



ROAR

September, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 9

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Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 8 SUNRISE RIDE
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 21 GALENA AND THE GREAT RIVER RIDE
- 29 TC MEMORIAL RIDE

OCTOBER

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
- 6 HOLY HILL BACK ROADS
- 8 BOARD MEETING
- 27 GRASS CLASS

Talk to Greg Smith and Jim Purcell and get your ideas on the calendar!



The Official Publication
Of
Top Cats Illinois



PRESIDENT'S

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello Top Cats!!

We FINALLY have some great riding weather, so we need to take FULL advantage of it. Take some time,

RIGHT NOW go and look at the Top Cat activity calendar and block our club ride dates out on your calendar so you don't miss any opportunity for the remainder of the year to ride with your Top Cat brothers and sisters. And we have some great rides coming up.... Lot's more riding season left...yippie...

Speaking of rides coming up, I have my Sunrise Ride coming up on September 8th, and I have already heard back from folks who are attending. They do not want to miss an opportunity to ride with the club family and get a picture of themselves and their ride with the Chicago skyline as a background... And the weather is going to be great on that day too! 57/low and 65/high. Where else would you be able to do this??? Especially lead by a tour guide with 40+ years of Chicago experience ...??

I saw you nod your head in disbelief... That's right...nowhere else.... See you there!!

There is much more going on this month. Greg Smith has a ride planned for Galena and Ric is planning to lead us on the Top Cats memorial ride again. Good roads all the way to the Thirsty Horse Pub and Grill in Bristol, Wisconsin!



Speaking of rides, AGAIN... We still have a lot of opportunities to ride on the Top Cat ride calendar. So check the Top Cat website (www.topcats.org) **NOW** and get the dates into your calendars as soon as possible so you can make sure to be there.

But there are more to plan for. Check the Top Cats Calendar for more detail.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me at anytime via my email:

Gene.rigsby@gmail.com, or phone, 847-770-9425.

Looking forward to seeing you there.... (I really do...)

Gene "Lucky" Rigsby,
President, Top Cats Illinois



KAUTION KORNER



Fall Riding Season Has Arrived!!

**By: Greg Smith,
Senior Road Captain**



Wow, it's September and the doors for the Fall ridding season have just opened. Even though Fall starts the winding down of our riding season, this is a time many riders look forward too. A time to enjoy great riding with cooler temps and colorful scenic rides. The downside of wonderful colors is the addition of falling leaves to the pavements. With our present weather conditions, we could see the leaves start to fall in as little as 30 days.

As the leaves start falling they blow around and start piling up on lawns, driveways and roads causing many road hazards. This is the downside of the vibrant colored leaves.



Many assume wet leaves offer less traction than dry. This may or may not be true. The real issue is how dry the

leaves are as you pass over. Leaves hold moisture and as they start to decay they generate more moisture. The leaves on top may appear dry and blowing around. However the leaves underneath, on the road surface, may be wet and decaying causing very slippery oily grease like conditions. This is very dangerous especially when accelerating, stopping and cornering. When riding, you always do your best to avoid oil on the road....Likewise, you should do your best to avoid leaves, whether they LOOK dry or not!

Another serious condition caused by falling leaves is the covering and camouflaging of road hazards. What may appear to be a small pile of leaves may not be a pile at all but in fact a few leaves covering an obstruction on the road such as a rock, stick, or chunk of asphalt. Patches of leaves may also cover other serious road obstructions such as potholes, large cracks, and uneven road surfaces. All of these serious obstructions could cause you to lose control of your motorcycle.

The best thing to do while enjoying all the beauty of a fall ride is to make an effort to avoid riding through those tempting piles and patches of leaves.



So get out and enjoy your fall and all the beautiful colors and scenic rides!

And... Ride Safe!

Oil Spots

By Traveler



HARLEY DAVIDSON SPEAKS TO DECLINING BIKE SALES

The reasons for the slump in sales at HD are not the Administration's.

Apparently, the Boomers all have motorcycles.

Gen X is only buying a few, and the next generation isn't buying any at all.

A recent study determined why Millennials don't ride motorcycles:

1. Pants won't pull up far enough for them to straddle the seat.
2. Can't get their phone to their ear with a helmet on.
3. Can't use 2 hands to eat while driving.
4. They don't get a trophy and a recognition plaque just for buying one.
5. Don't have enough muscle to hold the bike up when stopped.
6. Might have a bug hit them in the face and then they would need emergency care.
7. Motorcycles don't have air conditioning.
8. They can't afford one because they spent 10 years in college trying to get a degree in Humanities, Social Studies or Gender Studies for which no jobs are available.
9. They are allergic to fresh air.
10. Pajamas get caught on the exhaust pipes.

11. They might get their hands dirty checking the oil.

12. The handle bars have buttons and levers and cannot be controlled by touch-screen.

13. You have to shift manually and use something called a clutch.

14. It's too hard to take selfies while riding.

15. They don't come with training wheels like their bicycles did.

16. Motorcycles don't have power steering or power brakes.

17. Their nose ring interferes with the face shield.

18. They would have to use leg muscle to back up.

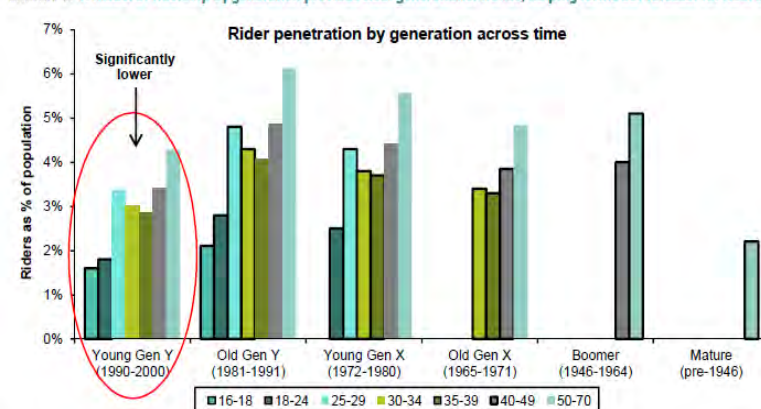
19. When they stop, a light breeze might blow exhaust in their face.

20. It could rain on them and expose them to non-soft water.

21. It might scare their therapy dog, and then the dog would need therapy.

22. Can't get the motorcycle down the basement stairs of their parents' home.

EXHIBIT 2: A model of ridership by generation provides clear generational trends, helping refine our forecast for rider demand



Note: Age groups are outlined where data was available during the period of study. Conversely, non-outlined age groups represent estimates applied to our revamped forecast of rider growth.
Source: MIC, Bernstein estimates and analysis

(Continued on pg. 5)



Oil Spots, continued...

BMW Vision DC Roadster Electric Motorcycle Prototype

By Tyler Greenblatt

The green wave of electric motorcycles has just gotten stronger with BMW's first electric motorcycle prototype: the Motorrad Vision DC Roadster.



BMW's primary objective with its all-electric experiment was to retain the styling characteristics that have so closely followed the German brand since its inception in 1923.

Indeed, the Vision DC Roadster harkens back to the original R32 motorcycle with its outboard mounted cooling systems that should remind Motorrad enthusiasts instantly of BMW's famed horizontally-opposed boxer engine. The bike's electric motor is positioned underneath the battery and connects to a traditional universal rear drive unit.

In addition to the electric powerplant, the second main component of the Vision DC Roadster is the tubular frame structure that spreads the length of the motorcycle and adds additional rigidity where traditional motorcycle components—fuel tank, battery box, etc.—would otherwise be located. The frame itself has also been styled with milled grooves running the length of the bike, which not only creates a stunning visual effect but also once again ties back to BMW's early aesthetic in the art-deco era. The bike's unique frame structure allowed engineers extra room for design to further its streamlined, modern appearance.

BMW has formally placed the Vision DC Roadster into the naked bike class, differentiating it from the more commonplace standard electric bike on a performance level. Its front-wheel forward rake and short, high rear definitely scream sportbike more so than commuter bike as has often been the case with electrics. A traditional BMW Duolever fork—although redesigned for the Roadster—adds yet another striking element up front. Carbon fiber and alu-

minum are in widespread use on the Vision DC Roadster both for weight savings and strength purposes but also to further the bike's modern performance aesthetic.

The tech features don't stop at the Roadster's powerplant but extend out everywhere. The minimalist LED headlights



and taillights offers a futuristic take on BMW's already modern lighting schemes. Five fluorescent elements flank either side of the bespoke Metzeler rear tire to add additional safety and visual elements to the Vision DC Roadster.

As of now there's no word from BMW regarding its future intentions with the Vision DC Roadster or any performance specifications.

Harley-Davidson riders test out LiveWire electric motorcycles for the first time

Brian Stehle knows the significance of Harley-Davidson Inc.'s new electric motorcycle, the LiveWire. Customers at his



Springfield, Missouri, dealership had been asking for an electric bike for a long time.

Stehle was at the Harley-Davidson Museum for the Harley-Davidson dealers meeting and had the opportunity to test out the new product along with the general public.

"They [Harley-Davidson] really took the time to come out with a fantastic product with lots of options that look really good," Stehle said.

The power of the new electric motorcycle — the first for Harley-Davidson — impressed the Missouri dealer the most. With twist-and-go performance, the LiveWire has instant power, accelerating from 0 to 60 mph in three seconds.

(Continued on pg. 6)

Oil Spots, continued...

The motorcycle can also go from 60 to 80 mph in less than two seconds. Harley-Davidson will launch the LiveWire at dealerships starting in September.

Although Harley-Davidson (NYSE: HOG) reported sales and profits down in the second quarter of 2019, the launch of LiveWire and Harley's other product lines give optimism for future economic impact. Particularly, James said, it opens Harley up to a new generation of riders.

"This will appeal not only to Harley-Davidson customers to add to their fleet, but also a new rider who maybe hasn't considered a Harley-Davidson before," James said.

The experience of riding the LiveWire is entirely different from any of Harley's well-known motorcycles. The twist-and-go technology is a new feature for longtime Harley riders. It's a quieter ride with instant acceleration — something that is natural in an electric vehicle, James said.

The controls, however, are all the same, increasing the familiarity with Harley-Davidson consumers. The LiveWire has four modes — eco, rain, highway and sport mode.

"It's just exhilarating and super fun to ride the future of Harley-Davidson," James said.

Iconic Easy Rider Peter Fonda Passes

By [Ken Hutchison](#)



Peter Fonda rides alongside Dennis Hopper during a scene from *Easy Rider*. Together they produced, directed, and starred in the movie that would define them for their entire career. Courtesy of Facebook

Peter Fonda passed away this weekend at age 79 from respiratory failure associated with his ongoing battle with lung cancer.

Fonda became an icon of the motorcycle industry after his role as Wyatt in the cult classic *Easy Rider* movie from 1969. He was inducted into the Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 2003, just three years after being awarded his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. As an actor, Fonda was a mainstay of the early outlaw lifestyle films including *Wild Angels*; *Dirty Mary*, *Crazy Larry*; *Race with the Devil*; and other cult classics like *Love and a .45*.

The reason he excelled in roles as the wandering spirit, the cerebral badass, and the champion of freedom was basically because he lived his life on his own terms. Which is the way we all want to live, and as a result it was a driving force behind his timeless popularity. He received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay for his work as producer on *Easy Rider*.

Peter Henry Fonda was born in New York on February 23, 1940. He lived a charmed life as a member of the powerhouse Fonda family which includes his father, director, and actor, Henry Fonda; sister, actress, and human rights activist Jane Fonda; as well as his daughter Bridget.

In addition to influencing generations of young people to step outside their comfort zone, he also inspired many people to simply do what makes them happy. After all, we only live once. He enjoyed fast bikes, fast cars, and a free-wheeling lifestyle that his fans seemed to be enamored with throughout his career as both an actor and a director. He believed that freedom was our most important gift and conveyed it in his own approach to life.

His untimely passing comes just a month after the 50th anniversary of the release of *Easy Rider* and a month prior to the 50th anniversary screening of the movie and soundtrack that was scheduled to take place at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall on September 20. If they continue to move forward with the event, it is safe to assume it will be a celebration of life in pure *Easy Rider* style.

Jane Fonda wrote this about her brother on her official Facebook page: "It's hard for me to fully comprehend that my little brother—my co-conspirator, co-survivor, repository of family history—is gone.

(Continued on pg. 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

I feel so grateful that in the last weeks, days, hours we were reunited and experienced healing of the heart. The heart's what mattered—his lungs may have taken him down but right up until he passed, his heart was flying free...as he would have wanted. Now, in his absence, I am able to conjure his beautiful, dear essence more vividly than ever and it lifts my own heart. Thank you, Peter.”

HARLEY-DAVIDSON UNLEASHES 2 NEW ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN BIKE CONCEPTS



Harley-Davidson

To go along with Harley-Davidson's first-ever electric motorcycle, the Milwaukee-based chopper brand has created a striking pair of electric bike concepts.



Harley-Davidson

We're talking pedal-less bicycles. The first has knobby tires and an inverted fork suspension presumably designed for trail riding. With a motorcycle-style soft

tail and sleek profile, it looks more like a crotch rocket than any existing Harley, though the gray, black and orange color scheme is definitely on-brand.



Harley-Davidson

The second motorized bike looks like a minimalist moped with fat, slick tires and a similar suspension. A big cushy seat and raised handlebars imply that the rider position is more upright. This one definitely wouldn't function well off-road, but it *would* look pretty damn cool cruising city streets.



Harley-Davidson

Neither bike would require a motorcycle license to operate. Both would also have a removable battery, meaning you conceivably swap out a dead pack with a charged one on the fly.

If the price is right, these EVs could help Harley-Davidson tap into an entirely new, eco-savvy demographic. We'd gladly give either a spin.

(Continued on pg. 8)



Oil Spots, continued...

AMA Adds Motorcycle Shippers as Member Benefit Partner



The American Motorcyclist Association welcomes Motorcycle Shippers as a member benefit partner, providing AMA members with savings of \$25 per bike or \$100 round trip on shipping, door-to-door transport, with online tracking and booking.

Motorcycle Shippers, based in Fountain Valley, CA, specializes in transporting motorcycles in enclosed trucks. The company uses custom-designed straps to secure motorcycles to pallets and provides \$7,000 of valuation coverage at no additional cost.

“We are pleased to announce that Motorcycle Shippers has joined the AMA’s growing portfolio of membership benefit partners,” said AMA Chief Operations Officer Jeff Massey. “The AMA is proud to be able to offer our members a discount on Motorcycle Shippers’ services.”

The Motorcycle Shippers AMA Partner page is at americanmotorcyclist.com/For-Members/Member-Discount-Codes/motorcycle-shippers-1

For more information on all AMA member benefit partners, visit the AMA’s member discount codes website at americanmotorcyclist.com/For-Members/Member-Discount-Codes.

Get Ready for some really beautiful riding... and read our KK before you go! Greg has some tips for a safe ride!



Cameras To Take On Your Next Ride

By Christopher Homer



Motorcycle riding is as much of an experience as it is a mode of transportation. We capture these feelings and translate them into words, but that’s only part of the great adventure of riding. That’s where photos and video pick up the slack.

Motorcycle cameras are becoming more popular as the price and form factor both continue to get smaller. Most of these cameras have shrunk to a frontal area smaller than a business card but shoot in professional-level quality. We’ve gathered some of the top motorcycle cameras for your next ride, whether you need it as a dashcam to record your commute or want to capture the scenery on your next epic ride.

1. GoPro Hero 7 Black

The GoPro Hero 7 Black has the highest quality and most features in a small, waterproof package



The first GoPro was released in 2004 and the company's cameras have only been getting better. The latest iteration of the professional-level Hero Black lineup, the GoPro Hero 7 Black gives you all the features you need for motorcycle rides. You can shoot in 4K at 60 FPS for amazing resolution, the internal image stabilization is excellent, voice control is built in, and you can live-stream from the camera to your device. Plus, there is no need for an external case because the camera is waterproof up to 33 feet (10 meters).

(Continued on pg. 9)



Cameras continued...

2. Akaso EK7000 4K Action Camera

The Akaso EK7000 is a great budget option because of its low price, two included batteries, and the ability to shoot in 4K.



If you want an inexpensive motorcycle camera that records in 4K, then the Akaso EK7000 should be at the top of your list. The EK7000 records in 4K at 25 FPS, giving solid resolution to view your rides. Two included batteries allow recording for more than 180 minutes. Waterproof casing on the EK7000 allows you to mount this camera just about anywhere and not worry about getting caught in heavy rain or making a stream crossing.

3. Drift Ghost X Action Camera



The Drift Ghost X is a great dash cam option with more than five hours of battery life.

The Drift Ghost X doesn't look like the other motorcycle cameras with its bullet shape and lack of LCD

screen, but it does boast five hours of battery life that is upgradable to eight hours. The 360-degree lens means you can mount it anywhere and fine-tune without breaking out the tool set. The Ghost X comes with a DVR module making it perfect as a motorcycle dash cam—the Ghost X will continuously record, and the camera will delete the oldest footage automatically. You'll never worry if your camera recorded that accident or not. The Drift Ghost X only shoots in 1080p at 30 FPS, but for a person without dedicated video editing software, it's a great camera

4. DJI Osmo Action 4K Action Camera

DJI Osmo Action's front-facing screen helps you set up the perfect selfie.



DJI is known for its prosumer camera drones and excellent stabilization technology. After refining its camera technology with each iteration of the Phantom drone series, DJI has entered the action-camera market with the Osmo Action. Like DJI's other prosumer-grade equipment, the Osmo Action has a lot of great features and high performance for the money. Topping this list is recording at a full 4K at 60 FPS, for vivid, smooth images, the latter being aided by DJI's own electronic image stabilization dubbed RockSteady. If you really want to dial in your settings, the Osmo Action has a custom mode where you can store and recall your favorite presets without having to manually change them for each shot.

5. Rylo 5.8K 360 Degree Video Camera

Capture your ride's front, back, and both sides with Rylo's 360 Degree camera.



360 cameras offer more than your standard action camera, about 230 degrees more. The Rylo implements a pair of 208-degree-

field-of-view cameras to capture 5.8K 360-degree footage, 4K 360 degree footage, or 4K 180 degree footage. Conveniently, it plugs into a smartphone and allows you to set up and frame your shots, edit, and upload, all out in the field. Rylo's Invisible Grip is included in this kit so you can film seamless 360 degree video without capturing a selfie stick, making it appear as if the camera is floating behind you on your ride.

Top 5 GPS Trackers for Motorcycles

By: Traveler



The list of great things about motorcycles can go on and on. However, the same great things that make them great also make them prime targets for thieves. There is nothing standing in the way between a potential thief and your motorcycle. Fortunately, you can use a GPS tracker if the unthinkable happens.

While adding a GPS tracking system to your motorcycle might seem like an unnecessary expense to some, there are a number of advantages to having one.

Insurance benefits – Many insurance firms will lower your coverage rates if you have one.

Easily available – You can find motorcycle GPS tracking systems wherever you buy GPS devices and other motorcycle accessories.

Safety and Theft Prevention – GPS trackers allow you and law enforcement agencies to find your motorcycle quickly if a thief steals it.

Improved maintenance – A GPS tracker will tell you when to bring your motorcycle in for servicing.

1. TrackmateGPS MINI Waterproof Vehicle GPS Tracker



This 2-ounce, waterproof GPS tracker is one the highest rated trackers on Amazon. It has an extensive list of features making it among the most advanced tracking devices currently available. For added security it can even be fitted with an optional relay for ignition cut off and trigger an alert when the ignition is turned on.

The device is hardwired to your motorcycle's battery but is easy

to install while internal back up batteries provide up to 6 hours of tracking.

You can hide the device anywhere for added security and its small size – just slightly larger than a credit card with no visible antenna – makes it especially easy to conceal.

The TrackmateGPS MINI 3g H 5-Pack continuously tracks your motorcycle's position in real time by means of a SIM card, GPS and 3G cell phone technology.

The current location as well as maps, detailed reports and logs can be viewed on the website and Android or iOS apps. This information includes your motorcycle's exact geographical coordinates, speed, violation of set fences, and more. You can also choose to receive various alerts via cell phone or email.

With monitoring plans starting from as little as \$9/month, it is an affordable device for anyone seeking a versatile and practical tracking solution.

2. Trackimo TRKM007 GPS Tracker



Trackimo is fast becoming one of the world's most popular brand of GPS trackers. Their small size

along with convenient and user-friendly features make them a highly desirable option for a wide range of tracking applications.

This particular model is specifically designed for vehicular use and comes with a 12 volt power kit to deliver a constant supply of power to the unit.

The Trackimo TRKM007 GPS Tracker features advanced tracking technology, combining GPS, Wifi and Bluetooth to give you the most accurate location data possible in real time. That data is transmitted via cellular networks by means of a pre-installed 3G SIM card for worldwide coverage with no roaming fees.

Trackimo boasts the lowest fees of any consumer tracking device worldwide. The first year is free and after that you pay just \$5/month.

(Continued on pg. 11)



Cameras continued...

You can access the current location and location history of the device on the free Android and iOS app as well as on the Trackimo website.

Alerts can be sent via app, email and SMS. These include when the device moves or exceeds a predetermined speed, and geofence alerts to notify you if the device has gone beyond the limits of a predefined geographical area.

3. AES RGT90 GPS Tracker SMS Locator



The AES RGT90 has a 2.5-meter accuracy range and an inactive wireless SIM card pre-installed. This SIM card runs pre-paid, requiring you to pay \$10 every 3 months to use the tracker. Fortunately, your first 6 months are included in the

purchase price. However, the included SIM card only works with U. S. cellular networks. You should replace the SIM with a local one if you plan on using the tracker outside of the United States. Either way, you attach the device to your motorcycle with the tracker's magnetic base.

While you must pay to use it, the tracker does not work automatically. You need to call the devices attached phone number to know where the tracker and motorcycle's current location. The tracker will then reply with a text message with a Google Maps link with the information.

Still, the AES RGT90 GPS Tracker SMS Locator is the best pre-paid GPS tracker on the market. You get all the information you need when you need it with no hidden additional charges.

4. Racelogic VBox Sport



While you can hide other trackers where you want them, the VBOX Sport was made for motorcycles. The waterproof, palm-

sized unit sits snuggle to your handlebars, measuring the bike's acceleration, braking, and handling performance with the same precision you see in motorcycle magazines.

More of a professional-grade GPS data logger than a tracker, the VBox Sport saves its data to a removable SD card you can insert into a Windows PC to analyze later. You can also link the device to your iPhone via Bluetooth for use with the Racelogic Performance Test and Laptimer apps. Both apps provide insights for improving racing motorcycle performance. This is great, but they may not be what you need for normal, every-day riding.

Regardless, you must install the Racelogic VBox Sport face up to give the internal antenna a clear view of the sky. If you need it, you can buy a handlebar mount (about \$20 extra), that will let you attach the device to your handlebars, provided your motorcycle can use it. However, you might get better performance out of the included Velcro mount that lets you attach the tracker to your seat or fuel tank.

5. ATian 303G GPS Tracker

While not the best tracker on the market, the Atian 303G has everything you need to track your motorcycle.

The smartphone-sized, waterproof device sits snugly to any surface with its docking harness. The harness does not attach magnetically to your vehicle, though. You must screw it in place. However, it does come with its own screwdriver in case you need to make a few quick adjustments.



The tracker itself connects to the harness through a 12-pin connector. While this makes for an easy setup, it does leave all the wires exposed. You can easily pull or rip a wire out of its socket if you are not careful.

Still, if you can get past the hardware downsides, the Atian 303G GPS Tracker is a solid choice for all your GPS tracking needs. It uses the standard cellular networks to reach your mobile app to give you all the information you expect from a tracker.



V.P.'s Vision

By: Mary 'Trooper' Kirkpatrick



Hey all! It's September already, and the cooler weather and beautiful colors are all around - begging us to ride! I've been doing a bit of riding here and there. But, I have also been out in the car to join family and friends who love to ride in all weather! As I watch from behind, there are a few things that have become the focus of my thoughts on safe riding. The biggest of these topics is the use of helmets. Those who choose to ride with the wind in their hair state that they just enjoy the freedom. Illinois allows for this, as does Iowa and New Hampshire. Freedom! It feels so good to just ride. But, after all these years, it begs the question... "How safe is this?" I did a bit of reading and here is what I found... A bit of history, reason and travel information. Hope you find it interesting, but more important useful!

Historically, this debate has been around for a long time, but the legal influence began in 1967, when Federal funding for roads to States became dependent upon that state's helmet laws. No helmet law = no federal road funds. This began a long and intense debate on the freedom to decide for one's self. Insurance companies added to the debate, and adjusted the numbers paid out in accident claims by using the following data:

Riding a motorcycle is inherently riskier than driving a car.

- ✦ Motorcycles are less stable than passenger vehicles during maneuvers such as emergency braking and swerving and are less visible on the road.
- ✦ When motorcyclists crash, they lack the protection of an enclosed vehicle, so they're more likely to be injured or killed.
- ✦ Per mile traveled in 2016, the number of deaths on motorcycles in the U.S. was nearly 28 times the number in cars ([NHTSA, 2018](#)).

A proper helmet is the most important piece of motorcycle safety equipment.

- ✦ The federal government estimates that wearing a helmet reduces the risk of dying in a crash by 37 percent ([NHTSA, 2008](#)).
- ✦ Unhelmeted riders are 3 times more likely than helmeted ones to sustain traumatic brain injuries in the event of a crash ([NHTSA, 2008](#)).

We all enjoy the freedom that comes inherently with motorcycling! Making the choice to put on that helmet is part of that 'freedom', but... Use that freedom responsibly and stay as safe as possible, so that you can ride again tomorrow! Use good sense, and to stay current on State Helmet Laws, use one of the phone apps to find State laws regarding helmets in that state as you travel. The Laws vary according to age and kind of riding that you are doing. Keep smart and keep safe, so that you can tell all of your Top Cat Family about that GREAT RIDE you just came back from...SAFELY!

One Suggested Site for finding an App:

The Motorcycle Helmet Laws App, Created by Buckfire & Buckfire, P.C., Motorcycle Accident Attorneys, Allows Riders To Access Important Helmet Law Information for Bike Trips Across U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia; Available for Download on iTunes and Google Play Store.



September Birthdays and Anniversaries!

11 - Mary Kirkpatrick

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities
for September!!
Let us know your special Dates so that
we can celebrate with you!

4 - Wayne And Mary
Kirkpatrick



Respectfully Submitted by:
Ron Kostus, Top Cat Secretary

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETING MINUTES

JULY 2ND, 2019

Announcements:

- 8/2: Vida Kostus – Happy Birthday
- 8/16: Jane Smith - Happy Birthday
- 8/25: Ron & Vida Kostus – 46th Anniversary
- 8/27: Greg Smith – Happy Birthday
- 8/28: Gene & Noelle Rigsby – 31st Anniversary

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- “7:01 pm, meeting called to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Guests: no new guests this meeting

Vice President: Mary Kirkpatrick

- Sturgis was great fun, many interesting adventures were had.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Wayne reminded the membership that when you are wearing the Top Cats name, your behavior reflects on the club. Be sure to keep that in mind and treat all with respect. Then he presented some jokes and insights.



Safety: Ric Case

- G.R.A.S.S. 7/21 – KELLER Williams office – Barrington. Rice reported it was a good class; 3 instructors, 3 participants.
- Kaution Korner – “Group Riding...Really” ?presented by Ted Makarewicz. See the “Roar” for complete details – Know the group your intending to group ride with.

MC Rider video presentation: Ron Kostus

- MC Rider “7 Tips for surviving the heat on a motorcycle” - keeping cool and hydrated while on the move.

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- No new membership information this meeting.

Gene Rigsby reminded all about business cards being available to distribute to potential members.

Activities: Greg Smith. Jim Purcell

Recent activities reviewed by each road captain:

- 7/13-14: Crystal Lake cave ride – Gene Rigsby.
- 8/4-6: Post Sturgis satellite ride – Gene Rigsby
- 7/29 – 8/5: Sturgis – Bard Boand
- 8/5-8/11: America's Front Range Ride – Wayne Kirkpatrick
- 8/11: Mendota Corn Fest – Ted Makarewicz

Up-coming activities:

- 9/7: Memorial ride – Ric Case
- 9/8: Sunrise Ride – Gene Rigsby
- 9/21: Galena River Ride – Greg Smith
- 10/6: Holy Hill Ride – Ted Makarewicz
- 10/27: Last G.R.A.S.S. class for the season – Ric Case

Charity: Lisa Purcell – not in attendance this meeting.

Products review: Lisa Purcell – not in attendance this meeting.

- Let Lisa know your needs and she will bring items you've ordered to the next meeting.
- Wayne Kirkpatrick discussed his attendance at the Harley “Livewire” electric bike meeting.

50/50 Raffle: Jim Purcell Won once again by Ric Case – donated to charity.

Meeting adjourned : Gene Rigsby: 7:58 pm.



To Honor and Remember!



This will be an irregular piece that will give our Club the opportunity to Honor and Remember our loved ones who gave us so much as they influenced and shaped our lives.

Please let us know about the passing of your loved one by sending a picture and a short description of their proud moments! We will remember them with you!

This month, the Motorcycle Community lost **Peter Fonda**, and you can read about him in the **Oils Spots** article on page 6.

Here, though, we will honor a motorcycle GREAT. At 39 years old, she had lived life without fear and was described as an independent and adventurous spirit, boasting, "I will try everything at least twice... I wouldn't want to be jaded by the first attempt."

Jessi Combs

Jessi Combs was born in the Black Hills of Rapid City, SD. With a lifelong desire to become a race car driver, she found a love for speed and its machines at a very young age. In addition to her love for everything automotive, Jessi was somewhat of an artist and spent as much time as she could creating with her own hands. She loved metal working, leather craft and photography, and could make almost anything she could dream up.

After graduation from High School, Jessi moved to Laramie, WY to attend WyoTech where she studied Collision/Refinishing, Chassis Fabrication, Street Rod Fabrication, and Trim/Upholstery, graduating at the top of her class with a degree in Custom Automotive Fabrication. Her time and involvement at the trade school led to her first fabrication job when the marketing department hired her and another student by the name of Ben Bright to build a car from the ground up in six months to debut at the Specialty Equipment Marketing Association's (SEMA) show. The car was auctioned for charity and Ms. Combs didn't look back. Building and racing became her life!

While her chosen career path didn't initially include time on television, she found herself on **Overhaulin'** as a guest fabricator and was soon hired as the co-host of **Xtreme 4x4**, part of the Powerblock on Spike TV; a position she held for four years and 90+ episodes. Together with co-host Ian Johnson, they built everything from race trucks to street trucks and trail rigs to trailers, for an audience of millions.



Recently, the Velocity Channel had been her home for television as Jessi could be found on **All Girls Garage** and was also working on starting her own metal fab shop: "A place where bad ass hot rods, motorcycles, custom trucks, race vehicles, and anything metal will originate with a feminine touch; where chicks can finally have a place to get dirty, be creative, use their skills, explore talents, go fast, and have fun in a comfortable working environment".

Jessi died Tuesday, attempting to break a longstanding female 512mph land speed record on a dry lakebed in Oregon's Alvord Desert. She had crossed 400 miles per hour when a fire erupted quickly engulfing her vehicle. Officials are searching the onboard computer to explain the accident.

Chasing her dreams, Jessi has given girls everywhere inspiration to find their own inner direction and chase their automotive dreams. It's a world previously dominated by men... but Jessie has joined the ranks of those pivotal women who have opened these roads to all! Keep Racing, Jessi.... And thanks for your story!

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RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, September 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, September 8th	Sunrise Ride	TBD	Lake Michigan Beach	TBD	Rigsby
Tuesday,, September 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Rigsby
Sat/Sun Sept. 21	Galena	BP at 176 & 12	Galena and the Mississippi River	8:00 am	Smith
Sunday, September 29th	Memorial Ride	TBD	Thirsty Horse Bar and Grill, Bristol	9:30 am	Case
Tuesday, October 1st	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, October 6th	Holy Hill Back Roads	TBD	Holy Hills	TBD	Makarewicz
Tuesday, October 8th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:30 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, October 27th	GRASS Class	Barrington	Keller-Williams	8:00 am	Case

All ride and event information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at www.TopCats.org.



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Location and Hours

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See the Top Cats Archive

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Attention all Top Cats business owners!

As part of our ongoing philosophy to support our members and goal to provide a more value-rich publication, we are now offering free advertising space in ROAR for Top Cats business owners.

Each business owner can submit advertising content and graphics up to 2 X 3.5 inches (Business Card size) for their company.

We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it.

This offer is for Top Cats business owners only. We are not accepting advertising for other businesses at this time.

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org



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

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at

ROAR@TopCats.org