



ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Howdy
Suzerains,

For fun, try an online lookup of our name; "Top Cats" on Thesaurus.com. The synonyms; Captain, Commander and Manager made sense but I didn't know another name for Top Cats is Suzerain! Or when referring to me, perhaps "Goofball"!

It is always amazing how the volume of club activities remain high in our off season. I guess off season just means off-the-bike because your activity committee and fellow club members have been putting together a lot of fun events for us to enjoy and share our company with. One of our most popular events is your Awards Banquet held on February 6th at Millrose Restaurant. There are many more, so instead of listing them, I refer you all to keep reading the ROAR, attending meetings and refer to our event calendar on the Topcats.org website and see what other Top Cats activities you can join in on this February.

Your Road Captains are an important, essential team who contribute their seemingly boundless time and energies to lead fun rides with interesting destinations. They have just completed our annual Road Captain Committee meeting on Sunday, Jan. 31st. Thanks to Ric Case, Wayne Kirkpatrick and our new Road Captain Committee Chair, Don

DeLardo, for managing and contributing to the meeting. Our road captains deserve your respect, appreciation and yes, praise because of the tireless efforts they go through to stage rides. It is never easy, but with their passionate approaches to safe, interesting rides, they are in the Top echelon of the Top Cats. And with our Group Riding and Safety Seminar, we have a program that is extremely respected in the motorcycle community, and is a major component in the recipe for great rides!

Additionally, for those who have a desire to become a road captain, see a road captain or Sr. Road Captain, Board member, officer or myself and we will help. It is a lot of fun and the Road Captains shouldn't "hog" it all from you (pun intended)!

Noelle Rigsby, Charity Committee Chair and her folks on the committee are another group who have been working hard for your club, to begin managing the details for the *Ride for Dreams to The Valley of The Kings*. This important event is a major component

to our club. By our contributions in support of this, two worthwhile charities; The Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association and the Valley of



of the Kings (a Big Cat sanctuary in Southern Wisconsin)

(Continued on pg. 3)

February, 2016

Volume 16, Issue 2

Inside This Issue

KAUTION KORNER	2
VP's VISION	3
OIL SPOTS	4
LEAD THE WAY!	9
STURGIS CALLING!	10
General Meeting	12
Board Meeting	14
For Sale	16
Business Mart	17
TOP CATS Patrons	18
RIDES AND EVENTS	19

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 6 TC ANNUAL BANQUET
- 9 BOARD MEETNG
- 13 INTERNATIONAL MC SHOW
- 21 3D BOWLING

MARCH

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
- 8 BOARD MEETING

Talk to Gene Rigsby and get your ideas on the calendar!






KAUTION KORNER

Warm Weather Watch!

*Mary Kirkpatrick,
Road Captain*



The weather has been pretty mild this winter and when the temperatures touch 35* or above, motorcycles have been spotted riding by! With clear road conditions, it sure becomes tempting...

So, if the bug hits and you find yourself getting ready to crack the throttle, take a few minutes and 'get your head' ready as you leather up. Whether this is your first season of winter riding or you are an experienced four-season rider, there are a number of seasonal surface hazards to think about as you prepare. Add this information to your mental game, and it will ensure a safer ride and one heck of a story to add to your bragging rights!

Frost Heaves –

Water that infiltrates under pavement expands as it freezes causing the road surface to deform upwards. This can cause sharp bumps that can traverse the entire lane of travel. Some are so severe that the pavement cracks. Hitting a frost



heave can be startling enough to upset steering. Also sharp edges of frozen pavement can damage tires.

Potholes – Snowplows scraping the road surface after a storm can turn a frost heave into a new pot-hole. Occasionally these

holes can traverse a large section of your lane. Successive storms and plowing will worsen these potholes. They also become catch basins for water from melting snow that refreezes, making an ice hazard.

Pavement Rubble – After a storm the pieces of pavement that were torn up by snowplow blades can litter the road. Four-wheeled traffic tends to kick this debris out of the path of their wheels leaving the left and right track somewhat clear. The debris can accumulate in the center track, along the shoulder edge and the road centerline. The accumulation can be a hazard when changing lane position or making turns.



Snowplow Grooves – Snowplow blades can become damaged or capture road debris and cut grooves in the pavement. These grooves will follow the path of snowplow travel and likely wander in the lane. This type of groove is more akin to an edge trap than the grooves created in roadway resurfacing.



(Continued on pg 3)



KK, Continued

Road Snakes – To prevent winter water infiltration roads that have surface cracks can be treated with liquid sealant. While this may reduce frost heaving it can produce a wandering slippery surface. Roads with copious lines of sealant, AKA Tar Snakes, present constantly changing surface traction.

Along with these hazards from damaged and altered pavement, remember that black ice, frozen wet leaves and runoff from melting snow are also seasonal winter road hazards.



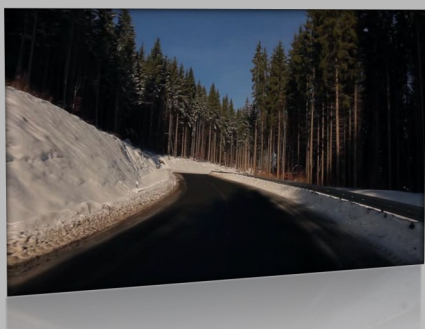
Effective Countermeasures

Applying the “SEE System” skills taught by the Motorcycle Safety is one tool in managing winter pavement hazards. Staying alert, looking far down the highway, and experience are also valuable tools.

SEE stands for:

- **SEARCH** for potential hazards.
- **EVALUATE** the hazard.
- **EXECUTE** the proper action to avoid the hazard. Don't target fixate on surface hazards. Instead focus on the safe path around them.

With these things in mind, you can make it home with red cheeks, a frozen smile, and one more great story to tell! And that will be all! No drama... just swagger!



Last thing... Be sure to tell your tale at the next meeting so that the rest of us will be inspired to shut off the t.v.. and get out to **RIDE!**

VP's Vision:

By: Ric 'Clutch' Case



The non-riding season is at its mid-point. If you are not a cold (very cold) weather rider there is lots of thing to do until it warms up. We have lots more activities on the horizon. RC/SRC and shoot out will be in the history books by the time this go to press. But there many other events to attend and maintain bonds with your Top Cat Family. Check this out:

- ♦ The Annual Awards banquet.
- ♦ Then comes the IMS - International Motorcycle Show, and it's pre-entry breakfast.
- ♦ Next up is Bowling at 3D bowl in Island Lake.
- ♦ After that we will have a Winter edition of our refined GRASS.
- ♦ And...if you are experiencing Cabin Fever, then there is this aptly name event at Woodstock H-D.

Now you are probably asking yourself when and what are these dates for all these events. Well just check them out well in advance on our new and spiffy Web Page. Just scroll down to the Calendar. Now you know where it is! While you are there check out all the other interesting categories. So the next time we are together we can chat about this new and wonderful tool. It works on computers, pads, and smart phones.

President's Perspective Continued...

receive much needed money to carry out their missions. But, Top Cats too, are given a unique, blessed opportunity to feel proud as we give back to our local communities. We are given a chance to wear our caring, compassionate hearts on our sleeves. We all need to register and invite other bikers we know to register for our ride. Additionally, I expect all members to sell raffle tickets to support this event. More information to come.

Our members have a lot to be proud of as Top Cats. Let's continue to build on that in our 21st year as we go **ROARING** forward.

Keep Roaring,
Mike Bradbury
President
Top Cats – Illinois

“Never trade the thrills of living with the security of existence.”



Top Cats' Banquet

Contact
Kathy
Bradbury
to confirm
your
reservation
at this
memora-
ble event!



The Annual Banquet
is filled with good people,
good food, and the recognition of
GREAT moments of the Year!

Be Sure to Be There!

Oil Spots

By Traveler



Honda announces motorcycle recall



American Honda Motor Co. (Honda) has issued a recall on 1,825 motorcycles due to a manufacturing or assembly error. These errors may result in the affected motorcycle having driveshaft universal joint bearing that may prematurely wear, which can cause the joint to separate or break.

If the universal joint separates, the motorcycle would stall or if the joint breaks, it may interfere with the swing arm and lock the rear wheel of the bike. Either condition could increase the risk of a crash. This recall affects 1,825 units, including certain model year 2010, 2012 and 2013 VFR1200F and VFR1200FD motorcycles.

Honda will notify owners, and dealers will replace the driveshaft, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in December 2015, however parts may not be available until mid-2016. Owners may contact Honda customer service at 800/999-1009. Honda's recall number for this recall is JW2.

Owners may also call the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888/327-4236 (TTY: 800/424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

(continued on pg 5)



Oil Spots, Continued...

BikeWorld Gives a Motorcycle Product of the Year Award to Cardo

The webBikeWorld Motorcycle Product of the Year Awards are a webBikeWorld New Year's tradition. This is when the company recognizes its favorite motorcycle products and accessories, chosen from all of the interesting gear reviewed in the prior year.

The criteria for the webBikeWorld Motorcycle Product of the Year is simple: products that, for one reason or another, have made an impression. These are the products that combine the most unique, interesting and useful features along with good value to make them leaders in their class.

Cardo is one company that had a product get an award. The Cardo Scala Rider Packtalk is "The Next Generation of Motorcycle Communication Systems".



Besides the standard Bluetooth connectivity, the Packtalk system includes a technology new to many motorcyclists. It's called "Dynamic Meshwork Communication" (DMC).

Switch the Packtalk to DMC mode and it creates a wireless "mesh" network that can connect up to 10 Packtalk intercoms in full-duplex.

The Cardo magic means that their DMC network is "self-healing", so that when any rider moves out of range, the system will automatically re-connect when the intercom comes back into range.

There's also that price. At \$329.95 for a single unit, it's dear. But the Packtalk intercom build quality and the technology is leaps ahead of any other motorcycle communications system available today, so you won't have to plan on throwing it all away after a year or two.

Downward trend in bike thefts continues

The National Insurance Crime Bureau



(NICB) has released a report on motorcycle thefts in the United States for 2014. A total of 42,856 motorcycles were reported stolen in 2014 compared with 45,367 reported stolen in 2013 — a decrease of 6 percent.

This is welcome news for motorcycle owners, since the drop comes at a time when overall motorcycle sales in 2014 increased by four percent over their 2013 total.

The top 10 states with the most reported motorcycles thefts in 2014 were California (6,355), Florida (3,981), Texas (3,274), South Carolina (2,146), North Carolina (2,117), New York (1,544), Indiana (1,508), Nevada (1,488), Georgia (1,455) and Maryland (1,127).

The top 10 cities for motorcycle thefts in 2014 were Las Vegas (1,163), New York (1,034), San Diego (650), Miami (541), San Francisco (516), San Antonio (447), Houston (439), Indianapolis (422), Los Angeles (397) and Albuquerque, N.M. (390).

The top 10 most stolen motorcycles in 2014 by manufacturer were American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (8,045), Yamaha Motor Corporation (6,728), American Suzuki Motor Corporation (5,987), Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (4,497), Harley Davidson, Inc. (4,146),

The most motorcycle thefts occurred in August (4,965) and the fewest in February (1,978) reflecting a weather-influenced pattern that is consistent with previous years.

Making Your Helmet Last

Here are some tips for having a long-term relationship with your helmet:



Don't Drop: The integrity of a motorcycle helmet can be compromised with a single drop on a hard surface.

Don't leave it on the ground, where it can be accidentally kicked, stumbled over, or invaded by some of nature's creatures (ants, spiders, etc.).

Don't leave it on the seat or any other location on the bike where it can be easily knocked off.

Be careful not to strike solid objects while carrying it. I prefer to reconnect the chin strap and grasp it by that or the chin bar rather than trying to cradle it under an arm.

(Continued on page 6)

Oil Spots, Continued...

- If you keep your helmet safe, it's more likely to keep *you* safe.
- **Store High & Dry:** When not in use, a motorcycle helmet should be allowed to dry out on the inside and then stored somewhere away from the elements. Keep yours in a safe location where it is not likely to get dropped, kicked, scratched, or otherwise damaged. Avoid storage near gasoline, cleaning fluids, exhaust fumes, or excessive heat, and do not leave items inside that may soil (e.g., sweat-soaked gloves) or compress the inner lining.
- **Keep it Clean:** Like many other accessories, keeping a helmet clean after use helps to prolong its life. Pay close attention to:
 - Air ducts:** Be careful not to damage passage ways when removing debris, and do not use a sharp object for cleaning.
 - Exterior:** Use soap and water and a soft rag, not Windex or some other type of corrosive cleaner
 - Interior:** Non-scented drier sheets can be used to remove odors. Otherwise, a wet rag with a little soap applied to it will do the job.
- **Check it Regularly:** Perform a periodic inspection of the helmet's major components:
 - **Outside shell:** Look for any cracks, scratches, or dings that indicate the helmet has sustained some type of impact. Discoloration or deformities may hint at exposure to harmful chemicals, excessive heat, or aging. Make sure all air duct passages are clear of debris.
 - **Inside shell:** Remove the inside padding and inspect the Styrofoam liner for any signs of cracks, indentions, or compressed foam.
 - **Fitting pads:** Make sure there are no signs of fraying, damage, or excessive wear. Your helmet should retain its snug but comfortable fit.
 - **Buckle & strap:** Remove any salt accumulation left from perspiration and check for signs of overuse, such as loose stitching. The buckle should not be damaged.
 - **Mechanical parts:** All vents and visor mechanicals should work properly; make sure flip-up helmets still lock securely in their down position.

High quality motorcycle helmets may be expensive, but what they protect is irreplaceable. Even with the best of care, though, the maximum lifespan of most is around five years. So take care of yours, inspect it regularly, and don't hesitate to replace it when circumstances or time dictate.

Honda announces another motorcycle recall



Honda (American Honda Motor Co.) is recalling certain model year 2012-2014 VT750CA, VT750C2 and VT750C2F, 2011-2016 VT750C, 2013-2016 VT750CS, 2010-2016 VT750C2B and 2013-2014 VT750C2S motorcycles. This recall, affecting 22,142 units, was issued when it was determined that engine vibration may cause the bank angle sensor wire to rub on the wire harness joint connector, resulting in a loss of the sensor signal. Loss of the sensor signal may cause the engine to stall while riding, increasing the risk of crash.

Honda will notify owners, and dealers will relocate the joint connector and replace the bank angle sensor, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin February 19, 2016. Owners may contact Honda customer service at 800/999-1009. Honda's number for this recall is JW7.

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888/327-4236 (TTY: 800/424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Motorcycle Safety Foundation Demonstrates the Importance of Riding Unimpaired

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation has introduced the newest member of its Host-An-Event family of traffic safety-themed courses-in-a-box: the Riding Straight – Marijuana Awareness Host-An-Event Kit. The Kit is a fun, effective way to demonstrate to motorcyclists how marijuana can affect the crucial skills required for safe motorcycle riding.

Marijuana is gaining acceptance as having legitimate medicinal applications and as a recreational drug in the United States, as evidenced by recent trends in state laws permitting its use. As of January 2016, 23 states and the District of Columbia allow marijuana for medical use, and four states (Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington) plus DC allow it for recreational use by adults 21 and over.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, Continued

Although marijuana may be legal for medicinal or recreational use in one's state, it is still not legal, safe, or wise to operate a motor vehicle while impaired by marijuana, since it tends to distort perception of time, space, and speed. This is especially true for motorcycle riders, who must continually make detailed assessments of complex traffic situations and make split-second decisions requiring precise rider input to navigate safely and maintain an adequate safety margin.



MSF already addresses alcohol-impaired riding in its popular Riding Straight – Alcohol Awareness Host-An-Event Kit, which uses Innocorp's Fatal Vision Alcohol Impairment Simulation Goggle so participants can experience alcohol impairment with a sober mind – and no hangover.

Similarly, MSF's Riding Straight – Marijuana Awareness kit uses Innocorp's new Marijuana Impairment Simulation Goggle at the core of three separate activities that demonstrate how marijuana and motorcycling are a risky mix. As with all MSF Host-An-Event kits, the Marijuana Awareness kit can be purchased and used by anyone interested in being a facilitator for special events, riding club meetings and rallies, and community outreach programs, without any certification from MSF or prior experience as a teacher.

The Goggle cannot truly replicate the effects of a marijuana "high," but the unique way in which it distorts perceptions causes some impairments. The participant then needs to attempt to compensate for these impairments to complete the kit's activities. Because the impairments are in the same general areas of cognition and motor skills affected by marijuana, the participant can get a sense of the challenges a "high" driver or motorcyclist would face when dealing with traffic situations.

According to MSF President and CEO Tim Buche, "MSF's message with our new Riding Straight – Marijuana Awareness Host-An-Event Kit is clear: Do not operate your motorcycle or any motor vehicle if you are impaired by marijuana, and find alternate transportation if you are planning to be under the influence of marijuana at your destination. Not only is it unsafe, but just as with alcohol, riders impaired by marijuana can be convicted of riding under the influence, and be subjected to similar harsh penalties."

The National Motorcycle Safety Fund, the non-profit, charitable arm of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, provided seed funding to MSF for the development of this new kit. NMSF supports the work of MSF in the areas of research, curriculum development, delivery of rider training courses, and community outreach programs in order to help eliminate crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

The kit will be available in early 2016 at MSF's online store (msf-usa.org) for a one-time investment of \$595.

[Update your I-Pass Account for 2016](#)

Millions of Americans are getting new credit and debit cards with secure chip technology. Your new card may have a different account number or expiration date.

If you've used this card to open or replenish your I-PASS account, you'll need to update your account with this new card. Log in to your I-PASS account and update any new card information or call 1-800-UC-IPASS (1-800-824-7277).



Keep your account in good standing. Updating your credit or debit card information guarantees that automatic payments continue to be made when the balance on your I-PASS account drops below the minimum balance threshold. Sufficient funds in your account helps you avoid violations.

[2 Arrested in Counterfeit Monster Helmet Raid](#)

Law enforcement officials seized \$250,000 worth of counterfeit "Monster Energy" motocross helmets and arrested two people recently.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Counterfeit and Piracy Enforcement Team, served a search warrant at the 28100 block of Stanford Avenue that was allegedly selling counterfeit "Monster Energy" motocross helmets through Amazon.



(Continued on page 8)

Oil Spots, Continued...

Approximately 1,000 counterfeit “Monster Energy” motorcycle helmets with an estimated retail value of approximately \$250,000 were seized.

Not only were the helmets counterfeit “Monster Energy” products, they also contained Department of Transportation stickers indicating they met the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards minimum standards. Testing conducted by an independent laboratory determined the counterfeit helmets did not meet all of the mandated FMVSS safety standards.

Two suspects were arrested for the sale and manufacturing of a counterfeit mark.

Schuberth M1 Motorcycle Helmet of the Year

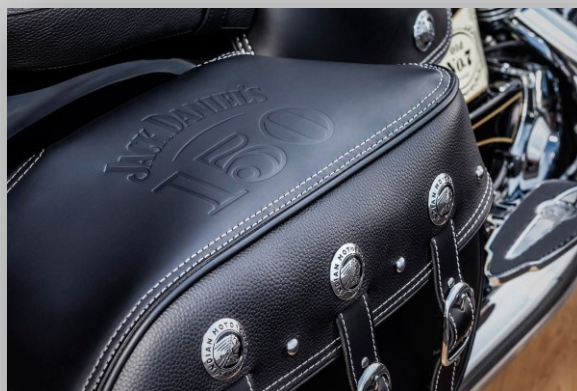
Recently, the web magazine webBikeWorld.com announced the Schuberth M1 would receive the 2015 “Motorcycle Helmet of the Year” award for open-faced helmets. Reasons for the award included outstanding quality, paint, overall construction, its liner, and optical quality of the sun visor and the face shield.



Furthermore, the invisible pre-installed microphones and speakers with the optional SRC-System, also impressed the testers. To top all of this off, the Schuberth M1 comes at a reasonable price point.

Indian Motorcycles partners with Jack Daniel's

Indian Motorcycle, America's first motorcycle company, today announced it has joined forces with the Jack Daniel Distillery to create a limited-run, collector's edition Jack Daniel's-branded 2016 Indian Chief Vintage motorcycle. The partnership brings together two of America's most iconic brands who share a mutual commitment to independence, originality and American craftsmanship that dates back more than a century. The collaboration commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Jack Daniel Distillery, which was registered in 1866.



The 2016 Collector's Edition Jack Daniel's Indian Chief Vintage was displayed January 23-31 at the Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale Collector Car Auction. It will also make an appearance at a series of events throughout 2016, including Daytona Bike Week, taking place March 4-13. Ultimately, this first-in-the-series display bike will be auctioned at the Barrett-Jackson Auction in Las Vegas, which takes place October 6-8. All monies raised from the charity auction will be donated to support “**Operation Ride Home**,” a partnership between the Jack Daniel Distillery and the Armed Services YMCA that provides funding and travel assistance to help junior-enlisted military personnel spend time with their families during the holiday season.



“This one-of-a-kind motorcycle is the perfect pairing of these two classic American brands, and while they look great together, we've inscribed this unique collector's edition masterpiece with our ‘Bottles and Throttles Don't Mix’ mantra to remind all our friends that drinking and riding are meant to be enjoyed separately,” said Dave Stang, director of Events & Sponsorships for Jack Daniel's. “We'd like to thank our friends at Indian Motorcycle for their help on this project and their support for Operation Ride Home.”

(Continued on pg. 9)



Oil Spots, Continued...

The Collector's Edition Jack Daniel's Vintage will be produced in very limited quantities, taking the iconic Indian Chief Vintage platform to a whole new level with an array of genuine Indian Motorcycle accessories and custom accessories, as well as Jack Daniel's-inspired custom paint and logos, badging, leather saddle and saddlebags. The bike's fender is also inscribed with the names of the seven Master Distillers who have overseen the Jack Daniel's distilling process over its 150-year history. Final customization work was designed and completed by Brian Klock and his inspired team at Klock Werks in Mitchell, S.D. Additional details on the production schedule and ordering process will be released during Daytona Bike Week.



Think you can do it 'by yourself'? Do you like challenges and the chance to prove you are independent? Well, then you are someone that would do well as a Road Captain who would lead Safe and Exciting rides for the Club!

Be Top Cats Next Road Captain and... Lead the Way!



Top Cats is a premier riding club, known for Safe Rides and Interesting / Educational Destinations. The rides are known to enhance each rider's skill in a safe manner. They become experiences that expand participant's confidence in riding, as well as their vision of what the world contains. This is the challenge that is taken on for each ride and to meet this challenge, a Road Captain takes time to plan, remains persistent as he/she addresses the problems that arise, and uses their skill to identify the needs of the riders who will be going on the ride. It is a great challenge, a great opportunity AND...it is what is needed to continue a great tradition. This position requires that energy and courage that you identified above, because it can be a daunting task requiring your independent spirit! So start your engines and get on the road! Find some places to take the club and get them on the calendar!

Why, you ask, is this in the **February** ROAR? Well, there is time now to plan! You can get things ready for those summer rides now. As a novice, who took on the challenge, I learned a few very important lessons that I'd like to pass on to **those of you who are planning on doing a ride this year... for the first time**. Here is some advice on how to make sure the ride is **safe** for all. And things to think about to make sure that you will enjoy your ride and want to continue planning and leading rides long into the future!

- ✦ Be sure to lean on and make use of the experience and wisdom that is within the club! These supports are priceless whether you have ridden for years or just a few months. Talk to the other Road captains and gather their advice as you work to **PLAN YOUR RIDE!** Then...
- ✦ Know your destination! Choose a place that you know well or make sure you have the time to pre-ride and know it well. All kinds of good planning will not compensate for plain old knowledge. With so many things that can take you off course, this innate knowledge will be a back-up that won't fail you!
- ✦ Communicate! Talk to the other Road Captains about your plans. Have at least one, if not a number of 'Back-Up' Road Captains with as much knowledge of the ride as you have when you leave.
- ✦ Use the Road Captain Guide and keep it close. Eventually, it becomes part of your riding DNA.

Becoming a Road Captain is exciting... You don't always know what is to come. You don't always see all the needs of your riders. But in the true tradition of Top Cats, you always have the experience of others, who are willing to share. That can help as you become a leader within a group that works to make motorcycling a safe, motivational, skill building, world-opening experience for others! And, you will be part of maintaining the strong **SAFE** traditions of this **world-class** club!



Are you Creative?

Do you Enjoy Riding?

***Do you want to see new things
In the ROAR?***

***Talk to Mary Kirkpatrick
And help to fill these pages with
Top Cats Memories in the ROAR
each month!***



Another 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. Don't wait for "Last Call"!

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 ap-



pears 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.

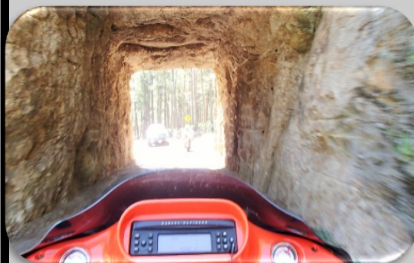
As we do every year, we will take a leisurely, three – day ride to Rapid City, SD staying in Mankato, MN the first night, Pierre, SD the second night, and Rapid City the third and remaining nights.

(Continued on page 11)



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.

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

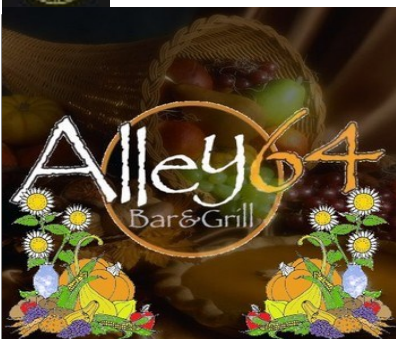
Please contact Wayne or Bard when you make your reservations, so that departure times and other details can be finalized.

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...





GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 5TH, 2016

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

- ✦ Meeting Jokes included: "Why do Chicken coups have two doors? Because if it had 4 doors they would have to call it a sedan".... I guess you had to be there ~ and if you weren't, you should have been! The meeting was a great opportunity to see everyone to change the blah winter days...
- ✦ Mike introduced guests: Jim Hennif, a Top Cats past president came to visit the club and hear how things were moving forward.
- ✦ General Mtg Speaker Announcements
March – Dukane Abate; Judy Kaenel and Wally Elliot
- ✦ Mike polled the group for other ideas
Offsite Meetings were suggested
Poll Speaker Ideas included Dealers, Shop Service Mgrs, and a GPS tutorial
- ✦ Mike announced the 2016 Board and Officers and asked for candidates for open positions ~ one director, treasurer and secretary.



Activities: Bob Stevenson and Gene Rigsby

- ✦ Future 2 month activities were reviewed by Bob Stevenson. The month's activities included
 - 16th, Movie night at McHenry Harley
 - 23rd, Shoot-Out
 - 31st, GRASS and Road Captains Meeting
 - February 6th, TC Banquet
 - February 13th, International Motorcycle Show
- ✦ There was a request for activity recommendations for off season.
- ✦ Conceal and Carry Class was discussed by David Whiteside. Please let him know if you would like to take the class and he will organize and set a date. David is also offering a date for getting the Florida and Utah CC class as well. But the packets for these classes are numbered and must be paid for ahead of the class. This would be a bit more costly, because of the state's cost.

Vice President: Ric Case

Safety

- ✦ Ric Reviewed the safety tip for this month for Don DeLordo. See the January ROAR for the complete article, and in the downtime of winter... check your gear to be ready for that first clear day!
- ✦ GRASS schedule was reviewed. Check the website for the dates and details.
- ✦ Membership requirements include:
 - Remain in good standing
 - Rides Safely within the group and attend 5 events during the year
 - GRASS class every 3 years

(Continued on pg 13)



General Meeting,, Continued

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick Club Remembrances

- ✦ Jim Hennif took the group on a ride without a wind screen, Jim had a light shirt and the weather was cold! He took the group to a gas station which was closed. All members too to the trees to relieve themselves. As they were leaving, someone tried the bathroom door... it was open!
- ✦ Another time was when a member put on some very flimsy rain gear and bunjied the legs to keep them from flapping. As he was leaving, with a limp, someone asked if he was o.k.... he replied yes, nice and dry, but his leg had gone numb... the bungee was too tight.
- ✦ 11 new laws related to Motorcyclists for 2016
Wayne reviewed 11 of the new laws in Illinois taking effect on February 1st. Some of them include:
 - Seniors and Disabled get a special discount on license plates.
 - The state will revoke the license of anyone causing a death while operating a vehicle.
 - Allows illegal immigrants and their children to obtain Law Licenses
 - Korean, Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans no longer pay fees for licenses.
- ✦ Sturgis Ride announcement
TC special lodging rates have been negotiated and the reservations need to be made by Feb First at the Alex Johnson. Reserve NOW... you can always cancel later, but it will cost you more if you don't reserve now!

ROAR Newsletter: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ✦ Mary was grateful for the information that was submitted by the new members! It is nice to get to know them and to begin recognizing them as fellow riders and new Top Cat Family. Welcome!
- ✦ Birthdays were recognized by the members and cake was served.
- ✦ Anyone interested in helping document the club's activities and create the 'history book', please see Mary.

Charity: Noelle Rigsby

- ✦ RFD Up To the VOK is the new exciting destination theme for our Charity Event, 2016! The committee is ready and the planning is under way. If people want to help out, contact Noelle Rigsby.
- ✦ Noelle made a membership registration request to the club. It was noted that there are always a few that do not support our Charity and the committee is hoping to break that trend in 2016.
- ✦ Another Membership Request from Noelle was to have each member invite guests to the ride. And to find ways to increase membership participation overall.

Website: Roxray Adonis

- ✦ Rox is in the early stages of accepting the responsibility for the Website. Our newest Members, Joe and Steve also volunteered to assist Rox with updating and refreshing the websiter regularly. This kind of attention to the details on the website will ensure that it reflects our 'premier' bike club status!
- ✦ 50 / 50 Raffle was pulled by our Sergeant at Arms, Jim Purcell. The winner was Roxray Adonis, who donated his winnings to the Charity. Noelle accepted the money and the members thanked Rox for his generosity.

Be Sure to Check out the new

Top Cats.org

Website...

It is a beautiful thing!

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





BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 12TH, 2016

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

- ✦ Treasurer & Secretary Candidates were discussed. The discussion included the question of how to get more of the members involved. Some possible reasons included the idea that prospective candidates may feel that it would become overwhelming. Others aren't sure that they have things to contribute. Others may be too busy. No matter what, it was agreed that being a part of what makes this club work is a very satisfying experience. We have to let others know that being a part of the board is easy and rewarding...
- ✦ Board Member duties were discussed. Roxray suggested creating a binder that identifies these positions and duties. Using one of the board meetings to review the constitution and develop this binder was also suggested.
- ✦ Responsibilities to manage/sustain/nurture the Club included more events that
- ✦ Mike showed the board the new laptop that was purchased for the club. It will be used mainly for GRASS classes and will be maintained by the Safety Chair. For now, Mike will keep it to update the programs. The cost was \$420.
- ✦ Because of the open Treasurer position that Mike is filling along with his role as President, It was noted that there needs to be two signatures for accounting transparency. At this time, there will be a review of the books upcoming.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ✦ Wayne agreed to become the contact and develop a list of General Meeting Speakers. He asked the board for ideas and the group created a list of possible contacts/speakers. This could allow promotion of other group rides as well as set up opportunities for our TC reps to speak at other meetings to promote our Charity Ride.

Vice President: Ric Case

G.R.A.S.S

- ✦ Don Delordo- RC Committee Chair will be asked to set up the Kaution Korner schedule and remind the RCs when their article is due as well as the date that they will be expected to present at the General Meeting.
- ✦ RC Committee Meeting will contain the new GRASS class slides. The board discussed the importance of the information as well as the variety of presentation styles that have been a part of Top Cats history. It was emphasized that the slides are an informative summary of the main ideas, but the speaker is to present a much broader spectrum of information.
- ✦ All Road Captains minimum expectation were discussed in the area of ride possibilities. Adventure Rides during the winter months, over-night events, and other options were looked at that will build the connections between the members and will create the desire to make this club stronger!

Activities: Gene Rigsby

- ✦ The upcoming 2 month Activities Review started with an update on the progress for the Top Cats Banquet. All is in place and the details are being attended to by Mike and Gene. Final roster totals are needed to complete some of these details.
- ✦ Other activities include: A movie night, shoot-out, and the banquet and the IMS on the 13th. All of the information can be found on the website. Roxray will also be organizing a bowling event for the 22nd.

(Continued on page 15)



Board Meeting, Continued

Membership: Emil Kornecki

- ✦ New Member Package Presentations were done at the last meeting for Steve Humphreys and Joe Sadlon.
- ✦ Emil has inventoried the new member packets and asked Mike to update the letter from the President.
- ✦ A Product Vendor will be researched so that we can submit the Top Cats logo and members can then order any number of products from the vendor. From decals and T-shirts to coffee cups and golf balls.
- ✦ Emil is going to submit application forms for the Governor, El Chapo and Elvis.
- ✦ Membership cards need to be completed for 2016. Emil will contact Greg to get them done for the Banquet.

Website: Roxray Adonis

- ✦ Website transition is happening. Mike will have Jeff contact Roxray to give him the information needed to make the changes and updates. It is important that this happens soon so that the History that is contained in the editions of ROAR and the pictures will be saved and archived.

New Business: Mike Bradbury.

- ✦ Mark Sullivan sent his membership dues. The board accepted him as a new member for 2016.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 by Mike Bradbury



**So you don't know what to do to make
this Valentine's Day memorable?**

The International Motorcycle Show is in Town!
Bring your Sweetheart and start Planning your
Rides for 2016!

Saturday, February 13th, 2016 Meet at Elly's Pancake House, 372 E. Golf Rd, Arlington Hts., IL 8:15 am
It's sure to be a SWEET Day!



February Celebrations!

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

Only One this Month....
Jim and Lisa Purcell!



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stefanlevysearch@gmail.com



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*Network with
your fellow
Riders here...*

*See Mary Kirkpatrick for
Information*





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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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our own Top
Cats work with
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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, 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
Saturday, February 13th	International Motorcycle Show	Elly's Pancakes Arlington Hts.	Stevens Convention Center, Rosemont	8:15 am at Elly's	Bradbury
Sunday, February 21st	TC Bowling	Island Lake	3D Bowl	1:00 pm	Adonis
Tuesday, March 1st	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, March 8th	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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