motorrad USA announced its model lineup and pricing for the 2015 model year at the Progressive International Motorcycle Show in Long Beach, Calif.

(Continued on Page 9)



Oil Spots, Continued...



Returning models, some of which have already been announced, that will be arriving first include the following (base MSRP listed in parenthesis):

C 650 GT (\$10,490): The only real change to this model for 2015 is the base MSRP, which has risen by \$500 over 2014.

G 650 GS (\$7,895): This model has a higher price tag by a mere \$45 for 2015.

F 700 GS (\$9,990): This model has new color options, including white, metallic black/red and blue metallic.

F 800 GS (\$12,190) and the **F 800 GS Adventure** (\$13,695): The F 800 GS has only increased \$100 in price, and new colors include white/metallic black and red. The Adventure, with a \$145 base MSRP increase, will come in white with a black and red seat and in dark green with a black and gray seat.

F 800 GT (\$11,995): Metallic blue is the new color for the F 800 GT.

R nineT (\$14,995): The R nineT returns with no changes, except a \$95 MSRP increase.

R 1200 GS (\$16,175) and **R 1200 GS Adventure** (\$18,340): The R 1200 GS is now equipped with the heavier crankshaft used in the R 1200 GS Adventure. New options for the R 1200 GS are keyless ride and Gear Shift Assist Pro, while colors include metallic black and dark blue. The white color, while not new, can now be ordered with black suspension and powertrain options. As for the R 1200 GS Adventure, it can also be fitted with keyless ride and Gear Shift Assist Pro, as well as low suspension and a low seat.

R 1200 RT (\$17,705): Keyless ride is an option for the R 1200 RT now, too.

K 1300 S (\$15,855): The Special model comes with HP Rider footpegs and an Akrapovic sport silencer as well as forged wheels, which are a new addition to that package (\$3,995). Updated color options are metallic black, white and metallic blue.

K 1600 GT (\$21,650): The base model now comes with dynamic traction control, and the MSRP has increased by \$345 from 2014. Keyless ride and hill start control are new options for the Premium package. White and metallic black are the color options.

K 1600 GTL (\$23,995) and **K 1600 GTL Exclusive** (\$29,995): The K 1600 GTL has also increased in MSRP, sitting \$450 higher than 2014. Like the K 1600 GT, keyless ride and hill start control are now options. Colors are metallic silver and metallic black.

S 1000 R (\$13,260): The S 1000 R is virtually unchanged for 2015, and its MSRP has increased by a slim \$110.

Other 2015 models which will be launched, along with pricing details, in the coming months include:

R 1200 R and R 1200 RS

S 1000 RR

S 1000 XR

F 80 R

Three 2014 models have been discontinued. They are the **C 600 Sport**, **G 650 GS Sertao** and the **HP4**.

Alpinestars Airbag System

Alpinestars' Tech-Air airbag system has been in development for over a decade, and is currently used on racetracks around the world by MotoGP (riders Marc Marquez and Jorge Lorenzo. Now, Alpinestars has introduced an airbag system for the street, dubbed Tech-Air Street.

Alpinestars says that the system—which is incorporated into a vest that zips into compatible jackets—is completely autonomous and requires no separate sensors or connection to the bike. Since the system travels with you it can be worn on any bike, and Alpinestars says Tech-Air Street is recommended for street riding as well as off-road adventure riding. The vest offers protection in direct impacts as well as highside and lowside crashes by way of inflatable airbags that pad the rider's chest, shoulders, back, and kidneys.

(Continued on page 10)

Oil Spots, Continued...



To prove the efficacy of its system, Alpinestars recently held a live demonstration at a crash-test research facility in Milan, Italy. In front of a crowd of wary spectators and journalists, Alpinestars sent a dummy wearing Tech-Air Street into the side of a parked sedan. The dummy was aboard a BMW R1200GS and slammed into the car at 30 mph. Data retrieved from the system showed that Tech-Air detected the impact and deployed the airbags within 59 milliseconds, well before the "rider" contacted the car. Check out the video to see for yourself.



[http://www.motorcyclistonline.com/news/airbags-street-video-demo?](http://www.motorcyclistonline.com/news/airbags-street-video-demo?cmpid=enews111814&spPodID=030&spMailingID=21712979&spUserID=NjMxMTY5MDA1NDIS1&spJobID=441921485&spReportId=NDQxOTIxNDg1S0)

[cmpid=enews111814&spPodID=030&spMailingID=21712979&spUserID=NjMxMTY5MDA1NDIS1&spJobID=441921485&spReportId=NDQxOTIxNDg1S0](http://www.motorcyclistonline.com/news/airbags-street-video-demo?cmpid=enews111814&spPodID=030&spMailingID=21712979&spUserID=NjMxMTY5MDA1NDIS1&spJobID=441921485&spReportId=NDQxOTIxNDg1S0)

The ACU (Airbag Control Unit) is also contained within the back protector. An internal lithium-ion battery offers a 25-hour operation time and can be fully charged in six hours. Unlike the Tech-Air system used in racing applications, Tech-Air Street only

offers one deployment, after which the garment must be returned to Alpinestars for inspection and refurbishment.

The cost of the Tech-Air Vest is approximately \$1,500, and it must be worn with either the Valparaiso jacket (\$810) or Viper jacket (\$435).

Fire destroys service building and bikes at Mason City HD

Employees at **Harley-Davidson of Mason City** are sorting through what remains of more than a dozen motorcycles that were destroyed in a service building fire early Monday.

The service support building and about 15 to 20 motorcycles inside it, including



some customer bikes, were destroyed, said dealer Steve Minert. Employees are working to identify the bikes so the dealer can notify affected customers.

"The vehicles are fully insured, so it's not a huge issue other than some people fall in love with their bikes and don't want the insurance check," Minert said. "They want their bike."

No one was in the building at the time of the fire. A passerby reported the blaze about 6:45 a.m. Nov. 17. The dealership's two main showrooms were not damaged.

Authorities haven't determined the cause of the fire. Mason City firefighters were still investigating Monday afternoon.

Happy Holidays





Cindy and Don both grew up in Chicago,

Cindy on the north side and Don on the south side, automatically being opposites...Cindy being a Cubs fan and Don rooting for the Sox.

After high school, Don worked for the Illinois Central Railroad as an accountant. That was back in the mid 60's during the time of the Viet Nam war. Getting close to his draft number, Don elected to join the USMC where he went through boot camp in San Diego and Infantry school in Camp Pendleton becoming a "Hollywood Marine". Shortly after Don went to Viet Nam where he asked to join Force Recon and was sent to Okinawa for jump school. Fortunately the good lord was looking over him and the 7 other Marines who did the same because they all came back intact.

Returning back to civilian life, Don worked for the Roper stove company where he met his lovely wife Cindy. She worked in the Oak Park Regional Office and Don was a field service technician. They had spoken daily on the phone for over a couple months before they finally met. Clearly, they found their soul mates. After being married for slightly over a year, they were blessed with a great son, Mark who is married and lives in Carpentersville. They have 3 outstanding grandchildren; Mia, Isabella and Vincent. All three are involved in sports so they try to juggle their time to watch practice or games. During their marriage they have lived in Oak Park, Elk Grove, Roselle and Algonquin.

Don is currently the Vice President of Sales with an equity position for Michigan Turkey Producers, a Co-Op of farmers in the Grand Rapids suburbs who raise about 5.5 million Tom Turkeys a year and they do not do holiday birds. Next March they will be celebrating their 15th year.

Don grew up using his friend's motorcycles when they were not on them.

Don&Cindy DeLordo **New Top Cats You** **Should know!**



His first ride was a 1997 Heritage Classic...they called it Elvis's bike because of the colors. "Teal & Birch White". It had loads of chrome and rode like a champ.



Their second ride was a 2010 Ultra Classic...all black.



Don now rides Silver and Maroon 2015 CVO Ultra.

Not to stay home, or ride as a passenger, last year Cindy bought a 2015 Sportster DFT trike built just for her!!!

Give a big welcome, handshake and hugs to Don and Cindy as soon as you can. Otherwise, you'll have to catch them on the road



Ashley Lambert

A New Top Cat You Should Know!

Ashley was born a southern bell in Houston, Texas to David & Barbara Wood. She has an older sister Kim and an older adopted brother Raphael. Her Dad was an oil man and spent some time in Columbia mapping parts of the jungle for exploration, when he met her now brother. They became close and after long discussions and mountains of paperwork, Raphael came to live with them and later, officially became Ashley's brother.

During the oil boom in the 70's Ashley's Dad was transferred to Casper, Wyoming. She spent the rest of her childhood there thriving on the wild frontier. Her family loved the outdoors and the wildlife that the Wild West had to offer them. Their family became heavily involved with wildlife conservation and established a refuge in their backyard. They rescued, rehabilitated and released hundreds of animals. Ashley's favorites were two little raccoons (affectionately named Rascal and Robin) who lost their mother when they were just days old. They raised them and after two years released them on a local ranch. Then there was the great-horned owl and Canadian goose that they raised from hatchlings. They grew up camping and fishing and exploring the great outdoors. It was wonderful.

Ashley's college career began at Casper Community College and the University of Wyoming. She transferred to Columbia College in Chicago in the early 90's and ended up falling in love with the Midwest and never left. She graduated from college with a degree in broadcast facility management and landed an amazing job as a Corporate Officer at Harris Bank, managing their in-house production facility and corporate events.

During Ashley's tenure with Harris Bank she was blessed to meet her soul mate on a business trip to Florida. Gene Lambert was a vendor at a trade show and conference she was attending. He was showcasing the very product Ashley was there to research. After meeting by coincidence at the hotel bar, they ended up dancing the night away to Frank Sinatra.

Gene blessed her with two amazing children, Erik and Jessi-

ca. They may not have come from her womb, but they have forever found a place in her heart. Gene also introduced her to the motorcycle lifestyle and together they have built an amazing life together.

During the recession there were lay-offs and Ashley's department was effected. What, at the time seemed devastating, turned into a blessing, as she was finally able to work with her best friend and husband, Gene Lambert. They helped start a professional trade association for photographers during the technological transition to digital and traveled the country together educating photographers transitioning to digital and printing their own images.

Once things were well established Ashley ventured out on her own to work on a couple of freelance projects. After months of long hours and what seemed like endless days, they were completed and she was mentally fried. Gene encouraged her to get back to doing something she loves with animals. So... Ashley did a complete 180 degree turn and went back to her roots. After a lot of training, she became a Veterinary Technician. She triaged, completed surgical procedures, practiced preventive care and treated the sick. It was the hardest and most rewarding job Ashley ever had.

Wanting to give back, Ashley married two of her passions, event planning and motorcycling so, in her spare time Ashley helped start a couple of charity motorcycle runs: the Ruben Brown Run for Salvation Army, Second Chances for the Last Chance House. During her work on these charities Ashley was fortunate enough to meet two people who would later change her life: Doug and Cricket Jackson at Woodstock Harley-Davidson. They became good friends and later when opportunity came knocking, both Gene and Ashley were able to work together again! Gene as the Assistant Sales Manager, and Ashley as the Marketing Director for Woodstock Harley-Davidson!

She couldn't be happier and looks forward to everyday. It brings her much joy to be able to assist others with achieving their dreams of becoming a part of the motorcycle community, while at the same time, still assisting others with charity work, and throwing a fun party!

We are fortunate to have Gene and Ashley as Top Cats. Their experience and passion for our sport will add so much to what we do, how we do it and our unequalled degree of enjoyment....



Gene Lambert

A New Top Cat You Should Know!

Gene was born in Philadelphia, PA and grew up just across the Delaware River in Westville, NJ. He's the youngest of five children which included three brothers and a sister. Gene enjoyed all types of sports growing up, but had a genuine passion for football and street hockey. He achieved his Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow designations in The Boy Scouts of America. In high school I Gene was voted Best Actor, Most School Spirited and earned the Brooks-Irvine Football Club High School Unsung Hero Award for the State of New Jersey. He is still very close with all of his childhood friends!

I Gene attended college at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY where he majored in Mass Communications. He walked on as a non-scholarship football player at ECU and played starting fullback for three years. He also worked managing a bar named Poopeotsies during his time in college. Financial hardship resulted in leaving college prior to receiving his degree.

He entered the workforce a work as an on-air radio personality in Philadelphia and Albuquerque, NM. Wanting the opportunity to earn as much money as his hard work could get him, he made the transition to sales and found his true career calling. In 1981 Gene got in on the ground floor of the microcomputer revolution. He spent the next 30+ years in the information technology industry where he rose to the level of Senior Director of Sales & Marketing for companies like NEC, Zenith Data Systems, Avid Technology and Packard Bell. Gene worked for his brother Art's company Lexjet for nine years, during which time he helped them start several businesses and fix some broken ones.

Gene's primary recreation up until 1999 was golf. He was a member of Crystal Lake Country Club and played more than 150 rounds a year. While attending a sales conference in Maui that year Gene was first exposed to riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. From that point on his life was wonderfully changed. Over the next 12 years Gene drifted away from golf and became immersed in the biker lifestyle. This culminated with him leaving corporate America behind and making his passion for Harley-Davidson his career. Today Gene is the Assistant Sales Manager at Woodstock Harley-Davidson and he is truly living the dream. He is an active member of the McHenry County Harley-Davidson Owner's Group, Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 2 and Gene is the primary Road Captain leading rides for the dealership.

Gene's, very accomplished, wife Ashley is the greatest person he knows. She's also passionate about Harley-Davidson and works at Woodstock Harley as the Marketing & Events Director. Gene has two amazing children! His son Erik has a Masters in the Teaching of Writing from Columbia College – Chicago and is a very successful on-line journalist focused on Chicago area professional sports. Gene's daughter, Jessica, is a Junior at Columbia where she is a Film major. She brought her skills to Gene's passion when they worked together to produce an overview video of Woodstock Harley-Davidson for use in several online outlets. She is on the Dean's List at Columbia and just started her own production company, Silver Snake Cinema.

We are fortunate to have Gene and Ashley as Top Cats and, they will surely enrich our Club "DNA" over the years. Take the opportunity to say hi and welcome Gene and Ashley to our elite group of riders!

STURGIS... FIRST CALL???

BY:
TRAVELER



When we hear "First Call" it typically indicates the first chance to get in on something. When we hear "Last Call" it typically indicates the pending loss of an opportunity to do something that we enjoy. It's no different when it's applied to our annual trek to the Black Hills and Sturgis Bike Week.



This year is the 75th Anniversary of the legendary Stur-

gis Motorcycle Rally and, possibly one of the most exciting Top Cats' group rides to Sturgis. It is also projected to be one of the highest attended rallies ever. Higher attendance equals higher costs so...we are preparing early to hold down the cost to our members. Hotel rates for Bike Week have already been negotiated at \$100 / night less than the public will pay, dates have shifted by one day to take advantage of hotel discounts and, we are booking rooms early to lock in discounted rates. Reservations for next year must be made by 30 Jan 2015 to take advantage of our discounts.



the excitement we traditionally experienced as a club over our annual rides to Sturgis.

The increasing interest of our members in this iconic Black Hills Rally, combined with better negotiated travel and rally expenses appears to be generating

if you have the interest and you can afford the time and the cost of the trip, then you'd better make your hotel reservations for Sturgis ASAP for what might be the best, long – distance

Top Cats' ride to the Black Hills Rally yet....



As we do every year, we will take a leisurely, three – day ride to Rapid City, SD staying in Mankato, MN the first night, Pierre, SD the second night, and Rapid City the third and remaining nights.



(Continued on page 9)



STURGIS.. continued

As this edition goes to publication, we are close to 90 days away from our cut - off date of 30 January 2015 for making or cancelling hotel reservations at the Alex Johnson Hotel in Rapid City, SD.

As most riders realize, it is difficult to plan a ride if you have no idea of how many riders will participate.

Once we have an idea of how many Top Cats

are going to Sturgis, this year, we will publish our group departure times and location and, canvas our riders for interest in returning home via, Santa Fe Trail, Pikes Peak, Angle Fire, Dodge City, Kansas back roads, or a direct return home.



So, if you are "on the fence" about this year's Sturgis trip, or you just haven't gotten around to making hotel reservations, better saddle up and make them now. Remember, you can always cancel reservations but you can't re-negotiate

our contract room rates after the cut – off dates.

The next Black Hills Bike Week will be the 75th Anniversary and, hotel rates will increase from between \$300 / night to \$700 / night. We have negotiated our annual contract with the Hotel Alex Johnson for a special rate ranging from \$159 / night to \$259 / night. The following year, our rates will revert to this year's rate of \$204 / night.



Here's the info for hotel reservations.

Tue, 28 July

City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN.

Rates: \$77.00 / night

Phone: Megan (877) 345-5577

Cut-off Date: **10 July 2015**

Wed, 29 July

River Lodge, Pierre, SD.

Rates: \$Dbl 69.00, Sgl \$62.00 / night

Phone: Ron (605) 224-4140

Cut-Off Date: **29 June 2015**

Thur, 30 July – (?)

Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD.

Rates: Negotiated Contract @ \$159.00 Thurs, \$199.00 Fri, \$259.00 Sat - on

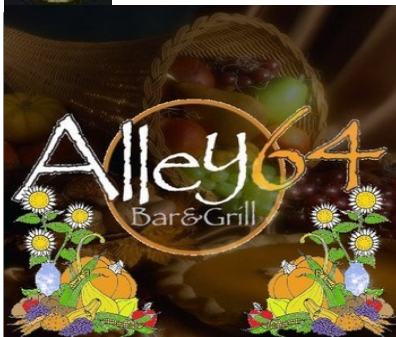
Phone: 800-888-ALEX (2539) Lynzie Montaque

Cut-Off Date: **30 Jan 2015**

NOTE: Cancellation within 44 days prior to your stay will result in a one night's room charge

Please let Wayne; wkirkpa177@aol.com, Cell: (847) 915-8428, or Bard; bard.boand@att.net, Cell: (847) 721-7470, know when you make your hotel reservations so we can finalize our departure times and start to develop our return trip route / plans.





GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 4TH, 2014

Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Walters



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

The members were asked to stand and say The Pledge of Allegiance

President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ★ The Election Process was reviewed. Highlights include:
- ⇒ Absentee ballots are available with board approval. If you will not be able to attend, let a board member know and they will provide you with information.
- ⇒ Nominations will be accepted until 15 November. The election will be held at the 2 December meeting.
- ★ 20th Year Anniversary Patch will be given to all 2015 paid members.
- ★ Membership renewals have been finalized. One of the former members of the club sent a very kind non-renewal letter to the club. Pat Machaud will be moving to the east coast and has not been riding as often since her accident 5 years ago, so she will not be remaining with the club. She wanted everyone to know that she was very grateful for the friendships and memories she has developed with the club. She will miss everyone!

Past President's Comments: Mike Bradbury

- ★ No updates from Mike tonight.

Vice President's Report: Larry Scalzitti

- ★ Larry wants the club to remember the Veterans on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Thank a veteran for the freedoms that you enjoy!

Secretary's Report: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ★ ROAR has been published for November and if you have any new ideas for content or columns, contact Mary and discuss your thoughts!
- ★ Also, please make sure that you keep the club informed of any changes in your contact information. That way you will ensure getting all of the news while it is still new!

Treasurer's Report: Greg Ludwig

- ★ Greg was unable to be in attendance tonight, but will update the club on the books at the next meeting.
- ★ Dues were due on 30 October, and the roster for 2014 has been finalized and eligible members have been identified for the elections. Voter eligibility will be finalized for the December meeting to allow for any dues that will be paid by the November 30th date that was printed on some of the invoices.

Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

- ★ The activities for the next 2 months were reviewed by Gene Rigsby. All of the details and information is on the website. Click on the calendar for the drop down information page.
- ★ The Club was surveyed for interest in a conceal-carry class, as well as a Blue-Ridge Parkway trip over spring. There was enough interest for the club to pursue both ideas.



General Meeting,, Continued

- ★ Sturgis, 2015 is already planned. The Alex Johnson in Rapid City is the destination hotel and rates have been negotiated to be reasonable. See the calendar, Bard Board or Wayne Kirkpatrick for complete details.
- ★ There will also be a Post-Sturgis ride that Wayne Kirkpatrick will lead after leaving the Sturgis event.

Safety / Charity: Ric Case

Safety

- ★ The GRASS Class is required for new members within the first year and the once every three years after that to maintain membership. The new schedule for 2015 will be out soon... so check with Ric Case or Mary Kirkpatrick to see when your last class was taken and when you will need to re-qualify.
- ★ The Road Captain Meeting will be held soon. The date will be sent to Road Captains when it has been arranged.
- ★ The Safety Tip was given by Ric Case for this month. He spoke on the importance of being aware of the animal habits in the fall when riding. The activities of creatures large and small are significantly different in the fall months, so use caution and read the November ROAR for all of the details.

Charity

- ★ NISRA 22 November Fashion Show will be a great event. See Noelle Rigsby for details.
- ★ **The date of *The Ride for Dreams* has been changed to June 14th!** See Noelle to begin helping with all of the arrangements!
- ★ Willow Creek Appreciation Night will be a great event on 21 December at the Willow Creek Complex. The High Road Riders would like to recognize and honor the motorcycle community and their actions of charity. Their theme is Biker Tough, Heart Soft and will include a free lunch and an amazing Holiday music program.

Local Biker History: Ric Case/ Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ★ There is a Bikeriders Book that has the history of Motorcycle Riding in the Chicagoland area. It gives the reader an insight into the development of clubs and culture within this area and is a great read.
- ★ Top Cats is part of Posse, which is a meeting of all local club presidents. It was formed about 15 years ago and now has 28 clubs that work together to support each other, share information and de-conflict schedules to maximize the turn-out at each event. The President of Illinois ABATE as well as some of the legislative advisors of ABATE. Information is disseminated to the biker community about the most recent legal changes that affect bikers. The next meeting will be 16 November.

Products / Membership: Emil Kornecki

Membership:

- ★ No New members at this time.

Products

- ★ There will be information in the ROAR letting the members know how to order new nametags.
- ★ The products committee is working to identify an online product company so that members will be able to order online and have the products send directly to their home.

History/Web Site: Jeff Tietz

- ★ Web Site Update: Neither Jeff Tietz or Rich Flynn was unable to attend tonight.

50 / 50 was pulled tonight by Lisa Purcell. *The winner of \$30 was Roxray Adonis... who also pulled the ticket! Sticky fingers?*

Meeting adjourned at 9:10



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 11TH, 2014

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

Present: Wayne Kirkpatrick, Ric Case, Larry Scalzitti, Gene Rigsby
Emil Kornecki, Mary Walters, Greg Ludwig, Jeff Tietz, Mike Bradbury

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

President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ✦ Election candidates will be identified by the 15th. At this time, the slate has not been solidified. The Board discussed several options for nominations as well as the future of the club in the case that a full slate is unable to be developed for these elections. The board discussed the variety of leadership styles and looked at the things that the club will need in its leader to successfully move forward.
- ✦ The 20 year patch status was discussed. The 20 year patch would be gold on black. The pros included the idea that it would spark a feeling of *new* in the club along with pride. The board agreed that it looks classier. The same color would be used by all members and board as well. The board would have badges of office to identify them as Top Cat Board members. All agreed that it would be a good avenue to pursue.
- ✦ The treasury will be taken over by Greg Ludwig. He and Wayne will review the books and install any software needed to continue keeping the books current.
- ✦ Membership Renewal Status is 91% at this time. Because of the invoices that may have had 11/30 as the due date, we will wait until then to finalize the rosters.
- ✦ Christmas Cards to the members from the club was discussed. Pros and cons were looked at and the idea of electronic cards was found to be the best option as well as the least expensive. The board decided that simple, general and will cover the cross-beliefs represented in the club.
- ✦ A while ago, there was a motion made that we donate to the Illinois State Police Fund. But, there has not been any avenues to make that donation that have opened at this time. Wayne will continue to pursue the connections that Top Cats has to the Fund.

Vice President: Larry Scalzitti

- ✦ No updates for tonight

Secretary: Mary Kirkpatrick

ROAR

- ✦ The publication is holding the status quo... which is good for keeping records and history, but is NOT good for developing pride and energy within the club. For the next general meeting, Mary will bring in a sign-up sheet with article ideas and ask the members to 'pen' something for the group!

Rosters

- ✦ Master Roster will be sent out during the first week of November after all of the 2015 members have been identified.
- ✦ Blast Roster updates have been made with the new members and will be forwarded to Gene for getting the information out to old and new members.
- ✦ RC Roster is up to date with all of the rides for the 2014 riding season entered. The GRASS class and KK lists are all current as well.

Treasurer: Greg Ludwig

- ✦ General Fund balance; \$9,365.39 + dues that have been deposited. The final total will be determined when the books have been handed over to the new treasurer.
- ✦ Charity Account: \$5,092.47 Present total: \$14,457.86

(Continued on pg 13)



Board Meeting, Continued

Past President: Mike Bradbury

Mike commented that the club has great new members that will add quality to our club!

Director: Gene Rigsby

Activities

- ✦ The activities for the next two months were reviewed by Gene. Details were adjusted and discussed by the board.
- ✦ Spring Blue Ridge Week was discussed and the time of year may become a detriment for planning that ride.
- ✦ AZ Bike Week 25-29 Mar could be an alternate for that time of the year.

Awards

- ✦ Nothing to bring to the board tonight for Awards

Director: Emil Kornecki

Membership

- ✦ New members:
- ⇒ Gene and Ashley Lambert have applied for a family membership. The board unanimously accepted their application. Chris Heller also applied and was unanimously accepted as a re-newed member.

Products

- ✦ The Products committee is looking for a Web based shop that would allow members to order products and have them delivered directly to their homes.

Director: Ric Case

Safety

- ✦ Roster Updates for Road Captains are in the process of being made current. This will allow the club to identify possible new candidates.
- ✦ The dates for the 2015 GRASS classes are: May 19th, July 26th and October 25th.
- ✦ Possible RC Meeting dates are Dec 7th, 2014 or Jan 18th or 25th, 2015. The consensus was January 18th, 2015.
- ✦ McHenry Hog has asked for a GRASS class and Ric has identified Feb 8th and Feb 22nd as two possible dates. The date for the Hog group will be decided when Ric finalizes the plans with the HOG leadership.
- ✦ Safety Tip / Kaution Korner schedule was also reviewed. Mike Bradbury is writing for December and Wayne Kirkpatrick will author the January KK for Roar, as he will then hold the position of 'past president'.

Charity

- ✦ Noelle has the committee for the 2015 under way.
- ✦ The date for the charity ride was changed to June 24th, 2015. Woodstock Harley will be able to accommodate the new date. The date will allow the club to take advantage of the early part of the 'charity ride season' as well as allow the club to enjoy the rest of the riding season without concern in this area.

Director: Jeff Tietz

Website

- ✦ Jeff discussed the options for the company that he was looking into: American Creative, Co.
- ⇒ 2499.00 to get it up and running
- ⇒ \$400.00 for the photo gallery
- ⇒ \$300.00 per year for maintaining the site.
- ⇒ 50 e-mail accounts are also attached to the URL.
- ⇒ Once the site is up and running, though, it should be easy enough for us to find a member to do the maintenance.
- ✦ Mike Bradbury made a motion to accept this proposal as stated by Jeff, not to exceed \$3500. Emil Kornecki was the second. The board agreed unanimously to accept this company and begin the process to update our website. It will allow the club to rebuild Top Cats as a premier club with a great website that will highlight the events and activities within the club.

Last Note:

The movie, *The Way We Ride*, will be shown at the new McHenry County Dealership. The facility is a comfortable place to have the gathering. Gene will touch base with Jim Purcell on the food for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.



December Celebrations!

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


17th *Emil Kornecki*
30th *Dennis Dougherty*





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*Network with
your fellow
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*See Mary Kirkpatrick for
Information*

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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

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.

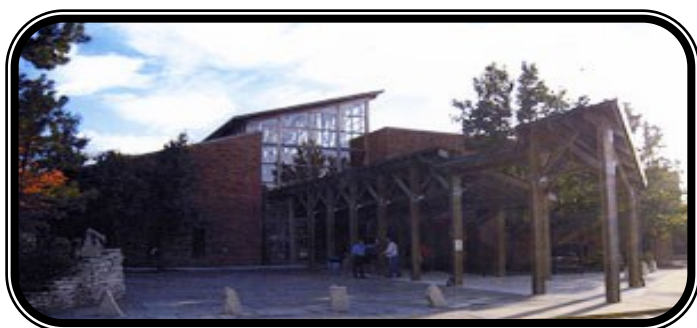
If you have an interest in becoming Top Cats Historian or being a part of this activity please contact Dennis P. (Wombat) Dougherty at wombat@dpdougherty.com



RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, December 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, December 6	Motorcycle Tech Session	Woodstock	Harley Davidson	10:00 am	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, December 9th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, January 6th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	?
Tuesday, January 13th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	?

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



TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts with similar interests. Members consist of responsible Leaders, Presidents, Chairmen, Owners, Proprietors, Partners, principals, CEO's, and other 'Top Cats' of large, medium and small organizations, institutions, and companies.

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

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

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