



# ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



### Greetings, Top Cats Brothers and Sisters!

Shiver me timbers or at least me toes... winter has finally caught up with us as

more traditional Midwestern colder weather has arrived. With an odd 45 degree day, there's always an excuse to "blow out the carbon" and take a spin on the bike but I'll keep my "Blaze" under wraps for now because I am too lazy to clean it up again before the riding season can start.

What a great segue to talk about the upcoming riding season and our events in general. Your Activities Committee, led by Gene Rigsby, is hard at work to find ways for us to spend interesting time together and ride in 2015. The Committee has seen a growth of interest and commitment from the members. Members are stepping up and joining the committee and there has been strong support for traditional activities as well as development of ideas for new ones. Way to go Top Cats!

Events are starting to grow for 2015 but more rides especially are needed. I challenge all existing Road Captains and Senior Road Captains to lead at least one ride in 2015. I also expect all Road Captains to find and mentor members with interest in leading a ride and becoming a Road Captain. If we achieve this objective, we will have 18 rides to do in 2015! Man I'd just hate to do so much riding!

Thinking of imminent events, the Awards Banquet is coming on February 7<sup>th</sup>. See you there for a fun night reminiscing about the good times roaring together as Top Cats in 2014.

Most of our Road Captains met on January 18<sup>th</sup> for our annual meeting and G.R.A.S.S. class. We performed a constructive review of the Group Riding and Safety Seminar and with good suggestions to update the material and presentation formats. It was exciting to see new faces there. Welcome to two new Road Captain candidates, Don DeLardo and Bob Stevenson!

The Charity Ride Committee, led by Noelle Rigsby, is on the ball working hard to create a memorable event to benefit and support our charity, the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association. All Top Cat members should support our ride by at least attending on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Woodstock Harley Davidson. There is no excuse to miss this with such notice, so come and



of Illinois and... N.I.S.R.A.

Jeff Tietz, Director – Website, with help from Rich Flynn our webmaster, is working hard to see the club website transition to a better one with a new service provider and improved formats and presentation. This is not a simple or easy task but with their efforts, I believe we all will be impressed by the new site. I cannot wait to see the finished product and am looking forward to its new look and improved functionality.

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February, 2015

Volume 15, Issue 2

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### Upcoming Events

#### FEBRUARY

- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 7 AWARDS BANQUET
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 22ND AND 28TH CCW CLASS

#### MARCH

- 1 CCW Range
- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 14 FEED MY STARVING CHILD

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

### Free Time Now...and Fun time Later...

By: Ric (No K, ok?) 'Clutch' Case



It is February. After the Super Bowl is over, you might have a little time on your hands. Think about the days that are coming when the Hockey and Basketball all-star games are over. Your thoughts begin to wander and you now find yourself looking forward to that first warm day so you can riding that beautiful motorcycle of yours.

Will you be ready? Will you have everything set to go? Now might be the perfect time to inspect your riding gear to make sure you are completely ready. Here are some tips to begin that process and get you started. Be wary, though, because once you start... One thing can lead to another! Have a budget in mind and prioritize your list.

Inspect your helmet (from last month's KK) to see the manufactures' production date. If it exceeds five years old, then you might consider replacing it.

Check your leathers. Give them a good coat of leather dressing. Check your gloves for cracks, stitching to see if it is coming apart. If yes, fix or replace.



Check your footwear. Are the soles thin? Are they cracking? If yes, again, fix or replace.

Do you have any heated gear? Check the connections.

Have you added heated gear? Make sure your electrical system will have enough capacity to handle it.



So, after you have your list 'needs', start shopping now while there is some time. Also, there are lots of good

deals this time of year so if any of the above items need replacing it's a good time to negotiate and make purchases. If you do this now, you may be able to check more off of your list than if you wait for bike season when prices are not as flexible...

Act now... So when that first warm day arrives, you will be ready!

Remember the Safety Motto,  
"It does not hurt to ride safe."

Your Safety Committee Officer,  
Ric (no K ok) "Clutch" Case



## VP's Vision

By: Ric 'Clutch' Case



It is February and a great time to think about registering for an advanced/skilled/experienced rider class. As you begin to think about what class you want to enroll in, there are a few things to consider.

First let's review the required clothing, certifications, and materials that are a part of all classes.

- ✦ A Helmet – minimum ½ helmet.
- ✦ Eye protection (either glasses or a windscreen that is higher than your eyes in a normal seated position),
- ✦ Full fingered gloves,
- ✦ Long sleeves or a jacket,
- ✦ Long sturdy pants,
- ✦ Sturdy over the ankle footwear.
- ✦ You must possess a valid drivers license with an "M" Motorcycle class endorsement,
- ✦ Current motorcycle registration,
- ✦ Valid and verifiable insurance coverage

And Finally....

- ✦ Your motorcycle must pass a safety inspection that includes but is not limited to: adequate tire tread with proper tire inflation, all lights functioning, working horn, and adequate brakes pads.

Here are some of the local choices that you can investigate as you work on improving your skills:

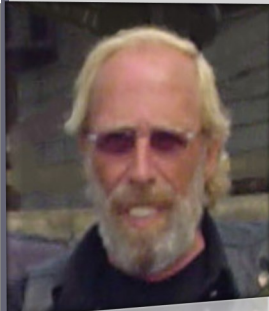
- ◇ T. O. P. S. Offered by David Struwing [630 677-2433](http://630.677.2433) [david@topsmotorcycle.com](mailto:david@topsmotorcycle.com).
- ◇ Harley-Davidson Riding Academy's Skilled Rider Class usually offered on the Saturday before Easter and the Saturday before Mothers' Day, check with your favorite H-D dealership.
- ◇ State local regional Motorcycle Safety Programs (NIU and Cook County regions) again usually offered on the Saturday before Easter and the Saturday before mothers' day.

Check their web pages for locations and availability and also to register.

These classes offer you an excellent opportunity to re-establish, brush-up, and practice your riding skills and possibly break any bad habits you may have.. It's a great way to make sure that you and your fellow Top Cats will have a safe riding season.







In the backyard of a home in Barrington, in the summer of 1994, a small group of enthusiastic riders gathered at the request of Carl "Virgo" Bender and gave genesis to an organization established as Top Cats – Illinois.

Subsequently incorporated in 1995 as a 501 (c) (7) Top Cats became an official club of motorcycle enthusiasts.



Over the last 20 years, the Club has traveled through evolutions of growth, departing from its original composition of business owners who were motorcycle enthusiasts, through business owners and executives, to motorcycle enthusiasts

who are also business enthusiasts and back to a group of business owners and executives who enjoy the adventure of motorcycling... but never as a motorcycle club. Our distinction lies in the values we embrace; safety, networking, camaraderie, conservatism, and tradition.

Unlike other MC organizations, our "Signature" is safety first and innovative and adventurous events as well as active support of community charities. We embrace "Old School" biker traditions that are consistent with our philosophy and reputation such as:

- Officer and Director distinct recognition
- Senior officer position in two – spot for group riding
- Black bandanna on our handlebars in memory of our fallen
- Club requirements for members to remain in



## Top Cats' Two Decades of Enthusiasm

By Traveler

### "Good Standing"

- Leaving no member behind—ever

Our legacy is a proud one, unequalled by any other local MC organization. Every one of our nearly 1,000 past and current members have contributed in some way to the many accomplishments of our Club such as:

- IRS – approved, Illinois State – approved, Incorporated organization
- The first area group riding and safety seminar emulated by many other clubs
- The first incremental road captain training program
- The only local club with a 20 year history of a guaranteed Sturgis Bike Week Ride
- A history of over 400 Club events
- A proud record of charity support
- A safe – riding program adopted by clubs nationwide
- A distinguished, no nonsense, safety record
- Member recognition at our annual awards banquet
- An incredible monthly newsletter
- The growth of Top Cats over the years

As we celebrate our 20th year, we are excited to mark two decades of accomplishments by:



- Replacing our black and white Club patch, logo, pins, rockers, and tabs with all black and gold
- Issuing a 20th Anniversary Top Cats patch and

pin to all members

- Commemorating our 20th year during our annual charity ride.

Celebrate with us as Top Cats and be proud of your Club's accomplishments. We got where we are only because of the dedication and contributions of each of our valued members.





## Save The Dates and Book Your Rooms NOW!

**The Great River Road Ride** is a multi-day ride held on July 3 – 5<sup>th</sup>. This ride will travel on one of America's great scenic byways to Trempealeau Wisconsin. We will lodge at Trempealeau and explore the area known as the Coulee Region on Independence Day. The Great River Road and the Coulee Region have amazing motorcycle friendly roads with beautiful views and interesting topography including ridges, bluffs and valleys and the Mississippi River. Our route home takes the "Amish Highway" through Wisconsin all with roads motorcyclists would typically enjoy riding.

So come all you "flatlanders", book your rooms now from these choices, and R.S.V.P. and come ride some of the best roads in a 4 state area. All bookings and R.S.V.P.'s must be completed by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**The Bluff Inn**, (608) 534-6615

**Inn on The River**, (608) 534-7784

Ask for Mike's Top Cats Bookings

See you there!

R.S.V.P.'s to Mike Bradbury at

[bradbundy@comcast.net](mailto:bradbundy@comcast.net) or (847) 702-6613.



**Bike Time!** This is a multi-day ride held on July 17-19<sup>th</sup>. Any time called "Bike Time" will be a good time! This ride will be going to a local rally held in Muskegon, MI called "Bike Time". Last year this rally had 75,000 motorcycles but this year more is expected! The rally has been moved to a local race track with 900,000 square feet of pavement in expectations of a greater turnout. All the usual rally activities will be there including, vendors, motorcycle stunt teams and riders, food, motorcycle accessories, show bikes, a bike building contest all with biking in and around Muskegon which is within shouting distance of Lake Michigan. All bookings and R.S.V.P.'s must be completed by May 31<sup>st</sup>. So book your rooms now under "Top Cats" at Best Western, Grand Rapids, (844) 544-4167.

Let's "ROAR" and ride!

R.S.V.P.'s to Mike Bradbury at

[bradbundy@comcast.net](mailto:bradbundy@comcast.net) or (847) 702-6613.

### President's Perspective Continued....

for myself and your 2015 Directors and Officers, we are excited to see the club enjoy ourselves, have fun together and do well. Our club, Top Cats of Illinois is what we make of it and so far, we are making it look like 2015 will be a fun and enjoyable year.

Stay Warm,

Michael "Motorcycle" Bradbury

This is an exciting time in our club. I see members coming forth, getting more involved and expressing your opinions. Speaking





## Oil Spots

By Traveler

### Bultaco Introduces New Electric Moto-Bike

For Bultaco, innovation is not only to reach new goals of technology but also to offer new experiences. The Brinco is groundbreaking and completely new. It is the result of the desire to translate the Bultaco spirit into a new era with a new language, but always faithful to the classical values of the brand: passion, innovation, competition.



more, as a starting point for building the future. The new Bultaco Brinco represents all the legendary values of the brand, adapting to the new demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to talk to all the generations of "Bultaquistas". For them, the engineers of Bultaco return to surprise the world with a product that opens a new market niche.

With the new Bultaco Brinco, a new and groundbreaking concept has been created: the Moto-Bike – a surprising combination of linking the adrenaline that provides 100% electric propulsion, controlled directly by the wrist, and the physical experience of independent pedaling.

Thanks to its impressive torque of 60Nm, a maximum speed of more than 60Km/h, a weight of just 33Kg and range of up to 100Km, Brinco offers pure fun.

The Brinco allows you to enjoy any environment; in the countryside, with features that will surprise even the sportiest of users, and in the city, thanks to a

Unique combination of agility, connectivity and exclusivity, it's perfect for getting around the city.



### AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days - July 10-12, 2015

The American Motorcyclist Association has announced that this year's premier celebration of vintage motorcycling, AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days, will be July 10-12, 2015, at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio.

A fundraiser for the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame, AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days features classic motorcycles of all makes and styles, and honors the riders who made them famous.



Activities include the AMA Vintage Grand Championship, which features road racing, motocross, hare scrambles, trials and dirt-track racing. Another top attraction is North America's largest motorcycle swap meet with parts, bikes and memorabilia from all eras. Bike shows bring out examples of some of history's most beloved motorcycles. Stunt shows, such as the American Motor Drome Wall of Death, and demo rides of current production bikes keep attendees entertained, while seminars on numerous topics by noted motorcycling experts keep them informed.

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## **Oil Spots, Continued...**

AMA members who buy tickets directly from the AMA before May 29 receive an exclusive price discount. AMA members can call (800) 262-5646 to purchase a weekend pass for \$45, a \$5 savings off the regular advance rate, and a one-day pass for \$25 for Friday or Saturday and \$20 for Sunday, a \$5 savings off the regular advance rate.

AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days is a family-friendly event. Children 12 and under get in free with paying, supervising adults.

All proceeds from AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days benefit the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame.

## **Harley recalls** **2012 DynaSoftail models**

Harley-Davidson is recalling just over 19,000 Dyna and Softail motorcycles from the 2012 model year because the threads for the brake line banjo bolt in the front brake master cylinder may corrode. If the threads corrode, a sudden loss of brake fluid could result, causing a loss of the front brakes.



Models affected are the 2012 FXST103, FLSTC, FLSTC103, FLSTF, FLSTF103, FXDL, FXDWG, FXDWG103,

FXDC, FXDB, FLSTN, FLSTN103, FLSTC103 Shrine, FLSTFB, FLSTFB103, FXS, FXS103, FLS, FLS103, FLD, FLD103, and FXDF and FXDF103 motorcycles manufactured from Aug. 22, 2011, through Feb. 24, 2012, for the United States and some world markets. This totals 19,015.

**The NHTSA recall number is 14V794000.**

Dealers will flush and inspect the front brake master cylinder and, if necessary, replace the master cylinder. The recall began Jan. 14.

"We have voluntarily declared this a defect related to motor vehicle safety (Campaign 0163 for the Softail model and Dyna model motorcycles and 0164 for the FXDF/FXDF103 model motorcycles) to allow us to formally recall all affected motorcycles.

Two recalls are needed to cover all affected models because of the differences in the kit component content required for the two populations," the Motor Co. informed dealers.

"Based on warranty information, the prediction for motorcycles requiring master cylinder replacements is extremely low,"

Dealers are permitted to sell but must not deliver any of the affected motorcycles until the remedy is complete, the OEM added.

## **New laws:** **TX mandates passenger footrests,** **IN governs mopeds and more**

A new year means new regulations, particularly at the state level. The most notable of the regulations taking effect on Jan. 1 are from Texas, Indiana, Alaska, Illinois, Michigan, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Utah.

**TEXAS** - House Bill 3838, otherwise known as Malorie's Law, went into effect Jan. 1, requiring motorcycles that are designed for carrying more than one person to be equipped with passenger footrests and handholds. Texas already prohibits passengers on motorcycles that are not designed to carry more than one person.

**INDIANA** - Motorized cycles and mopeds must now be registered under one of two classes: over 50cc and 50cc and under. Operators of both types of vehicles must show proof of ownership and wear helmets if they are under 18 years of age. Operators of over-50cc vehicles are required to carry liability insurance and must have a valid driver's license with motorcycle endorsement. Riders of 50cc-and-under vehicles must be 15 years of age or older and have a valid Indiana state ID card with a motor driven cycle Class B endorsement, learner's permit or driver's license.

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## Oil Spots, Continued...

**ALASKA** – Established new regulations for service contracts, including new provider requirements, and exempted them from regulation as insurance.

**ILLINOIS** – Amended the definition of motorcycle to include autocycle, defined as a three-wheeled motor vehicle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the operator to straddle it. Operation of an autocycle requires a Class D driver's license.

**MICHIGAN** – The state closed a loophole that enabled motorcyclists to buy a temporary riding permit multiple times (for example, each riding season) without taking the safety or skills tests required for full endorsement. Applicants are now limited to two permits within a 10-year period. In a separate action, the state lowered the blood alcohol limit to 0.08 for ATV, snowmobile and watercraft operators from a previous 0.10 BAC.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE** – Allows non-residents to apply for temporary non-resident OHV registrations for 10 consecutive day periods during May through October.

**PENNSYLVANIA** – State's Department of Transportation now can authorize third parties to administer the skills test portion of motor vehicle licensing exams.

**UTAH** – Increased the tax credit for the original purchase of a new qualifying electric vehicle registered in the state to be either \$1,500 or 35 percent of purchase price.

For 2015 state laws governing street and off-road riding, visit AMA's state laws at: <http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com/rights/State-Laws.aspx>

## NHTSA: Motorcycle injury, fatality

Motorcycle fatalities dropped 6.4 percent in 2013, according to a report issued in mid-December by NHTSA.

"This was the first decrease in motorcyclist fatalities since 2009 [and] the only other decrease since 1997," NHTSA reported.



Thank the aging rider population: more than half of the decline was attributed to a drop in older rider fatalities. There were 190 fewer fatalities in the 50-to-69-year age group in 2013 than there were in 2012, NHTSA noted.

According to NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, there were 4,668 motorcycle fatalities in 2013 vs. 4,986 in 2012 and 4,630 fatalities in 2011. The group of states without universal helmet laws reported 11 times as many unhelmeted motorcyclist fatalities than states with such laws: 1,704 vs. 150, respectively, the agency noted.

Motorcycle-related deaths accounted for 14.3 percent of all traffic deaths in 2013, down from 14.8 percent in 2012. But it's still higher than it was back in 2003, when motorcycle deaths accounted for 9 percent of all traffic fatalities.

Injury rates also dropped. NHTSA reported 88,000 motorcycle rider injuries in 2013, down 5,000 or 5.4 percent from 2012 when it rose to 93,000. There were 81,000 injuries reported in 2011.

Alcohol-impaired fatalities dropped as well. "Motorcycle riders showed the greatest decrease in the number of alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes from 2012 to 2013, dropping 8.3 percent or by 117 riders. This was both the greatest percentage drop and the greatest drop in actual alcohol-impaired drivers," NHTSA said.

## Indiegogo RainPal Electronic Wiper Device for Motorcycle Helmets

Isn't it frustrating not being able to see riding your motorcycle in the rain? Indiegogo has released Rain-



Pal - A life-saving electronic wiper device that fits onto existing motorcycle helmet visors in two seconds.

RainPal provides 140 degrees of rain cleared vision giving a better field of vision than in a car. RainPal's current design is the evolution of several earlier concept designs over the past year.

(Continued on pg 9)





## Oil Spots, Continued...

The final system takes around two seconds to install by merely sliding RainPal over an existing visor with a secondary fail-safe detachment system utilizing the use of clamps, suction cups, an inner fail-safe suction cup that is a unique attachment method.



viewing area and a large area of side view, enabling riders to see better. Being a vertical wipe there is no horizontal disorientation of the true horizon possible with a horizontal wipe.

The RainPal is easy to install, offers 140 degrees of vision, has a thin 1mm wiper that operates at variable speeds, has LED lighting for night installation, 60 minutes of battery life that is easy to recharge via USB, and is lightweight.

## Harley-Davidson and Sturgis Plan 75-Year Agreement

Harley-Davidson and the City of Sturgis, S.D., are setting their sights on the future – far into the future. In the spirit of this year's 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, the company and city officials are finalizing an agreement covering the next 75 years making Harley-



Davidson the official motorcycle of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

“Harley-Davidson riders have attended the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for decades. This new agreement will help fuel many more years of freedom, independence and rebellion for this iconic gath-

Indiegogo decided upon a vertical wipe of 140 degrees as opposed to an arc or half circular wipe enabling a greater frontal

viewing area and a large area of side view, enabling riders to see better. Being a vertical wipe there is no horizontal disorientation of the true horizon possible with a horizontal wipe.

ering,” said Matt Levatich, president and chief operating officer at Harley-Davidson. “Riding is a passion passed down through generations, so it’s important we celebrate the legacy and history of Harley-Davidson in Sturgis, while helping creating new memories.”

As part of the agreement, a permanent plaza will be built on Main Street in Sturgis that will include a stage for events, concerts and even weddings. The year-round location, which will be completed in time for this year’s 75th rally, will be the official Harley-Davidson destination for riders and fans alike.



“For decades, Harley-Davidson has been the motorcycle of choice for Sturgis Motorcycle Rally fans and a great partner



to the City of Sturgis,” said Sturgis Mayor Mark Carstensen. “Today it gives me great pleasure to solidify its importance by making it the official motorcycle of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.”

To ensure the new multi-purpose space builds on the legacy of the brand and is pure Harley-Davidson, the plaza will integrate bricks from the company’s Milwaukee headquarters, a building that once housed the company’s factory dating back more than 100 years.



## *A Valentine's Tale The Motorcycle Built for Two.*

*Noelle, Noelle, Give me  
your answer true...*

*By: Gene Rigsby*



With Valentine's Day right around the corner, I would like to talk about spending more riding time together with your significant other. Well maybe you feel you do, but I may not be referring to the same "riding together" as you have in mind...

The 2010 riding season provided new experiences for my wife (Noelle) and I, as I was fortunate enough to upgrade from the somewhat cramped motorcycle we had, to a roomier option. The new bike was one of the new experiences, sure. It made riding long distances much more tolerable. But with the new bike came an opportunity for Noelle to become a rider as well. Considering the fact that we had a "spare" bike, Noelle was very determined to obtain her license and start riding this bike. She worked very hard studying the rules of the road and when possible, we made our way out to the forest preserve parking lot for a little riding practice. She eventually signed up for a course and received her license. This was a very exciting day, considering all the new possibilities for Noelle. Well, Noelle now has the option to ride with me or... with me. At times I do miss her being right next to me on the road and the occasional tap on the shoulder when I missed my turn or poke in the ribs if I take a curve lower/faster then she liked. Mostly, I miss the very close one on one interaction and communication of sharing the ride experience so close together. But then, as she is riding near me, and I see her face glowing with accomplishment and a sense of freedom, I am very happy she made the leap. I must admit, though, that I take comfort in knowing another long ride or pending inclement weather trip will "push" her back over to my bike. On Valentine's Day, this was the experience that stood out the most. ....

You'll look sweet upon the seat of a motorcycle built for two....

And just as sweet on your own bike too...



## **American Red Cross Free APP for**

## **I-Phone and Android Smart Phones**

The American Red Cross has an excellent up to date APP for common medical emergencies. Many of us have gone through CPR and First Aid classes. Even at that, when an emergency strikes and anxiety levels goes through the roof, panic can set in and the mind goes blank. This is an easily accessible resource designed to be consulted when time is of the essence and stress levels are high. There are photos, graphics, and step by step instructions tailored to each type of emergency. It's available for Android and iOS at

[www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/first-aid-app](http://www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/first-aid-app).







***For Sale or Do you have?  
Buy, Sell, Trade...  
Top Cat's Deal***

## **1992 Harley Davidson XL Sportster.**

883cc. VERY clean and fast. 10,000 miles. Custom paint, engine upgrades, S&S Super E carburetor, windscreen, passenger seat and backrest. Good tires, major service performed. Ready to roll. \$4,200. Contact Traveler: [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com)



## **1985 Honda Rebel, CMX 250**

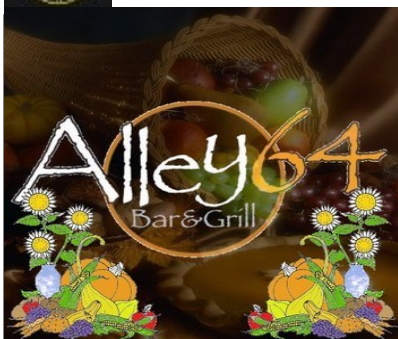
Meticulously maintained, 12,000 miles, recent major service, backrest, new battery. Low, easy – to – ride bike with 27" seat height. 50 mpg+. \$1,000. Contact Traveler: [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com)



## **2001 Suzuki Intruder VS 800 GL.**

Literally new. 1,800 miles, saddlebags, windscreen, backrest, good tires, recently serviced. Low seat height, good highway cruiser or starter bike. \$2,600. Contact Traveler: [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com)





## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 6, 2015

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



**Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM** for the first time, by Mike Bradbury, the new President of Top Cats.

The members were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no Guests tonight

### President's Report: Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Mike introduced the new board for 2015 and thanked them for their service to the club.
- ✦ There will be new patches and pins to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.
- ✦ Mike began a discussion identifying why members ride and why Top Cats is their club of choice. See the quotes used in this year's ROAR and read the comments made by those at the meeting.

### Past President's Comments: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ✦ After the summary of all of the member's thoughts on the quality of the club, Wayne began by thanking Mike for taking up the position of President and agreeing to lead this very valuable club into the future! All agreed.
- ✦ In the ROAR, there was a column entitled, "Guess Who?".... and Noelle Rigsby knew that the person described was Jeff Tietz... another interesting person to know!
- ✦ Wayne described the new patches that will be made available to the members at the next meeting.

### Vice President's Report: Ric Case

- ✦ Ric is looking forward to the new year. The participation of all members creates excitement and anticipation for what is to come.
- ✦ Ric is going to develop and coordinate safety classes so that our Road Captains will be current in the areas of Accident Scene Management and CPR.
- ✦ Anyone interested in becoming a Road Captain should plan on coming to the RC meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. The membership was encouraged to entertain the idea of becoming a leader in this area... YOU get to choose the destination! And we have much experience to use for support!

### Secretary's Report: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ✦ As always, the ROAR is looking for new articles. Ideas were passed around and the members were encouraged to become an active part in the club by writing on a topic that is of interest relating to motorcycling.
- ✦ The RCs will hopefully enjoy previewing their rides in the ROAR and hopefully riders will give their perspective on the ride experience after the ride is complete.

### Treasurer's Report: Greg Ludwig

Greg was unable to attend, but all things are presently in order.

### Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

Wayne previewed the Sturgis Ride and asked that anyone who is looking to attend Sturgis reserve their rooms now. We have time now to leverage more rooms if needed, but cannot do that in June. All rooms in the area will be filled.

⇒ (Continued on page 13)





## General Meeting,, Continued

- ★ Gene Rigsby reviewed the Tech Session that Woodstock Harley put on for our Club in December. He will keep copies of the information for anyone who would like to read up on maintaining their motorcycle.
- ★ There will be another movie day on Saturday, 10 January and we will be viewing *The Fastest Indian*. Lunch will also be provided by the club and the Purcell's Jimano's Pizza.
- ★ February 7<sup>th</sup> will be the Club's Awards Banquet. A ballot was passed around to identify member choices for the historical awards... and to come up with any unique awards that may celebrate our members and experiences from 2014.
- ★ The Club has an opportunity to develop a Conceal/Carry class. The prices that would be offered are very reasonable! Wayne gave the details and if you are interested, contact Wayne Kirkpatrick or Gene Rigsby.
- ★ Noelle asked if there was an interest in going to the Woodstock Theater for an afternoon with dinner. The membership thought it was a good idea and Noelle will report back with details.

## Safety / Charity: Ric Case

### Safety

- ★ GRASS
- ⇒ RC Meeting will be 18 January, 2015
- ⇒ GRASS meeting at Woodstock Harley on 8 February, 2015.
- ⇒ There will be 4 other opportunities this year to attend a GRASS class and complete your membership requirement.
- ★ Safety Tip/Kaution Korner – Mike Bradbury
- ⇒ Mike wanted it noted that he had his article in before Wayne this month. That never happens and it needed to be recognized and documented.
- ⇒ Helmets are the most important aspect of safety. Mike reviewed the safety statistics on helmet use and discussed the different styles of helmets available.
- ⇒ Read the entire article in the January ROAR.
- ⇒ Other comments on the topic included:
  - The fact that the AMA recently stated that 5 years is the limit on helmets.
  - Snell and DOT are the two names known in the safety arena, with Snell being the top rated.
  - Dropping a helmet can cause stress fractures and compromise the effectiveness of the helmet.
  - UV rays also can affect the effectiveness of the helmet.

### Charity

- ★ Ride: Noelle Rigsby
- ⇒ This is the CLUB'S event... and needs to be attended by all members!
- ⇒ Next meeting will be Thursday, 8 January, 2015 at the Purcell's home.
- ⇒ *The Big Cats Ride* and the *Ride for Dreams* will be working cooperatively to ensure the success of both rides.
- ⇒ Wayne explained the history of the Big Cats Ride. For more information ask Wayne or Stephan Levy.
- ★ The Willow Creek Bike Hard, Heart Soft Event was reviewed by Wayne Kirkpatrick. The event recognized the work that has been done by bikers in the community... including Top Cats. Seeing all of the local groups together in one place was inspirational and motivational.

## Products / Membership: Emil Kornecki

- ★ No new member candidates at this time.
  - ★ Products Update: Lisa Purcell and Mike Bradbury are working on the development of an on-line ordering process through a company that will have products with our logo available.
  - ★ There are Antigua shirts available through the Purcells
  - ★ Wayne can order nametags for those interested. You can pay through the 'square' that Lisa brings to the meetings and then Wayne will order them.
- Flags will also become available soon. More information coming!

( Continued on page 15—at the end of the board minutes)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### JANUARY 13TH , 2015

Alley 64

2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Walters

**Present:** Mike Bradbury, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Ric Case, Gene Rigsby , Mary Kirkpatrick  
Jeff Tietz, Emil Kornecki and Greg Ludwig

**President:** Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Call Meeting to Order at 7:34, by Mike Bradbury, President of Top Cats, Illinois.
- ✦ The Club Status, as Mike sees it now, is to have as many rides as possible on the calendar and to develop Road Captains within the club.
- ✦ Meeting Speakers. Mike is looking for ideas for speakers for our meetings to develop and maintain motorcycle knowledge within the membership.
- ✦ Philosophy for the Meetings: Board Members have been entrusted with the responsibility of developing the talents of the members and harnessing those talents for creating a strong club. To that end, each board member is encouraged to be sure that they bring ideas and make sure they are heard at the meetings.
- ✦ Mike would like to see each of the committee heads update the members at the general meeting. This would allow more of the details to be identified and the director responsibilities shared.
- ✦ Vice President: Ric Case
- ✦ Ric proposed that we add a table in the doorway to ensure that members sign in and also have the opportunity to buy the raffle tickets. The board members all agreed that it would be a good idea and Ric will talk to Jim Purcell, the club's *Sergeant at Arms*, to make sure that the formation is understood and set up for each meeting.
- ✦ Ric is also looking to develop the levels of recognition for the road captains by adding a platinum and marquis levels.
- ✦ The board discussed the history of the vendors used to purchase patches and pins in the past. The question was raised on how to keep track of the details of purchases and payments. Quicken books was identified as a way to maintain a vendor list to track who was used for purchases as well as other details.
- ✦ Ric also suggested an intermission during the meeting. The pros and cons were discussed. The President will make the call for each meeting and determine time for the break - if needed.

**Past President:** Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ✦ Wayne identified a concern that is developing around the of the new website. Communication between Jeff Tietz and Rich Flynn must be developed and strengthened so that clear progress can be made on the website and website integrity and security maintained.
- ✦ An invoice was received from iPower for \$239.00 for 2 years. It was unclear what the invoice covered and if we need to pay the full amount if we will be changing over to a new host/developer. The Mike will check with Jeff to ensure that we will be able to maintain the ownership of TopCats.org.
- ✦ The board discussed policy covering bereavement expenditures for the club. A motion was made that we make decisions on a case by case basis. A motion was made to reimburse Wayne for flowers sent to a Roxray Adonis, who lost his sister. She had acted as a mentor and main support for the majority of his life. The board approved this unanimously.

**Treasurer:** Greg Ludwig

- ✦ Procedures for disseminating the website and financial passwords need to be finalized so that there is a back-up access of this information.
- Greg suggested that an encrypted monthly statement be uploaded to the website. Passwords will be given to the board to access if needed. A motion was made by Mike to enact this process. The board agreed without any objections.

**Present totals are:** Charity Acct: \$4492.47    Main Acct: \$8194.09

(Continued on pg 19)





## Board Meeting, Continued

### Activities: Gene Rigsby

- ✦ Gene reviewed the activities for the next 2 months. Details are available on the Website Calendar.
- ✦ The Riding Season Schedule includes Sturgis and the deadline for the hotels is 30 January, 2015 for that trip.
- ✦ Kathie Bradbury has proposed that we do a 'Feed My Starving Children' event. The club would pack food products for needy families and then share a meal together to complete the event.
- ✦ Mike Bradbury suggested that we do a murder/mystery dinner at Pheasant Run on March 8<sup>th</sup>. He will send the information out when all details are finished.
- ✦ Gene Rigsby suggested that he bring a list of possible rides to the RC meeting on 18 January, and get events on the calendar. He would also like to begin to develop a committee for activities. He would like to have one person working on rides for the club and another person developing non-rides. The ideas were discussed and Gene will move forward with this project.

### Secretary: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ✦ Monthly celebrations were proposed to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. A motion was made to have a cake for each general meeting and recognize the member's special days. It was approved by the board.

### ROAR

- ✦ The ROAR has been energized by the excitement by members to submit writings to the publication each month. Ideas are developing and will be initiated as they become finalized.
- ✦ Emil Kornecki suggested that we use the ROAR or presentations at meetings to get to know the members and give them a chance to highlight businesses or other interests.
- ✦ Emil also suggested a business column that would highlight 'items for sale' or 'help me find' requests.. Mike will see what the members think and these ideas will be revisited by the board at a later time.

### Membership: Emil Kornecki

- There are no new member applications at this time.  
Mike reminded the board that we want to maintain a membership with strong character and ethics. This ensures the development of growth for the club and each of the individuals within the club. With these goals for membership, it makes it easy to maintain our focus on safety.

### Website: Jeff Tietz

- ✦ Jeff updated the board on the progress of the new website development company. There was a discussion on what would be the best way to move forward. Jeff will keep the board updated on the progress and work on arranging a meeting for the board with the developers.

### Safety: Ric Case

- ✦ The GRASS class will be updated this year and the RCs will begin to look at this process at the meeting on 18 January.
- ✦ Other issues that will be discussed at the RC meeting include the KK schedule and the need for a Safety Committee Chairperson.
- ✦ Next Class - McHenry HD HOG on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Awards: Gene Rigsby

- ✦ Gene reviewed the needs that have been identified to fund the Awards Banquets and asked for \$600 to cover the costs. Ric proposed we fund this request. Emil was the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the board unanimously agreed.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:40**

## General Meeting Notes Continued

### History/Web Site: Jeff Teitz : Website

- ✦ Rich Flynn explained the details of what he had to do to update the information to reflect current information on the website. There were some challenges that had to be addressed, but all information is now complete.
- ✦ Jeff Teitz explained how the company that will update our website was chosen and the process that will complete the transfer of information and the activation of the new site.
- ✦ **50 / 50 Raffle** was pulled by Jim Purcell and the winner of \$15 was Roxray Adonis. *A djourned at 9:15*



## Why do you ride?



**You can take a ride down a road in a car.... OR on a bike. On the bike, you can smell things, see things, and experience that same road in a completely different way.**

**~ Emil Kornecki**

## Why do you ride as a Top Cat?



**The Bar is very high with Top Cats and I like the people, the places, and experiences that we have within this club. The level of safety that the club maintains speaks to the level of excellence that the club strives to achieve. ~ Greg Smith**



## Trade Your Helmets for a Hairnet... For One Day

**By Highway Honey...**

on Come join your President and fellow Top Cats as we pack food at Feed My Starving Children Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit organization committed to feeding God's children. Volunteers hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. These meals are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world.

Meal packing at FMSC is a fun activity that helps build camaraderie among group participants. It's a blast, and the efforts help a very good cause. You can click this link for a brief 30 second video describing the meal packing activity. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGE4leBAViw>

Afterward, we will go to the Silo Restaurant in Lake Bluff for lunch. The Silo has been a landmark on the North Shore for over 43 years, serving famous Pan Pizza (voted best pan pizza on the North Shore by the Chicago Tribune), award winning chili (1<sup>st</sup> place winner at Taste of Chicago Chili Championship 3 years running), appetizers, salads, sandwiches, hamburgers, entrees and cocktails.

If you would like to join in the fun, please e-mail Kathie Bradbury at [kbhorserida@comcast.net](mailto:kbhorserida@comcast.net). The more the merrier. We hope to see you there!!!

## February

## Celebrations!

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

*2nd ~ Jim and Lisa Purcell*







## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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



### CHASE

Lisa A. Purcell  
Mortgage Banker

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.  
Home Lending  
1289 South Rand Road  
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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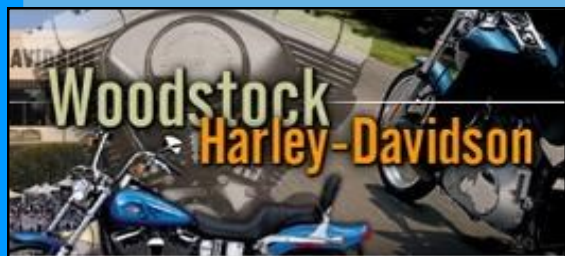
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OWNER  
CELL 847.867.7160



*Network with your fellow  
Riders here...*

*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, 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
Saturday, February 14th	International Motorcycle Show	Elly's in Norridge	Stephens Convention Center	8:00 am	Rigsby
Sunday, February 22nd	CCW Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:00 am	Whiteside
Saturday, February 28th	CCW Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:00 am	Whiteside
Sunday, March 1st	CCW Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:00 am	Whiteside
Tuesday, March 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, March 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Saturday, March 14th	FMSC/ Silo	Feed My Starving Children	Libertyville	9:00 am	C Bradbury
Sunday, March 15th	Grass Class	Keller Williams	Palatine	8:00 am	Case

All ride and event information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at [www.TopCats.org](http://www.TopCats.org).



### Barrington Library

Location and Hours  
505 N. Northwest Highway  
Barrington, IL 60010

See the Top Cats Archive

847-382-1300  
[balibrary.org](http://balibrary.org)

### 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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