



# ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

June, 2015

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### Greetings from the Saddle!

My wife, Kathie and I have traded in our steel pony for a couple of real ponies this week. We will miss you all at the general meeting, but will be thinking of you as we 'ride off into the sunset'. Literally.



This month will be filled with a great deal of activity! We have trips and charity events coming up which will provide us all with time together as well as opportunities to work for our community. Let's rally together to maximize our efforts and give our charity, NISRA, our BEST. As you know, NISRA provides opportunities to bring outdoor events to people whose disability would otherwise keep them indoors. For these people, it requires a 'village' to bring them together and keep them outdoors. NISRA is their village and

the source of a variety of activities that their families alone cannot provide. Let's show them our support and enrich their lives with a large donation this year!

In contrast, we are able to freely enjoy this camaraderie. Let's not take it for granted. We have road captains that are planning trips. And there are other trips that could be taken if we would have a road captain step them up. Please consider planning a ride or event so that we can maximize our summer hours together!

Well, I'm off... Saddle is ready, reigns in hand, and a beautiful lady who will guide me into some wild adventure! It doesn't get much better than this! (Well... there ARE some other good options too...)



For now, though,

Hi HO Silver.... Away!

Ride Safe!

*Michael 'Motorcycle' Bradbury*  
President, Top Cats Illinois  
"4 wheels move the body,  
2 wheels move the soul"

### Upcoming Events

#### JUNE

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 9 BOARD MEETING
- 14 RIDE FOR DREAMS!
- 19-21 RIDE THE DOOR

#### MAY

- 3-5 TREMPLEAU
- 7 GENERAL MEETING
- 14 BOARD MEETING
- 17-19 BIKE TIME
- 28- AUG 4, STURGIS 75TH

What ideas do you have for destinations this summer?  
Bring your ideas to your favorite Road Captain....

And...  
Let's  
Ride!





# KAUTION KORNER

## Safety is a State of Mind!

By: Mary Kirkpatrick, RC



The riding season is finally here! When Top Cats are together, the excitement is strong and the energy can be heard in the voices and stories being told. The cleaning supplies are back on the shelf and the bug splats are once again a sign of good times! 'Let's Ride' are the best words we can hear!

As you know, **Safety** is the foundation of our Top Cat's character. It is addressed in our GRASS classes, it is addressed at our Pre-Ride Briefings, also known as **Safety** Briefings, and it is addressed in each edition of ROAR in the Kaution Korner articles. What can each of us do ~ independently ~ to ensure that we have a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year filled with stories of SAFE rides? The answer...We can make sure that we come to the ride with a **Safety State of Mind.**

As a teacher, using acronyms is essential to getting students to remember the most important things. So, using the letters in SAFETY, here are suggestions for being ready to ride safely.

### **S= Sleep.**

Make sure that you have had enough



sleep before the ride. [www.Drowsydriving.org](http://www.Drowsydriving.org) is a site that discusses the hazards of sleep deprivation when on the road. *Sleepiness and driving is a dangerous combination. Most people are aware of the dangers of drinking and driving but don't realize that drowsy driving can be just as fatal. Like alcohol, sleepiness slows reaction time, decreases awareness, impairs judgment and increases your risk of crashing.*

Sleepiness or Fatigue Causes the Following:

- ✦ Impaired reaction time, judgment and vision
- ✦ Problems with information processing and short-term memory
- ✦ Decreased performance, vigilance and motivation
- ✦ Increased moodiness and aggressive behaviors

In addition to the dangers of driving under the influence of

fatigue, several states are considering legislation that would allow police to charge drowsy drivers with criminal negligence if they injure or kill someone while driving if they have not had adequate sleep. This shows the level of importance this area has taken in the safety arena.

### **BE AWAKE, RIDE AWAKE!**

**A = Attention.** When we have concerns or worries that are a part of our thought processes, it has the same effect as fatigue. This state of mind, can impair our reaction time, decrease performance, and make us a bit more capable of unfavorable maneuvers on the bikes.

When there are outside influences stealing our attention, it is suggested that you make plans on addressing these during stops. Make those business calls, check on children and/or parents, (We are known as the sandwich generation for a reason), or make appointments while you have two feet on the ground. Preferably before the ride starts, but when responsibilities call, try not to answer while riding!

### **BE FOCUSED, RIDE FOCUSED!**

**F = Fitness Formula.** Recently, there was a formula published for maintaining good health and maintaining our individual good health is key for safe riding. Enjoying the day, avoiding fatigue, and maintaining focus relies on having good health. Here is the easy-to-remember formula for good health.

'0, 5, 10, 30, 150' is proposed in a wonderful editorial in *American Family Physician* titled "Preventive Health: Time for Change." The author suggests this formula to physicians to offer as advice that will "help patients achieve healthy lifestyle goals":

- 0 = no cigarettes or tobacco products
- 5 = five servings of fruits and vegetables per day
- 10 = ten minutes of silence, relaxation, prayer, or meditation per day
- 30 = keep your BMI (body mass index) below 30
- 150 = number of minutes of exercise per week (e.g., brisk walking or equivalent)

This is a quick formula that can develop and sustain your positive state of mind for the ride and increase the safety factor for you and for all riders.

### **BE FIT, RIDE FIT!**

( Continued on page 3)







## Kaution Korner...

Continued...

**E= Example.** Being an example for the others on the ride is the responsibility of every rider. Be at your best. Organize your bike. Give those new riders something to admire. Have the supplies and gear that you need to ride safely, and try to curb the need to stand out on the ride for your 'trick-riding' ability. We all have a bit of a 'show-off' in us. We all like to test our limits and see what our bikes can do, but a group ride is not the forum for checking these things out. Do that in the training segment of your safety plan...

**BE RESPONSIBLE, RIDE RESPONSIBLE!**

**T= Training.** There are so many courses available during the summer. From beginning basics to those precision riding tricks that are all over the internet. Here are some options and websites for developing your skills and your confidence:

- ✦ The well-known Motorcycle Safety Course, MSF can be found at <http://www.msf-usa.org>. This group offers basic and advanced courses for skill development at a very reasonable price. The classes are done in a controlled environment with 250cc bikes or less with little variety in the conditions.
- ✦ The Harley Dealerships also offer basic and advanced courses. The Harley classes cost a bit more than the MSF courses, but the classes give you more opportunity to ride in a variety of road conditions and build confidence in riding on a variety of motorcycle sizes.
- ✦ And the DMV.. Yes, The Department of Motor Vehicles, has a site that can link you to the motorcycle safety courses in your area. Check them out at <http://www.dmv.org/how-to-guides/motorcycle-safety.php>.
- ✦ And the last one that will be mentioned here is the precision riding course. There is a company called Lock and Lean that is holding classes this summer at Kegal Harley Davidson in Rockford and Heritage Harley Davidson in Lisle. Their classes go from a one day 8-hour class (100) to a Competition Class (301) that is based on Police Competition Certified Riding. Check out their website for dates and times. <http://www.lockandlean.com/rider-training-2015.html>.

These are the places to test and develop your skills so that you can be a good example to the others on your ride. The precision classes are also the place to safely develop your 'show-off' side if you're so inclined.

**BE PROFICIENT, RIDE PROFICIENT!**

**Y = YOU!** This is the final letter, but the last is definitely the most important in this 'acronym' presentation. **You** are the key to safety in any riding situation! Ride YOUR ride! Using these tips will increase the probability that everyone in the ride will return safely. With these SAFETY tips, you can be sure to keep your thoughts clear and your confidence high and to develop a strong **SAFETY State of Mind!**

**BE YOU, RIDE SAFE!**



## NISRA

Northern Illinois  
Special Recreation Association



JUNE 14TH, 2015...ARE YOU READY?

THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

CONTACT NOELLE RIGSBY: [GENOE88@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GENOE88@GMAIL.COM)



# VP's Vision

**By: Ric 'Clutch' Case**



Opinions vary about the causes of most motorcycle accidents. When you read articles or hear discussions, there are two reasons that will always rise to the top:

1. Vehicles entering your right of way
2. Distractions while not focusing on the area directly ahead. This will cause an increase in your stopping distance.

The first issue can be addressed by staying alert when there are areas of exit or entry ramps. Scan ahead and look to your right to check for oncoming traffic. In these areas, also be very aware of cars on your left that may be looking to exit soon and will need to move quickly to the right in front of you. If you are alert and aware of your possibilities for lane change or other moves, you will be ready to react to the unexpected and will make more effective decisions about how to avoid the issue ahead.

When scanning ahead, be practical. If removing your focus to check on music or answer a call on your new Cardo or Sena system, ask yourself, "must I do it now or can it wait until there are fewer issues?" If it is necessary to remove your focus, again question, "Can I extend my following distance and provide more time and distance to react if a reaction is necessary?" These conscience thought processes will keep you ready for attending to the unexpected. Remember: your actions affect not only yourself, but all of the riders with you!

Keep your concentration all the time, but especially when there are many potential hazards in your immediate path. Remember the following distance rule: Keep a MINIMUM of two (2) seconds and increase that time if multiple potential hazards are in or near your path of travel. In high traffic areas, be careful. If riding with a group, too much distance can allow cars to insert themselves into your group. This minimizes the safety that group riding can provide. These things take practice and experience. Use your good judgment and find a balance that will allow you to maximize your confidence as well as the group's safety.

Also, when you need to remove your focus, always scan the area in your immediate path ahead allowing at least four (4) second reaction time and distance. And in areas that have high probability for unexpected hazards, scan ahead up to twelve (12) seconds. Make mental notes of potential changes up ahead and prepare strategies for safe movement out of harms way.

Always maintain your concentration on the road ahead and eliminate any and all distractions whenever possible, using good old fashion common sense as your guide. Practice using these techniques even when there are no hazards. Scan, take notes and prepare. This will help reduce the probability of a crash and increase your ability and confidence to handle what may 'cross your path'



Next Month, watch for information on 'Escape Plans' and... Ride Safe!



## A New Top Cat You Should Know... Jim Bolton



Although Jim was born in Chicago, he feels that home is in Texas. He has had a fairly nomadic life, living all over; Tennessee during his youth, Texas as an adult, but also Kansas, Idaho, and Germany. Jim has visited numerous other places while in the service.

As a young man, Jim became an EMT-Paramedic through the City Colleges of Chicago and San Antonio College. While working in this capacity, he continued with school and earned a BA in Biology and Chemistry from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN. Later, an MS in Food Technology and Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. He loves sports and played football, hockey and baseball in High School with a little fishing on the side.

Jim's career choices have always come with high stress levels. To relieve and refresh, he used the outdoors. It provided a little solitude and usually there was a good friend to enjoy it with him. Being outside in the wide open spaces makes motorcycling one of his favorite things to do. Wide open spaces, fresh air and the babble of a brook were the opposite to what Jim experienced at work. The Boy Scouts of America provided him an opportunity to spark an interest in the outdoors, but it was his advisor in College, Dr. Joe Chapman, that developed the passion. Jim was Joe's last student and Joe felt that dragging Jim through the woods, smelling the leaves, and seeing the trees of the Smokey Mountains would allow him to pass on these interests to Jim. It was his love of those outdoors that did rub off on Jim. Joe gave him a love of our National Parks, his favorite places to ride, and the love of the wild places that this great country has to explore. They also spent time trout fishing and Jim estimates that he owes his mentor about 100 flies for all the ones that were lost in the trees. Jim fly fishes as often as he can out west.

Jim met his wife, Anne, in church on a Sunday Night in Augsburg, Germany. She was visiting her college roommate and her husband, a first lieutenant in the field artillery unit. Jim was a young warrant officer, at the time, serving in an intelligence unit. They were married fourteen months later, and Jim has been heard to say it was, "The best decision I made." Jim and his adorable wife Anne have three daughters. Two are married to terrific men, one is still in college. How much time does he get to spend with them? Well, they have inherited his love of adventure and they all live in Houston, Texas so he does not get to see them as often as he and Anne would like.

Jim has always loved motorcycles, but his parents were fairly strict, so it wasn't until he left for the Army that he purchased one. He's been riding ever since. His first bike was a Triumph Bonneville. He has owned many Japanese bikes; Suzuki, Honda, and a Yamaha. His first Harley was a 2010 Road King, and currently rides a 2013 CVO Ultra.

Jim has combined his interests over the years and is a patched member of the EMS ROADDOCS, Wisconsin Chapter, where he watches over a number of rides and parades in the area, providing medical response prior to the arrival of emergency personnel. The ROADDOCS are also authorized to call for Air Ambulance support, a privilege usually reserved for Emergency Services.

Recently, Jim joined Top Cats because he wanted to ride with friends and with people that enjoy motorcycle riding for the pleasure of riding and finding new adventures. He found that the members of Top Cats have similar interests and backgrounds and the rides definitely provide adventure, but also personal growth.

Jim has never had a roadname. As with all Nicknames, you don't get to choose them, you're given them. And he will gladly wear the name the club will eventually give to him. He did state that he had a call sign when he flew in the Army. It is a very special name for him.... But we'll leave that for you to find out when you talk with him in person!





## 20th Anniversary Riding Season starts with ...New Diggings!

By: Mary Kirkpatrick

The parking lot in front of the New Woodstock Harley Davidson was empty at 7:45 am when we arrived. It was a Saturday morning, cool and clear, and the quiet was cut only by a few passing cars now and then. As the clock passed 8:00 am and the sun was promising to warm the day, bikes started to roll into the lot. Handshakes and hugs were being passed around and soon 18 bikes stood side by side ready for the day's adventure.



heart. There were more than two ladies on their own bikes! I love riding, no matter who is alongside, but rarely have I ridden with more than two ladies at a time.

We have a growing number of women who have invested their time in learning to ride themselves



and I love the camaraderie! There is no competitive or envious spirit... just real excitement to be together in our passion for motorcycles and in search for roads that will improve our skills.

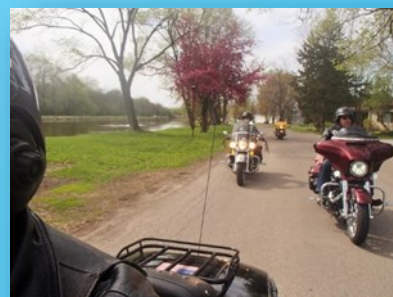


Don De Lordo, the Road Captain for this day, cigar in hand, called the group to attention. The safety briefing was filled with informative details about the day, and was highlighted with light-hearted digs

which indicated the excited spirits of the riders-in-wait. With business done, Wayne Kirkpatrick fired up the opening notes of *Sweet Home Alabama*, and engines roared to life. The Top Cats were ready for the first ride of the year to New Diggings, Wisconsin; population: 502, home to two 'establishments' and very little else.



As we rode along the first leg of the trip, I was fortunate enough to be riding in the 4 spot... behind the Road Captain, President, and Vice President, and with 12 bikes behind me, it was an impressive group. The formation looked perfect and each rider maintained their spot as if it had been practiced many times before. Over the years, this had been true... but there was one major development that really touched my



versary year grew. On the stops, there was discussion of the 'next ride' and questions that started with, "Are you going..." or "Did you plan..." and ending with Trempealeau or Door County or ...STURGIS. As a group, it was an easy day marked with growing friendships and riding confidence. As a club, this kick-off ride could not have been better! Well, one thing could have made it better ~ having more members along with us. It set great tone for this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and new riding season.



(Continued on page 7)





## New Diggings Continued...



The restaurant stop proved to be a great place to continue conversations and exchange stories. The little bar was filled with local history and memorabilia. The perfect setting for bringing out and highlighting stories of our own history. Riders swapped information and their history became the best part of the entertainment for the day! We learned that Don De Lordo loves Turkeys, Roxray Adonis was going to Australia, Lyn and John Canger just came back from Disney World with their family, Genie Stevenson is going on a trip that will include seeing three nieces and nephews graduate in the next few weeks, and Lisa Purcell likes speed. Now, these are just a few quick highlights. There are so many more, but you'll have to ride along with in order to find the deeper details!



The road home led us to some ice cream and everyone enjoyed a few more moments of friendship and laughter before heading home. And an unexpected stop 'in the shade' gave everyone a few more opportunities to start the developing new road names....

DeLordo may have to be called 'Rails' if he gets stopped by any more trains!



The day was a perfect start to another good year of riding! With our common interest in riding and the variety of experiences we each have, this year, our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, should be filled with rides to our members favorite places, great memories and many new stories!



Our Chief Says:

Ride on.....

Into a great 2015 Riding season and  
A Memorable 20th Anniversary Year, Top Cats!





## Oil Spots

By Traveler

### 21st Anniversary Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America



On Saturday, May 2, nearly 200 motorcyclists departed for the 2015 Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America, to raise funds for Victory Junction – a camp created by NASCAR's Petty family to enrich the lives of children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses. Led by former NASCAR driver Kyle Petty, the ride will travel 2,500 miles in seven days from Santa Cruz, CA to Branson, MO.



Fans in local communities along the route were invited out to support the ride, meet ride celebrities such as NASCAR legends Richard Petty, Kyle Petty, Donnie Allison and Harry Gant, NASCAR driver Matt Kenseth, former NFL great Herschel Walker, Harley-Davidson, Inc. CEO and President Matt Levatich and more! Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to make donations to Victory Junction or purchase ride memorabilia.

### National Crime Bureau warns of Craigslist vehicle scam



The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) has issued a warning to the public about an organized scam involving sales of vehicles through online marketplace Craigslist.

Working with law enforcement agencies in Chicago NICB has identified nearly 100 instances of sales of vehicles when phony bank checks were used to pay for the vehicle.

Scammers are particularly active where the vehicle owner retains the title even though there is an outstanding lien. They will pressure sellers to sign over the title and give them what appears to be a valid bank or cashier's check to pay for the vehicle. The bad checks are good fakes: banks at first say they are valid, and only after the thieves have disappeared with the vehicle do the sellers find out the checks are bogus.

Any face-to-face meetings should take place at a location that is highly public, preferably a police station, NICB counsels.

"Never sign over a title until you have the money in hand. Avoid accepting any kind of check, but if you do, take the time to make sure any alleged bank or cashier's check has actually cleared and you have the cash. It may take a week to 10 days for a check to clear. If it's bogus, you could be left responsible for paying off the loan even though the car is long gone," according to an NICB press statement. (Continued on page 9)





## Oil Spots, Continued...

Anyone with information concerning insurance fraud or vehicle theft can report it anonymously by calling toll-free 800-TEL-NICB (800-835-6422), texting key-word "fraud" to TIP411 (847411).

## Q Tec kits turn Harleys into reverse trikes, Servi-Cars



Wide World PowerSports announces an exclusive importer agreement with Q. TEC. Engineering Belgium to distribute the company's patented trike kits in the United States.

Available for 2000 and up stock Harley-Davidson Softails, these kits offer the option to create a front or rear wheel trike while maintaining the value of the original motorcycle, as no drilling or welding of the original frame or chassis is required, the company said.

"Q. TEC.'s revolutionary concept will create a new dimension for many fans of Harley-Davidson motorcycles," said Mark Klein, president of Wide World PowerSports. "The kits include everything down to the last bolt and washer to complete the build except for the wheels and paint which allow for personal customization. Customers are assured of quality and fitment for all components and installation is quick and easy."

Five models are available and include:

The Q3F which converts the motorcycle into a re-

verse trike (see image, above), with two wheels in the front;

Rear wheel conversion models, the Q3R and Q3R Full, that include multiple options such as reverse gear, luggage rack, rear bumper, and backrest;

The Q3R Classic for those who enjoy the nostalgic look of the Harley-Davidson Servi-Car; and

The Q3R Mammoth that puts a modern twist on the Q3R classic.



"No matter which model is chosen, they all provide the ability to easily return the vehicle to its original state," Klein said.

Suggested retail price for the Q3F kit is \$14,310. Rear trike kits range from \$14,100 to \$17,100 and include all but the wheels, fluid, paint and labor costs to complete the conversion.

Dealers for Q. Tec.'s trike kits are being sought throughout the United States. Accepted dealers will be supported with a full sales and service network, the company said, along with factory trained technicians to answer technical questions. For more information, contact Mark Klein at 973-832-7744 or email him at [mark@wideworldpowersports.com](mailto:mark@wideworldpowersports.com).

(Continued on page 10)



**Oil Spots, Continued...**

## **Kutter Harley-Davidson** **under new ownership**



Kutter Harley-Davidson, which was set to celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer, has been sold by owner Joanne Kutter.

Sara and Eric Pomeroy, first-time Harley-Davidson dealership owners, have purchased the dealership in Janesville, Wis., GazetteXtra.com reported. The Pomeroy's plan to rename the dealership as Board-trackers Harley-Davidson, while also giving it a display makeover, a new sign and more motorcycle parking outside. Their goal is to create a destination dealership and boost the store's inventory.

## **NHTSA looks to crack down on** **novelty helmets**



The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) today issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would help protect motorcyclists from unsafe helmets and aid state efforts to enforce existing motorcy-

cle helmet laws. The NPRM seeks to address the ongoing use of "novelty motorcycle helmets."

Motorcycle helmets that meet DOT safety standards help save more than a thousand lives every year, according to NHTSA estimates. Novelty helmets do not meet those standards.

A study of motorcyclists injured in crashes and transported to a shock trauma centers showed that 56 percent of those wearing a novelty helmet had serious head injuries, compared to 19 percent of riders who were wearing a DOT-certified helmet.

"Wearing a helmet that meets DOT standards can literally mean the difference between life and death," said NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind. "Our proposal ensures that when motorcyclists put on a helmet it offers that life-saving protection."



NHTSA's proposal would add to current regulations a definition of what products are considered motorcycle helmets and introduces criteria that can be used to identify helmets that do not comply with the federal standard.

The proposal establishes preliminary screening criteria to help law enforcement agencies quickly identify helmets that are incapable of meeting the minimum performance requirements. The preliminary screening involves examining the thickness of the inner liner and the outer shell, and of the liner's ability to resist deformation, which indicates its ability to absorb crash energy.

(Continued on page 11)





## Oil Spots, Continued...

### Number of motorcycle deaths expected to drop



As hundreds of thousands of motorcyclists gather in Washington D.C. for the annual Rolling Thunder “Ride for Freedom” over Memorial Day Weekend, the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) is projecting that motorcyclist fatalities decreased for the second straight year in 2014, based on preliminary state data. However, this latest *Spotlight on Highway Safety* report also notes that there is much more work to do: motorcyclist fatalities are 26 percent higher than a decade ago, while other motor vehicle fatalities are 28 percent lower.

GHSA projects the final motorcyclist fatality total for 2014 will be 4,584 – approximately 1.8 percent less than the 4,668 recorded in 2013. This will be the second straight year in which this number has decreased, and only the third decrease since 1997.

There is little evidence that risk factors for motorcyclists have been reduced in recent years, and fluctuations in motorcyclist fatalities are likely to have more to do with economic factors and weather patterns affecting exposure.

Currently, only 19 states and D.C. require all riders be helmeted. Another 28 mandate helmet use by riders younger than age 18 or 21, and three have no requirement. According to a 2014 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study, the use rate of helmets in universal law states was 89 percent, compared with 48 percent in all other states.

In addition to increasing helmet use, the report also recommends that states focus on motorcycle safety programs that:

**Reduce alcohol impairment.** In 2013, 28 percent of fatally injured riders had a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit of .08.

**Reduce speeding.** According to the most recent data, 34 percent of riders involved in fatal crashes were speeding, compared with 21 percent for passenger vehicle drivers.

**Ensure motorcyclists are properly licensed.** In 2013, 25 percent of motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes did not have a valid motorcycle license, compared to 13 percent of passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes.

**Encourage all drivers to share the road with motorcyclists.** According to NHTSA, when motorcycles crash with other vehicles, the other driver is often at fault. Many states conduct “share the road” campaigns to increase awareness of motorcyclists.

All 2014 data in the report are preliminary.

These Guys Are  
Counting On Us.....

Be sure to support our Charity  
Event on June 14th!  
Attend, Ride, and Bring ALL  
of your friends!





CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES, COME ON!

## *Top Cats' 20th Anniversary Adventure 20*

*By: Traveler*



How does a rider celebrate a Top Cats' anniversary in an appropriate way? Ride 4,000+ miles out west and back in less than two weeks, with a group of your best friends, that's how! Gear up, tune up, pack up and get ready for our 2015 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary journey to the Black Hills and beyond!



We have a little more than 120 days until we saddle up so at this point in time, you ought to be doing your research on time, budget, routes, hotel reservations, and what you're going to pack. To help you put your trip together and plan your time, here is the concept for our 20th Anniversary Black Hills Blast and Adventure Ride 20.



As with everything related to the sport of two – wheeled travel, flexibility is the foundation of executing a multi – day group ride. That's why we're referring to this as our concept, rather than a hard, fast plan. We understand also, that some riders' schedules might not allow them to make the entire trip or to ride with a particular group. Over the 20 + year history of Top Cats, we typically have riders return home from Sturgis on their own or meet us out at Sturgis and...that's OK.

We usually buy them a drink in sympathy of all the fun they missed riding solo.

This year, we'll have two groups of Top Cats for planning purposes...one group riding out to Sturgis on 28 July 2015 and one group riding back home via the Santa Fe Trail starting on 4 August 2015. Group 1, led by Bard Board, is leaving on Tuesday, 28 July and arriving in Rapid City on Thursday, 30 July. The reasoning is that this year is the 75<sup>th</sup> Black Hills Rally anniversary and it will be packed. Room rates have also skyrocketed. Arriving early will afford us better room rates, less crowds and...the same opportunity to ride the Black Hills as we have in the past 20 years.

Group 2, led by Wayne Kirkpatrick, will form up at the Alex Johnson Hotel, in Rapid City and depart on a six day ride home via the Rocky Mountains, Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, The Great Sand Dunes, Angel Fire, NM, Red River, NM, and the Santa Fe Trail to Dodge City and Boot Hill. Six days? Yes, recall the thesis that good rides are based on flexibility? This ride will be about 2,000 miles over 6 days with the option, on any given leg of the trip, to cut the ride short and head directly back home for those who have to be back by a particular date / time. We'll buy you a drink in sympathy.

Now, why ride the Santa Fe Trail back? Just because it's a cool thing to do. Imagine this conversation....  
*"How was your ride to Sturgis? We had a great ride, great time, and great friends. When did you get home? We left on 28 July and got back on 8 August how about you? Wow, what took you so long? We took a few days and rode the Santa Fe Trail home with side trips through the Rocky Mountains, Cripple Creek, Pikes Peak, and Garden of the Gods, The Great Sand Dunes, Angel Fire, Red River, and the Santa Fe Trail...."*

See what I mean about the cool factor? Interested by now?

Well come along on my pictorial pre ride on the next pages and see for yourself...





TC Awards Banquet, Continued

**4 Aug, Tuesday**

**Rapid City, SD to Colorado Springs, CO  
Via RT 385, 85, and I 25 (470 miles)**



Picture 1 RT 385, South Dakota



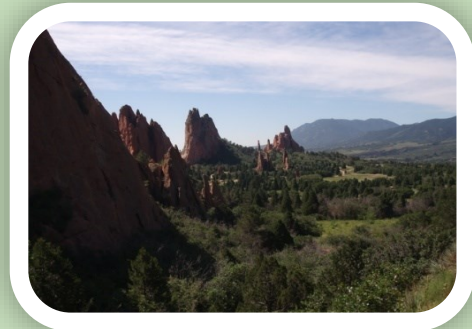
Picture 2 RT 85, Wyoming



Picture 3 Colorado Springs, CO, Pikes Peak

**5 Aug, Wednesday**

**Colorado Springs, CO  
(Local Tour) (150 miles)  
Garden of the Gods**



Picture 4 Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs



Picture 5 Garden of the Gods

Pikes Peak  
(Optional)





Picture 7 Pikes Peak Very Challenging Ride

## Cripple Creek



Picture 8 Cripple Creek, CO



Picture 9 Cripple Creek Casinos

Phantom Canyon Trail (Optional)  
Extremely Difficult for Touring Bikes



Picture 10 Phantom Canyon Trail - Difficult!



Picture 11 Phantom Canyon Trail





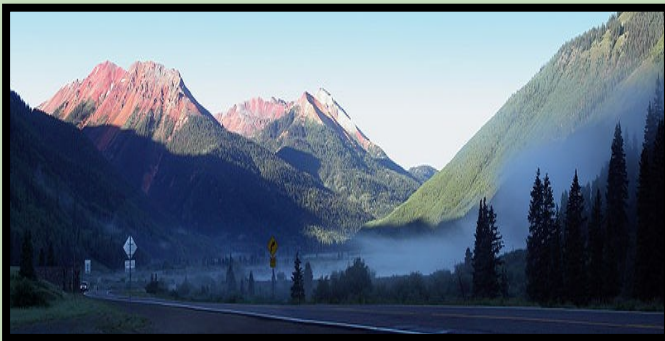
**6 Aug, Thursday**

**Colorado Springs, CO  
Via Million Hwy to Red River, NM  
(229 miles)**

***Million Dollar Highway***



Picture 12 Million Dollar Highway, Colorado



Picture 13 Million Dollar Highway, Morning Fog

**Great Sand Dunes  
National Park, Colorado**



Picture 14 Great Sand Dunes, One Mile Away

**Red River,  
New Mexico**



Picture 16 Red River, NM, Ski Resort



Picture 17 Red River, NM



**7 Aug. Friday**

**Start Home via Santa Fe Trail to Dodge City, KS, (~400 miles)**

**Angel Fire, NM**



Picture 18 Remote Town of Angel Fire, NM



Picture 19 Angel Fire Viet Nam Veterans Chapel

**Santa Fee Trail**



Picture 20 Santa Fe Trail, Southern Cimarron Route



Picture 21 Santa Fe Trail, Miles of Nothing

**8 Aug. Saturday**

**Dodge City, KS to Springfield, MO, Optional Departure Home Day (260 miles)**



Picture 22 Santa Fe Trail, Kansas



Picture 23 Santa Fe Trail, Missouri





**9 Aug, Sunday**

**Springfield, MO to Chicago, IL (450 miles)**



Picture 24 Final Stretch Home

Excited? Well now is the time to schedule your vacation, and start making plans. We'll have all of the hotel information in future notices. Let me know if you are interested so I can start blocking hotel rooms and negotiating room rates.

[Wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:Wkirkpa177@aol.com)

Picture 25 Chicago-Sturgis-Colorado-  
New Mexico-Oklahoma-Kansas-  
Missouri-Illinois





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

### **1970 Triumph Bonneville T120R**

Immaculate and 99% original, iconic Triumph Bonneville, 650cc. Restored engine with 4+ hours on it. 4,900 original miles. New period paint, original parts with no upgrades, Perfect condition and ready to roll. \$7,500. Contact Traveler: [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com)



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Old reliable. Great over the road bike. 1340 cc fuel – injected Evo engine. Leather covered, classic saddlebags. Many new parts, fresh engine overhaul, good condition all around. \$6,800. Contact Traveler: [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com)



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\$3,200

**For More Information Contact:**  
**Ric Case**  
**[RicCase@comcast.net](mailto:RicCase@comcast.net)**  
**847.363.1542**





## Buy, Sell, Trade... Cont

### **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)



I traded in my bike for a new 2015 CVO Limited. I am not able to mount my flag kit on this new bike, so I am looking to sell.

The kit is complete with all hardware: PF1000, with a total of 3 flag holder sockets which attach to the Harley using kit HWK020. This kit lists for over \$315.00 plus tax. It was only used once and is in

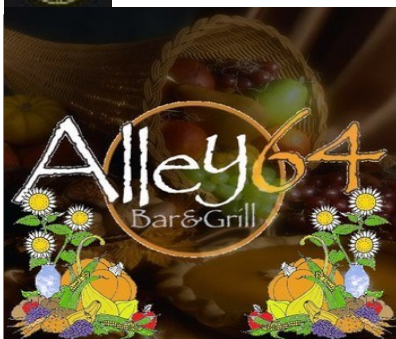


great condition. If you are interested in adding a flag mount to your Harley, please let me know. I would like to get \$275.00 plus I will help you with the install.



Don De Lordo  
[Don\\_De@ATT.net](mailto:Don_De@ATT.net)

Put your  
information  
here!  
Buy, Sell, Trade  
with Top Cat's  
Reliability!



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES MAY 5TH, 2015

Alley 64  
2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Walters



**The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM**

By Mike Bradbury, President of Top Cats, Illinois.

Members were asked to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike then welcomed all and the new tradition of telling jokes began... A few of us may have a future in the entertainment business.

New member Jim Bolton introduced ur guests for the evening Dick Hillis and Kelly Glass

### **Past President's Comments:** Wayne Kirkpatrick

Road Captains don't just step into the position, but they take time to develop the excellent skills and talents that are needed to lead a safe and satisfying ride. Don DeLardo was the Road Captain for the first ride of the Top Cat's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and it was a great success. It was a safe ride and the whole group enjoyed the camaraderie, the great weather and the scenic roads. All of the group came together to make it a memorable ride and a perfect start to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!

Raffle Tickets for Rolling Thunder's Charity Raffle were offered to the group.

### **Vice President's Report:** Ric Case

Ric talked to the group about the Old Road Captain Rockers and ceremoniously removed his old rocker from his vest and replaced it with our new Black Lettered Rockers on Gold backgrounds for the Senior Road Captains. Gold Letters on Black Background Rockers were given to the Road Captains.

Ric Thanked all of the Road Captains for all the work that they do and after much discussion about the great ride that Don organized, the start system was explained. This is the system used by the club to identify and reward the road captains for their contributions.

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

ROAR

Articles are always welcomed! If you would like to preview a ride or do a summary of a good ride that you've been on... send your information to Mary Kirkpatrick and a spot will be made for your information in the next ROAR!

### **Activities:** Gene Rigby

The activities for the next 2 months were reviewed.

- Little Angels – Ric will lead the satellite ride to the Little Angels Ride and it has been confirmed that the Top Cats will be riding in the front of the event.
- Starting with the Big Cats Ride. Stephan Levy, the organizer of the ride for the past ten years spoke about the highlights of the ride. It will start at Woodstock and lunch and music will be served before the ride. 40 miles later, the group will visit the Big Cat Sanctuary in Sharon, Wisconsin.
- Mary Kirkpatrick is leading a ride to Door County on June 19, 20, and 21. The information is on the website!
- Sturgis Events were reviewed by Wayne Kirkpatrick. It will be a great celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Top Cats. About 25 members are going this year to the 75<sup>th</sup> Sturgis Bike Rally.

Gene asked the members to consider putting together day rides for the club and to see Genie Stevenson to get ideas and to find a date.

(Continued on page 211)





## General Meeting,, Continued

**Guest Speaker** – Jillian Geese spoke about the programs that NISRA develops for their clients. NISRA is an acronym for Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association.

There are numerous activities that are offered for children and adults with disabilities. It is a very effective system that allows the participants to be active and develop skills in their areas of interest. Painting, sculpture, music and physical events are just a few of the offerings. The newest addition to their list of programs is one that is directed at the population of veterans with disabilities. For the veterans, the NISRA offerings include year-long memberships to Fitness Centers with a work-out buddy. There have also been painting classes that include wine testing for the Vets. The paintings that come out of these sessions are impressive!

According to Jillian, the team of NISRA and Top Cats is a natural! Both groups are based in Fun, Professionalism, Compassion, Trust and innovation. These are the pillars of NISRA's and also the main characteristics that are evident in Top Cats members. Jillian ended her time with the club by asking questions of the membership about the team's history and handing out prizes for the correct answers! It was good to have Jillian energize the group with reasons for supporting *RIDE FOR DREAMS*!

*Also: Jillian mentioned that on August 15<sup>th</sup>, NISRA will be providing a movie in the park in Barrington. It has been organized by Barrington groups to benefit NISRA.*

## Top Cats History!

Wayne Kirkpatrick reviewed a few stories of the History of the Club as well as the History of the connection to NISRA.

- \*The History of the Two Spot was told... In old times, the group would be led by the group's president. But after a few assassination attempts by rival bikers, the 'two-spot' became the place for the president to ride. Now, that begs the question... *And they haven't figured that out yet?* No matter... The Two-Spot is a place of honor within any biker club today.
- \*The Black Bandana on the handlebar is worn to honor the last fallen rider in a club. Hopefully, any bandana that you see is old and faded indicating that the club has not suffered a loss in a long time!
- \*NISRA. BACK IN THE DAY.... When the team between Top Cats and NISRA was formed, there was a picnic that brought the two groups together every year. Fishing, food and pictures of NISRA kids on bikes were some of the activities.... One year, while getting the bikes set up, one of the NISRA kids heard two Top Cats arguing over whether to call their bikes a *motorcycle* or a *bike*... at one point a Top Cat became irritated and said, 'Its an 'f....n' BIKE! When that boy's mom came over to get him, she asked if he liked getting his picture on the motorcycle. To which he replied, "MOM, it's an 'f....n' BIKE! It didn't end the team work... and years later, it makes for a good story about the STRONG bond between Top Cats and NISRA! Nothing will 'f....n' stop the work Top Cats does for NISRA!

## Safety / Charity: Ric Case

### Safety

- ★ The next GRASS Class will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This date was changed to accommodate our Ride to and for *Little Angels*.

### Safety Tip/Kaution Korner – Gene Riggsby

Don't SPRING into SPRING riding! See the May ROAR for full details! One more addition to the article was NOT learning new things while riding. If you've bought something new for your bike, be sure to master using those items before riding!

(Continued on page 23)

## President's Note to Members!

Remember, Top Cats of Illinois is recognized as a premier, top notch club by it's members, other clubs and non-club motorcycle riders as well. All members should be proud of your club affiliation and supportive of our activities. Wear your Top Cat's patch on your gear and display our flag when you ride. Register for your Ride for Dreams, support our charity, step up to train and be a Road Captain and lead rides. Together, as like minded Top Cats, we are strong, invincible and set an example as the place to be for sharing fun, interesting rides and activities together.

Come on, Let's Roar!

Motorcycle Mike

President

Top Cats of Illinois

*"4 wheels move the body, 2 wheels move the soul"*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**MAY 12TH , 2015**

**Alley 64**

**2001 N. Rand Rd, Palatine, Illinois**

**Submitted by Mary Walters**

**Present:** Mike Bradbury, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Ric Case, Gene Rigsby , Mary Kirkpatrick, Emil Kornecki

**Excused:** Greg Ludwig and Jeff Tietz

**President,** Mike Bradbury, Called the meeting to order at 7:30

- ✦ Mike will be out of town for the General Meeting in June.
- ✦ Ric Case will take the meeting.

**Vice President: Ric Case**

- ✦ The Little Angels Ride Lead-In Ride will meet at the Mobile Station at Ela and 12. Arrive at 7:30 with Kick Stands up at 8:00am. Ric will lead the ride to The Harley Dealer and it will take about an hour. There is a concern about the weather at this time, and the Mass Blast will include the option to ride in cars.
- ✦ Ric is in need of a tail gunner and a mentor for this ride.
- ✦ Jo Giovannoni will be the guest speaker for June and she will need a computer, projector and screen for her presentation.

**Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick**

- ✦ The flags have come in and Jim Purcell needs to be reimbursed.
- ✦ The Woodstock Harley Dealership is putting up a Veteran's Memorial at their new dealership. There are bricks for sale that will be laid around the new Flagpole. Gene made a motion that we use \$40 to order a brick for the memorial. Emil Kornecki was the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the board agreed unanimously.

**Secretary: Mary Kirkpatrick**

- ✦ There has been a gap in getting club information to new members. Mary suggested that we address the process for how the information is channeled through the board. After a short discussion it was decided that:
  - ⇒ Mary will take the information and the check, update rosters, scan in the application and send it out to the board members.
  - ⇒ After the board vote, which will approve their application, the check and application will be given to Greg Smith to archive the hard copy and get the check to the treasurer.

**Treasurer: Greg Ludwig**

- ✦ Greg was unable to attend tonight.
- ✦ Club and Charity Acct Balances have been requested of Greg by Mike and Mike will follow up with Greg to make sure that all of the payables have been addressed.

**Activities and Charity: Gene Rigsby**

**Activities**

- ✦ The Committee has been working to formalize their responsibilities and develop ideas and Road Captains.
- ✦ Event Calendar opportunities were reviewed and discussed for Gene to take back to the committee.
- ✦ The events for the next two months were reviewed.

**Charity Ride**

Ride Route will remain the same as last year since it was a great route in both length of ride and the scenic aspect of the roads. A pre-ride needs to be done in order to assure that the roads are safe and there are no construction needs

(Continued on page 23)





## Board Meeting, Continued

### Membership: Emil Korkecki

- ✦ Dick and Kelly, the guests at our last general meeting may join. They took applications at the general meeting and the board agreed it would be nice to have them. We hope to welcome them soon.

### Safety: Ric Case

- ✦ The Transition for the new GRASS PPT is in motion, but the committee wants to move through this thoroughly. It will not be ready for the May 16<sup>th</sup> class.
- ✦ Gene asked about how many to order stars that will recognize the number of rides a Road Captain has completed.

### Website: Jeff Tietz

- ✦ Presently, the website that is being developed by American Creative has still not been completed and the board unanimously agreed that this is a major concern. The website has not been updated with the more recent pictures and editions of ROAR. Mike will present these concerns to Jeff Tietz and work out a strategy to push this forward.

Meeting Adjourned by Mike Bradbury at 9:00 pm

## General Meeting Minutes Continued....

### What can you do to show your TC Support for our *RIDE FOR DREAMS*?

- Donation items needed! Please use creativity in your giving. Your own business, your favorite stops, or just things that you may have at home of value that you know you won't be needing... are all sources for finding donations! Bring them to the next meeting!
  - Like and Share RFD on Facebook
- Mark your calendars for RFD on June 14<sup>th</sup>

### Products / Membership: Emil Kornecki

- ✦ New members, Lyn and John Canger were given their new member packets and were welcomed as the newest Top Cats!
- ✦ Dick and Kelly, our guests tonight asked for applications and we are looking forward to welcoming them next month!
- ✦ Products that are still in stock were displayed by Lisa Purcell and offered to the members. The goal is to get them all sold so that Lisa can ride to the meetings and not have to bring the stock. Future products will be made available through a vender link on our new website!
- ✦ Jim Purcell told the group that the new flags have been ordered. They are great flags, good quality and excellent graphics. They will be distributed at the next meeting... or before if you attend a ride!

**50 / 50 Raffle** was pulled Jim Purcell and won by Mike Bradbury.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15.



## Why do we LOVE NISRA?

LET  
US  
COUNT  
THE  
WAYS

**N**

For all of the  
NEAT Programs  
that they do every  
day...

**I**

For all of the  
INNOVATIVE  
New Ideas... for  
our Veterans!

**R**

For the  
RECREATIONAL  
Opportunities for  
People  
of all Ages

**S**

For all of  
the  
SPECIAL  
People  
that Work  
for  
NISRA

**A**

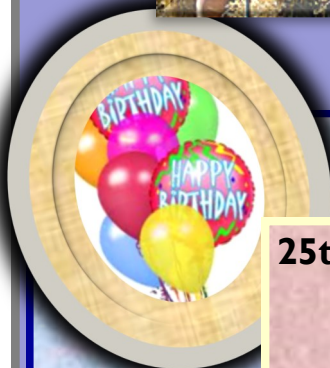
For the  
AWSOME  
Memories  
that we all  
will have af-  
ter June  
14th!



### June Celebrations!

25th - Bard Boand

10th - The President and First Lady,  
Mike and Kathie Bradbury







## TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

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

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

## Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Top Cats Get 15% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry Harley-Davidson



Top Cats Get 15% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at City Limits Harley-Davidson

### Membership Has Its Privileges!

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

## HELP WANTED WEBSITE EDITOR

The Top Cats Board of Directors is looking for an enterprising and creative individual to assume responsibility for coordinating the content on our soon-to-be upgraded website. No 'technical' website experience is required.

The primary responsibility will be to work with the webmaster and various individuals who 'own' certain areas of the website to ensure our content is fresh and inviting as well as come up with ideas for additional content and enhancements to the site to bring more value to our members.

For more information contact any board member or

Richard Flynn

[RichFlynnJr@aol.com](mailto:RichFlynnJr@aol.com)

## WANTED



## Top Cats Historian

The Top Cats Board is looking for a member to become official historian for the club.

Over the next year we want to create a written and oral history of our club that we can share with existing, new, and potential members.

The club turns 15 in 2010. Many of our legacy members have or will be moving on. We want to capture their and others' stories of our humble beginnings as well as favorite tales of the road.

If you have an interest in becoming Top Cats Historian or being a part of this activity please contact Dennis P. (Wombat) Dougherty at [wombat@dpdougherty.com](mailto:wombat@dpdougherty.com)

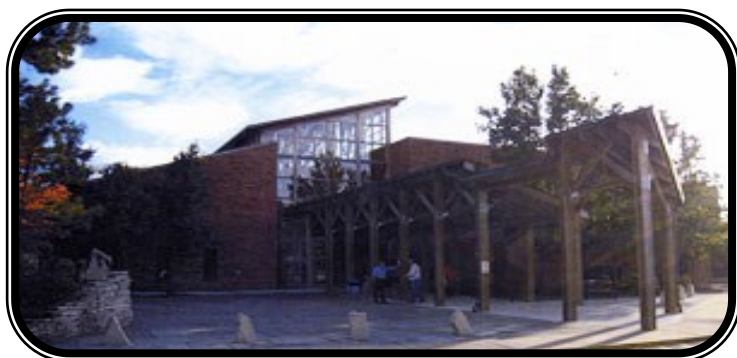




## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, June 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, June 9th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Sunday, June 14th	RIDE FOR DREAMS!	Woodstock HD	Woodstock HD	9:00am	Noelle RigsbyF
Fri/Sat/Sun June 19, 20 and 21	Ride The Door	Shell Station, Libertyville	Door County, Wisconsin	8:00 am	Mary Kirkpatrick
Friday/Sunday July 3,4 and 5	Trempealeau	NW 14 and 176 Shell/McDonalds	Trempealeau, WI	8:00 am	Bradbury
Tuesday, July 7th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Tuesday, July 14th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Bradbury
Friday/Sunday July 17, 18, and 19	Bike Time	TBA	Muskegon, MI	8:00 am	Bradbury
Tuesday/ Tuesday July 28 to Aug 4	Sturgis - 75th	NE 12 and Ela	Sturgis, SD	8:00 am	Boand

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 Hwy  
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)



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For more information about the Top Cats visit our website at **[www.TOPCATS.org](http://www.TOPCATS.org)**

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