



# ROAR

The Official Publication of the TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



For most of us, the end of the riding season is near. I say most of us as there is always the hardest of riders; with heated clothes, seats, gloves and handlebar grips that are determined to keep riding during the colder months. These are the 4 season riders. I find it inspiring to see these guys and gals out on their motorcycles when it's so cold. But not so inspiring that I want to join them.

And now is the time to start thinking of storing our bikes, making upgrades we want that we can afford to do over the winter months. Before that, we still have some riding left to do!



Jim Purcell's Fall Color Ride is now in progress and there will be other opportunities to ride while there is still warm enough weather left to enjoy!

If you have any of those last minute ride ideas for now or new ideas for next year, please see a Road Captain or club officer and start the process to gain a mentor and plan your ride.

It can be very rewarding... but only if you do it!

It is extremely important to be supportive of your club, the Top Cats - Illinois. Get involved, participate and volunteer in some support role. Wear your gear as much as possible and display your club flag on your motorcycle. We have decals that can be display too in a myriad of ways. Be it becoming a committee member, chair or even to run for office, your club has a lot to offer you for a support role. The satisfaction and fulfilling feeling of doing something for yourself and others is always rewarding too!

Next year for 2017, the Secretary position and a Director's position are open. These positions are not difficult and we are in process of adjusting the Secretarial position to make it even easier to perform. It is never too difficult to not only being a member of Top Cats - Illinois, but being one that makes a difference.

Let's Roar and Ride!

Mike Bradbury

President, Top Cats - Illinois

*"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones that you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover" - Mark Twain"*

*And ride with your brothers and sisters.."*  
Mike Bradbury

October, 2016

Volume 16, Issue 10

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### Upcoming Events

#### OCTOBER

- 1-2 GREEN BAY!
- 4 GENERAL MEETING
- 11 BOARD MEETING
- 23 GRASS

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
- 8 BOARD MEETING

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





## KAUTION KORNER

BE SEEN

BE HEARD



BE SAFE!



By:

Jim Purcell, Road Captain

STATISTICS STATE THE COMMENT  
HEARD MOST OFTEN AFTER  
MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS IS  
“I NEVER SAW THEM!”

There are many areas to review when getting ready for a ride... We all wear helmets, leathers, gloves and glasses... or we SHOULD! But, we also have to consider what to do about being seen! Today's technology has come a long way. Motorcycles have become vibrant with colors which now stand out in the crowd. Equipment, helmets and clothing have become high tech and high visibility. There are many articles that discuss the details you should be thinking about... so here is a little sample of the information that can help you be heard, be seen and be safe!!

The first interesting and informative article that will be reviewed for you, can be found in the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 edition of *Cycle World*. John L. Stein, discusses the issue in his article, “The Art of Being Seen on your Motorcycle”. In this article, he gives the following advice:

Motorcycles are already at a disadvantage on the road because they are far smaller and can accelerate and decelerate far faster than car drivers are accustomed to. This makes them both harder to see and harder to gauge the distance from. Darkly colored motorcycles only exacerbate the issue, making our tiny little rocket ships that much more difficult to recognize on the road. Riding a brightly colored motorcycle can exponentially increase the chance you'll be noticed, even if only seen out of the corner a driver's eye; a fraction of a second difference in reaction time can be the difference between life and death.

So in a flip-flop from nature's order, rather than hide, smart riders find ways to grab drivers' attention, which means appealing to one of their five senses. Since drivers can't touch or taste or smell you (unless you're aboard an RD400 sipping Blendzall), that leaves attracting their gaze or hearing. With that in mind, here are some well-proven strategies.

**Hyper horns:** Especially on older bikes, stock horns sometimes offer little more than an ovine bleat. But wiring up a set of ear-splitting Fiamm or Stebel air horns can roust even drowsy drivers fast.



**Loud pipes:** The classic bumper sticker, “Loud Pipes Save Lives,” is probably true to some extent. They are, however, illegal and don't make many friends for motorcycling, either.

And unlike a loud horn, they won't do much good in alerting a car that's about to swing across your bow.

**Neon gear:** Some emergency vehicles are painted high-visibility neon, which, in conjunction with their warbling sirens, halts traffic like nothing short of a good miniskirt. A growing number of companies make high-vis apparel, and Vemar offers a fluorescent lid that soaks up light energy



(Continued on pg 3)



**HID lighting:** Your BFF may always have your back, but the brightest headlight you can afford will have your front on the street. High-intensity discharge (HID) xenon and light-emitting diode (LED) lighting are super-noticeable in daytime and also brighter than halogen OE units at night. The BMW **K1600GTL** has an adaptive HID headlight, and you can also buy HID and LED bulbs and lighting kits to fit various models.



**Headlight modulator:** You already ride with your headlight on, right? Legal in all 50 states, a pulsing headlight modulator from Kisan Electronics draws additional attention to your position in the space-time continuum. Brake-light modulators are also available.

**Face Paint:** Way back in 1976, ☐ **Moto Guzzi** had it right by finishing ☐ the 850 Le Mans bikini fairing in ☐ fluorescent orange, a distinctive styling touch that also increased conspicuity. Fairings offer a valuable few square feet of surface area that can be harnessed in reflective or eye-catching colors. I'm not suggesting you should paint your Gixxer or ☐ bagger's fairing in Hello Kitty lip-gloss, but anything's better than black, Jack.

The science of sight can teach motorcyclists how to become more visible. Robert Poulin, MD, an eye physician and surgeon who club races a **BMW M3**, shares some surprising facts. "As people age, the eye begins to block light, particularly in the blue end of the color spectrum," he says. "So a blue bike or apparel won't look as vibrant to older drivers as greens, reds and yellows." Another surprise is that riders may be more visible at night than by day. "The dark-adapted eye is very sensitive and has a wider dynamic range for detecting light than the light-adapted eye," Poulin notes. And finally, get a headlight modulator. "As a driver, I really notice bikes' flashing headlights," A few other things to keep in mind can be found in a September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 article in **Ride Apart**. Sean MacDonald identifies the following areas to consider when looking at your visibility and safety on the road:

✦ Lighting now includes high intensity L.E.D.s. You

can upgrade older models by adding these. They are great for the front and back of your bike. Some newer models are already equipped. A good practice is to always make sure your signal and brake lights are in working order every time you ride.

- ✦ For the most part, motorcycles are illuminated on front and rear. They also make high visibility reflective tape that is clear. This is now being used for the sides of your motorcycle, which is one of the most vulnerable areas for a motorcyclist. This tape comes in a variety of sizes and can be placed strategically in discrete places to give maximum side visibility. And an old cliché, "Anything is better than black" is true! Even in daylight, black is hard to spot
- ✦ And remember, because of your size, you're distance and speed is hard to judge for oncoming motorists. Contrast clothing can help, like yellows and oranges, which are the top two for being easier to see. Rain suits should also be a highly visible color. Reflective riding in the rain is never a pleasure, but sometimes a necessity. Remember, all vehicles are now dealing with poor visibility.
- ✦ Blind Spots: Rule of thumb, "If you can't see the driver's face, they can't see you!" Also, the bigger the vehicle, the harder it is for them to see you!
- ✦ And finally, make sure ALL vehicles around you can see you when you make turns, change lanes, or slow down and stop!

Read the full articles here:

<http://www.cycleworld.com/2013/07/26/the-art-of-being-seen-on-your-motorcycle>

<https://rideapart.com/articles/ways-to-make-your-motorcycle-more-visible>

The winter is coming, so we should all take some time to do a little more research on our own! This is one topic that cannot be 'over-studied', so let your friends know what you find and we will SEE you in the spring!







## VP's Vision

Remembering....

Karl "Virgo" Bender

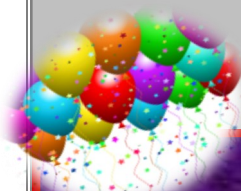
By: Ric 'Clutch' Case

The riding season maybe winding down, but there is still SOME riding left. When that is done, though, we can let the Top Cats social activities escalate and the non-riding activities begin.

- ✦ If you are a shooter, then I will arrange a morning of target practice at the On Target facility.
- ✦ If you are a bowler, Rox can arrange an event at Ten Pins and Sideouts pub and eatery.
- ✦ In January, our Road Captains and Senior Road Captains will be meeting, planning, and doing a requirements review. They will also discuss nominations for Senior Road Captain(s) if any.
- ✦ Let's not forget our Annual Banquet in February.
- ✦ There will be a continuation of our movie matinees.
- ✦ We will have a trip to the International Motorcycle Show in February.
- ✦ Cabin Fever, held at Woodstock H-D, will be a great social event with lots of vendors. One of the many events where we will be promoting our Charity Ride.
- ✦ In the past, we have offered our Members an opportunity to acquire their Concealed Carry Weapon Certification for Illinois and possibly Florida Arizona and Utah through a class and shooting exercises. We will check on the interest within the club and plan accordingly.
- ✦ That should take us into the spring and the annual Bike Blessings to kick off the new riding season.

This year may be closing but, we are always looking to add other new and exciting events for winter or summer....

Just present it to any Board Member



## October Celebrations!

### Birthdays!

22nd - Ric Case

30th - Gene Rigsby

## Oil Spots

By: Traveler



## Harley to lay off 200 Employees



ing recent slower sales.

Approximately 200 Harley-Davidson Inc. employees could face layoffs this fall as the company adjusts motorcycle production follow-

Union sources said many of the layoffs will take place at Harley's assembly plant in York, Pa., but that a handful will occur at the engine plant in Menomonee Falls, where the company employs approximately 1,000 people, and there will be approximately 35 layoffs at the plant in Tomahawk. The York Daily Record reported that 117 of the layoffs will occur at the York plant, in Springettsbury Township, Pa., that employs approximately 950 members of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers Local 75.

The company declined to give specifics on the layoffs Wednesday. But in an email, eim said: "The company continually reacts to industry and market changes to provide the best products and services to our customers. To that end, as we adjust our production plan to align with 2016 guidance, we are making the necessary changes to right-size the company. As a result, approximately 200 regular and casual union employees will be impacted across our U.S. plants. The majority of impacts are scheduled for the fourth quarter."



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

### Anniversaries

25th Ric and Jacqui Case



**Oil Spots, Continued...**

(Continued on pg 6)

## **BMW debuts concept bike at Sturgis**

At the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum, the newest exhibit is called "Main Street" commemorating motorcycling's timeless role in reaching the mainstream. To help the Museum "Honor the Ride" BMW Motorrad has brought a unique concept bike dubbed the R 5 Hommage, for an exclusive U.S. debut.

The BMW R 5 Hommage demonstrates just how well the world of historic motorcycles and the current custom scene are in harmony with one another and the R 5 Hommage really captures the essential spirit of motorcycling of any era and it looks pretty cool, too.



The R 5 comes to the museum for an extended stay after its U.S. debut at "Skin & Bones" - the custom bike at the Buffalo Chip during the Rally.

Back in the 1930s the original R 5 was one of the groundbreaking sportbikes of the era and a defining machine in BMW Motorrad's illustrious heritage. To mark the 80th anniversary of the original, BMW commissioned this special bike.

At the core there is an original 500cc two-cylinder engine from a crashed damaged race bike...from there the remaining parts gradually took shape based on sketches by the BMW Motorrad Design Team. In addition to key styling cues, they incorporated some surprises including a supercharger!

## **Hosed again? The EPA is reviving the 4-gallon minimum fuel-purchase policy**



**TAKE ACTION! CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

It appears that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is subjecting motorcyclists to a 4-gallon minimum fuel purchase at blender pumps that dispense E10 and E15.

As part of its E15 Misfueling Mitigation Program, the EPA is allowing retailers to sell fuel with 10 percent ethanol from the same pump used for blends of 15 percent ethanol. This creates a problem for motorcyclists, who could wind up with as much as a quart of E15 in their tanks even if they select E10.



And the ethanol lobby is promoting this approach.

The AMA spotted this minimum-purchase policy in 2012 and, with the voices of thousands of motorcyclists, made enough noise that the EPA backed away from it.

Since the average fuel tank for motorcycles holds less than 4 gallons, riders are unable to buy the required minimum of 4 gallons. And, even motorcycles with larger tanks could end up with a blend with more than 10 percent ethanol. Or, end up fueling what you think is safe fuel and end up with something much worse!

We thought common sense prevailed at the EPA when on Dec. 17, 2012, the agency informed the AMA it had reversed its decision to require the 4-gallon minimum purchase.

After the AMA read the pro-ethanol group's "roadmap," we immediately sent a letter to the EPA and contacted their public relations office for clarification. The agency has not yet responded but the media inquiry prompted a response.

According to an EPA spokesperson:

*Dispensing E10 in volumes less than 4 gallons from a pump that supplies E10 only is absolutely NOT a violation.*

*The excerpted portion you highlighted should refer only to the less than 1% of gas stations that have gasoline pumps that that dispense BOTH E10 and E15 from a single hose or nozzle. The 4 gallon fueling minimum for E10 is only required for these "co-dispensing pumps" and is there to protect consumers. The 4-gallon minimum ensures that engines, that are not allowed to use E15 (like those in motorcycles) do not inadvertently get too much ethanol in the tank. To comply with EPA regulations, most stations with co-dispensing pumps simply put up a sign that says the co-dispensing pump may only be used for passenger vehicles and separately offer a dedicated E10 pump for motorcycles and other engines that cannot use E15. Motorcyclists or other types of vehicles and engines that require E10 in volumes of less than 4 gallons should not have a problem finding E10 in any volume they need.*

(Continued on page 6)



## Oil Spots, Continued...

Apparently, common sense comes only in fleeting moments—and, once again, motorcyclists end up getting hosed from an ill-conceived program created by unelected Washington bureaucrats.

Congress and the EPA are not protecting you. Ethanol producers and their lobbyists don't care about the danger of inadvertently misfueling your motorcycle with E15. And confusing labels at the pump don't get the message across.

The key takeaway for motorcyclists is this: If you pull up to a fuel pump that offers E10 and E15, play it safe and look for the legally required pump that only dispenses E10. If you have an older or vintage bike, you need E0 – fuel with no ethanol.

As motorcyclists, we have to watch out for each other and get the word out: E15 fuel is unsafe and we've got to keep it out of our tanks.

Please send a prewritten comment to your senators and representative by clicking on the "Take Action" link above. Now more than ever, it is crucial that you and your riding friends become members of the AMA to help protect our riding freedoms. More members mean more clout against the opponents of motorcycling. That support will help fight for your rights – on the road, trail, racetrack, and in the halls of government.

## Valerie Thompson named 'World's Fastest Female Motorcycle Racer'

Valerie Thompson earned the title of world's fastest female motorcycle racer on September 1 at the Bonneville Motorcycle Speed Trials with a blistering one measured mile average speed of 304 mph (489.66 km/h) riding the famous Denis Manning designed "7" Racing streamliner.



After three mandatory license qualification runs, Thompson scorched the salt with two memorable runs over 294

and 304 mph. Thompson's highest exit speed exceeded 313 mph, earning her the Top Speed of the Event Award and new title as the World's Fastest Female Motorcycle Racer.

The four-day Bonneville Motorcycle Speed Trials is the premier motorcycle land speed-racing event of North America. The AMA and FIM sanctioned event offers national and world speed record opportunities. Event organizers honored Thompson and Team "7" Racing with the "Top Speed of the Event Award" while celebrating her new title. A video of Thompson's award-winning run is available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8HWGBDR2aM>

Thompson is an independent team owner/driver, fielding a record setting BMW S 1000 RR land speed racing bike with plans to compete in the NHRA Pro Stock Motorcycle class in 2017. In addition to 7-land speed records, she is a lifetime member of six-land speed racing 200 MPH Clubs, including the prestigious Bonneville 200 MPH Club and first female member of the Colorado Mile.

## Harley-Davidson sues online retailer in trademark suit

Motorcycle manufacturer Harley-Davidson has filed a trademark infringement lawsuit against online retailer GearLaunch.

Harley-Davidson also brought an action for counterfeiting, trademark dilution, cybersquatting, copyright infringement, and unfair competition.



The suit, filed on August 30 at the US District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Division, claimed GearLaunch had infringed its copyright and trademarks by selling infringing apparel online.

GearLaunch, a California-based company, and its six associated business, Gear Harley, TeeKiwi, TeeFuny, TeeSeason, TeeShop4U Company aka Biker's Corner and TeeDig, had infringed Harley-Davidson's 'Bar & Shield Logo', 'Willie G. Skull Logo', and 'Number 1 Logo' trademarks, according to the manufacturer.

The copyright claim concerns the 'Willie G. Skull Logo'. Harley-Davidson sent five cease-and-desist demands to the companies, between January and June this year, but they have continued to sell the infringing products, the manufacturer alleged.

(Continued on page 7)



## Oil Spots, Continued...

The motorcycle manufacturer is seeking an injunction to stop the companies from using and/or registering the trademarks and registering any confusingly similar domain names, as well as compensatory and punitive damages. It is also seeking an order to destroy all infringing products, an order requiring the companies to transfer the confusingly similar domain names to the company and an order requiring the defendants to pay statutory damages of \$2 million per infringement.

"Analysts estimate that 25% of global internet commerce today involves counterfeit products, so the problem is really a competitive issue for organizations, and not one that can be ignored.

## Lane-Splitting is Legal in California!



A motorcyclist positions himself between columns of stationary traffic at an intersection in California, the only state to permit lane-sharing.

When you're on a motorcycle in congested southern California, it's the only way to make progress. Lane-splitting has resided in gray-area for decades—not explicitly legal, but not illegal, either. Now the practice is officially legal thanks to the addition of Gov. Jerry Brown's signature on the A.B. 51 bill.

By legalizing and regulating lane-splitting, California has the potential to serve as an example for other states. Nevada, Georgia, Washington, Oregon, and Texas have all considered lane-splitting legislation during the past two years.

*Below is the complete text from the AMA's recent press release:*

**\*\*PICKERINGTON, Ohio \*\***—AM Gov. Jerry Brown signed A.B. 51 into law today, making California the first state to legally recognize lane splitting, the practice in which motorcyclists ride between lanes of traffic. The bill, sponsored by Assembly members Bill Quirk (D-Hayward) and Tom Lackey (R-Palmdale), grants the California Highway Patrol the authority to develop and issue lane-splitting guidelines in consultation with motorcycle safety groups and riders.

*This is great news for motorcyclists in California and throughout the country,"said Rob Dingman, president and CEO of the American Motorcyclist Association. The California Assembly and the governor have taken a huge step in formally recognizing a practice that has been in use for decades.*

*Lane splitting keeps riders safer by eliminating their exposure to rear-end collisions, and it helps ease congestion by effectively removing motorcycles from the traffic lanes."*

In 2012, the CHP developed guidelines for splitting lanes, posting them online in 2013 and including them in the Motorcycle Handbook distributed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. However, a citizen complained in 2014 that the guidelines were "underground regulations" put together by a state agency, rather than the legislature. So the CHP and DMV removed them.

A.B. 51 clarifies that the CHP does have authority to develop educational guidelines on lane splitting. The law also removes the practice from the legal gray area, where it was neither expressly prohibited nor approved.

Several other states, including Nevada, Georgia, Washington, Oregon and Texas, have considered legislation during the past two years that would have made lane splitting legal, with certain restrictions.

## Royal Enfield North America opens headquarters

*Royal Enfield of Milwaukee opened its flagship showroom to the public on Saturday, September 10, 2016.*



It was a historic day for Royal Enfield as it marked the opening of its first flagship dealer experience in Milwaukee.

Royal Enfield CEO Siddhartha Lal and Rod Copes, president of Royal Enfield North America, addressed the crowd, including VIPs and dignitaries, at the grand opening event this past weekend.

(Continued on page 8)



## Oil Spots, Continued...

“Royal Enfield is focused on delivering a ‘Pure Motorcycling’ experience to consumers. Our motorcycles are classically styled, simple, evocative and fun to ride. Royal Enfield creates a unique experience for riders that is approachable and unimimidating,” Copes said at the press conference. “This is the brand’s first stand-alone showroom location in the U.S., bringing to life the 115-year heritage of Royal Enfield – a history we’re very proud of.”



*Royal Enfield of Milwaukee’s flagship showroom, now open in the heart of motorcycle country, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

The company has also selected Milwaukee as the location of its headquarters and currently employs a staff of 20.

“Myself and the rest of the Royal Enfield global leadership are committed to the North American region,” Lal said. “Since 2010, we have increased production from 50,000 units to 500,000 units globally, and we are expected to produce 675,000 by the end of this fiscal year. North America is key to the contribution of that global growth.”

Royal Enfield North America will be continuing the brand’s storied history with the unveiling of its North American model lineup, featuring single-cylinder engines currently up to 535 cc. Available models at the 226 N. Water St. showroom include:

- \* The Classic 500 – timeless colors and classic styling ideal for exploring a city or cruising a country road.
- \* The Continental GT – a light and nimble motorcycle that boasts an aggressive riding position for an exhilarating ride.
- \* The Bullet 500 – in production for seven decades with its unmistakable appearance and distinctive exhaust note, this model delivers a classic, vivid sensory experience on every ride.

## Kawasaki to start developing bikes with AI technologies



Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. is moving forward with plans to develop next-generation motorcycles that can grow along with the rider. The motorcycles will make use of ICT (Information and Communications Technology), including AI (Artificial Intelligence), to achieve this goal.

The motorcycles being developed will use the Emotion Generation Engine and Natural Language Dialogue System\*1. The concept of this system would involve the rider being able to talk with the AI-controlled system. This communication between rider and motorcycle will open the door to a new world of unprecedented riding experiences.

This conceptualized system intends to allow a relationship with the rider and motorcycle. The more the rider and motorcycle interact, the stronger the bond, and this communication will allow the motorcycle to develop a unique personality reflecting the individual idiosyncrasies of the rider. This system is intended to give the rider an all-new kind of enjoyment.

In order to deliver exciting motorcycles that are fun and rewarding to ride, Kawasaki will continue to take full advantage of the vast experience and combined technological resources of the KHI Group as it explores novel approaches in the development of new products and technologies.



## Fallen firefighter’s bike memorial

(Continued on pg 9)





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

When Gerard Baptiste purchased a beat-up 1979 Honda CB750 for \$100 and rolled the restoration project into the Lower Manhattan fire station that housed New York City's Ladder Company 9 and Engine Company 33, his fellow firefighters laughed.

Baptiste had already been warned that the Honda was a poor choice for his first motorcycle, and his co-workers reiterated that it would cost a fortune to get the thing running again. Ultimately, they were right. It cost everything.



Only a few weeks after buying the bike, Baptiste and 342 of his fellow firefighters were killed in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Fifteen years after that fateful day, Baptiste's restored motorcycle – nicknamed the Dream Bike – serves as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the tragedy. It is on display at the 9/11 Memorial Museum near Ground Zero.

Amy Weinstein, Director of Collections at the Memorial Museum, said she can't help but look past the shiny red paint and see the bike as it was when Baptiste bought it, "a beat-up, battered, broken-down, non-functioning 1979 Honda motorcycle" that was all but forgotten in the weeks after the attacks as the surviving firefighters struggled to make sense of what had happened. Then, "somehow that heap – that wreck – sparked the imagination of a single journalist," Weinstein explained in an audio clip on the museum's website. "His enthusiasm infected the other firefighters, and the motorcycle became a way [for them] to deal with their stress ... their trauma ... their grief."

Gerard Baptiste, nicknamed "Biscuits" because he handed out treats to dogs near the firehouse, was a five-year veteran of the FDNY. The 35-year-old Army Reservist had just completed an overnight shift when the call came that a plane had crashed into the North Tower. He was inside the building when it collapsed less than two hours later, one of 10 members of Ladder Company 9 and Engine Company 33 to lose their lives that day.

The transformation took 15 months. Painted red, the bike's gas tank carries the artwork of firefighter Kevin Duffy, who included a cross, the number 343, a fire hose and pike pole ("tools of the trade"), helmets with the numbers 33 and 9, and roses representing each of the 10 firefighters from the house who was lost that day. Several members of 33/9 now wear that tattoo, and Duffy's artwork was added to the boom of Company 9's tower ladder and the firehouse floor.

Although the Honda received plenty of media attention – including a 2004 documentary by filmmakers John Allison and Tim O'Grady – it didn't have a permanent home for several years. It was auctioned off and proceeds donated to an educational fund established for the children of firefighters killed in the attacks.

When the bike didn't reach the reserve price, they raffled it instead. The winner was a woman in California, who gave the bike to a fireman who lost a brother on 9/11. That firefighter gave it to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, which was in the planning stages at the time.

## **Better Business Bureau honors Harley-Davidson**

The Better Business Bureau Institute for Marketplace Trust announced the winners of the 2016 International Torch Award for Ethics (ITAE). Four companies will be honored with the award. They are: Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Jon Wayne Service Company, Victory Auto Service & Glass and Merry Maids of Metro.



The award is given to businesses who demonstrate best practices in character leadership and organizational ethics.

The ITAE winners and finalists will be honored at a special luncheon ceremony on September 20, 2016 at The Westin Indianapolis in Indianapolis, IN, as part of the International Assembly of Better Business Bureaus.

"These outstanding companies consistently exceed marketplace standards for ethics in their relationships with their customers, employees, suppliers, industry peers and the communities in which they do business. By awarding them the 2016 International Torch Award for Ethics, we are demonstrating to the business community that adhering to Better Business Bureau ethical standards is the hallmark of successful, competitive companies," said Genie Barton, president of the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust.

## **Multi-dealership group shuts down**

American Heritage Motorcycles (AHM), a five-dealership group that launched in 2014, announced via email to its customers Monday that it is closing all of its stores.

AHM was started by Dan Finkelman from Columbus, Ohio; Rob McNish from New York; husband and wife Celia Sinclair and Jeff Sinclair, both from Cleveland; and Terry Sullivan, also from Cleveland. The five owners had a combined 65 years of management.

(Continued on pg. 10)

## Oil Spots, Continued...

their first dealership, AHM Chicago West, in South Elgin, Illinois.

As of the closing, AHM had five dealerships — two in Illinois and three in Ohio. They were: AHM Chicago West in South Elgin, Ill.; AHM Crossroads in Highland Park, Ill.; AHM North Coast in Willoughby Hills, Ohio; AHM Cincinnati in Loveland, Ohio; and AHM Burning River in Sheffield Village, Ohio. All five locations carried Indian and Victory motorcycles. Four of the locations carried Slingshot, and two stocked Polaris off-road vehicles.

AHM sent the following email to customers Monday afternoon:

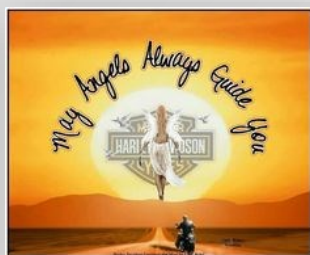
*We regret to inform you that American Heritage Motorcycles is closing its stores. We are working closely with Indian, Victory, Slingshot and Polaris to introduce our customers to dealers who can fulfill all their needs. In the meantime, we are working with several potential buyers, who have stepped forward expressing an interest in acquiring the franchises we own. We are working diligently and expediently with these parties to determine if we can make this happen.*

*If you have pending business with American Heritage Motorcycles such as a vehicle in service, parts on order, vehicles on order, or open paperwork (proof of income or other documentation related to vehicle purchases), please contact us by email no later than 5:00 PM Sept. 30th, 2016 at [customers@ahmdealers.com](mailto:customers@ahmdealers.com) to conclude any business.*

*We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to have served you, and we know that our shared passion for these great Polaris products will be rewarded long into the future.*

## Racing community mourns the loss of two riders

Professional racing is deeply saddened by the tragic loss of flat track riders Charlotte Kainz and Kyle McGrane.

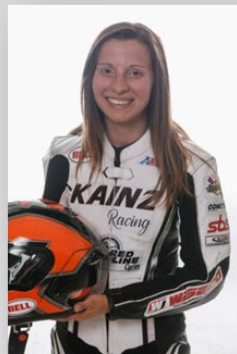


Kainz and McGrane were involved in separate racing incidents during the 24-25 Sept weekend's AMA Pro Flat Track race in Santa Rosa, Calif.



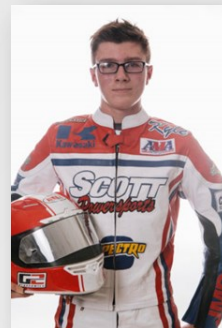
Emergency responders were on the scene within seconds of each incident and the riders were transported to Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa where they succumbed to their injuries.

"The flat track community is tight knit, and today we are all mourning," said Michael Lock, CEO of AMA Pro Racing. "Charlotte and Kyle were talented competitors with bright futures. Our deepest condolences go out to their families and friends in this time of need."



Charlotte Kainz, 20, from West Allis, Wis. earned her professional license in Pro Flat Track in the GNC2 class during the 2015 season. The beloved rider won her first GNC2 Semi this year at the Black Hills Half-Mile and brought smiles to the faces of everyone she met in the paddock.

Kyle McGrane, 17, joined the Pro Flat Track ranks in the GNC2 class last year and showed promise both on and off the track. McGrane was born in Gap, Penn. but had a growing fanbase nationwide with Main event appearances and a Heat race win at the 2016 Law Tigers Arizona Mile.



Your 2017  
Membership  
Renewal

is on it's way...

It will be the ticket to another  
year of great rides and good  
friends...





## ELECTIONS 2017....

By Traveler



Annually we have the opportunity to either vote to confirm a slate or to choose candidates for our Board of Directors and our Executive Committee for the coming year. Annually, we verify our members who are eligible to vote and who are eligible to run for office based on Club participation, dues, GRASS attendance, committee service, etc, consistent with our Bylaws.

As we approach this key, and critical Club event all of us should be reminded of the impact of our vote....

Ideally, with our vote we are continuing the great legacy of Top Cats – Illinois into our 22nd year and selecting the best possible candidates to run our Club consistent with our By Laws. Ideally, each of us will cast our vote to select or confirm candidates based on their proven performance, dedication, and contributions to the Club. Ideally, our selections will not be based on personal friendships alone, animosity, or in retaliation toward the Club, its leadership, or its members.

When you find yourself faced with a selection decision, simply look at your choices and determine 1.) Who has the best interest of the Club at heart, 2.) Who has a proven record of dedication to the Club, 3.) Who has the experience for that particular position and, 4.) If all else is a tie, ask yourself who you see at every ride, every meeting, every committee activity, every Club event, and every charity ride. That should help you decide.

**NOMINATIONS.** We have a wealth of eligible candidates this year and we are very fortunate to have each incumbent accept a nomination for another term. The positions up for election / reelection this year are:

Vice-President  
Secretary  
Two Directors

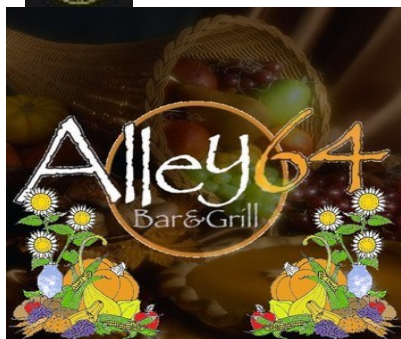
Eligibility for nomination includes; dues paid, attend a combination of 5 meetings/events per year, GRASS attended within the last 3 years, service on the Board or on a committee. In addition to the incumbents, members eligible for nomination to run for President, Vice President, or director, subject to their acceptance will be published after the 30 Oct due date for dues. At that time we ask that nominations be received by a serving Board member by 15 November 2015.

Please be cautious of candidates who violate Club policy of no campaigning or who try to influence voting. That kind of lack of integrity will only result in a negative impact on one of the finest Clubs in this area....Top Cats – Illinois.



**VOTING.** To be eligible to vote...by 30 November each year each Top Cat must have been a member in good standing for one year, attend GRASS within the first year of membership and within the past three years thereafter, and attend a combination of 5 meetings/events per year.

The Board can waive certain requirements on an individual basis for unforeseen hardships or circumstances.



Alley 64  
2001 N. Rand Rd, P  
alatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 6TH , 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Michael  
"Motorcycle" Bradbury, President of Top Cat's Illinois

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



### President's Section: Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Mike began the meeting with some edgy jokes told without apology... although he should have! J
- ✦ Mike introduced Gerry Bornhofen, who attended the meeting tonight after checking our website and contacting Mike.
- ✦ Those who have been on the rides lately have enjoyed very well planned rides in great weather to some very wonderful places.... The only thing missing is MORE MEMBERS in attendance!
- ✦ Mike also discussed the available positions that are open for this election and asked the members to consider serving in these positions:

Secretary

2 Directorships



### Vice President's/Report Safety: Ric Case

- ✦ The next G.R.A.S. S. class will be on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will start at 11:00am at Woostock Harley Davidson and is open to all riders. **Remember that the class is required for all members to attend once every three years in order to maintain the "member in good standing" status!**
- ✦ Bike Safe was discussed and the participants all stated that it was a good opportunity to improve their riding skills and knowledge. Ric will work with State Patrolman, Ben Chikiarishi, to set up another class for next year.
- ✦ **Kaution Korner: David Whiteside** reviewed his article on fall riding. He discussed the challenges of being on the road during harvest season. Corn and peas can either be very moist and cause slippery areas on the road, or very dry and become like marbles. Read the entire article in the September ROAR.

### Activities / Awards: Gene Rigsby

- ✦ The *Event Schedule* for the next 2 months was reviewed for the members.
- ✦ **RC's/Hosts**
  - ⇒ The Sunrise Ride was tabled in order for **Mike Bradbury** to lead The Ride for Cheese, a new ride, on 9/17.
  - ⇒ The Greenbay Weekend Ride was moved from September to October 1. It will be led by **Jim Purcell**.

### Past President's Report: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ⇒ Wayne presented information on the Thunder Run and invited the Top Cat Members to ride to the Run. Gene Rigsby will be leading a satellite ride to the event. Details are on the website.

(Continued on page 13)





## General Meeting, continued...

### Membership: Emil Kornecki

- ✦ There were no new member candidates tonight... unless Gerry decides to join tonight...

### Speaker: Wally Elliott Dukane Abate

- ✦ Wally discussed **ABATES 9 October Toys for Tots Charity Run**. He was excited to tell the group about the event, the charities that will benefit, and the 22 challenge that will take place that day. They are looking to set a record for the most people doing 22 push-ups in one place. The event is to bring attention to the 22 veterans each day who decide this life holds nothing more for them and commit suicide. Many groups will benefit from this day! Plan on attending.
- ✦ Wally then discussed some of the topics that are being addressed by ABATE. Lighting on the bikes and **E-85 Ethanol** were some of the topics. See the ABATE website for details at <http://abate-il.org/> or <http://www.abate-il.org/Dukane/>

### Products: Jim/Lisa Purcell

- ✦ Available at the meeting, Men's, Women sized t-shirts and baseball caps:  
T-Shirts; M, L, XL; \$18 each  
T-Shirts; XXL; \$22 each  
Caps; \$15
- ✦ Long Sleeves and Decals (ready for PU) available.
- ✦ **50 / 50 Raffle was pulled by Jim Purcell and won by Gene Rigsby.**

## Green Bay... and the Best of Wisconsin!

By the looks of these pictures, all we did was eat.... BUT, for those along on this ride, the two days were a great 'smorgasbord' of Wisconsin's Best! Although the fall colors had not yet appeared, there was a lot to see!



The farm fields were in harvest conditions. Some were already cleared and the 'fertilizer' was being moved in to be spread. There were lakes.. The Fox and Michigan; migrating birds; roads in all conditions—wet and muddy, clear and dry... And the air was crisp and fresh! It was a great fall ride! Thanks to Jim and Lisa Purcell it was a memory maker! Thanks to you and to Ruth and Mia too!

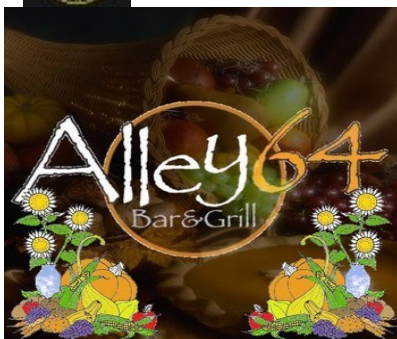
For more pictures of the scenery and the riders.. See the website and then plan on coming along with the group in the near future...



There is much more than eating on these trips!... The last picture is at the end of the night...

Those bikes didn't ride themselves!





Alley 64  
2001 N. Rand Rd, P  
alatine, Illinois

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 13TH , 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Michael “Motorcycle” Bradbury, President of Top Cat’s Illinois

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

### President: Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Call Meeting to Order at 7:35 after a round of laughs and stories
- ✦ General Meeting Photo idea was presented to Mike and the board by Bob Morrison. The Board felt that it was a great idea. It can be adjusted to show BEFORE the meeting, if it becomes a distraction from the meeting.
- ✦ Mike also commented on the state of the club. He felt that there is a new wave of spirit and creativity that is growing within the club. The website has brought in two new inquiries within the last few weeks. The board agreed that the concept of safety and professionalism is a very unique concept within the motorcycle community.

### Vice President/Safety: Ric Case

- ✦ G.R.A.S.S. is a requirement to maintain the ‘member in good standing’ status which members need in order to vote and to renew membership. The board discussed ways to get members to attend the class. A bonfire / gathering post-class will be considered as well as other options.
- ✦ KK schedule was reviewed for rest of 2016
  - October= Jim Purcell
  - November = Mike Bradbury (For Bob Stevenson)
  - December = Wayne Kirkpatrick (For Roxray Adonis)

### Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ✦ 2017 elections includes the President and the Secretary.
- ✦ Wayne suggested that the board only meet quarterly. Because of the ability to communicate electronically, it can minimize the time commitment required to be on the board. Mike Bradbury suggested that we do six times a year – every other month.
- ✦ The October meeting will be held to review the membership status for election/balloting and to identify the slate for the elections.
- ✦ The November Board meeting will be cancelled as of this meeting.

### Activities: Gene Rigsby

- The next two months activities were reviewed and clarified.
- Event Card Utilization Status was reviewed and the Road Captains will ask if anyone needs their card signed while on the ride.

Emil Kornecki reviewed the status of the Survey that is in development. It will be used to identify the ideas of the membership and to begin developing rides for the 2017 riding season.

(Continued on page 11)





## General Meeting, continued...

### Secretary/ROAR: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ✦ The board reviewed the need to adjust the position of secretary. Over the years, due to need, the job has included rosters and other areas of bookkeeping. This will be changed over the next months. Jane Smith will be taking over maintaining the rosters.
- ✦ At this time, no one has stepped up to take over the secretary position, which at this time, could be solely the taking of the minutes during general and board meetings.
- ✦ Contributions for the ROAR will always be a 'need' within the club. It is a very difficult thing to see your words in print, but that can be addressed. Possibly a 'writing class' during the winter months???

### Treasury: Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Dues Invoicing must be issued at the end of September. Mike will get the invoices ready to mail using the present roster for the probationary and full members. At this time, the GRASS class will not be considered in sending the invoices.
- ✦ A blast will be sent to members letting them know that their invoices have been sent.

### Membership: Emil Kornecki

- ✦ Membership Card distribution to membership will be done with the finalizing of the 2017 roster after the payment of dues for 2017/

### Products: Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Women's shirt exchange for correct sizes was done, but no-one has heard from Ink N Tee's. Mike will check on that and we will be sure to have them for the October meeting.
- ✦ All agreed that a Top Cats Bat or Tableware would be a good addition.... :)

### Website: Mike Bradbury

- ✦ Updates to complete include the pictures and the ROAR.
- ✦ A system is being established for future updates in these areas.

**Adjourned at 8:45 by Mike Bradbury**

Proud of your Top Cat Membership?

Want to celebrate? Need new ideas for Gift Giving?

What Products would you be interested in?

Let the board know...





## **Top Cats Buy, Sell, Trade....**

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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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### **1993 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. \$3,600. Contact Traveler: [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com)







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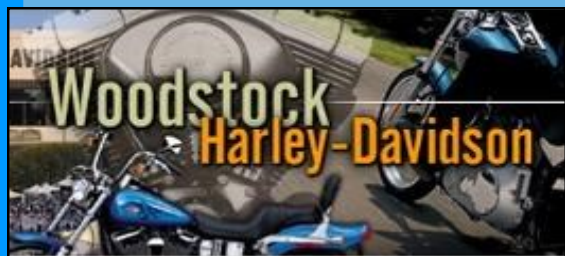
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Top Cats Get 15% Off Certain Parts and Merchandise at Woodstock and McHenry Harley-Davidson



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

GRASS Classes are held at the Keller -Williams Offices!

Thanks, Greg for supporting our Top Cat's Safety Class!

### 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.



**Greg Smith**  
**Keller - Williams Realty**

**Have one of our own Top Cats work with you to buy or sell your home!**

**800 E Northwest Hwy**  
**Palatine, Illinois 60074**  
**847-241-2200**

## 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)

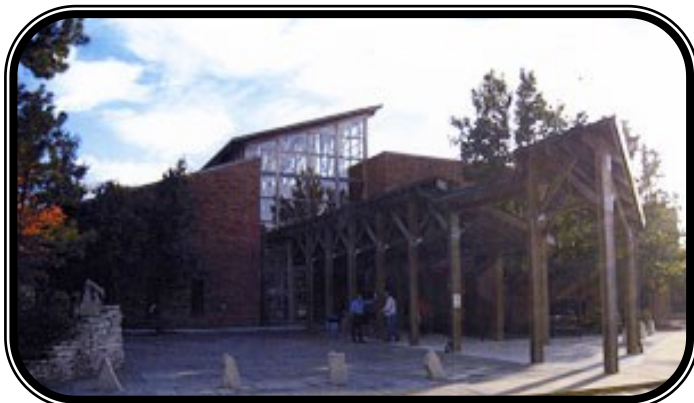




## RIDES & EVENTS

| Date                 | Ride/Event      | Location        | Destination | Time    | Leader   |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| October 1-2          | Green Bay       | Wauconda        | De Pere, Wi | 8:30    | Purcell  |
| October 4th          | General Meeting | Palatine        | Alley 64    | 7:30 pm | Bradbury |
| October 11th         | Board Meeting   | Palatine        | Alley 64    | 7:30 pm | Bradbury |
| Sunday, October 23rd | GRASS           | Keller Williams | Palatine    | 8:00 am | Case     |
| November 1st         | General Meeting | Palatine        | Alley 64    | 7:30 pm | Bradbury |
| November 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](http://www.TopCats.org).



### Barrington Library

#### Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway  
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300  
[balibrary.org](http://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](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)



**TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS** is a group of motorcycle enthusiasts with similar interests. Members consist of responsible Leaders, Presidents, Chairmen, Owners, Proprietors, Partners, principals, CEO's, and other 'Top Cats' of large, medium and small organizations, institutions, and companies.

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

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|------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>President</b>             | Michael Bradbury<br>bradbundy@comcast.net        | <b>Activities</b>  | Gene Rigsby-<br>gene.rigsby@gmail.com  | <b>Executive Editor &amp; Board Liaison</b> | Mary Kirkpatrick<br>Mawalters57@gmail.com |
| <b>Vice President</b>        | Ric Case<br>Riccase@Comcast.net                  | <b>Archives</b>    | Open   | <b>Editor-in-Chief</b>                      | Mary Kirkpatrick<br>mawalters57@gmail.com |
| <b>Treasurer</b>             | OPEN   | <b>Charity</b>     | Noelle Rigsby<br>genoe88@gmail.com   | <b>Publisher</b>                            | Open                                      |
| <b>Acting Secretary</b>      | OPEN - Mary Kirkpatrick<br>Mawalters57@gmail.com | <b>Membership</b>  | Greg Smith<br>Vethog@wowway.com  | <b>ASSOCIATE EDITORS</b>                    |   |
| <b>Past President</b>        | Wayne Kirkpatrick<br>wkirkpa177@aol.com          | <b>Awards</b>      | Mike Bradbury<br>bradbundy@comcast.net                                       | <b>Executive &amp; Board</b>                | Wayne Kirkpatrick<br>wkirkpa177@aol.com   |
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| <b>Director</b>              | Emil Kornecki<br>EKornecki@wmblair.com           | <b>Website</b>     | Steve Humphries<br>Steven.Humphreys@gmail.com<br>Joe Sadlon<br>JoeSadlon.com | <b>Membership</b>                           | Greg Smith<br>Vethog@Wowway.com           |
| <b>Director</b>              | Gene Rigsby-<br>gene.rigsby@gmail.com            | <b>Products</b>    | Lisa Purcell<br>lapurcell128@gmail.com                                       | <b>Charity</b>                              | Ric Case<br>Riccase@Comcast.net           |
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| <b>Founder</b>               | Carl 'Virgo' Bender<br>1941-2001                 |                    |  | <b>Motorcycle Community</b>                 | Wayne Kirkpatrick<br>wkirkpa177@aol.com   |

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