



ROAR

September, 2017

Volume 17, Issue 9

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS
PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Inside This Issue



Hello
Club Members!

Many things have happened since my last article for the ROAR. Bard Bo-

and, veteran Senior Road Captain, led his fellow Top Cat brothers, sisters and guests on his traditional trip to some biker mecca called STURGIS. You might have heard of it. Another magnificent milestone achieved!

Wayne Kirkpatrick, Past President and Senior Road Captain, led a group back through beautiful mountain scenery in Colorado with a day ride led by Jim Purcell and they all survived! Seriously, it sounded like a lot of fun especially the part where they road through a hail storm on mountain roads.



Unfortunately, one of our brothers, Jim Chevalier was involved in a major accident. Jim was hit while riding his motorcycle in Blanding, Utah by a pickup on

August 7th. He was airlifted to St. Mary's hospital in Grand Junction, CO and was expected to leave after about 2 weeks. He had major injuries including

fractured skull, broken ribs, deflated lungs and a major amount of road rash. Please pray for a good recovery for Jim and keep him in you thoughts. To paraphrase, "There but for the grace of god, good luck and what I learned in G.R.A.S.S., go I.

September is shaping up for many opportunities to ride. Greg Smith, Senior Road Captain is leading a ride for a lunch and a tour of SC Johnson Headquarters, designed by Frank Loyd Wright and opened in 1939. Jim Purcell is also leading a fall color day ride in the third weekend, either the 16th or 17th. Lastly, Ric Case, Safety Director, Past President, Past Vice President and current club veteran, will lead a Memorial Ride on September 24th.

Please note that our website event calendar is having issues. We are having difficulty removing canceled rides. We will work with the host to correct this as soon as possible. In the meantime, you can keep up to date by watching for ride information on club email blasts or come to the general meetings and get updated on events from our Vice President and Activity Chairperson, "Lucky" aka Gene Rigsby.

Our next general meeting is September 5th. Be prepared to hear wondrous, scenic and heroic tales of Sturgis and other motorcycle riding exploits since our last meeting. Some club members have got to do what is always the best, ride their motorcycles together over long distances sharing the good times together!

Your President and Proud Top Cats Member,

MIKE BRADBURY

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Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 5 GENERAL MEETING
- 9 THE WRIGHT RIDE

OCTOBER

- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 7-8 RIDING THE EDGE W/ TM
- 10 BOARD MEETING

Talk to Gene Rigsby and get your ideas on





KAUTION KORNER

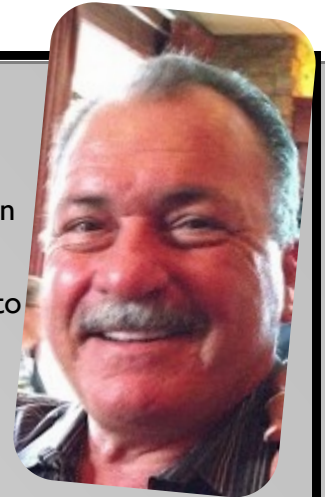
THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE THAT CROSS-COUNTRY TRIP... To have a safer ride!

By Road Captain

Jim

"You talkin' to
me?"

Purcell



Here are some pointers that I have learned over the last couple years of long distance motorcycle trips.

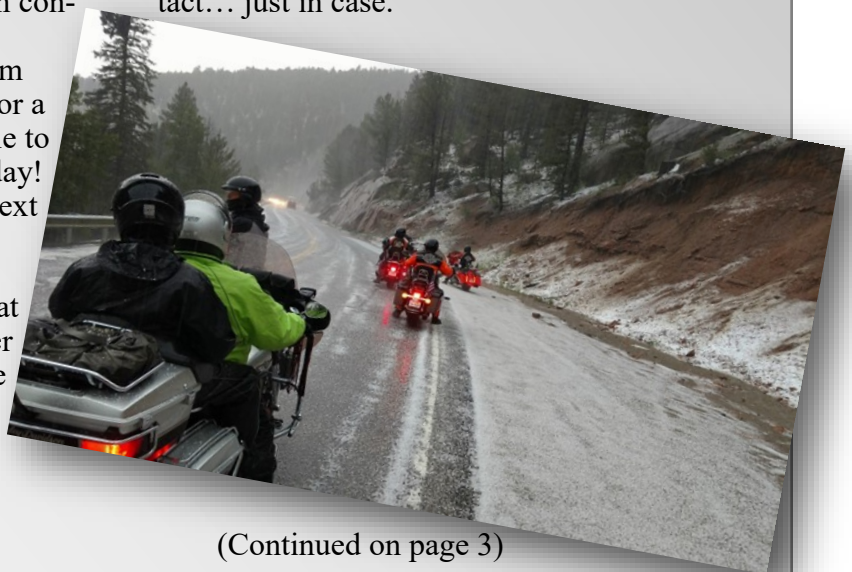
I have been riding since I was 14 years old, but have just recently started long distance rides. I am finding out that this is a whole new experience! Being prepared IS THE difference between a good trip and a bad trip

The first step is to have your routes prepared in advance, this is a lot easier today with tools like google and the internet to help plan. On these kind of rides, you cannot always pre-ride to prepare, so it is important to study and develop alternate routes for whatever you may encounter. The possibilities for challenges include road closures, geographical changes and weather. The more you know about the roads in the area you will be traveling, the easier it will be to make adjustments if needed.

First and Foremost make sure your ride is worthy of the trip! You wouldn't want to ride a 350 Honda on a 3,000 mile trip (at least I wouldn't). Take the time to be comfortable on the bike that you will be riding. And know local dealers or mechanics that you can contact... just in case.

Also, have your lodging booked ahead and confirm reservations. You don't want to end up looking for a place after a long and challenging day. Being able to CRASH on a comfy bed is a great way to end a day! And a good way to ensure a safe ride for the next day too!

Never assume the weather forecast will be what you are hearing in the morning. (even the weather man is wrong sometimes) Depending on where you are and at what elevation you are traveling, weather can change in a blink of the eye.



(Continued on page 3)



Kaution Korner, Cont

And yes, I have found that when dealing with elevation changes, there's a big difference between 1,000 ft and 10,000ft . If you are traveling out west, you should also be prepared for radical temperature changes. In traveling a few hundred miles, you may encounter a change from 110 Degrees to 30 degrees. Elevation can create rain, hail and snow as storm fronts hit the sides of the mountains. There's nothing worse than being cold and wet driving thru the mountains. In the picture on the previous page, the change came in a matter of inches. We came around a curve where the clouds were hitting the hillside and the moisture was dropping quickly. The pavement went from wet to inches of hail in just a few feet. You really have to pack wisely and choose your clothing as well as your roads... because you must always be prepared to layer up or down depending on the weather, and always be ready to protect everything on your bike from getting wet too.

Always fill up at every stop and carry octane booster if your bike requires. Riding thru rural areas gas station can be a challenge. Stations are few and far between and sometimes they just are not open .



Be reasonable on how many miles a day you want to ride. Sometime you have to stick it out because there just nothing or nowhere to stop and you don't have a choice, but planning ahead will give you the opportunity to 'gear up' mentally for what will be a LONG day.

Eating on the road, can also be a challenge. This is another area to pack wisely. I have found ,for me at least, that light snacks and hydration during stops are in very important. Having a big meal made me tired and drowsy in the middle of the day, and is not a safe way to ride while trying to go that last 175miles. Save the big meal for after the days ride and always carry water.

Anything can happen from rock slides to buffalo traffic, so be prepared for and everything! Riding on a trip like this is a mental game and you have stay alert and ready for all of the challenges that come along. It requires you to be innovative at times and constantly adjust your expectations.

Let somebody know your ride plan and the stops you are making. The more others know, the easier it will be for them to help you if you find it necessary to get support!

Riding gear, is a topic worth repeating here. I have found that this is a very important part of a safe ride, so spend a little extra in this area. It seems that you get what you pay for, and again ,there nothing worse than being cold or wet , because this for sure can ruin your ride!

Finally, take the time to look your bike over every morning,. Checking the simple stuff—air pressure, oil level, loose or missing fasteners takes a little time, BUT... it can save you from big trouble. Have AMA road service card or some sort of motor club card to help in the event of a breakdown

Plan a day just to relax or just a morning ride to a simple destination in the middle of your travels will make a big difference. It will make this a vacation and not an endurance ride! These trips may not always turn out perfectly -weather will not always be sunny, roads will not always be well paved, wind might not be at your back, But those are the things that STORIES are made of! Being prepared, though, will help you to make things go easier.... And SAFER! Happy Trails!





V.P.'s Vision

By: Gene 'Lucky' Rigsby



Hello Top Cats!!

The last days of summer are in sight.
Let's not waste them.



We have 2 rides coming up that you need to be part of. The first is a day trip planned and lead by our well experienced Senior Road Captain, Greg Smith. This ride is called the "Wright" ride. Greg has incorporated a Frank Lloyd Wright theme into his ride, along with some other items that I will let you look forward to reading about in the ride blast.

The second ride is being planned and lead by a long time member, Ted Makarewicz, who finally has an opening in his busy schedule. He is providing us an opportunity to travel with him along a stretch of highway that he is fond of. Ted will also be taking us to an interesting location that most of us may have not have even heard of, let alone have visited. His ride is October 7 – 8. A blast for this ride will be out soon as well.

As well, there is planning underway for a fall color ride. Look for details about his ride soon.

And please keep an eye on the calendar and be on the lookout for the blasts as updates or additions are made. You can contact me directly, at gene.rigsby@gmail.com if you are not receiving blasts.

As usual, don't forget to send me a note if you have a ride or event idea that you would like to share with your Top Cats family.

Gene.rigsby@gmail.com. It

would be great to lock in some date for off season events soon, like another chili cook off, or movie or bowling or watch a football game, or...??

Have a great month and plan to meet up at the September 5th meeting!!!

Looking forward to seeing you there....

Gene "Lucky" Rigsby





Oil Spots

By Traveler



Harley-Davidson Continues Fight Against Counterfeiters



The complaint was filed at the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on Friday, August 11. It accused the defendants, named as an “interrelated group of counterfeiters”, of running online stores on a range of platforms and marketing the sites on social media.

The group was accused of selling motorcycle parts, apparel, jewelry and other goods “using counterfeit versions of Harley-Davidson’s federally registered trademarks”.

“Defendants facilitate sales by designing the defendant internet stores so that they appear to unknowing consumers to be authorized online retailers, outlet stores, or wholesalers,” it said in the claim.

It added: “The unauthorized use of the Harley-Davidson trademark is likely to cause and has caused confusion, mistake and deception among consumers and is irreparably harming Harley-Davidson.”

Harley-Davidson is seeking injunctive relief, a transfer of infringing domain names, a transfer of profits derived from the infringing products, \$2 million for

“each and every use of the ‘Harley-Davidson’ trademarks”, and attorneys’ fees.

In May, it obtained an injunction and was awarded damages against another group of counterfeiters also running an online store.

The order stated that “all monies currently restrained in defaulting defendants’ financial accounts, including monies held by PayPal, are hereby released to Harley-Davidson as partial payment”.

Bronze Star Recipient Surprised With Gift of New Harley-Davidson Motorcycle at Sturgis

At the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally on “Military Appreciation Day,” Bronze Star recipient, Charles Swank,



was honored with a new Harley-Davidson powered by a Milwaukee-Eight Engine.

The surprise moment was part of MISSION: “THANK YOU” – a cross-country tour led by Scoot-in’ America’s Adam Sandoval to celebrate the men and women who dedicated their lives to protecting our freedom.

Enlisting in the Army on Sept 11, 2001, Charles was deployed to Iraq in 2003 as an infantryman with the 82nd Airborne and Afghanistan in 2005. He earned a Bronze Star for helping a wounded comrade during a firefight. A father of five, his service ended in 2006, but he serves his community as a firefighter in Butler, Ohio.

Harley-Davidson Launches Global Riding Campaign

Harley-Davidson has launched a new brand platform, “All for Freedom, Freedom for All,” to celebrate the company’s legacy and “the pursuit of freedom that unites all.”

(Continued on page 6)



Oil Spots, Continued...

With a focus on the universal pursuit of independence, authenticity and the feeling of the open road, the new work is an open invitation to riders and non-riders across the globe to embrace their individuality.



The new platform comes to life via 30- and 90-second videos containing user-generated and filmed content.

Harley-Davidson shares moments captured on the open road by riders past and present from all walks of life.

“All For Freedom. Freedom For All” is part of our 10-year global strategy to build the next generation of Harley-Davidson riders,” said Sean Cummings, Harley-Davidson senior vice president of global demand. “As the leader in our industry, we are on a mission to grow the sport of motorcycling globally. To reach that ambitious goal, we need to increase our brand’s relevance and inspire new riders to experience the same freedom that all H-D riders feel in the saddle. This new work does that by celebrating the passion, freedom and emotional pull of the open road.”

To ignite a conversation about the thrill of riding, Harley-Davidson is enlisting its network of riders, influencers, dealers and employees on social media to post images and stories of why they chose to accept the invitation of the open road using #FindYourFreedom.

H-D dealership owner adds second location

George C. Chaconas of Performance Brokerage Services announced the sale of Waterkotte Harley-Davidson in Mount Vernon, Illinois, from the Waterkotte family to Rodney Cabaness. Cabaness owns and operates Black Diamond Harley-Davidson in Marion, Illinois, only 40 miles away from Waterkotte Harley-Davidson.



Waterkotte H-D was once Dale’s Harley-Davidson. Gary Surdyke acquired Dale’s H-D from Dale Walksler in 2000. For nearly 10 years, the dealership generated nearly \$20 million in sales annually. However, in 2008 the store experienced a decline with the failing economy. Gary Surdyke and wife Linda Surdyke have 10 children, all of whom grew up in the Harley-Davidson business. As an attempt to pass the business onto their children, Surdyke offered the dealership to his daughter Rebecca and her husband Matt Waterkotte, who changed the name to Waterkotte Harley-Davidson in 2014.

Waterkotte Harley-Davidson will operate under its new name Roadhouse Harley-Davidson and will remain at its current location at 205 North 44th St. in Mount Vernon, Illinois.

Indian Motorcycle Opens New Experience Center at Iowa Manufacturing Facility



Indian Motorcycle recently announced the opening of an Experience Center at its Spirit Lake, Iowa, manufacturing facility.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, Continued

The Indian Motorcycle Spirit Lake Experience Center will showcase current and historic Indian motorcycles and offer complementary behind-the-scenes tours of its world-class production facility. Visitors will observe the assembly process that's conducted from start-to-finish with robotic machinery and witness new Indian motorcycles come right off the line. The Spirit Lake Experience Center will also serve as a venue for private events.



"As America's first motorcycle company, we have a rich history and a loyal following of motorcyclists," said Steve Menneto, president of Indian Motorcycle. "Right in America's heartland, the Experience Center not only serves as a unique destination for motorcyclists to engage with the brand, but also showcases our outstanding people who build premium motorcycles."

Menneto welcomed the new Experience Center with Spirit Lake employees, friends and family members during an honorary ribbon-cutting ceremony. Motorcyclists who attended the Boji Bike Rally had the opportunity to visit the Spirit Lake Experience Center August 18 and 19.

The Experience Center will be open for complimentary tours on Mondays and Fridays from August 21 through November 3, 2017. Tours will reopen in 2018.

[Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall Of Fame Rocks](#)

Between the standing room only Class of 2017 Hall of Fame induction ceremony, the Pappy Hoel Speed Classic races and the brand new block party with bands going live at five on the Glencoe Stage every day, the 77th Sturgis Rally was rocking for the entire rally week! Better weather and a full schedule of events helped bump up attendance to more than 376,000 people this year.

"Come for the races, stay for the entertainment," said

Myrick Robbins, executive director for the Sturgis Museum & Hall Of Fame. Appropriately things kicked off at the very same historic dirt track where it all began back in 1938. The Pappy Hoel Speed Classic roared into the Meade County Fairgrounds in downtown Sturgis on August 3-5.

"We were twisting the throttle to the stops with the Speed Classic, the inaugural Block Party co-hosted by our friends from Monster Energy and the annual Hall Of Fame ceremonies," said Robbins. "But that is what



the Sturgis Rally is all about. Founder J.C. 'Pappy' Hoel started with a race and a week-long spectacle just sort of evolved from there."



Also evolving was the Sturgis Block Party. For the first time this year, merchants on the newly revitalized Main Street teamed up with the Museum and Monster Energy to host a week-long event right in the heart of downtown. "Motorcycles, music and more... it was rocking," said Robbins.

However, the Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony presented by Strider Sports was definitely the highlight of the week. John Paul DeJoria, philanthropist co-founder of Paul Mitchell hair products and Patrón Spirits (as well a Hall of Famer himself) emceed



"I'd like to give you a little secret to building something," said the man who went from being homeless to becoming a billionaire. "However you participate, whether it is as a rider, builder, or any way you participate in this industry, make sure the quality of what you personally do or the quality of the product you produce or the quality of the words you say are the finest quality in the world."

When DeJoria started Patrón in 1989 it was the quality that made the difference. "Quality reaps longevity. Quality continuously keeps something going... and it is the quality of these people that will keep the industry and the Museum going."

"The Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame recognizes individuals or groups who have made a long-term, positive impact on the motorcycle community," added Robbins. "We honor our Hall of Fame members by telling their stories and history, showcasing their contributions and accomplishments. In doing this, we hope to inspire our visitors and the riding community."

The class of 2017 may have been the most influential and inspirational yet. From Lifetime Achievement honoree William G. Davidson to the

Pappy Hoel Award winner Rod Woodruff, founder of The Buffalo Chip, the Lodge at Deadwood in Deadwood, South Dakota, was packed with the best and brightest in the motorcycle industry. Colleen Barnett-Taylor and Mike Taylor, Cory Ness, Mark Shadley, Jim Thiessen and Terry Vance comprised this year's inductees.

"I get excited every year at Sturgis... I jump up and down a lot and I yell and scream and I blew out my voice," said Lifetime Achievement honoree Willie G. after being introduced by his son and current director of the Harley Davidson Museum, Bill Davidson. "I would like to thank the Sturgis Hall of Fame for honoring me and I will always remember a day like today."

Blown out voice or not, Willie rallied to conclude the ceremony shouting a message near and dear to all the honorees, past and present:



**"Ride free!
Sturgis forever!"**



Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 5TH,**

**BE SURE TO ATTEND THE SEPTEMBER MEETING! SEE ALL
OF THOSE FRIENDS THAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING!!!**



11 - Mary Kirkpatrick

Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities
for September!

Let us know your special Dates so that
we can celebrate with you!



4 - Wayne and Mary
Kirkpatrick
22 - John and Jamie Curry



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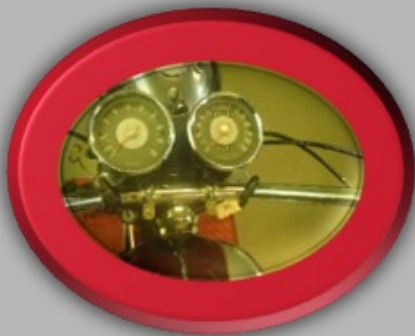


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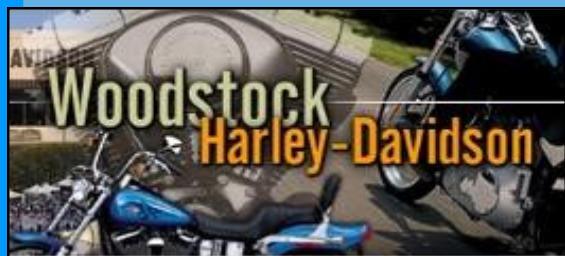
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WANTED



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, September 5th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30	Bradbury
Saturday, September 9th	The Wright Ride	TBD	SC Johnson , Mikwaukee	TBD	Smith
Sunday, September 24th	Memorial Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Case
Tuesday, October 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30	Bradbury
Sat / Sun October 7th-8th	Riding the Edge With TM	Oasis—Hinsdale	The Edge of Lake Michigan	8:00 am	Makarewicz
Tuesday, October 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30	Bradbury

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



Barrington Library

Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300

balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

As part of our ongoing philosophy to support our members and goal to provide a more value-rich publication, we are now offering free advertising space in ROAR for Top Cats business owners. Each business owner can submit advertising content and graphics up to 2 X 3.5 inches (Business Card size) for their company.

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

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

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



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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