



ROAR

February, 2021

Volume 21, Issue 2

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Happy Valentines Day



*The Official Publication
Of
Top Cats Illinois*

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

2ND GENERAL MEETING
9TH BOARD MEETING

MARCH

2ND GENERAL MEETING
9TH BOARD MEETING

**YAHOO!
TOGETHER AGAIN!**

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





ROAR

PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello Top Cats!

2021 is coming in like a lion, so let's hope the lamb gets here sooner than later and we can get out and ride...

I hope you and your families are safe and doing good. We are doing fine here at the Rigsby lodge.

The beginning of the year is not off to a good start as we were informed of the passing of our Top Cat brother, past member Ron Kostus. Ron was recently a member for 3 years, but also a returning member who spent time with the club in the past. Ron also served as the club secretary for 3 years, even while dealing with

his illness.

In this somber moment, we should also honor and remember that 2021 is the 20 anniversary of the passing of Top Cat's founder, Virgo Bender. His memory and founding principles are still with us and help to guide us into the future.

As mentioned last month, RC's will be meeting soon to start planning our events and loading the calendar with them. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities to create new shining moments sharing good rides with good friends! I can't wait!!! About a month and a half to spring.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time via my email: Gene.rigsby@gmail.com, or phone, 847-770-9425.

Look Forward to seeing you there!
Gene "Lucky" Rigsby

KAUTION KORNER

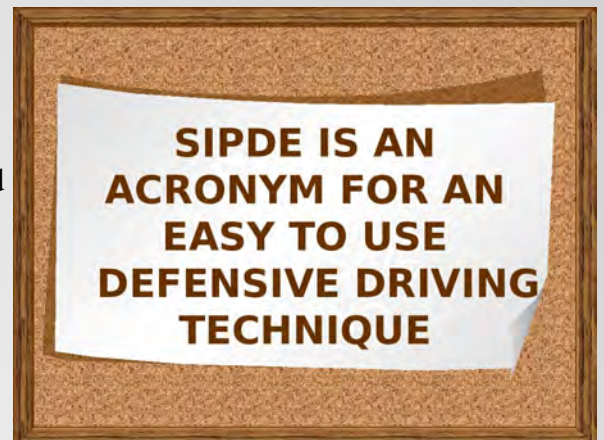


A Simple Method to Deal with Any Common Road Hazards!

By: Mike "Motorcycle" Bradbury

There are many types of road hazards we encounter on our motorcycles. This article does not attend to address how to handle mother-in-laws crossing the street, dead ends, getting stuck in a parade for no apparent reason, soon-to-be road kill and gravel roads. I leave those road issues to your judgments. I will explain here a simple principal I follow to deal with the most common road hazards I encounter on my motorcycle. If you follow this common motorcycling principal, you will better handle what the road dishes out to you on your many bike rides and trips.

(Continued on pg. 3)





KAUTION KORNER

The basic principle I follow is known as the SIPDE strategy. I did not make this up; this is a common strategy in riding your bike. The acronym SIPDE stands for Scan, Identify, Predict, Decide and Execute. It is a simple strategy that is fairly easy to understand and employ. The main element is scanning. The quicker you can identify a problem, the easier it is to avoid.

What is SIPDE?



Scan
Identify
Predict
Decide
Execute

Sometimes, though things may get past you. Yes I'm talking to all you bikers from veterans with years of experience to beginners. It

happens to everyone. If you utilize this system to the best of your ability, you will ride in a safer manner. It is as simple as that.

Here is a brief explanation of what the different sections stand for.

Scanning

This process doesn't just involve looking ahead. You should be sweeping your field of view from left to right, near and far and from time to time including your gauges as well. This includes your side view mirrors as hazards can come from behind too. This is essential as noted before. The quicker you identify a problem, the more time you have to react and react as safely as possible.

Identify

What is the issue ahead that concerns you? Identification is key in predicting your best course of action and deciding to do it. Should you swerve, stay the course, slow down, speed up, honk, signal, etc. What you need to do is dependent on identifying the hazard you are about to encounter. This will help you decide exactly what you believe your proper course of action is.

Predict

This one is a little tricky. You sometimes need to predict the rates of speed you're traveling and other

moving objects about to cross your path, is the road ahead slick or not, is there a future obstacle in your path, the angle of attack of your bike to that future obstacle which basically is the pathway you will follow, etc. All these things are judgments you must make in microseconds to properly handle the pending road hazard you will find. This is analytical but is one of the contributing factors to why riding your bike can be so thrilling. You constantly are doing this whether you realize it or not.

Decide

This is just like it sounds. After predicting a future outcome, you *decide* what you are going to do to deal with the road hazard you identified is coming upon you while scanning ahead. This is where motorcycle training can play a big part. If you attend Top Cat's G.R.A.S.S. classes and learn from other sources about driving your motorcycle safely, you will act more automatically. Training helps reinforce safe riding ideas and ingrain them in your head so when you encounter an unsafe situation you are better prepared to react in a natural manner, almost like second nature. Training is an important element in making faster decisions. The act of decision also includes making a plan. Sometimes at 50-60 miles per hour. Piece of cake!

Execute

Finally, now we get to doing something on the bike! Action! This is where the rubber stays on the road (hopefully) and you successfully manage your road hazards. This can mean doing almost anything on the bike but not in a reactionary way if you follow SIPDE. This can include many things; swerving, staying the course, slowing down, speeding up, stopping, etc. Whatever you decided you need to do you act upon.

The last thing to consider is that you perform the SIPDE principals constantly. You continually are scanning, identifying, predicting, deciding and executing while you are doing the same. This ultimately means that what you scanned, identified and decided is a changing environment and thus, you decisions on a course of action or execution of your decisions are constantly changing. This is a continual cycle (pun intended) that you ride over and over while you navigate your motorcycle down the road of life. If you follow SIPDE you will be safer for it.

Valentine's Day for Motorcycle Lovers!

Collected by: Mary 'Trooper' Kirkpatrick

Just a few ideas for those of you who may need a little help with this Valentine Holiday!



The nice thing about the [Gerbing Gyde](#) is that it doesn't look like motorcycle gear. You could easily unplug this bad boy and rock it as a regular jacket and nobody would be the wiser. Then throw a decent shell jacket on over it and be toasty on those brisk fall and winter rides. It's only a 7V system, but fleece has its own insulation properties, and its wind and water resistant, to boot. All that thrown together means it would need to be pretty close to freezing to outdo this piece.

Gerbing Price:
\$149



Airbag technology is quickly making the move from a racers-only wonder tech to a common piece of street gear, and we couldn't be happier about it. The good folks over at [Klim debuted the Ai-1](#) earlier this year, and it's a fantastic option if you don't want to rely on a physical tether to trigger the inflation system. The Ai-1 is powered by Klim's proprietary In&Box module, which is powered by a subscription app. The benefit is that Klim can continuously update the tech, keeping the Ai-1 on the bleeding edge. It also means the thing won't fire off at the coffee shop because you forgot to unhook the tether. The system isn't cheap, at \$400 for the vest and \$120/year for the app subscription, but if it saves you one ER trip, it has paid for itself.



Maybe you've got a romantic date planned in the park, or you just want to go for a longer ride to get out and enjoy nature. Either way, mother nature doesn't always cooperate. Don't let the poor weather determine the fate of your evening, take precautionary measures and throw your gear in Giant Loop's saddlebag dry pods, keeping all your goods out of the harsh elements. They're 100% waterproof, so that nice shirt you just had ironed will still be wearable by the time you get to your dinner date. Find them at Giant Loop's website:

<http://www.giantloopmoto.com/product/saddlebag-dry-pods/>
The price is \$78.

Hope you find just what will make your Valentine's Day Roll!



Oil Spots

By Traveler

[A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois Issues](#)

Most of us do, but all of us should, belong to our State ABATE Chapter. If you're not a member, check them out at their website: <https://www.abate-il.org/>.

Here's a summary of some of the many issues that our ABATE is involved in:

► **LED LIGHTING** Explore the possibility of getting approval for red and blue colors permitted for underlighting. There is an Illinois company that makes a light product that glows red under the bike when brakes are applied. Currently, that is illegal. ABATE is also looking at making illuminated grips and clothing legal.

► **POKER RUNS.** Poker Runs require a permit in Illinois. ABATE is working to make it clear that a permit in one county will be valid in adjacent counties.

► **DISTRACTED DRIVING.** ABATE will push for increased penalties for motorists using hand-held devices while driving. Two states recently enacted laws that prohibit even touching a hand-held device while driving.

► **TRAILER PLATES.** ABATE continues to work on repealing the 500% TA plate fee increase that clearly affects motorcyclists.

► **SHOULDER RIDING.** ABATE is starting discussions with Illinois reps to determine how to allow this practice for motorcycles stuck in traffic.

[Harley-Davidson Completes 'Rewire' Strategic Plan](#)

Harley-Davidson has announced it has completed "The Rewire" – the critical overhaul of its business – setting a strong foundation for "The Hardwire," the company's 5-year strategic plan to deliver profitable and desirable long-term growth and shareholder value.

"I am confident the substantial changes we made with The Rewire have set us up to successfully execute our

strategic plan. We are now a leaner, more aligned organization, and we are making decisions faster," said Jochen Zeitz, chairman, president and CEO of Harley-Davidson.

According to the announcement, as a result of The Rewire, the company is expected to deliver ongoing gross cash savings of approximately \$115 million starting in 2021

Harley-Davidson will now execute The Hardwire, its 2021-2025 strategic plan grounded in desirability and guided by its vision to build its legend and lead the motorcycle industry through innovation, evolution and emotion.

The public is invited to attend an audio webcast on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021, from 8-9:30 a.m. CST. Jochen Zeitz and Gina Goetter, chief financial officer, will discuss the company's financial results, strategic plan and outlook. A replay of the audio webcast will be available approximately two hours after the call concludes.

Feb. 22, 2021 – Harley-Davidson will reveal its all-new Pan America 1250 adventure touring motorcycle with a global digital event.

[5 Headsets For Every Budget](#)

Communication is the key to riding with your buddies. Choosing the right Bluetooth headset will help the group stay in contact with each other with the least amount of effort.

When there's downtime in the conversation, the ability to toggle between listening to music and hearing the next GPS prompt should be seamless with a quality headset.



SENA

For those who are more likely to ride with a partner, the Sena SMH10D-10 dual headset pack is definitely the way to go.



(Continued on pg. 6)

Oil Spots, continued...

Connect with your companion, share music, and keep in constant contact at a range of up to 980 yards away!

This headset delivers clear sound signals to begin with but also features an adaptable Advanced Noise Control technology that helps cut through surrounding noise pollution by automatically boosting the volume of whatever it is you're trying to listen to. The Bluetooth music playback control features play, pause, track forward and back functions, and each audio source has its own adjustable volume level to prioritize which deserve to be heard the loudest. The jog dial serves as volume control, and an integrated button makes cycling through the menu of functions simple, for the safest riding experience possible. With Bluetooth 3.0 and up to 12 hours of talk time.

FodSports



Take to the streets with this dual headset pack from FodSports. Experience Bluetooth 4.1 connectivity, the ability to connect with up to eight riders, and the freedom of a hands-free riding

experience that lets riders focus on the road ahead.

Receive voice commands, get GPS directions, listen to tunes, and take or make phone calls with ease without having to succumb to unnecessary distractions. When riding in groups, a rider can drop out of range and still come back to the conversation without doing anything. After a five-minute period, a one-button operation can allow reconnection to the group—it's that easy to stay connected out on the highway. The M1-S system can easily adapt to any type of helmet with hard or soft mic options which are included in the package. Swapping the unit between helmets is also easy, via a quick attach/detach metal clip design. Bluetooth 4.1 connectivity.

There's an impressive field of Bluetooth-enabled headsets on the market. These headsets blend the convenience of modern onboard infotainment functionality with fumble-free freedom of life on two wheels.

CARDO



Connect from two to 15 riders. Packtalk communication system is designed a group of up to 15. The Packtalk headset can bring riders together with the easiest command possible. All you

have to say is "Hey Cardo," and the Packtalk Bold will do as you say. There's no need to holler or shout either—just use your natural talking voice to connect.

If you thought the Packtalk unit was sounding appealing, wait until you hear the premium JBL speakers and specially tuned audio processor that pair up to deliver sound quality like you've never experienced inside your helmet before. Utilize full remote control functions and the Cardo Connect app for iOS and Android devices to customize the system to better suit your personal riding needs. You get Bluetooth 4.1 and up to 13 hours of talk time.

FreedConn



This particular FreedConn headset is equipped with an LCD screen that shows pairing status, battery life, and other vitals to assist with use on the road. The

TCOM-SC Bluetooth unit also has the capability to deliver a crystal clear stereo audio signal for ultra-high-definition sound that will exponentially improve communication and bring your music to life.

If you're used to riding with a group of friends, the FreedConn TCOM-SC allows for three riders to pair, for a helpful group chat scenario on the road. Receive a steady communication signal at speeds of up to 75 mph, and up to 875 yards apart. Listen to tunes via the built-in FM dial or through an MP3 device or cellphone, hear the next turn from your GPS app, and answer, decline, or redial the last call hands-free with one-button functionality. Bluetooth 3.0 and up to 10 hours of talk time

(Continued on pg. 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

Lexin

It is no surprise that there are a ton of Bluetooth systems out there such as your phone, MP3, and even audio dongles. Luckily, there are also comm systems like this one from Lexin that is capable of connecting to most of them. Thanks to its noise cancellation and loud speakers, you will be able to hear the FM radio hosts, GPS guide, or three other intercom-connected friends easily at freeway speeds. Its lithium-ion battery is claimed to provide up to 15 hours of music streaming, 8 hours of talk time, and 120 hours standby time. This system is also waterproof, so you will stay connected, rain or shine.



IMS Motorcycle Show



**AUG 20 - 22,
2021**

Venue TBA
Elgin, IL

There's a twist to the annual International Motorcycle Show this year. The dates changed and, the venue has not yet been

established. All that has been released is that it will be at an undetermined location in Elgin, IL in August. Traditionally the bike shows are held during the end of one year through the beginning of the following year. But this year the Motorcycle Show Tour will happen during the summer. The first show will be held in Denver on June 18-21, 2021.

A unique thing about the IMS bike shows is that their focus is on the entire motorsports industry. There will be motorcycles, trikes, dirt bikes, and 4-wheelers of all types of brands.

At each location there will be the J&P Cycles Ultimate Builder Custom Bike Show and the Internation-

al Motorcycle Show Vintage Display. And other attractions at the shows include VIPs, motorcycle sweepstakes, displays, demo rides, kid zone, and a free gear check.

In addition, to the unique attractions at each of the International Motorcycle Shows there will be different vendors at each location.

Here are the International Bike Shows Locations & Dates as of December 21, 2021:

Denver: June 18-20

Southern California (Irvine) July 9-11

Northern California (Sonoma) July 16-18

Chicago August 20-22

New York City Sept 10-12

Pennsylvania (Carlisle) Sept 10-12

Nashville Oct 8-10

Central Florida (Lakeland) Oct 15-17

Atlanta (Conyers) Oct 29-31

Triumph Offers Free MSF Basic eCourse To New Riders



Central to Triumph Motorcycles is a passion for riding. To share this passion, Triumph partnered with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) to make the MSF Basic eCourse available to prospective new riders, or former riders interested in riding again. The three-hour eCourse, valued at \$20, is a great introduction to riding. It is also a prerequisite for the hands-on MSF Basic RiderCourse, which in most states will make students eligible to obtain a motorcycle endorsement upon completion.

(Continued on pg.8)



Oil Spots, continued...

(Continued on pg. 9)



To facilitate the offer, Triumph has launched the website TriumphRider.com, where prospective riders may complete a form to be emailed a unique promo code, which can be applied when they register on the MSF website to redeem the Free Basic eCourse, compliments of Triumph.

Arizona Bike Week 2021 Has Been Postponed One More Year

Organizers have decided to postpone the 25th Anniversary celebration of Arizona Bike Week until April 6 – 10, 2022.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, unfortunately the viability of holding a large rally in Arizona this year has clearly become highly improbable.

A 25th anniversary deserves a huge celebration, unfettered by all the current restrictions. Since concerts are a HUGE part of the annual event, entertainment options will be very limited until the current state of affairs has become more stable.

For those who have purchased tickets or campsites for 2021, they will be receiving separate communication regarding options.

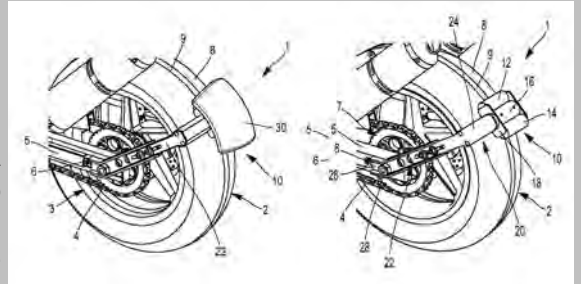
Embarrassment Saver

Technology and innovation tend to save our butts from embarrassment, injury, property damage and, even death. This invention from Michelin appears to help mitigate the embarrassment of dropping your bike while trying to back out of a parking spot or driveway. The appeal would certainly be to short – inseam riders who struggle with backing up.

Michelin recently filed for a patent that is pretty simple, a 3.6V DC motor capable of supplying about 1.5 to 3 lb-ft. of torque puts force directly on the rear tire to help move a bike backwards. The small motor ro-

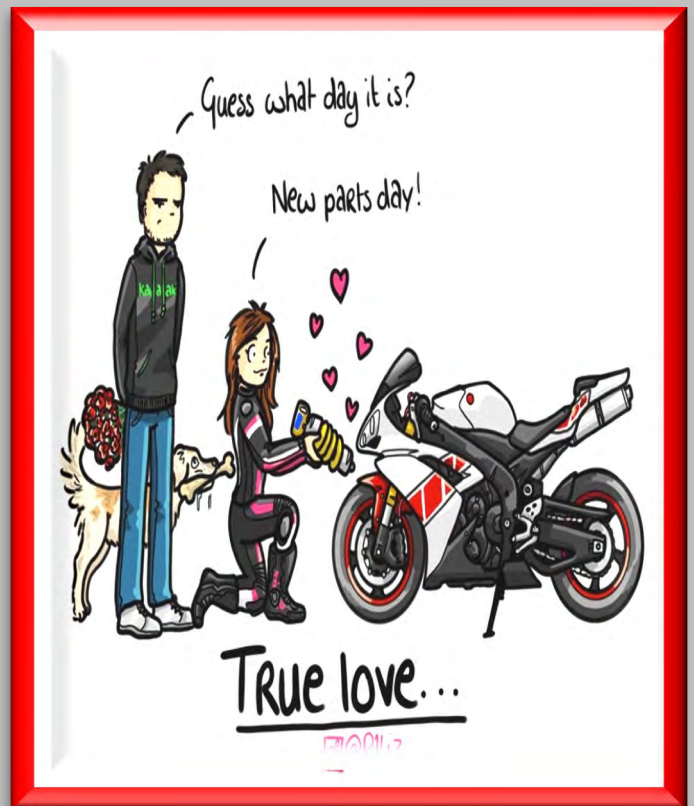
tates directly on the tire, but Michelin claims it does not cause additional or odd tire wear and only has a top speed of just over one-half-mile per hour. They also have a second design that tucks toward the front of the swingarm, which then adds no additional clutter to the tail end.

Michelin also says that this accessory could also help loading and un-



loading bikes in tighter trailers or truck beds and parking between cars in storage with a simple nudge.

Who ever penned the song “Short People Got No Body” never saw this device....





V.P.'s Vision

By: Mary 'Trooper' Kirkpatrick

The 3rd Entry of MC History



Munich, Germany's, Hildebrand & Wolfmüller developed the process by which the first powered two-wheeler was put into production. This one also

holds the distinction of being the first such vehicle to which the name "motorcycle" (motorrad in German) was ever applied.

In the past issues, the history of motorcycles has been the focus of the VP's space in our publication. This month, we will look at the first *motorrad* done as a production vehicle. An assembly line version. The picture here is a replica and has some very interesting designs. The smaller rear wheel, the high rake of the steering mechanics. All right... I'm obviously not a bike designer and have no idea of what vocabulary to use, but it is easy to appreciate the vision of the creators and the contributions to motorcycles done by these amazing historians.

So for the sake of being accurate, giving you interesting information and for bringing excitement to the reading, I will use information directly from this article found at:

<https://www.hemmings.com/stories/article/1894-hildebrand-wolfmuller-recreation>

Cut and paste if you would like to read the original print! On to the story...

The Hildebrand brothers, Henry and Wilhelm, developed their motorcycle in partnership with Alois Wolfmüller and his mechanic, Hans Geisenhof. Their design was powered by a twin-cylinder, water-cooled, four-stroke engine displacing 1,488cc, which until recently when 1,500 and 1,600cc engines became viable in motorcycle production, was the largest power unit ever fitted to a motorcycle. Despite a maximum power output of only 2.5bhp at 240 RPM, the H&W was capable of speeds approaching 30 MPH, an exciting prospect at a time when powered road transport of any sort was still a novelty

The huge, water-cooled, four-stroke parallel twin is lashed to the rear wheel by means of long connecting rods directly linking the pistons to the rear wheel, the way a locomotive's pistons power the drive wheels.



A faithful replica of the first production motorcycle

By [Craig Fitzgerald](#) from June 2010 issue of [Hemmings Sports and Exo](#)

The solid-disc rear wheel serves as the flywheel, and the camshaft is actually attached to the rear wheel, as well. Paul d'Orléans at The Vintagent

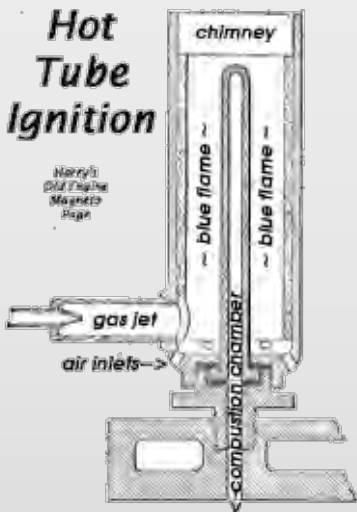
(an outstanding vintage motorcycle blog at www.thevintagent.blogspot.com)

has a great description of the whole mess: "The smaller rod has a roller cam follower riding on a ring camshaft attached to the wheel--this is a pushrod for the exhaust pair of the four overhead valves. A system of articulated rods and levers pushes the exhaust valves open in concert with rear wheel motion (the inlets are 'atmospheric', i.e., use piston suction to open valves with weak springs); very direct, very clever, and a design solution which wasn't pursued further, as it soon became apparent that using the rear wheel as the crankshaft led to a host of problems."

Patented in January 1894, H&W's motorcycle was also licensed to a firm in France and marketed there as "La Petrolette." Despite some impressive demonstration performances by factory riders, the H&W's shortcomings became all too apparent once deliveries commenced, and early in 1897 both the German and French ventures collapsed.

(Continued on pg. 10)

Motorcycling is always an adventure, but riding a Hildebrand & Wolfmüller adds to the experience by utilizing Daimler's crude "hot tube" ignition system. A hot-tube ignitor was an early device that fit onto the cylinder head of an internal-combustion engine, used to ignite the compressed fuel/air mixture by means of a flame heating part of the tube red hot, as if motorcycling wasn't dangerous enough on its own, circa 1894.



Opinions differ with regard to how many machines were produced; figures range from as low as 800 to as high as 2,000. Survivors are, needless to say, exceedingly rare. The bike shown on the last page is a faithful replica, one of 15 manufactured in Germany between 2001 and 2007. When it was auctioned by Bonhams & Butterfields at the 2008 Legend of the Motorcycle auction, it was described as a "non-runner built for museum display." It sold for \$58,500, inclusive of the buyer's premium.

The Hildebrand & Wolfmüller was released in 1894 and manufactured until 1897. At the time it only cost a few dollars, but now it comes with a much more expensive price tag. The one below sold for: just over \$3.5 million! It may not be easy to locate one for sale as the majority still in working order are on display in museums around the world.



Well, that's it! Any ideas of what you would like to see next? Let me know! This kind of research is a whole lot of fun! Next month...

February Birthdays and Anniversaries!



No February Birthdays ???
Did I miss anyone?

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

Anniversaries

2nd Jim and Lisa Purcell



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Winter Wonderlands...
Time to explore before the
Riding Begins!





RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, February 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, February 9th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, March 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, March 9th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
May	2021	Bring	Many	Events	For
	Top	Cats	To	Gather!	

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



Barrington Library

Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300

balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

As part of our ongoing philosophy to support our members and goal to provide a more value-rich publication, we are now offering free advertising space in ROAR for Top Cats business owners. Each business owner can submit advertising content and graphics up to 2 X 3.5 inches (Business Card size) for their company.

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

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

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



ROAR



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

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