



ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

January, 2016

Volume 16, Issue 1

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Welcome to 2016! Also known as the 2016th year of the Common Era (CE) and Anno Domini (AD) designations, the 16th year of the 3rd millennium, the 16th year of the 21st century, and the 7th year of the 2010s decade. Credit Wikipedia, as I did not know this myself....but lastly and most importantly, the 21st year of the Top Cats of Illinois!



It takes dedication, hard work and much effort to run our club and it is with much appreciation that we have loyal, supportive members who are willing to step up and keep the club operating to meet our obligations to our members. Your 2016 Board consists of the officers; Vice President Ric Case, Past President Wayne Kirkpatrick, *interim Treasurer* Mike Bradbury, *interim Secretary* and the editor the ROAR, Mary Kirkpatrick. Your 2016 Board Directors are; Rox Adonis - Website, Gene Rigsby - Activities/TBD, Emil Kornecki-Membership. The club needs volun-

teers for Secretary, Treasurer and one Director. See me or any Board member with your availability and interest to fill these positions!

But members are needed to step up with your input and involvement in other ways. Our committees are essential to the club's operation. This is where member input, involvement, passion leads to all that we do. We have a committee for Charity, Activities, Safety, Website, Products and Archives. The committees are typically the backbone of the club and all our members need to support our club by being a member of a committee. Come forth and volunteer to help support your club!!!

Another way to show your passions for riding and doing great rides is to volunteer to become a Road Captain. Rides can come in many types such as single day, multi-day, weekenders or even a few hours to a local scenic view. Rides also can have many destinations. Leading a ride is extremely rewarding, a great way to bond with the club and being a Road Captain is a thrilling Top Cats accomplishment. Reach out to any existing Road Captain or Senior RC and ask for some help. They will offer good advice and mentorship to help you. Start planning and dreaming of showing us a ride to becoming a Road Captain in 2016. (Cont. on pg 3)

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 5 GENERAL MEETING
- 12 BOARD MEETING
- 23 SHOOT-OUT
- 31 GRASS / RC MEETING

FEBRUARY

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 6 TC ANNUAL BANQUET
- 9 BOARD MEETING

Talk to Gene Rigsby and get your ideas on



KAUTION KORNER



Fighting the Winter Doldrums!

Don DeLordo, Road Captain



In January, we will have our RC meeting and G.R.A.S.S. Class. We will talk about other types of rides for our RC's to consider to increased member participation and safety.

with your black ride if caught in the rain at night? For your own safety as well as the rest of our chapter members, please take a look at the newer reflective color gear.

consider to increased member participation and safety.

That all sounds great, however as I look out the window, Mother Nature reminds me that she is in total control of our riding season by dumping snow followed by IDOT trying to melt it by dumping salt on the roads. Once that occurs, my riding for the season is pretty much over until heavy spring rains.

We can't ride so what can we do to improve the winter doldrums?

How about inspecting all your riding gear?

When was the last time you did a full inspection of your **helmet**? Did you drop it last year? Are there any cracks on the outside? What about the liners? I am referring to the Styrofoam liner and the cloth liner. Are they clean and intact? If they are dry and crumbling now is the time to replace the helmet. If the liner can be removed, take it out and wash it. Don't throw it in the washing machine, wash it by hand and allow it to air dry.

Did you check your **rain gear** for holes, zipper functions, snaps etc.? Are you still riding with that black rain gear you bought back in 1997? Is it really safe to wear something that is not reflective and blends in

We have all tried to be frugal by trying to reason that I really don't get caught in the rain that often, so why should I spend so much money for an expensive suit? Over the years I figured out you get what you pay for. I always recommend you go to your favorite dealer and try on the various styles and sizes so the one you buy fits rather than ordering one on line. In addition to the suit, the type of **gloves** you wear in the rain can make a big difference in controlling your bike. Being a scuba diver in my younger life, I found that neoprene diving gloves are great for wet weather, because they help to keep in your body heat while improving your grip. If your rain gear is great and you are looking for an after Christmas Present for yourself, how about **heated gear**? Don't buy used or gear on line...buy it new from your favorite dealer. After looking at the rain suit and heated gear, how about checking on your **boots**. Now is the time to polish and inspect them for cuts, rips, etc. Do they need new heels, soles or do you need to break down and get new boots?

Don't wait until spring when everyone else is out getting all this equipment and inventories are all picked over.

Get them now!

Safe equipment is just as important as a safe attitude and cycle.



DesktopHDPhotos.com

*To all of our two wheeled family...
May your New Year be filled with
Miles and Miles of Sparkle and
Bright Memories!*

2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR

President's Perspective Continued...

This year our charity rider is held on June 12th and is called the Ride for Dreams Up to The Valley of The Kings. Top Cats – Illinois continues its support of the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA) and with contributions to the Valley of The Kings, a big cat sanctuary located in Clinton, WI. This new exciting ride destination will only improve the great format developed by your Noele Rigsby and the Charity Committee. This is the main club event in 2016 and all Top Cats – Illinois members should register and be there. No excuses – save the date and plan for it.



It is my pleasure to serve Top Cats – Illinois. We have the greatest members and are the premier Chicago club in our area. We all should be proud and continue our great traditions, develop new ones and have fun riding together in the new year!

Be Good and Keep Roaring!

Mike Bradbury
President
Top Cats of Illinois



VP's Vision: Traditions

By: Ric 'Clutch' Case



John Costello, Assistant Director of City Limits HOG Chapter of Palatine Illinois passed recently. John was a major contributor to HOG and Motorcycling for many years. He rode in all of the continental 48 United States. When a fellow motorcyclist passes, there are traditions to honoring his enthusiasm, contributions, and participation with this sporting community. One that we embrace is this: We remove any black bandanas that we had added to our motorcycle when a previous friend and rider had passed and replace it with a new one in honor of the person who just died. The one removed is placed in the casket with the newly deceased, as a sign that friends are still traveling with them. A new one is placed on the left handle bar of each motorcycle. The hope is that it will remain there until it turns white from riding and weathering over many long years, before losing another friend.

In the memorial service for John Costello, the tradition had to be adjusted because he was cremated. With the families permission, we added a new black bandana to John's motorcycle which was on display where the casket would have been placed at the memorial service.

Another tradition that was used for John's service, was much like the Blue Angels or Thunderbirds, who fly a missing-man formation. The procession also used a missing-man formation. For this event, the Chapter's primary officers rode in front and left a spot where John would have ridden. The procession rode from City Limits dealership to the Shalom Chapel. All riders then paid their respects. After the memorial service, the riders lined up in formation again. The Director revved up his motorcycle, then when quiet, the group revved up their motorcycles, and when quiet, the sweeps (aka tail gunners) revved up there motorcycles much like a military gun salute. The procession then rode to the restaurant.

These traditions signify the camaraderie and friendship that is shared by the motorcycling community. And when we go, it's great to know we have been a part of this great community of Motorcyclists and we'll be honored by our friends.

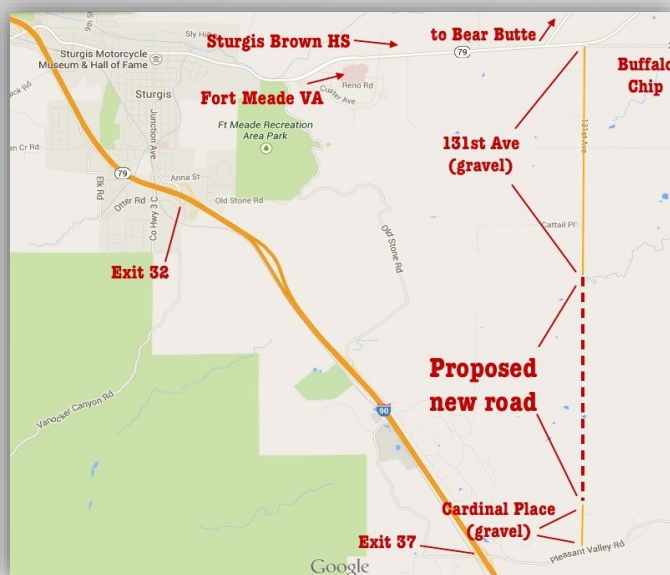
Here's hoping that there are many miles, though, before that time comes for all who read this!

Oil Spots

By Traveler



Circuit Judge Jerome Eckrich denied an application for a Writ of Mandamus filed by a group opposing completion of Fort Meade Way. The Meade County road project offers an alternative route between I-90 Exit 37 and Highways 34 and 79, connecting Fort Meade Veterans



Hospital, Bear Butte, and the rally campgrounds and concert venues east of Sturgis to I-90.

The judge's ruling kills the Meade County Taxpayers for Responsible Government's efforts to force the County Commission to pass an ordinance outlawing the project, and it allows the Commission to award a construction bid. Judge Eckrich explained the denial stating the proposed ordinance would have allowed "the use of a person's property to be held hostage by the will and whims of neighboring landowners without adherence or application of any standards or guidelines (and) is repugnant to the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

(Continued on page 5)



Oil Spots, Continued...

Bids for construction of the new road are estimated to be about \$2.6 million, and the Meade County Commission will open and award a bid tomorrow. The Commission has budgeted \$1.6 million and Buffalo Chip President Rod Woodruff has pledged to raise up to \$1 million in expected shortfall for the project to ensure its completion.

The new road will help ease traffic jams, which typically clog travel into Sturgis during the annual motorcycle rally.

Donations toward the construction of the new access road are being accepted at www.BikersScenicByway.com.

Construction of the roadway began in late November 2015. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2016, and the road may be usable by July 25.

Parsons launches world's largest Harley dealership with 4th Biker Blast

An annual event was extra festive this year as entrepreneur Bob Parsons used the 4th annual Bob's Biker Blast Nov. 7 to mark the grand opening of Parsons' new Harley-Davidson of Scottsdale.



At 150,000-sq.-ft., the facility is the largest Harley dealership in the world. Bob's Biker Blast celebrates the diversity within motorcycling and the positive impact riders have on the community.

The annual event began with more than 500 riders participating in the "I Ride for PCH" kickoff. Later that evening the Doobie Brothers with Michael McDonald performed before a crowd of 10,000.

This year, Bob Parsons took the stage and pledged that The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation would round out funds raised to make the 4th Annual Bob's Biker Blast a \$1 million event.

Last year's event raised more than \$63,000 before The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation matched the results – times

five – bringing the total donation to nearly \$380,000. With the \$1 million gift, this year's Bob's Biker Blast broke a PCH record for most funds raised during an event hosted by an outside organization.

New Victory engine will power 1200cc class motorcycle



During the recent EICMA exposition, Victory Motorcycles revealed the production version of the engine that powered the Project 156 bike up Pikes Peak this past summer.

The engine will power an upcoming 1200cc class motorcycle, the OEM said.

It was showcased in a concept bike designed by European builder Urs Erbacher (see image above). Erbacher's "Victory Ignition Concept" bike was built around the first pre-production engine off the line in Osceola, Wis. The design features an aggressive stance and frames the engine with a cast aluminum chassis, performance suspension and brakes with a Project 156-inspired paint scheme, Victory said.

Affordable Scout Sixty to attract new buyers world-wide



(Continued on page 6)

Oil Spots, Continued...

Indian Motorcycle introduced the new Scout Sixty, a 999cc bike that will "broadly appeal to new rider segments" with an MSRP that's the lowest yet for the brand.

The Scout Sixty shares an identical chassis, suspension, brakes and core engine with the Scout, mated with a new 60 cubic inch engine. The Scout Sixty has a dry weight of 542 lbs. and delivers a claimed 65 ft./lbs. of linear torque, and is paired with an easy-to-shift five-speed transmission—all for a starting price of \$8,999, according to the OEM's announcement.

A seat height of 25.3 inches and low center of gravity will make it attractive for women, younger riders and, in fact, anyone with a shorter inseam. Optional accessories—seats, handlebars, footpeg relocators and the like—The Scout Sixty features a black seat, matching black frame and wheels, and will be compatible with the more than 200 accessories already developed for the Scout family. It will be available in three colors: Thunder Black at the starting MSRP above, and Indian Motorcycle Red (shown) and Pearl White options starting at \$9,299.

Indian said the Scout Sixty will be a featured display motorcycle for the Progressive International Motorcycle Show nationwide tour. www.motorcycleshows.com

Erik Buell Racing back on auction



The manufacturing assets for Erik Buell Racing will head to auction a second time in December after Bruce Belfer failed to close his bid on September 30. Belfer

said that he was not able to secure financing for the \$2.25 million purchase by the deadline, according to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

Buell's consulting business was previously sold to Hero MotorCorp. for \$2.8 million dollars. Belfer hopes to acquire Erik Buell Racing again at the Dec. 10 auction, with plans to restart the manufacturing process alongside Erik

Buell himself.

Congress passes 5-year highway bill

Congress passed a five-year \$305 billion highway bill Dec. 3 that includes several big wins for motorcyclists, the American Motorcyclist Association reports.

"Some of these issues -- such as motorcycle-only checkpoints and recreational trails funding -- are ones we have been battling for several years, and it is a major victory to get language in the highway bill that meets our goals," said Wayne Allard, AMA vice president of government relations.



The *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act* includes:

- Continued funding for the Recreational Trails Program, which provides funding to states for maintaining, improving and expanding off-highway recreational opportunities;
- A prohibition against using federal funds for discriminatory motorcycle-only checkpoints;
- Reestablishing a Motorcyclist Advisory Council to coordinate with and counsel the U.S. Department of Transportation administrator on specific infrastructure concerns to motorcyclists;
- Funding of highway safety grants that include programs to reduce distracted driving, including language that make it easier for states to successfully qualify for and receive the money;
- Measures to ensure privacy and security in vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure technology; and
- No expansion of pilot programs to place tolls on the nation's existing interstate highways under the Interstate System Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Pilot Program.

The ban on federal funding of motorcycle-only checkpoints comes after eight years of battling this discriminatory and ineffective law-enforcement tactic, Allard said. "Our focus now can shift to oversight, monitoring how law enforcement agencies use their federal funding, and to efforts at the state level to convince legislatures to prohibit these checkpoints," Allard said. "But this move at the federal level means motorcyclists can once again travel our nation's highways without the constant fear of being stopped just because of their choice of vehicle."



Oil Spots, Continued

AMA Motorcyclist of the Year for 2015 is Wayne Rainey



The American Motorcyclist Association has announced its 2015 AMA Motorcyclist of the Year: AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame Legend Wayne Rainey. Rainey, three-time world champion, two-time AMA Superbike champion and now president of MotoAmerica, leads a team that has revitalized professional road racing in the United States.

The AMA Motorcyclist of the Year award recognizes the person or persons who had the most profound impact within the motorcycling community in the previous 12 months. It is awarded annually by the AMA Board of Directors.

“Wayne Rainey and his partners and employees at MotoAmerica demonstrated in 2015 that they had the knowledge, fortitude and collective wisdom to not only restore professional road racing in America to greatness, but to reinvigorate an industry and fan base that had been languishing for years,” said AMA President and CEO Rob Dingman. Dingman continued, “Where others failed, Wayne is succeeding, and his efforts transcend the sport itself in many ways.

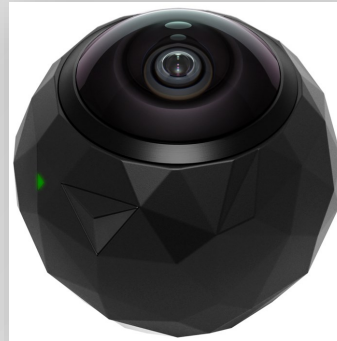
In 2015, MotoAmerica operated the first season of its professional road racing series, sanctioned by the AMA and FIM North America. The MotoAmerica series, the new home of the AMA Superbike Championship, built a strong platform and set professional road racing in America on a new path for success.

“One season alone does not make a successful race series,” Dingman said. “But guided by Wayne’s ideals of fairness and integrity, and his overarching goal of preparing U.S. riders to challenge for world titles, MotoAmerica is clearly on a path toward long-term success.”

BRG Sports/360fly Develop Helmet Featuring 360-Degree Video

BRG Sports and 360-degree camera innovators, 360fly, have announced a formal partnership to develop a line of advanced helmets, featuring 360fly’s stitchless, single-lens 360-degree video capture technology.

Collaborative efforts are already underway on a line of co-branded, 360fly-integrated helmets across several of BRG Sports’ core brands and sport categories. The end result will be first-of-their-kind helmets that feature fully integrated 4K 360-degree video capable of capturing, editing and sharing content via the 360fly mobile app. Plans are to unveil a full line of working prototypes in early January at the 2016 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.



“Action cameras have become standard hardware for riders of all types, and the integration of 360-degree camera within helmets makes perfect sense and creates significant efficiencies and economies for these action-minded consumers,” said Peter Adderton, 360fly CEO.

“Having been at the forefront of helmet innovation and technology for decades, BRG Sports was the ideal partner for us, and we’re extremely proud to be associated with such a respected family of brands”.

No longer will consumers be forced to mount action cameras to helmets utilizing external mounting accessories, or wait until they are at their PCs to download, edit and share footage. Instead, users will simply activate the helmet’s integrated single-lens 360-degree camera to capture footage, and use 360fly’s proprietary mobile app to instantly edit and share the immersive high-definition 360-degree footage they capture, whether carving through snow, tearing up the dirt, or cruising the open road.

While the introduction of integrated video is certainly a game-changer, it’s merely the first step toward the development of “smart” helmets, characterized by a variety of intuitive digital features. 360fly’s immersive single-lens camera technology enables the development of a variety of intuitive capabilities driven by motion-sensor, GPS and “machine learning” technologies. Development of these additional features will be an ongoing process; however, plans are to demonstrate specific examples at CES.

(Continued on page 8)

Oil Spots, Continued...

“Because our lens is seeing virtually everything in all directions, it allows us to develop and build in additional features that allow the helmet to literally communicate, delivering valuable information regarding the surrounding environment, navigation and other types of data relevant to the rider,” said Adderton. “Ultimately, the helmets will be much like today’s mobile devices, allowing users to enjoy incremental benefits and features through software updates.”

MIC SURVEY SEES NUMBER OF FEMALE MOTORCYCLE OWNERS ON THE RISE



Riding among females has increased twofold since the late ‘90s. Motorcycle ownership by women has doubled during the past decade.

Surprise, guys! Women like motorcycling too, and the interest in this pastime among females has increased twofold since the late ‘90s. According to the latest owner survey conducted by the **Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC)**, female motorcycle ownership is at its highest ever. Women owned 14 percent of all motorcycles in the US in 2014, up from only 8 percent in 1998. That means for every seven motorcycle owners out there, one of them is female.

The percentages are higher among younger generations, with ladies accounting for 17 percent of Gen X (born between 1960 and 1981) and 17.6 percent of Millennial owners (born between 1982 and 2004). Female Baby Boomers (born before 1960) only make up 9

percent of their generation’s riders. With that in mind, the median age for female motorcyclists is nine years younger than their male counterparts, at age 39 vs. age 48.

What are they buying? Cruisers are the top choice for women, attracting 34 percent of female riders. Scooters came in a close second at 33 percent, and sportbikes a mere 10 percent. When asked about their purchasing choice, women rated “fuel economy” and “test rides” as the largest influence on their bike of choice.

“It’s encouraging that we’re seeing more women among the riders who are entering the sport,” said Sarah Schilke, national marketing manager of BMW Motorrad USA and chair of PowerLily, an organization of female motorcycle industry professionals. “Motorcycling is for anyone and that’s being recognized by younger generations and non-traditional customer segments.”

The 48,000 women who answered the survey listed their top three reasons for owning a motorcycle as “fun and recreation,” “sense of freedom,” and “enjoy outdoors/nature.” Guys who ride should be no stranger to the first reason. Interestingly enough, according to the survey, female riders are about 50 percent more likely to take a riding course than males, in some cases making up 30 percent of motorcycle safety course attendance.



So, what does this all mean? More women are riding than ever before, but are still a minority among consumers. But with more bike manufacturers taking the needs of women riders into account, it’s safe to bet the number of ladies on two wheels will continue to rise. And that’s a good thing!





New Top Cats You Should Know!

A warm WELCOME to our newest Members!
We are looking forward to riding with you and getting to know you better in 2016!

Richard and Diana Lanute

Rich was born in Chicago and attended St. Rita High School, and Illinois Institute of Technology where he obtained a degree in mechanical engineering. Diana was born in Laurium, Michigan and raised in Dearborn, Michigan. She attended high school at a private boarding academy prior to college at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Diana and Rich have four children, one son and three daughters. They celebrated 44 years of marriage on November 20th. Rich's career path has relocated them to Jackson, Tennessee; Charlotte, North Carolina; Orlando, Florida; and Madison, Virginia; interesting places, but they are glad to be back in the Chicago area.

Rich has always been interested in two-wheeled modes of transportation, beginning with bicycles, which led to motorcycles. He enjoyed not only riding them but taking them apart and putting them back together again. His interest with motorcycles began with dirt bike racing and his first street bike was an H-D Sportster that was purchased new in 1972. Over the ensuing years he has owned several BMWs, a few Hondas, a Ducati, a lot of Husqvarnas and Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Rich and Diana chose to join Top Cats Motorcycle Club for the joy of riding with like-minded souls and they look forward to making good friendships in 2016!

Tina Schiffmeyer



Tina was originally a California girl, who went south to attend the University of Georgia, Atlanta. It was there that she earned her degree in Business. An athlete at heart, she spent free time playing tennis and developing her equestrian passions. Cars were also her love and this was one of the connections that she had with her husband, Karl "Fritz" Schiffmeyer. They owned and developed a very successful business, *Schiffmeyer Plastics*, which allowed them to pursue these interests and many others. Karl owned a number of bikes and Tina enjoyed riding them with Karl, but on his passing five years ago, she began to ride herself.

Tina presently lives in Barrington and winters in Florida, and her horses travel with her at all times. Tina also has birds, dogs, and cats. Her cars, houses and business ventures keep her constantly busy, but she still finds time to address her passion as a motorcyclist. Look for her on a new Streetglide this summer as she rides with the Top Cats and develops the friendships and camaraderie that brought her to the club!

(Continued on page 10)



New Members, Cont...



Joe Sardon

Originally from Illinois, Joe spent some time in Arizona and graduated from North Canyon High School. He then returned to Illinois and attended College of

Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois. His interests have varied over the years and he has been able to pursue many interests.

He met his wife through his cousin and they married on March 16th, 2004. They now have two boys and they spend a great deal of time with extended family in the area. Joe feels that family is extremely important for raising strong children.

When asked about his riding history, Joe said, "I have had a passion for riding for a while and my wife finally was open to the idea of letting me get a bike a few years ago. So I jumped on the opportunity. My good friend Steve used to ride and once I got a bike he decided to get one again because he knew he would have someone to ride with. I really enjoy going for rides." Joe joined Top Cats after hearing about the club from Roxray Adonis. "I liked the fact that the club is so safe and seem to really enjoy the ride. I'm looking forward to riding as a group and experiencing more stuff. It's always more fun riding with friends."

Watch for more stories on our other new members in February!
Again, Welcome to you all!



Second Call.... Sturgis 2016!!!

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.



This year is the 76th Anniversary of the legendary Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and, again, one of the most exciting Top Cats' group rides of the year.

The increasing interest of our members in this iconic rally, combined with special hotel rates 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



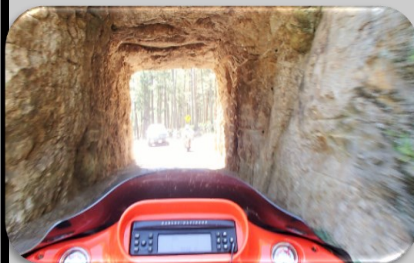
best, long – distance Top Cats' ride to the Black Hills yet....

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.



Sturgis 2016....

By Traveler



As this edition goes to publication, we are close to 30 days away from our cut - off date of 1 February 2016 for making 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 directly 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 before the cut-off but you can't re-negotiate our contract room rates after the cut-off dates.

For the next Black Hills Bike Week we have negotiated our annual contracts with the following hotels.



Here's the info for hotel reservations.

Tue, 2 August 2016

City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN.

Rates: \$77.00 / night

Phone: (507) 345-1234, Identify yourself as a Top Cat for special rates.

Cut-off Date: 2 July 2016

Note: Only 10 rooms blocked

Wed, 3 August 2016

River Lodge, Pierre, SD.

Rates: Single \$62.76, 2 beds \$69.00

Phone: Ron, Teresa, or Katherine
(605) 224-4140

Identify yourself as a Top Cat for special rates.

Cut-Off Date: 1 July 2016

Thur, 4 August – (?) 2016

Hotel Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD.

Rates: Contracted @ Thurs: \$159, Fri: \$189. Sat forward: \$204 / night

Phone: Jessica Pulscher, 800-888-ALEX (2539) and Identify yourself as a Top Cat for special rates.

Cut-Off Date: 1 Feb 2016

Note: Cancellation within 44 days prior will result in a one night's rooms charge

Please contact Wayne or Bard when you make your reservations, so that departure times and other details can be finalized.

Wayne; wkirkpa177@aol.com, Cell: (847) 915-8428,

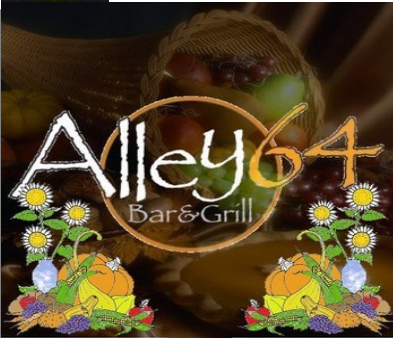
Bard; bard.boand@att.net, Cell: (847) 721-7470, ,

Remember ~ Life is like one tank of gas....it eventually runs out and it's up to us to decide how to use it. We can burn fuel idling or we can ride through life with a wide – open throttle...





ROAR



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1ST, 2015

Alley 64
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our President,
Mike Bradbury

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

President: Mike Bradbury

- ◆ Mike welcomed the members by highlighting the fact that we are celebrating the last meeting of the 20th Anniversary Year! Quite a milestone for ANY club and a milestone that is a source of pride for all TOP CATS!
- ◆ Meeting Jokes were a great way to start again... all of them were minimally funny... but excellent because they were shared with friends.
- ◆ There was a welcome to the new members and they received their new member packet.



Activities: Bob Stevenson and Gene Rigsby

- ◆ Gene reviewed the future month's activities into February. There are many open dates for winter activities. The members were asked to notify Bob Stevenson and Gene Rigsby with ideas.
- ◆ Activity recommendations for off season were discussed and a number of events were added to the calendar. All of the event information can be found on the website.

Vice President: Ric Case

Safety

- ◆ The GRASS schedule was reviewed for the club by Ric Case.

Kaution Korner

- ◆ The Kaution Korner is a great way to spend time reflecting on and evaluating your safety habits. The road captains use this forum to identify the things that they feel are important in being able to lead a safe and enjoyable ride. Please take time to read the articles and be prepared to help the road captains by being prepared!

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ TC traditions were reviewed by Wayne Kirkpatrick. He talked about the history of the GRASS class and the ride that led to it's inception. The idea was born and developed over many years and the importance of it to the safety of the entire club were highlighted.
- ◆ Out of this class, grew the positions of Ride Captain and the examples and leadership from these people that our club has come to know.
- ◆ Wayne highlighted the great traditions of the club and the reasons that this club has remained strong for 20 years!

ROAR Newsletter: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ◆ The ROAR is out to the members along with a Memory insert for the Anniversary year. Thanks to all who sent a memory.
- ◆ Anyone interested in helping with the publication should see Mary for details.

(Continued on page 13)



General Meeting,, Continued

Charity: Noelle Rigsby

- ◆ A N.I.S.R.A. Fashion Show follow-up was given by Noelle. She stated that in the future it would be good to designate an attendee to positively describe event to the rest of the members. This event is a wonderful way to support our club's charity and to understand the impact that our support can have for the N.I.S.R.A. recipients.
- ◆ The Ride For Dreams 2015 donation for this year will be \$3,000 from our club.
- ◆ A membership registration request was made by Noelle for the June 12th, 2016 event. It will be a co-charity event benefitting both N.I.S.R.A. and The Valley of the Kings.
- ◆ The event will be named, ***"Ride for Dreams to the Valley of the Kings"***.
- ◆ The members were asked to invite guests now and get the date out to the public!
- ◆ The NEXT CHARITY MEETING is Monday, December 14th.
- ◆ Lyn Canger finished the Thank you notes for the 2015 Charity event. MANY THANKS to LYN!!!

Nominations and Elections: Mike Bradbury and Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Nominations were opened for the following positions:
- ◆ 2 Director Positions.
- ◆ Gene nominated Rox for one of the Director positions. He accepted and ran unopposed. A courtesy vote was done and all members supported the placement of Roxray Adonis as a board member. Thank you and Congratulations, Rox!
- ◆ One more director position still remains open.
- ◆ The Secretary position remained unfilled for the next term. Mary Kirkpatrick agreed to remain as interim secretary.
- ◆ 50 / 50 Raffle was organized by the Sergeant at Arms, Jim Purcell *and was won by Ric Casel*

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 by Mike Bradbury, President to Top Cats Illinois, and cake was served for the December Birthday.

Meeting Adjourned at 9pm by Mike Bradbury, President, Top Cats Illiniois

Be Sure to Check out the new

Top Cats.org

Website...

It is a beautiful thing!





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 8TH, 2014

Alley 64

2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

Present: Mike Bradbury, Ric Case, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Mary Kirkpatrick, Gene Rigsby, and Emil Kornecki, Rox Adonis

President: Mike Bradbury

- ♦ The Top Cats Club for 2016 is looking very productive. New members, who are very excited about riding, will add to the energy and productivity of the club.
- ♦ There are still open positions for 2016. Treasurer and Secretary are both open positions. We also have a director opening as well.
- ♦ Treasury is being attended to by Mike Bradbury at this time, as Greg has stepped down. Mike brought up treasury issues.
- ⇒ Greg handed over the paperwork for Mike and he will give a more detailed report after reviewing the files.
- ⇒ \$327 was approved by the board to be paid as reimbursement for the new pins to Wayne Kirkpatrick.
- ⇒ Wayne will also be reimbursed \$254 for new patches approved at the last meeting, upon receipt of the invoice.
- ♦ Mike expressed that he is grateful for the guidance that he has received by Wayne and asked him to be ready for the special projects he is developing for the New Year.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ♦ Wayne would like to recommend a special Christmas Blast that will reflect the feelings of gratitude for the club that Mike expressed tonight. Gene will take care of this and send it out.
- ♦ A request has been made to have access to the Roster. Discussion was had by the board on the propriety of allowing this information to be made easily available. The past policy has been not to do this out of respect for each member. Members may contact individuals and ask them directly.

Vice President: Ric Case

- ♦ Ric discussed the updates to the GRASS class presentation as well as the information that will be discussed during the Road Captain meeting in January.

Activities: Gene Rigsby

- Gene reviewed the activities that are planned for the next few months. Discussion was had on other options to develop through the winter months. Movie nights, a bowling night, and an adventure ride to the AMA museum in April were all discussed.
- When an activity needs to be 'blasted', send the information to Bob Stevenson and copy Gene Rigsby. How many times for a blast is enough? The board decided that at least 3 times before an activity is acceptable. 1 month, 1 week, 1 day.
- ♦ Gene also asked for a budget for the awards banquet coming up in February. The board approved \$800 with a motion from Mike, a second from Wayne and a unanimous vote by all members.

(Continued on page 15)



Board Meeting, Continued

- Gene also asked for \$20 to order some new dangles. All approved this request.
- ♦ A few of the new members are thinking of going to Florida in March.

ROAR/Secretary: Mary Kirkpatrick

The final ROAR for 2015 included Anniversary Memories from the members. All is good at this point in time with the ROAR, but a separate publisher would assist with getting the information to the members more accurately.

Membership: Emil Kornecki

- New Member Package Presentation are going well. Mike passed the new patches and pins to Emil for these packages. Emil stated that he already has the new flags, although there are not many left. He will check the exact number and send an update to the board.
- Mike directed the board that all new members will receive their packets at the meeting following their approval by the board.

Emil also looked through the contents of the packet and asked that Mike update the welcome letter from the President.

Website: Roxray Adonis /Jeff Tietz

- Website transition was discussed with Roxray to identify the new procedures that will be implemented under his direction.
- Website follow up activities include getting Roxray to become familiar with the procedure of updating, moving, and creating rotation of the information as needed during the year.
- The archives for this year need to be updated. January was the last ROAR that was published on the Website. Also, the pictures were only uploaded until June.

The Barrington Library link was also discussed and it is believed that the last two years have not been updated.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 by Mike Bradbury,
ending the last meeting of 2015, the 20th Anniversary year of Top Cats.



January Celebrations!

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

1st - Wayne Kirkpatrick
2nd - Noelle Rigby
10th - Joe Sadlon
24th - Tina Schiffmeyer
25th - Jeff Tietz





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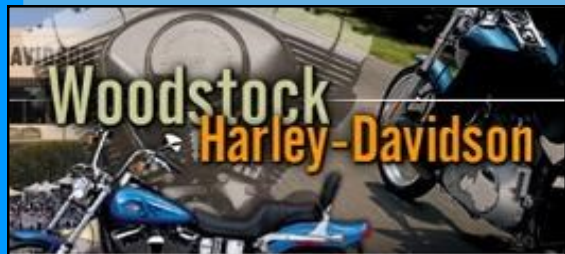
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All suppliers and vendors who support the Top Cats by providing discounts to Top Cats members will be listed in ROAR.

GRASS Classes are held at the Keller -Williams Offices!
Thanks, Greg for supporting our Top Cat's Safety Class!



Greg Smith

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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, January 5th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, January 12th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Saturday, January 23rd	Shoot-out	On Target	Crystal Lake	8:00 am	Case
Sunday, January 31st	GRASS and RC Meeting	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:00 am	Case
Tuesday, February 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Saturday, February 6th	Annual Banquet	MILLROSE	South Barrington	6:00 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, February 9th	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.



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



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

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