



# ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



torcycle club in the Chicagoland area and I am looking forward to continuing our traditions and creating new ones with our members going forward for many years to come. We are a forum for the exchange of ideas affecting motorcyclists, acting as motorcyclist rights and interest advocates and fostering educational, business and social opportunities for our members. And most importantly, we constitute a brotherhood and sisterhood that love to congregate socially, primarily to ride our motorcycles together in to interesting places as safely as possible. It's as simple as that!

Our Group Riding and Safety Seminar (G.R.A.S.S.) is our safety program that promotes safe motorcycling and is seen as a "standard" and benchmark for group riding safety by our motorcycling community. Other clubs have learned and benefited from our program which is a



testament to the hard work and efforts of our members and is something we all should be proud of. Let's all be a part and do our share to support and continue this tradition as we promote safe group riding.

Our Charity ride, called "The Ride For Dreams" benefits a terrific cause; The Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (N.I.S.R.A.). The Top Cats has donated more than \$250,000 to this organization over the years. Congratulations to all who have served on the Charity Committee for all your efforts! The committee will be looking for our support to prepare for and attend the Ride For Dreams, which is on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to all who have served as Top Cat Committee members, Chairs, Directors and Officers in 2014. These people are the "backbone" of the club and deserve our recognition and appreciation for what they do to support, maintain, foster and promote our club's interests. Thanks again!

And thanks to the incoming group who will be serving (again?) to do the same in 2015. They will be contributing their time, passion, hearts and souls in guiding the Top Cats, which is a time consuming affair. But at its core, is our confidence that we are all a part of one of the best motorcycle clubs in the area with a strong desire to see that continue on and on into the future.

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January, 2015

Volume 15, Issue 1

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### Upcoming Events

#### JANUARY

- 6 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 MOVIE AFTERNOON
- 13 BOARD MEETNG
- 18 GRASS (RC)

#### FEBRUARY

- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 AWARDS BANQUET
- 10 BOARD MEETNG

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 KORNER

### One Simple Piece of Safety Gear... That Can Save Your Life

By: Michael 'Motorcycle' Bradbury, Senior Road Captain



This article will broach a subject which sometimes can be a contentious one in the motorcycle community. Included in this article will be conclusions from national studies and data used for major claims from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration which has some alarming facts they support from these studies. All leading to the merits, benefits and safety results from wearing one piece of motorcycle gear specifically designed for your safety while riding. Riders believe in the freedom to choose this gear and I support that right. But there is overwhelming evidence that indicates you are safer riding your motorcycle when wearing this gear.

What would you say if I told you that this one piece of safety gear could reduce your risk of dying in a motorcycle accident by 29 percent? Riders who don't wear this gear are 40% more likely to sustain a fatal head injury than those that do. Food for thought when you consider that per mile driven, a motorcyclist is 16 times more likely than an automobile driver to die in an accident.

Riders who didn't wear this gear are 40% more likely to die of head injuries than those without it and head injuries is a leading cause of death in motorcycle crashes. If you are in an accident, wearing this item is 67% more effective in preventing traumatic brain injury.

Data confirmed through numerous studies conducted in Australia, Canada, Great Britain and Japan have shown the effectiveness of this gear in reducing or preventing the severity of motorcycle head injuries. That's why all of these countries have laws requiring this item's use.

Of course I am referring to wearing helmets when riding our motorcycles. But not just any helmet will do. You should wear the right helmet for your type of riding to be as safe as possible.

When choosing a helmet you want the highest quality materials and the best fit for your type of ride. Design, materials and ventilation are other good factors for your consideration. The most important thing is to always use a DOT

or SNELL rated helmet. A "DOT" helmets meets the minimum levels of helmet performance per the Department of Transportation standard known as Federal Motor Vehicle Standard 218 (FMVSS 218). "SNELL" is a Memorial Foundation that is a private not-for-profit organization that sets voluntary standards for motorcycle, auto racing and bicycle helmets. SNELL standards are considered tougher than DOT but always use a helmet rated to either standard type.

There are 5 types of helmets. Here is a summary of helmet types in descending order of safety with the safest first. And it's only okay to wear a "novelty" helmet unless you are performing a "birthday dance" for your loved one. Other than that, don't even think about wearing one of those.

Full Face Helmets provide the most comprehensive in overall coverage which includes covering the head, face and the jaw. This type is the quietest and is well-sealed against the weather elements and ventilated for sufficient air-flow to keep you head cool.



Three Quarter Helmets (also known as open face) cover the head but not the face. Visibility is better with this type because of the larger opening. Your face is covered with a visor but eye protection is recommended when riding with an open visor. Riding with the visor open can also provide a tasting snack and a "buggy" smile.



(Continued on page 3)





## Kaution Korner Cont

Modular Helmets are a 2 piece system that combines the features of the Full Face and Three Quarter types. Your jaw is protected and the front portion can be raised to open up the front exposing your face. Still good for a “buggy” snack if you choose to ride with it open.



Half Helmets are sometimes known as “Skull Caps” or “Brain Buckets”. They only cover the top of your head to the top of your ears. They provide the least amount of coverage leaving the lower part of the head and neck exposed to injury. These are usually perfunctory at best and provide the least amount of safety.



Off Road. These helmets are very recognizable by their longer sun visor and chin sections. They do not have face shields to eliminate the chance of fogging up. Instead, riders wear goggles. And they have vents too.



Is your head harder than concrete? Is it harder than asphalt? How about if you are flying off your bike? Which gives first? If someone was going to hit your head with a baseball bat would you rather have a helmet on or not? To me, the answer is obvious and is the same for falling off your bike and hitting your head on the ground.

We live in a great country that gives us all the freedom, liberty and right to make our own choices in what we do and how we do it as long as this does not infringe on the rights of others. I support the freedom to choose whether to wear a helmet or not. But the evidence is clear that wearing a helmet can make you safer while riding your motorcycle.

Use common sense, be safer and wear a helmet.

## VP's Vision

By: Ric 'Clutch' Case



The New President, Past President and yours truly have been getting together and making plans for 2015 and beyond. We have determined that for 2015 we need more qualified Road Captains.



To that end, if you have a serious interest please attend the Road Captain meeting on Sunday January 18th. I am also looking for a motivated TC to Manage all classes. The club holds four GRASS classes per year and we will need to identify potential classes as they pertain to RCs. The club has included in RC qualification the need to have certification such as CPR, ASM, experienced rider classes, Biker Safe, etc.



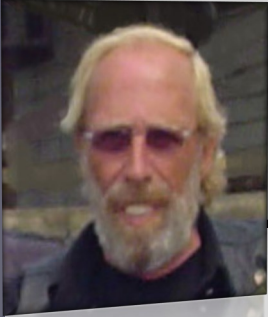
Top Cats Road Captains will be reimbursed for one half the cost of any class that directly benefits the Top Cat organization. Examples for reimbursement include CPR or ASM. If you have questions about reimbursements, see me or Wayne.

February's Happenings will include classes that can help you prepare and practice for the up and coming riding season.

We will also be updating the GRASS presentation and we will need assistance that can provide the club with current presentation technology and advice.

As new and existing Directors take their positions on the Board, new areas of responsibility will be assigned to them. We encourage all of you to support them and their efforts to improve and increase the functionality of the organization.

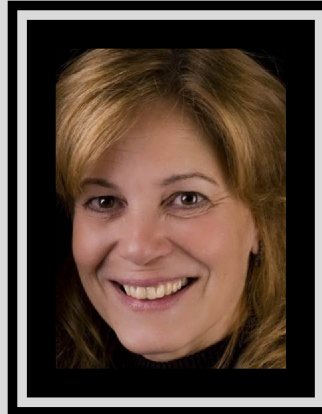
**Here is hoping all Top Cats have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!**



## Your 2015 Board and Committees.....

By Traveler

Here they are. For those of you who could not make the 2 December General Meeting where we voted for two directors, President and Vice President, here are the results. Note that elections were for President and Vice President, and two directors for the 2015-2016 term. Our Secretary and Treasurer, and two more director positions are not open until the 2016-2017 term. Talk about fortunate....what a powerful team of "Fast Movers" this gives us for 2015!



### Secretary:

#### Mary Kirkpatrick.

Mary is serving a second, two - year term (2014-2015) and performs as Editor and Publisher for the ROAR.

### President:

#### Mike Bradbury.

Mike will serve his first year of his first two-year term (2015-2016) as President.



### Treasure:

#### Greg Ludwig

Appointed to serve as the Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer through 2015.



### Director:

#### Jeff Tietz.

Serving second year of two - year term (2014-2015). Jeff will have oversight of our Web Site Committee, (Chaired by Rich Flynn) and our History Committee.



### Vice President:

#### Ric Case.

Ric will serve his first year of his first two-year term (2015-2016) as Vice President.



(Continued on page 5)



## New Board... continued

### Director: Emil Kornecki.

Elected to serve first year of his second two – year term (2015-2016). Emil will have oversight of our Membership Committee, Chaired by Greg Smith and our Products Committee, Chaired by Lisa Purcell.



### Director: Gene Rigsby.

Elected to serve first year of his second two – year term (2015-2016). Gene will have oversight of our Activities Committee and our Awards Committee.



### Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick.

Wayne will serve his first year (2015) as immediate Past President.



As we all realize, our Club runs by member participation. The ground work, daily effort, and projects all get accomplished by the great people we have, in the Club, on our committees, and on our Board. For 2015, we will all be the beneficiaries of the dedication and leadership of our board members and our committee chairs.

We owe tremendous gratitude to our **2014** committee chiefs and Board members. They leave a legacy of high standards, high achievement, and never giving up on the many challenges they have encountered and on their fellow Top Cats. Collectively, your current Board represents about 104 years, yes....104 years, of membership time and 40+ years of time spent serving on the Board or a committee. With that experience, dedication, and commitment to their fellow Club members, we can't help but have another record year in Top Cats – Illinois.

## Guess Who?

OK, how well do you know your fellow Top Cats?

Here is one who:

- ✦ Has been a member for 7 years
- ✦ Has served on our board of Directors
- ✦ Has retired as a senior executive from the private sector
- ✦ Loves all things fast including, planes, motorcycles and...race cars.

In fact, he is currently heavily involved with these little gems....



Now, can you guess who it is?

We'll identify him at the January 2015 general meeting....



## Oil Spots

By Traveler

### New Brake Provides More Stability



International automotive supplier Continental has been developing and manufacturing Anti-lock Brake Systems (ABS) for motorcycles for more than 10 years. Continental

has now enhanced its Motorcycle Integral Brake (MIB) system by adding a new function: optimized curve braking – for safer braking in curves.

“Thanks to optimized curve braking, braking in curves is more stable and therefore more predictable,” said Ronan Le Roy, head of the motorcycle business in the Vehicle Dynamics Business Unit of Continental’s Chassis & Safety Division. “The danger of having an accident in a curve is reduced and safety is increased.”

The function will go into series production in the new BMW S 1000 XR motorcycle in early summer of 2015.

“The system takes account of the fact that a motorcycle banks in curves. The ABS kicks in more gradually, modulating braking pressure smoothly to improve handling in curves,” said Lothar Kienle, head of Development Motorcycle in the Vehicle Dynamics Business Unit.

The MIB system makes sure that brake pressure is applied to both the front and rear wheel in ideal proportion. The result is greater overall stability. This enables the motorcycle to translate a rider’s braking intention without a radical shift in weight – a prerequisite for dynamic handling and enjoyment coupled with a reassuring sense of safety.

Anti-lock Brake Systems ensure that the motorcycle remains stable under emergency braking, the front wheel continues to turn, and that the vehicle does not come to an abrupt fall.

“Studies have shown that equipping motorcycles with ABS could reduce accidents by 20 to 30 percent,” said Le Roy. “Universal use of ABS in motorcycles and scooters could greatly reduce the number of serious injuries and accidental deaths.”

The European Union (EU) has recently announced that ABS will become mandatory for motorcycles with more than 125 cc displacement starting January 1, 2016 for newly developed models, and January 1, 2017 for any new motorcycle sold in the EU. Continental is supporting manufacturers and riders with a variety of solutions for every class of vehicle. The lineup extends from simple one-channel ABS for scooters and light motorcycles to the MIB system that also offers enhanced features like sport and off-road ABS, optimized curve braking, and Motorcycle Hold & Go.

### Harley-Davidson is Dealernews Top 100 Vehicle Brand of the Year

Dealer news announces that Harley-Davidson has won the Top 100 Vehicle Brand of the Year award for 2014.



The award is given to the vehicle brand with the most number of franchised dealerships in the Top 100 Class of 2014. This is the second year in a row that Harley dealers have brought the Vehicle Brand of the Year award to The Motor Co.

Harley-Davidson's lead was followed closely by past winners Suzuki and Yamaha, along with Kawasaki, Polaris (off road) and Honda. Making impressive gains in the Top 100 this year were BRP/Can-Am, KTM, Victory, Royal Enfield, Kymco, KTM and CF Moto.

The Vehicle Brand of the Year was presented to Harley-Davidson Dec. 4 at the Top 100 Dealer Awards Gala, held at the Palmer House in downtown Chicago.

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## Oil Spots, Continued...

The Top 100 Dealer Awards is the industry's largest, longest-running and most prestigious retail competition and this year is presented by WPS. Additional sponsors are HiFlo Filtro and JT Sprockets (Platinum Level), Parts Unlimited (Gold Level), HJC, Joe Rocket, K&L Supply, Stonecarpet and Wolf Brand Scooters (Silver Level), and American Heritage Motorcycles, Lonski and Associates, MTA Distributing and Pacific Coast Sunglasses (Bronze Level).

## **Indian Sturgis** **breaks ground on new site**

Less than six months after Indian Motorcycle returned to Sturgis with a shop on Lazelle Street, motorcycle industry execs, city officials and a goat wearing a GoPro camera gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony for the shop's new 22,000-sq.-ft. facility.



"We'll have a much bigger showroom and a much bigger service department," Bruce Eide, owner of **Indian Motorcycle Sturgis**, said at the groundbreaking.

"This is going to be the finest Indian Motorcycle store in the U.S."

The shop is already the number one performing Indian Motorcycle dealership in the nation since June, which was the shop's first full month of operation.

Gustafson Builders of Rapid City are handling construction of the new Indian Motorcycles facility. Plans are to open the new shop this summer, in plenty of time for the 75th annual Sturgis motorcycle rally.

## **Honda's 300 millionth motorcycle**

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. has produced its 300-millionth motorcycle, a Gold Wing made at the company's Kumamoto Factory in Japan.

"This incredible milestone is the result of the millions of customers who have placed their trust in Honda," said said Bob Gurga, vice president and manager of



Motorcycle Division for American Honda. "Now, we are focused on the future and the ways that we can harness the challenging spirit of Honda associates to create new joy for Honda customers."



Honda began mass production of motorcycles in Japan in 1949 when it built the Honda 98cc Dream Type-D (pictured). Today, Honda produces motorcycles, ATV's and side-by-sides at 32 plants in 22 countries, including two plants in North America. Overall, Honda has 16 plants in North America.

In 1958, Honda introduced the Honda 50, known globally as the Super Cub, which would go on to revolutionize the industry. This iconic bike paved the way for Honda's expansion into the United States in 1959 and Canada in 1969. The Super Cub, which has sold nearly 90 million units globally since its inception, was the focus of a mid-1960s advertising campaign, 'You Meet the Nicest People on a Honda,' that played a major role in the transformation and growth of the U.S. motorcycle market.

In the 1960s, Honda became the best-selling motorcycle brand in the U.S. and the world, leading to the establishment of Honda of America Mfg. and the company's first U.S. production facility, the Marysville Motorcycle Plant. The plant, which opened Sept. 10, 1979, in Marysville, Ohio, produced both motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) until 2009. Production of ATVs has since shifted to Honda of South Carolina Mfg. (HSC) in Timmonsville, South Carolina. Auto production started in Marysville in 1982.

Since the start of production in 1979, Honda has manufactured more than five million power sports products in North America using global and domestically sourced parts. Today, HSC manufactures FourTrax ATVs and Pioneer side-by-sides and engines, while the Honda plant in El Salto, Jalisco, Mexico, produces motorcycles.

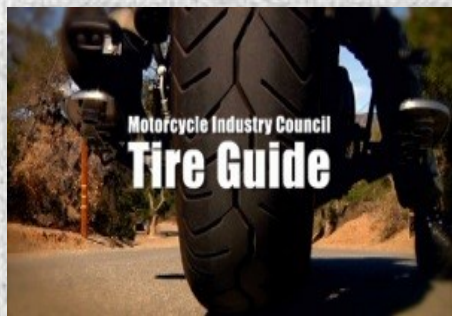
(Continued on page 8)



## Oil Spots, Continued...

### Motorcycle Industry Council Releases Tire Guide Video

When you're on your motorcycle, everything is riding on your tires. So begins MIC's new Tire Guide video, a four-minute instructional video that highlights the importance of selecting the right tires for your bike, and shows you how to make regular inspections of your tires, how to maintain them, and when to replace them. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5raU3otX-bo>



"Motorcycle tires, with their U-shaped profiles, allow motorcycles to lean in turns," said MIC Chair Dennis McNeal. "The dynamics and forces at play are very different from automobile tires, making regular inspections and ongoing maintenance of motorcycle tires critical. Your safety depends on you becoming well versed at selecting, inspecting, maintaining and replacing your bike's tires."

The new Tire Guide video explains that knowing your motorcycle's tire requirements starts with a good review of your bike's owner's manual. For example, many people are under the misconception that the best place to locate your bike's tire pressure requirements is to look on the tire's sidewall, but that only gives you the tire's maximum pressure. Your bike's owner's manual has the specific tire pressure requirements for your bike.

"If you were asked today about the current condition of your motorcycle tires, would you know how to answer without first running out to check your bike?" asked MIC President Tim Buche. "How is your tire pressure? How



close is your tread getting to the wear bars? Would you be able to speak knowledgeably about your front tire specifically? What about the back? Inspecting your tires regularly and maintaining/replacing them as

needed is an important part of motorcycling. Your tires are all that stands between you and some very unforgiving asphalt."

In addition to the safety risks caused by missed inspections and poor tire maintenance, there are other downsides. Under-inflation can cause your tires to wear out and need replacing more quickly and can result in poor fuel economy. Over-inflation can reduce your traction and can make your ride extra bumpy.

"Our motorcycle tires are selfish," said Buche. "They demand our attention, and if we don't give them that attention through regular pre-ride inspections, they may just get our attention in ways most of us would rather avoid."

### New brake lights to warn motorists of slowing bikes

A bad accident led a student to a good idea, and now it's gaining traction with investors and, inventor Chris Bailey hopes, the industry.

Bailey totaled his Ninja when he was a University of Louisville business management student. A



motorist hadn't seen him before turning left in front of his bike. Over time, that led to startup **GearBrake**, a product that connects to the wiring of a motorcycle's rear brake and flashes with deceleration or engine braking to gives other drivers extra seconds to react in traffic.

The company beat out three other finalist companies in late November to win a Vogt Award, a \$100,000 prize that aims to spur new manufacturing-based businesses, create jobs and boost economic development.

The partners plan to seek an endorsement from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), and hope their light will become as standard on motorcycles as the rear windshield light is on car and pickup truck rear windshields. (Continued on pg 9)







## Oil Spots, Continued...

They plan to approach manufacturers to add the module as custom feature, and reached a deal recently with Janus to add the module as an upgrade on its bikes starting next year.

While they've sold a few hundred units since manufacturing began earlier this year, they project revenues of \$10 million in 2016 if they can gain traction getting other manufacturers to incorporate the module into their bike.

"Eventually, we hope manufacturers adopt the light as standard feature because it helps them sell bikes," said Bailey.

## Bell's new helmet graphics

Bell Helmets has five new helmet graphics for fall, including three for the Custom 500 and two for the Bullitt. The helmets were on display at Bell's booth at the 2014 Dealer Expo, Dec. 5-7 in Chicago.



The open-face Custom 500 (\$159.95), which pays homage to founder Roy Richter's original helmet design, has a fiberglass shell, integrated straps and a custom-quilted liner. The fall 2014 styles include the very retro Chem Candy Mean Green,



Head Case Cue Ball in white with silver highlights and the checkered-flag style Check It.

The Bullitt is another of Bell's throwback helmets, with styling cues taken from the Bell Star full-face helmet. There are five metal intake vents, leather trim and 3D-formed quick snap cheek pads. The Viva (\$449.95) arrives with the 1960s-style bubble face shield, and Roland Sands Design crafted its red, white and blue graphics. The Retro Blue (\$399.95) is a solid color with Bullitt badging on the sides and a modern face shield.

## Dealers win at Top 100 Awards gala in Chicago

A festive Top 100 Dealer Awards Gala at the historic Palmer House in downtown Chicago was the scene as New Jersey's **Motorcycle Mall** was presented with the 2014 Dealer of the Year Award.

Local hero **Woodstock Harley-Davidson**, a Harley and KTM dealership west of the Chicago metro area, was named first runner-up, and Sioux Falls, S.D.-based **J&L Harley-Davidson** was second runner-up. Ohio's **A.D. Farrow Harley-Davidson** was third runner-up.



Awards for Special Merit in specific categories were also given out over the course of the evening by emcees Mary Slepicka and Robert Pandya. The local winners are:

Community Outreach: **Frieze Harley-Davidson**, O'Fallon, Ill., tied with **Woodstock Harley-Davidson**.

Online Promotion: **Road Track and Trail**, Big Bend, Wis.

Social Media Campaign: **McHenry Harley-Davidson**

Harley-Davidson was presented with the Vehicle Brand of the Year award.

The Top 100 Dealer Awards was held in conjunction with the 2014 Dealer Expo at McCormick Place West in downtown Chicago.

(Continued on page 10)



## Oil Spots, Continued...

### Former Chicago dealer, accountant sentenced in \$75m loan fraud

A former Chicago area motorcycle and RV dealer and his accountant were sentenced to 13½ and 2½ years, respectively, in federal prison for a \$75.9 million fraudulent financing scheme that resulted in 18 lenders losing more than \$58.8 million, federal law enforcement officials announced.

Russell S. Ott, 51, of Oswego, who pleaded guilty to bank fraud and tax evasion, was sentenced Dec. 3 to 13½ years in prison, beginning Jan. 20, 2015, and ordered to pay about \$61.16 million in restitution to the victims, financial institutions and the U.S. Treasury.

Ott was the owner of Emily, Inc., which did business as **Pro Source Motorsports** and was last in Morris, Ill. Between 1995 and October 2008, Pro Source, the dealership at the center of the scheme, sold new and used motorcycles, luxury motor homes, recreational vehicles, ATVs, boats and personal watercraft. In 2007 and 2008, Ott also had ownership interests in **Liberty Cycle** in Libertyville, and Huntley Chevrolet in Libertyville.

Brian McMahon, 55, of Naperville, who pleaded guilty to two counts of aiding and assisting the filing of Ott's false tax returns, was sentenced to 2½ years in prison, beginning Jan. 21, 2015, and ordered to pay \$396,829 restitution to the U.S. Treasury. McMahon was Ott and Emily, Inc.'s certified public accountant, and he also owned **Triumph Suzuki Naperville** between 2001 and 2004 when he sold it to Ott.

Eight other co-defendants who acted as straw buyers in sham vehicle sales were charged with Ott and McMahon in August 2013. All eight have pleaded guilty and have been sentenced or are awaiting sentencing.

Ott used fraudulently obtained funds to operate Pro Source, which lost money from about 2001 through 2008;



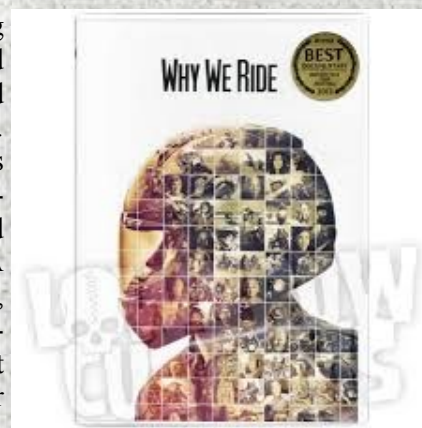
and to make lavish purchases, including a house in Elburn for about \$679,491 and subsequent improvements that increased the home's cost to more than \$1.1 million; a \$258,000 vacation home in Butternut, Wis.; a \$350,000 rental home in South Elgin; a Sky Hawk 172 Cessna airplane and hanger for about \$200,000; and pickup trucks and other vehicles for family members and employees of Pro Source. He also used the money to invest in and purchase other vehicle dealerships, including more than \$3.6 million in Huntley Chevrolet, and more than \$1 million in Liberty Cycle.

### 'Why We Ride' creators named AMA Motorcyclists of the Year

The American Motorcyclist Association has named Bryan Carroll (right) and James Walker, the creators of "Why We Ride," as the 2014 Motorcyclists of the Year.

The AMA Board of Directors annually present the Motorcyclist of the Year Award to the person or people who had the most profound impact within the motorcycling community in the previous 12 months. The feature-length documentary about why we "dream, discover and explore" on two wheels promotes modern motorcycling across every discipline and is spearheading a new era of creativity in filmmaking about the sport.

"Bryan Carroll and James Walker have produced what is arguably the most compelling demonstration for why we ride, short of physically experiencing riding itself," said AMA President and CEO Rob Dingman. "Their mission was to promote motorcycling to riders and non-riders alike. A year after its debut, their film has become one of the best advertisements for motorcycling available anywhere."



(Continued on page 11)





## Oil Spots, Continued...

Producer/director Carroll and producer Walker -- both AMA members -- created a film that is one of motorcycling's great testimonials, at an opportune time for motorcycling. It reminds riders about their passion and promoting riding to others when motorcycle sales were at some of their lowest levels in decades.

"With the motorcycle industry still reeling from the ill effects of the worst economy since the Great Depression, 'Why We Ride' provided a much-needed boost in terms of the promotion of motorcycling and the motorcycle lifestyle," Dingman said. "For their tireless and professional effort to create a great film, for their selfless dedication to promoting motorcycling, for their personal love of riding, and for the riders new and old who have gotten behind the handlebars after watching 'Why We Ride,' it's our pleasure to recognize Bryan Carroll and James Walker as the 2014 AMA Motorcyclists of the Year."

## What Makes that Work?

By Traveler

On Saturday, 6 December, Top Cats' enjoyed an outstanding technical session hosted by Woodstock Harley Davidson (WSHD) and presented by Frank Duggan and our own Ashley Lambert.



The original concept was to conduct a tech session for our lady riders on subjects like:

- ✦ Winterizing a bike
- ✦ Preparing a bike for the riding season
- ✦ Tire care,
- ✦ Engine care



- ✦ Major and minor services,
- ✦ Setting up a bike for the rider,
- ✦ Cleaning and maintaining a bike, etc.



However, the 30 slide PowerPoint presentation was above and beyond our expectations and everyone attending, even the guys, agreed that we learned much more than we

thought we could over the two – hour session.



Frank's expertise, combined with his friendly delivery, made the session interesting, enjoyable and entertaining. Adding to the whole program was Ashley's knowledge of winter gear, cleaning equipment, and riding from a woman's perspective. Combined, their presentation was first – class and could have been taped, published and titled **"Why we Ride Maintain"**



Our sincerest thanx to WSHD, Ashley Lambert and Frank Dugan for

their time, effort and passion for helping others.

## Biker Christmas

By Traveler

Few are the occasions where you can combine many different forms of enjoyment in a single venue. But, we had the opportunity to do that recently at the Biker Tough / Heart Soft Christmas event hosted by the Highroad Riders of Willow Creek Church.



Close to 500 motorcyclists, representing about 30 local clubs, came together for an appreciation luncheon on Sunday, 21 December at Willow Creek Church.

The purpose was to show appreciation to those motorcycle organizations who conduct charity events each year as a routine part of their annual programs.

While many clubs were recognized, Top Cats was near the beginning of that long list of



charitable organizations that comprised a 15 minute video of local club's charity rides, introduced by Paul Teutle JR of PJD custom bike builders.



It was a great time to see old friends, meet new friends, and honor our brothers and sisters who do so much for charity in our local communities.

Following a lunch, music, and a few guest speakers, the event concluded with an invitation to attend the Willow Creek Christmas Show that followed



Almost all Top Cats attending joined together to attend the Christmas Show which can only be described as amazingly awesome!



Regardless of one's faith, religious persuasion or beliefs, it is truly a rare and rewarding opportunity to dine with your fellow bikers, be recognized for all of the hard work that goes in to charity rides, and to do it all during a season that makes it so appropriate....Christmas.

Our thanx to Noelle and Gene Rigsby and Ric Case for coordinating our participation in this program and to Mike and Kathie Bradbury, Greg Ludwig, Emil Kornecki and Margaret, and Mary Kirkpatrick, as well as the Whitesides, Purcells, Flynns, and Don Delordo for making this a well – attended holiday program.

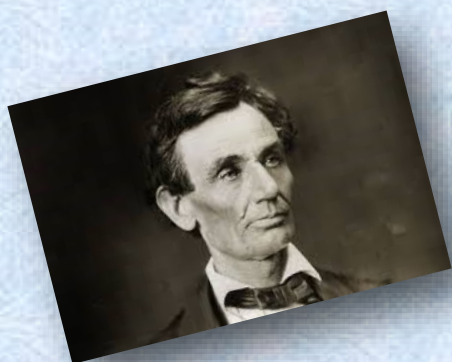






## President's Perspective Cont...

Like any new year, we are poised to plan, prepare and act to create a super year for the Top Cats of Illinois! This does not happen in a vacuum but with all members "leaning forward", contributing to the club and making your voices heard to support our club and our activities.



To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, we are a club of the members, for the members and by the members. "Of the members" refers to who we are comprised of; positive members who freely express their ideas and opinions and support the club they are members of including our club mission, traditions, activities and events. "By the members" means our club, a special organization, is made up by our members. The sum of our members creates the whole club, greater than any one member themselves and one I am proud to call home. "For the members" asks that the club serves our membership with the same vision, ideals, structure and plans that we all agreed to when we joined. If we keep this to heart, Top Cats of Illinois will always do well, riding our motorcycles and socializing together in safe and interesting ways.

I am proud to serve as your president for 2015.

*Here's to a terrific year!!!*  
**Michael "Motorcycle" Bradbury**

## 2015 Birthday Celebrations



**Sturgis 75th**



# STURGIS... FINAL CALL!!!

BY: TRAVELER

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 30 JANUARY, 2015!**



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 Sturgis 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 2015 must be made by 30 Jan 2015 to take advantage of our discounts.**



The increasing interest of our members in this iconic Black Hills Rally, combined with better negotiated travel and rally expenses appears to be generating the excitement we traditionally experienced as a club over our annual rides to Sturgis.

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 15)





## 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

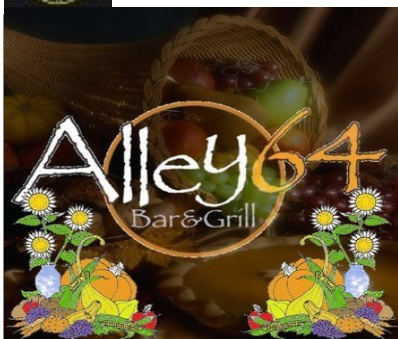
Cut-Off Date: **30 Jan 2015**

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

Please let Wayne; [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com), Cell: (847) 915-8428, or Bard; [bard.boand@att.net](mailto: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 DECEMBER 2ND, 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

- Election Process was reviewed and the candidate qualifications were presented.
- The Candidate's contributions to the club were highlighted
- The Slate was presented to the membership and they were unanimously elected by the 15 members who were in attendance.
  - ⇒ Mike Bradbury, President
  - ⇒ Ric Case, Vice President
  - ⇒ Emil Kornecki, Director
  - ⇒ Gene Rigsby, Director
- The Gavel was passed on to Mike Bradbury, The Club's new President effective 1 January 2015.
- The 20<sup>th</sup> year of Top Cats will begin with new patches. Gold Print on Black Patches, which will add a touch of class commemorate the Anniversary. We will also be issuing new pins and flags during our 20th year.

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

- Mike spent a few minutes highlighting the contributions that Wayne has made to the club as President for the past two years.
- The members present agreed that the club has been the beneficiary of Wayne's expertise.

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

- Larry was not present tonight.

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

- ROAR has been published for December. In January, there will be a sign-up sheet for articles and due dates.
- 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 committed to another event this evening, but sent word that all of the books are current and the club is solvent.
- 91% of the members have renewed their membership for 2015.

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

#### Activities:

Gene was unable to attend tonight, but has sent information on the December and January events.

- Woodstock Harley is providing a Tech Class on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for Top Cats.

#### Information will include

- ⇒ Adjustments and maintenance for your bike.
- ⇒ They will also have a dynamometer demonstration to explain the information that can be collection through a dyno reading.
- ⇒ What products are best used on a bike when cleaning
- ⇒ Other additions that can be made to your bike and their uses.

(Continued on page 17)





## General Meeting,, Continued

- December 21, 2014. Willow Creek is honoring the Charity Events that are done by the motorcycle community throughout the year. It will include a dinner and a very wonderful show for those who would like to attend.

### Awards:

- Mike Bradbury talked to the club about the banquet that is being planned at the Mill Rose again.
  - February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 would be the date.
- ⇒ Mike would like to have the Stockyard room, which has it's own entrance and elevator. He is also looking to try to get the club a free glass of wine upon arrival.

### Safety / Charity: Ric Case

#### Safety

- The GRASS Class is required for new members within the first year and then once every three years after that to maintain membership. The next GRASS class will be held at McHenry Hog and will be given to the Hog Chapter on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015. All Top Cats are invited.
  - The Road Captain Meeting will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup> at Keller Williams. It will begin at 8:00 am. Road Captains from other organizations have also been invited.
  - The Safety Tip was given by Wayne Kirkpatrick for this month. Safety Checks are crucial to safe rides for all. Headlights, cables, and tires are easy to check and SHOULD be checked before each ride. The article in the December ROAR focused on imperfections that we may face while riding. Other members told stories of the challenges they have encountered while riding too. See the publication for the entire article.
- Tonight's safety presentation gave details on how to winterize your bike.

#### Charity

- 22 November was the NISRA Holiday Fashion Show. It was a great event. Top Cats were represented by two tables full of members. The event was beautiful! We will be looking to fill that many chairs again next year!

**The date of *The Ride for Dreams* has been changed to June 14<sup>th</sup>!** See Noelle to begin helping with all of the arrangements!

### Winterizing your Bike

Wayne presented a 14 step process for winterizing your bike. It will be published in January's issue of ROAR and is available in PowerPoint on request.

### Products / Membership: Emil Kornecki

Emil was unable to attend tonight.

#### 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.
- Nametags will also be made available through a vendor.

### History/Web Site: Jeff Tietz

- Web Site Update: Jeff Tietz and Rich Flynn were unable to attend tonight. We have selected a web site company to start on building our new web site. Target completion is Jan – Feb 2015.
- At this time of year, The Barrington Library accesses this year's ROAR and Club Pictures and will archive them for posterity.

***Wayne finalized the meeting by giving the club a very large thanks for the work that has been done during his tenure. The club has faced many challenges and come through the fires stronger and with more vision and courage. Going forward, there is much talent and creativity that will benefit the future of Top Cats... and will ensure the top quality of the club!***

50 / 50 was pulled tonight by Lisa Purcell. The winner of \$10 was Ron Freudenberger

Meeting adjourned at 9:15



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### DECEMBER 9TH, 2014

Alley 64

2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Walters

**Present:** Wayne Kirkpatrick, Ric Case, Gene Rigsby, Mary Kirkpatrick  
Jeff Tietz, Mike Bradbury

**Excused:** Emil Kornecki and Greg Ludwig

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

**President:** Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Election results were finalized and Mike will take over as the President on 1 January, 2015. The 20 year patch will be ready for 6 January meeting. The board will be notified of the cost when the quote is finalized.
- Black & Gold Pins will be ready on 5 January and will be handed out at the 6 January meeting. The board approved the purchase, not to exceed \$300.00.
- The President & VP rockers were passed out to the new board members. These are the last of the tabs that we have for the club. Welch Industries has provided these for the club for 20 years. They are now out of business, so Wayne went to Whistling Pete's in Winthrop Harbor and is waiting a quote for these too.
- Flags were also discussed. Wayne is looking for a vendor with a good quality flag. Mike said that the past cloth flags were \$13 for the small flag from a vendor in Florida. Discussion included holders too, but there are so many different ways to display the flags that it may be better to invest in a better flag and then allow each member to choose their own style for attaching the flags to their bike.
- Old patches and pins will be used to promote the connection between NISRA and Top Cats at events that involve both groups.
- Membership Renewal is at 91% for the new year.
- There is a website who has an easy process for making nametags and Wayne ordered a prototype. The board discussed possibilities for getting the artwork to a vendor and having the members just contact them with their order. Wayne will pursue this issue and report to the board.

**Vice President:** Vacant until 1 January, 2015, when Ric Case will take over the position.

**Secretary:** Mary Kirkpatrick

**ROAR**

- Due dates for the January ROAR will be the 20<sup>th</sup> of December so that the New Year's Edition is published on time.

**Rosters**

- Master Roster updates will be finalized now that the membership renewals have been finalized.
- Blast Roster has been updated by Wayne and Gene to reflect new members.

**Treasurer:** Greg Ludwig

General Fund balance; \$9,365.39 + dues (\$3,000)

Total: \$14,457.86

Charity Account: \$5,092.47

50/50 money mailed \$85.00

**Past President:** Mike Bradbury

- Past President comments focused on the fact that this will be Mike's last 'past president' comments...
- Mike stated that he has many ideas moving forward with the club. A focus on building the Road Captain numbers is one of his goals for the new year.

**Director:** Gene Rigsby

**Activities**

- Gene reviewed the activities for the next months that are on the calendar and also brainstormed ideas for the winter months.

(Continued on pg 19)





## Board Meeting, Continued

⇒ Gene will set up a movie night for the 10 January with the venue at McHenry and Jim-ano's Pizza again.

⇒ Tech session for the entire club on the ways to get ready for the new spring season!

⇒ AZ Bike Week was discussed and possible options for making it a club ride were also reviewed.

## Awards

- The Banquet will be held at the Millrose again this year on 7 February, 2015.
- Categories and trophies will be developed over the next few weeks.
- Noelle and Gene will compile a list of events that can be used to create some categories that will recognize participation.
- The board will be presented with details at the next meeting.

**Director:** Emil Kornecki

## Membership

- David Whiteside has stated that he knows of some potential new members that may be joining.
- Products for 2015 will be Web based.

**Director:** Ric Case

## Safety

- GRASS Class for McHenry HOG RSVP will be on 8 February.
- Roster Update will include the members who will need the GRASS Class for 2015.
- The RC Meeting on 18 January will include a review of the status of Road Captains and discuss identifying candidates for Senior positions.
- Safety Tip / Kaution Korner Schedule will be compiled at the Road Captain Meeting on 18 January, 2015.

## Charity Committee

- 8 January, 2015 is the next meeting at the Purcells home in Lake Barrington.
- Willow Creek event will be held on 21 December, 2014. 7/10 spots are filled at this time.

**Director:** Jeff Tietz

## History

- Barrington will be updating the archives with the 2014 Editions of ROAR and Photo Gallery.

## Web Site

### Present Site

- All information is being updated so that the information that is transferred to the new site will be current.
- There is a new picture needed along with a new intro letter for the President on the home page of the website.
- Vendor Selection:
- The new vendor offerings include hosting services and 24 hour/day support to answer questions that may arise.
- The board discussed the other possibilities that are a part of the new website.
- The calendar is interactive and the vendor can be used for making changes or 'administrators' can be identified that can be given access to the site to maintain current information.
- Any of the initial pages or changes that are made in the future are subject to board/club approval.

### Quotes

- Jeff made a motion to accept the invoices that he submitted. Ric was the second.
- ⇒ \$3499.00 for the custom design
- ⇒ \$300.00 for annual maintenance
- The board approved the motion 6 to 0.

## Other Information for the Good of the Club

Ric Case, Mike Bradbury and Wayne Kirkpatrick met for two hours to create a strategy for the club as we move forward into 2015. They planned another meeting for the Saturday, 12.13.14

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:10**



## January Celebrations!

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

1st Wayne Kirkpatrick

2nd Noelle Rigsby

25th Jeff Tietz







## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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



**CHASE** 

Lisa A. Purcell  
Mortgage Banker

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Lake Zurich, IL 60047

<http://homeloan.chase.com/>  
NMLS ID#817405

Telephone: 847 726 4418  
Facsimile: 866 385 3906  
Cellular: 847 857 0913  
[lisa.a.purcell@chase.com](mailto:lisa.a.purcell@chase.com)



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

## 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)

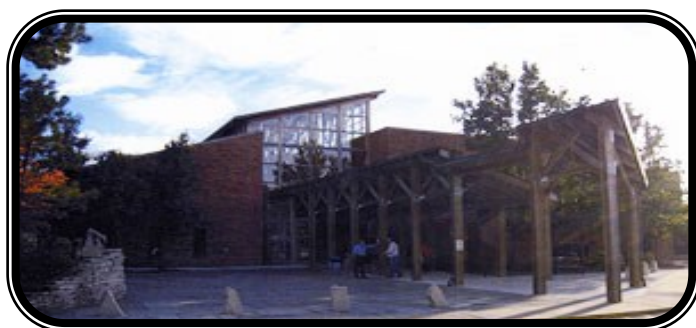




## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, January 6th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, January 13th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Saturday, January 10th	Movie Afternoon	McHenry	Harley Davidson	TBD	Rigsby
Sunday, January 18th	GRASS Class (RC)	Palatine	Keller-Williams	8:00 am	Case
Tuesday, February 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Saturday, February 7th	Awards Banquet	Barrington	Millrose	6:00 pm	Bradbury/ Rigsby
Sunday, February 8th	GRASS Class	McHenry HD	McHenry	8:00 am	Case/ McHD
Tuesday, February 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury

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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<b>Founder</b>	Carl 'Virgo' Bender 1941-2001			<b>Motorcycle Community</b>	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com

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

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