



# ROAR

November, 2021

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## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 7 2AM - TURN CLOCKS BACK
- 9 BOARD MEETING
- 20 NISRA BANQUET...

### DECEMBER

- 5 TOYS FOR TOTS
- 7 GENERAL MEETING
- 11 STEAKED?
- 14 BOARD MEETING

Talk to Greg Smith and Rick Agrimonte and get your ideas on the calendar!



The Official Publication  
Of  
Top Cats Illinois

Happy Thanksgiving





## PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello Top Cats!!

I hope you and your families are enjoying the milder weather and taking advantage to get out and ride between the rain. I have. What's the best way to stay socially distanced...? At 55mph!!

We had two new members join in October and we are expecting a couple more before the end of the year. I'm sure they will make a great addition to our club. Look for the new friendly faces at the December meeting and say hello.

We have one event scheduled for November. The annual NISRA fashion show is November 20<sup>th</sup>. As usual, we have booked a table for 10 and it is SOLD OUT!! If you were able to sign up. Good for you. If not, you should try to do so next year. It is a fun time and helps support programs at NISRA.



We also have a ride November 5<sup>th</sup>. This is Ted's annual, Toys for Tots run. Mark down the date and keep an eye on the calendar and look out for blasts for further information.

The remainder of the year is wide open for our RCs, or even an aspiring RC to

take advantage of and plan a ride or for someone that wants to plan an event. Let me know or contact Greg Smith and we can help out.

Speaking of the elections,... we will have our list of positions up for vote in 2021 out soon for your review. So, if you would like to become more involved in the operation of the club or know someone that would, please nominate yourself or them. And if you are not ready to jump onto the board, you can volunteer for a position on a committee and still chip in.

Buddy Check...

[gene.rigsby@gmail.com](mailto:gene.rigsby@gmail.com)...  
It would be great to hear from you. Let me know how you are keeping busy.



Feel free to reach out to me anytime via my email:

[gene.rigsby@gmail.com](mailto:gene.rigsby@gmail.com),  
or phone, 847-770-9425.

Looking forward to seeing you there....  
Gene "Lucky" Rigsby

## November Birthdays and Anniversaries!



5th - Mike Bradbury  
9th - Jim Purcell  
17th - Kathie Bradbury  
18th - Doug Jackson

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities  
for November

Let us know your special Dates so that  
we can celebrate with you!

## November's Love Stories...

20th - Rich and Diana  
Lanute







## KAUTION KORNER

### Safety Reset Button..

10 Statistics that every Rider should know!

Source: MotorcycleRoads.Com

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick



To read the entire article go to:

[PowerPoint Presentation \(mcr-live.s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com\)](https://mcr-live.s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com)

The information presented here underlines our continuing need to 'THINK SAFETY'! Check out the entire article to find even more tidbits to think about over the winter months!

#1 Unfortunately, many motorcycle fatality rate statistics have been getting worse...

- ♦ Although there are always years in which motorcycle safety statistics show improvements, unfortunately the general trends are negative. For example, in 1998, motorcyclists deaths accounted for only 5% of all motorists' (autos, motorcycles, etc.) deaths. Yet, by 2005, that rate had doubled at 10% and by 2016\* the rate climbed even more to 13%! Presently, 14% is the average...

#2. Accident rates vary widely by state.

- ♦ For example, 7% of all Mississippi vehicle related fatalities are motorcyclists, yet in Hawaii, motorcyclists account for 26% of the traffic fatalities. A Governors' Highway Safety Association report showed rates getting much better in some states yet getting much worse in other states. Illinois rates dead center with 14% of fatalities involving a motorcyclist.

#3. Motorcycle travel is significantly more riskier than auto travel ...

- ♦ Stats show it There have been some big technology improvements in braking technology (i.e. ABS) & safety gear, government programs aimed at reducing motorcycle related accidents are on the rise, and increase in motorcycle safety instruction participation. Despite all this, motorcyclists continue to have substantially higher fatality rates than automobile operators/occupants.

#4. Risk Factors...

- ♦ Despite all riders understanding the dangers of

drinking and driving, 26% of fatally injured motorcycle drivers in 2016 had a blood alcohol concentration at or above 0.08 percent. In single vehicle crashes (primarily where a motorcyclist loses control of his/her motorcycle) this number grows to 37%! The Highway Safety Governors' FACTOR Association identifies 3 key risk factors: 1) Alcohol Impairment 2) Lack of Helmet Use 3) Excessive Speed

#5. Old or Young?

- ♦ A common misperception is that it is young motorcycle riders who are driving carelessly & comprising most of the fatal motorcycle accidents. This is very understandable because at one time this perception was true. In fact, in 1975, an incredible 80% of traffic fatalities involved riders under the age of 30. Compare this to the 'Over 50 riders' that only comprised a meager 3% of the fatalities in 1975. Sometime after 2008, the 50 years old plus group took over as the motorcycle rider demographic with the highest # of annual fatalities (Source: iihs.org) However, fast forward to 2016 and incredibly those statistics have been blown up. You see, in 2016, the under 30 group's share of fatalities plummeted to 29% while the over 50 group vaulted to 36%!

#6. Type of Motorcycle Matters

- ♦ Motorcycle fatality rates vary greatly when viewing them based on the different types of motorcycles. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety groups motorcycles into 5 different types: Cruiser/Standard, Sport, Supersport, Touring, Other. Deaths per 10K registered motorcycles Cruiser/Standard 5.7; Sport 10.7; Supersport 22.5; Touring 6.5; Other 4.3.

(Continued on page 4)





KK Continued...

## #7. Men make up the vast majority of motorcycle fatalities.

- ◆ Although men still proportionally own vastly more motorcycles than women, the increasing proportion of motorcycles owned by women is consistently growing. For example, in 1998, women owned 8% of the motorcycles in the US, in 2003 that rate rose to 10%. In its 2015 statistics, the Motorcycle Industry Council reported that number had grown to 14%. But, even so...Men own approximately 86% of the motorcycles in the US and they comprise about 90% of the motorcycle fatalities in any given year.

## #8. Helmets Save Lives.

- ◆ Many many studies confirm this. Motorcycle helmet laws in the US are a hot button topic and for good reason as issues such as personal choice & personal responsibility clash against governmental interest & jurisdiction ... the below stats are simply meant to point out the effectiveness of motorcycle helmets in the event of an accident.
  - ◇ In 2012 Michigan repealed its universal helmet law requiring all riders to wear helmets. Statistics taken since that change have shown a 23% increase in motorcyclist fatalities!
  - ◇ Helmets reduce the risk of death by 40% & reduce the risk of brain injury by 69%.
  - ◇ 19 states (38%) have universal helmet usage laws, 28 (56%) have partial usage laws, & 3 (6%) have no laws on helmets.
  - ◇ The NHTSA estimates that helmets saved 1,772 motorcyclists' lives in 2015 and that 740 more could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.

## #9. Yes - SPEED Kills! But for motorcycles so do INTERSECTIONS

- ◆ Despite the fact that motorcycle riders are more unprotected in the event of a crash (vs. automobile occupants), riders are speeding and paying for it with their lives.
  - ◇ Motorcycle vs auto accidents: collisions with another vehicle 3/4 of motorcycle accidents involve a collision with other vehicles ... only 1/4 involve solo accidents where the motorcyclist loses control and crashes.
  - ◇ 30% of motorcycle and 21 % of car accidents identify speed as a factor in fatalities ...
  - ◇ 2/3 of motorcycle accidents not involving other vehicles are caused by riders' own driving errors ... taking a corner improperly, laying the bike down, etc. Motorcycle Accident Key Points
  - ◇ 2/3 of multivehicle accidents are attributed to the other vehicle violating the motorcycle's right of way and INTERSECTIONS are the most common location solo.

## #10. Its not all bad news because - YOU can Help Spread the word!!!

- ◆ The more riders understand & are reminded of the risks as well as the factors that commonly contribute to accidents and fatalities, the more likely they will press their own safety reset button. The more automobile drivers are made aware that they are causing the majority of motorcycle accidents (ex. at intersections) the more likely they will press their own awareness reset button!

Now it's your turn! Press the reset button NOW





## Oil Spots

By Traveler



### **BUELL STARTS HAMMERHEAD PRODUCTION/RESERVATIONS NOV. 1**



Buell Motorcycle Co. announced the legendary Buell Hammerhead 1190 is going into production and taking

reservations beginning November 1, so get in line.

The Buell Hammerhead 1190 received extensive press coverage and unbridled enthusiasm from motorcycle riders around the world following Buell's spring announcement that "Buell is Back."

"When we said Buell is Back, we meant it," said Bill Melvin, CEO of Buell Motorcycle Co. "We have former executives from Buell, General Motors, Lotus Engineering, Toyota and Bombardier Recreational Products ensuring we are manufacturing and developing the highest quality products. Now we are putting the finishing touches on our factory and kicking off production of the Best American Superbike on November 1, the Buell Hammerhead 1190. Buell is Back!"

The Buell Hammerhead 1190 will have a Grand Rapids, Michigan built and proven 185-horsepower high-performance 72-degree V-Twin engine with 13.4:1 compression, sporting EFI with 4 injectors and exerting 101.6 ft.-lbs of torque. Buell's unique chassis and braking system is the key to its success on the race-track and on the road. The Hammerhead has a specialized aluminum Fuel in Frame design which provides strength, lower center of gravity and added balance unmatched against the competition. Buell's unique single perimeter front braking system reduces the unsprung weight to allow the rider unsurpassed performance and feel during turns. And at just 419 lbs., it's

nimble and quick.

Buell's new online reservation and delivery system, Buellvana, will also be innovative and exciting for riders and dealers alike. Reservations will begin online November 1, while Buell plans to outline details on October 21. This novel and industry disrupting system will provide the best delivery and service experience for Buell riders, while giving dealers all the advantages in a modern technology & post-COVID world.



"When we announced that our future models will include variants for dirt, touring and cruisers, while expanding our engine lineup, we were blown away at the rider response," said Steve Laham, Chief Products, Development & Strategy Officer at Buell Motorcycle Co. "I knew Buell was a beloved brand, and now riders are pulling for us! With the Hammerhead going into production, innovative technology and products in our pipeline and our online reservation system changing the industry, we're lean, mean and on the move!"

With the return of the Hammerhead 1190 and the new and revolutionary Buellvana online reservations system, Buell is back and racing to the future!

### **PER-MILE MOTORCYCLE INSURANCE LAUNCHED**

As reported in earlier issues of ROAR, an innovative Insur-Tech company

named Voom has just partnered with insurance company Markel to offer a stunning solution to today's motorcycle insurance premiums -- and the price will purportedly be measured on a per-mile basis.

(Cont. on page 6)







## Oil Spots, continued...

A report from CycleNews states that Voom and Markel's concept came from a statistic stating that low-mileage riders tend to be safer and cause less chaos, posing up to 80% less risk than riders who spend the day in the saddle.

This option will make a big difference for riders living in a continental climate, who were previously limited to annual or seasonal insurance, and now won't have to worry about the extra amount of money that goes to waste on the off-seasons -- rather, riders would simply be required to submit a picture of their odometer to the company once a month, and ride as much as they see fit.

The premiums are currently available to Arizona, **Illinois**, Indiana, and Ohio, with liability, comprehensive, medical payments, collision, uninsured motorists, and accessory coverage.

The eventual goal is to expand per-mile insurance to the rest of America, with emphasis on low-mileage riders.

## CAN YOU USE REGULAR OIL IN A MOTORCYCLE?



Motorcycle engines and automobile engines function differently and have different oil needs.

Occasionally someone asks why they can't just put

regular motor oil in their motorcycle. The short answer is that oils are formulated for specific applications. Motorcycle engines and automobile engines function differently, and the lubricants that service them have different needs. Here are six differences between motorcycle and automotive engine applications.

**Speed:** Motorcycles tend to operate at engine speeds higher than automobile engines with higher stress on engine components, increasing the need for wear protection. Higher RPMs also promote foaming, which can reduce an oil's load-carrying ability and accelerate oxidation.

**Compression Ratios:** Motorcycles operate with higher engine compression than automobiles. Higher compression places additional stress on engine components and increases engine tem-

peratures. Higher demands are placed on the oil to reduce wear. Elevated temperatures also degrade the oil, reducing its life expectancy and increasing the formation of internal engine deposits.

**Variable Engine Cooling:** Motorcycles that are air-cooled or use a combination air/oil results in greater variations in operating temperatures, particularly when motorcycles are operating in stop-and-go traffic. Higher operating temperature causes oils to thin, reducing their ability to lubricate effectively.

**Multiple Lubrication:** Many motorcycles have a common sump supplying oil to both the engine and transmission. In such cases, the oil is required to meet the needs of both the engine and the transmission.

**Inactivity:** Motorcycle use is usually periodic and, in many cases, seasonal. These extended periods of inactivity can cause some deterioration of motorcycle oils. In these circumstances, rust and acid corrosion protection are of important concern.

So, while the debate over which brand of oil to use will surely rage on, the debate over which type of oil to use is largely settled once you understand what makes the oil used in motorcycles different than the oil used in your car.

So, the simple answer is...always use the oil and lubricants recommended by your motorcycle manufacturer.

## Motorcycle Cannonball won on 1911 Harley

A 68-year-old Fargo, North Dakota, man and son of a former motorcycle dealer recently won the Motorcycle Cannonball -- dubbed the world's toughest antique motorcycle endurance run -- on a 1911 Harley-Davidson.



Dave Currier rode the 3,700-mile, 16-day indirect route from Michigan to South Padre Island, Texas, on the refurbished bike with a rock-hard seat.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

The route took riders south, then east all the way out to the Carolina coast before angling back toward Texas while crossing 11 states. The event is typically held every second year, but the 2020 event was delayed until this year due to COVID.

The bike Currier rode had the original engine – including the cylinder, crankcase and carburetor.

“It’s very tall, and I have short legs so I can’t touch the ground,” Currier said. “You have to pedal it to start it. It’s a belt-drive – the only way to move it forward is you pull the level which tensions the belt, and then you move forward.”

The Motorcycle Cannonball which had many motorcycle industry sponsors – attracted 88 competitors.

Currier’s father, Dick Currier, was a retailer of Harley-Davidson and Indian motorcycles in the 1940s and 50s and also raced motorcycles. Dave dedicated the Sept. 10-26 ride to his father’s memory.

## CALIFORNIA BANS NEW SMALL GAS-POWERED ENGINES



California will outlaw the sale of new gas-powered lawn mowers, leaf blowers, trimmers, chain saws, and golf carts as

early as 2024. Under a new law signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, all new small-engine equipment producing less than 25 horsepower must be zero-emission by a yet-to-be-determined date. (That horsepower threshold should exempt motorcycles and side-by-sides since most of those engines are over 25 hp.)

Proponents of the law say small internal-combustion engines create as much smog-causing pollution California as



light-duty passenger cars. Although legislators say \$30 million has been set aside to help professional landscapers and gardeners make the transition to zero-emission equipment, the Los Angeles Times reports that an estimated 50,000 small businesses will

be affected by the law, not to mention private individuals.

We all care about protecting the environment for future generations, but, \$30 million shared among 50,000 businesses comes to \$600 apiece. That isn’t going to go very far, especially for commercial-grade equipment used by landscapers. And how many batteries will be required to complete a full day’s work? Since California already struggles to provide enough electricity to avoid rolling blackouts—particularly during wildfire season when gas-powered generators are not a safe alternative—charging those batteries could prove to be tricky. On some days, it could even be impossible.

## AMA 2021 MOTORCYCLE HALL OF FAME CLASS

Every year, the American Motorcyclist Association honors motorcycle’s most accomplished and significant people in a Hall of Fame induction celebration — which this year happened at AMA headquarters in Pickerington, OH on October 15.



The AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame Class of 2021 represents eight areas of influence — Ambassadors/Industry, Design/Engineering, Dirt Track, Leadership/Motorcycle Rights, Motocross/Supercross, Off-Road, Road Racing and Specialty Competition.

“The AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame Class of 2021 includes men and women who have excelled in competition, promotion and advocacy of the sport we all love,” said AMA President and CEO Rob Dingman.

## **DAVE ARNOLD – CHAMPIONSHIP-WINNING MANAGER, ENGINEER**

Dave Arnold worked for American Honda from the mid-1970s through 2013, developing some of the greatest talents in the sport and helping forge the program’s legendary dominance in AMA Motocross and Supercross.



(Continued on page 8)





Oil Spots, continued...

Arnold contributed to 60 titles on factory and factory-supported teams. Arnold's talents transcended race operations to research and development, resulting in advancements in production motorcycles that impacted motorcyclists all over the world, and will continue to do so for decades to come.

### NANCY DAVIDSON - RIDING ADVOCATE, PASSIONATE AMBASSADOR

Nancy Davidson, wife of Willie G. Davidson, was one of the most recognized women who had a positive impact on the motorcycle community. She contributed to charity rides and support for the Muscular Dystrophy Association through the Harley-Davidson Dealer network. As a strong advocate for the AMA, she espoused the freedom and adventure of the motorcycle lifestyle and influenced ridership across the globe. Mrs. Davidson passed away in July 2021.



### DIRT TRACK TOMMY HAYS - CLASS C ERA STAR

Tommy Hays was the most successful Class C dirt tracker prior to World War II, and arguably the most successful racer from the pre-Grand National Championship era (1933-1953) who is not yet inducted



into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame. Even though he died at an AMA National in 1941, Hays' seven AMA National TT wins are still the fourth most ever in AMA history.

### LORETTA LYNN - HOST OF AMA AMATEUR NATIONAL MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

Since 1982, country music icon and superstar Loretta Lynn has continuously hosted the AMA Amateur National Motocross

Championship at her home in Hurricane Mills, TN, known as Loretta Lynn's Ranch. For the past 39 years, she has welcomed the AMA's youngest and brightest amateur athletes for the weeklong annual national motocross championship - an event known all over the globe as the "world's greatest motocross vacation."



### 2022 Jack Daniel's Limited Edition Indian Challenger Dark Horse Revealed



The Indian-Jack partnership started in 2016, and six years later, the formula is still firing on all cylinders,

with most of the actual design and build duties coming from the team at Klock Werks Kustom Cycles. For 2022 the new bike will have a production run of just 107 units.

This year's custom is based on the liquid-cooled Challenger wearing Dark Horse trim, which wears black paint in most of the engine bay, the exhaust, the wheels, and other parts. The Challenger Dark Horse trim level already adds premium features like Indian's Pathfinder LED headlight, a six-axis Bosch IMU, a hydraulically adjustable Fox rear shock, and Indian's onboard Ride Command infotainment system, but the Jack Daniel's bikes go a bit further.

First and foremost, had to be the focus on Tennessee Rye whiskey via a series of carefully curated accents, details, and badges. Custom Rye Metallic paint with gold and green accents and featuring

(Cont on page 9)





Oil Spots, continued...

several carefully placed JD logos is the most obvious treatment, followed by custom engraved floorboards bearing a stylized rye imprint. But probably the most obvious sign that this is a collab project comes from the Jack Daniel's Montana Silversmiths badges prominently displayed between the jugs, as well as the genuine leather, custom-stitched seat that wears a large Jack Daniel's logo.

This Challenger also adds more premium features to the mix, stuff like Indian's top-of-the-line PowerBand Audio sound system which packs on fairing and saddle speakers and claims to be 50 percent louder than the stock system. Then there's the slick Pathfinder adaptive headlight, which boosts illumination based on lean angle and the addition of Pathfinder LED driving lights, as well as a stylish flared windscreen and a low-rise handlebar, to name just a few extra goodies.



This limited-edition doesn't come cheap, and the Jack Daniel's Limited Edition Indian Challenger carries an MSRP of \$36,999. You can also only get it through Indian Motorcycle dealerships, with the order window opening on October 21, 2021. The Jack Daniel's Challenger Dark Horse will be built as a 2022 model-year machine, with deliveries starting as soon as the end of October.

## **DUCATI TO MAKE ELECTRIC RACE BIKES FOR MOTOE WORLD CUP**

Energica is the sole supplier of the electric motorcycles for the MotoE World Cup. Its 4-year contract ends in 2022. The manufacturer of high-performance electric motorcycles recently announced it will not renew its partnership with Dorna Sports.



Ducati announced it will begin making electric race bikes for MotoE World Cup starting in 2023. The Italian brand will become the official and sole suppli-

er of race motorcycles for the FIM Enel MotoE World Cup, which is the electric class of the MotoGP World Championship.

As per the agreement, Ducati will provide electric race bikes for MotoE World Cup until 2026, which will cover four seasons of the championship. Energica's Ego Corsa race bike has been what all the teams in the MotoE World Cup have used. It is based on the street-legal Energica Ego high-performance electric motorcycle.

## **Bikers You Should Know: Gwenda Hawkes**

She had the need for speed! Born in 1894, Gwenda served as an ambulance driver in World War I on the eastern front. Romania awarded her the Cross of St. George and St. Stanislav for her bravery. After the war, she married Colonel Sam Janson, a director at the Spyker car company. Rather than four wheels, though, Gwenda was more interested in two. In 1921 she set a new 1000-mile record on a Ner-A-Car, an unusual low-slung machine. Running 190 miles a day doesn't seem like much on today's roads, but back then paved roads were virtually non-existent outside of cities, and conditions were quite difficult.

In 1922 she set a 24-hour record at Brooklands, a wooden oval track on a Trump-JAP averaging 44.65 mph. This was impressive on the technology of the time, as well as the poor track surface.



The couple moved to France, where Gwenda set a 24-hour record at Montlhery on a 350 cc Rudge of 54.21 mph. She also survived a nasty crash on a Terrot-JAP when her back wheel collapsed at speed.

After setting numerous motorcycle endurance records, many of which would remain until the 1950s, Gwenda switched her sights to auto racing, where she continued to set many records. Gwenda preferred the time trial format instead of wheel-to-wheel competition and mainly stuck to setting records until World War II. She lived to the ripe old age of 95.

Gwenda's accomplishments, both on two wheels and four, were quite amazing regardless of her gender. The fact that so many of her records stood for so long speaks volumes of her talent. She put her nerves of steel to good use setting her countless records.



Oil Spots, continued...



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thank you for all the  
wonderful contributions  
that each of you make to  
keep our Club great!

We are truly Blessed!

## Winterizing Your Motorcycle!

By Traveler



The sad truth about motorcycles is that they need special treatment if they're going to sit for even just a few weeks. The gas in the tank and the chemicals storing electricity in the battery are the first to suffer, and both of those are important for getting your bike back underway.



However, many other things can accelerate the wear on your motorcycle if you don't take care of them before an extended hibernation. Unfortunately, many riders don't winterize their bikes for the off season and are greeted with an ugly surprise come springtime.

### Gas Tank

Gas tanks form their own internal micro-climates. If you're going to park your bike for more than a week, completely fill the tank. As the temperature rises and falls, any moisture in the air will condense on the bare metal inside the tank and can cause rust.



Fuel stored for long periods can deteriorate unless a fuel stabilizer is used. Be sure the tank is completely full, or the moisture in the air trapped in the tank can cause it to rust.

If you're storing your bike for the winter, you have two choices for how to prepare the tank. Both methods of tank winterization require that you begin by draining the tank. This is a good maintenance procedure, anyway, since any crud or moisture that has collected during the riding season will be carried out with the fuel.

The easiest option is to then pour a fuel stabilizer, like Sta-Bil, or Sea Foam, into the tank and then fill it completely with fresh gas. Most manufacturers recommend the full-tank method for all fuel injected bikes. The alternative for people who can't or don't want to store their bike with a full tank is to pour a few ounces of heavy oil — 50W at a minimum — into the empty tank.

Close the tank and spend a few minutes rotating it until the oil has coated the tank internals and washed away any fuel remnants. Pour the remainder into your oil-recycling container. Next spring, empty out the oil that collected in the bottom of the tank before filling it with fresh gas.

(Continued on Pg. 9)





Winterizing, continued..



## **Battery**

Batteries don't store electricity. Instead, batteries store the chemicals necessary to produce electricity. If left unused, lead acid batteries will naturally discharge.

Both high and low temperatures will accelerate this loss of charge, and if it's allowed to continue, the battery will reach a deeply discharged state that can dramatically shorten its life.

Add a constant drain from an alarm system, and your bike's battery can be stone dead in only two weeks. (Note: If you have a lithium-ion battery installed in your motorcycle, ignore this section of the article. Simply store it inside out of the cold for the winter.)

A smart charger keeps your battery in good health. Although battery technology continues to improve, producing ever more compact and powerful packages, the only way to maintain a motorcycle battery is to charge it periodically.

Fortunately for those of us with lead acid motorcycle batteries, "smart" charger technology has advanced to the point that buying one can pay for itself in a year or two of ownership. You don't even need to remove the battery from your bike. Just plug it in and forget about it. A fused cable tucked safely out of sight will work fine.

Intelligent chargers constantly monitor the state of a battery, and when the voltage drops, the charging feature kicks in. Once the voltage rises to the proper level, the charger enters "float" mode, where a neutral charge keeps the voltage from dropping.

The difference between these chargers and the basic trickle chargers that can be bought for less than \$10 is the float mode. Trickle chargers just keep trickling away regardless of the battery's condition, which can do as much damage as not charging the battery at all.

Finally, any non-sealed battery (yes, they are still made) should be topped off with distilled water every month or so, if necessary.

## **Engine**

The internal combustion engine is a toxic environment. The oil that is the lifeblood of the engine must suffer through high temperatures and extreme pressures – all-the-while carrying away the by-products of those thousands of explosions per minute. Once the

engine stops running, those contaminants settle out of the oil and can sink their teeth into unprotected metal.



A quick oil change prior to parking your bike for the winter will pay big dividends in the longevity department. Once the oil has been changed, ride your bike for a couple of miles to make sure the new oil has thoroughly flushed out any remaining contaminants.

Although many bike cylinder walls are now coated with alloys rather than lined with iron, you'll still want to protect them from moisture contained in the air trapped in the chambers. Some people prefer to remove the spark plugs and squirt some 50W oil into the spark plug holes. Crank the engine over a few times to coat things before reinstalling the plugs.

Another method is to spray fogging oil into the spark plug holes, which may give the cylinders a more thorough protective coating. Fogging oil can be found at many auto parts stores.

You may want to cover the airbox and exhaust openings to keep dirt and critters out. Rags or tape will work fine on airboxes. Exhausts can be covered with a plastic bag and a rubber band or with half of an old tennis ball.

Some thorough riders spray WD-40 into their muffler as an extra precaution (because of its water displacing qualities) before plugging it.

If your water-cooled bike will be stored in an unheated garage that may see temperatures below freezing, you'll want to check to see that the antifreeze is up to snuff. If you have any doubt, replacing coolant is much cheaper than replacing a cylinder head.



## **Carburetors**

Although carburetors are seldom found on new motorcycles, there are still enough carbureted bikes out there to including them in a winterization list.

While owners of fuel-injected bikes don't have to worry, carburetors can gum up over the winter if they

aren't drained. Periodic float bowl draining also removes any garbage that collects there.

Carburetors have many small and tiny orifices that clog easily and resist cleaning. Gasoline is made up of many compounds, some of which are quite volatile (for easy starting and less pollution). Unfortunately, this means the vast majority of gasoline's components will evaporate, given enough time, leaving behind varnish in places that you definitely don't want it.

To prevent build-up of this stuff, any time you are going to let your bike sit more than a week or so, you should drain the float bowls.

(Continued on page 10)



## Winterizing, continued..

Otherwise, the potential consequence is a time-consuming and expensive repair.

The best way to drain the float bowls is to attach a hose to the nipple at the bottom of each float bowl. Then loosen the drain screw and let the fuel pour into a clean container.

Examine the contents for water, rust or any other contaminants. (If you find any, you've got a nice winter tank-sealing and carb rebuilding project!) The tight construction on most bikes makes this a time-consuming process in which several parts, like the tank, need to be removed. So, you might not find this method practical for intermittent short-term storage.

The second-best way to drain the carburetors is to close the petcock with the engine running (which you should do any time you're parking your bike for more than a day, to avoid the possibility of fuel overflowing from your carbs and hydraulically locking the cylinders.)

Once the engine has run dry, the carbs are safe against fouling from evaporation. Remember, though, you haven't cleared the float bowls of other forms of contamination and should drain the carbs properly at least once a year.

## Tires

Tire manufacturers generally agree that it's preferable to store a bike on stands, to prevent the tires from sitting on the same spot for several months.



When storing on stands, reduce the tire pressure by 20 percent. If this is not an option, fill the tires up to their maximum recommended pressure and check the pressure every month. Periodically spinning the tires so that the bike's weight rests on different portions of the tread is also helpful.

Finally, since ozone ages rubber, store your bike away from direct sunlight and electric motors, such as refrigerators.



## Chassis and Finish

Preparing your bike for hibernation is a good time to perform some of the annual maintenance listed in the factory service manual. Brake and clutch hydraulic fluid replacement and chassis lubrication is a good place to start. Pay particular atten-

tion to the cables and the drive chain. They will benefit from a protective layer of grease or other lubricant. Do NOT grease a drive belt!

Washing and waxing your bike prior to storage will help protect the finish. Apply a good coat of wax or protectant and another in the spring.

You can also spray the engine and other bare metal parts with S100 Corrosion Protectant.



## Covers

Cover the bike to protect it from dust and grit. If your bike is stored indoors, make sure you use a breathable cover. A

soft cover will protect your bike from dust and paint fade from light. A rain cover will trap moisture within it.

Bikes stored out in the elements need a good, rugged, cover to protect it from the elements with breathing holes to allow moisture to escape.

Finally, if this all sounds like too much work, check with your local dealer for their winter storage options or.....prepare to find something like this in the spring.



**And... this is what you'd rather find...**







## What do we do now?

### V.P.'s Vision

By: Mary 'Trooper' Kirkpatrick

The days are getting colder and the bikes are being readied for the winter. So, what do we do now without the opportunities to get out there and ride??

In the spirit that throughout our club, let's talk about volunteering with NISRA. They have been a part of Top Cat's every summer... Maybe making them a part of our winters too will add to the success of our Summertime Charity event. And... during the cold months, helping out will warm your heart and others' hearts too!

Quote from a NISRA Parent:

*My favorite thing about NISRA is knowing that my son is with qualified, trusting, and amazing staff members and that he is getting to experience programs that are well planned and fun.*

For those of you who know NISRA, this is a great opportunity to do more than just raise money! Getting involved with the participants will give you a new view of what happens at NISRA. They have many options for you to choose from, so just take a few minutes and look through the information available at the link below to see if there is anything that fits your schedule and interests:

[Employment & Volunteering - NISRA](#)

Volunteers play a valuable part in NISRA's programs. With volunteers, they create opportunities where participants can receive more individualized attention. The Association's recreation program season runs between 6 and 8 weeks in length and we request that volunteers commit for the entire season. Most of the recreation programs meet once a week and are 1-3 hours in duration. In addition to weekly programs, one-day special event opportunities may also be available.

Now, another NISRA option is getting involved with their foundation. They work on fundraising for the programs and have many volunteer options here too.

[NISRA Foundation - NISRA](#)

Created in 1991, the NISRA Foundation raises funds to support many of NISRA's unique and innovative programs and capital projects. The Foundation has granted over \$2 million to NISRA for valuable programs and services. Funds raised through business partnerships, fundraising events, grants and individual donors support the following focus areas:

- **Program Services** – Supporting NISRA to provide high quality programming.

- **Scholarships** – Offering financial support for those in need, enabling them to participate in NISRA programs and Summer Day Camps.
- **Staffing** – Assisting with staffing costs.
- **Vehicle Replacement Fund** – Purchasing wheelchair accessible vehicles that transport participants to weekly programs, special events, trips, adult day program activities, and more.
- **Equipment** – Purchasing equipment and supplies that allow staff to plan innovative and fun programs adapted to the needs of people with disabilities.

This is the list of annual events and the Months for each:

Date	Event
April	NISRA Knights Move-a-thon
June	Spring Shootout Golf Outing
June	Ride for Dreams/Top Cats Motor cycle Charity Ride
September	Women's Golf Outing
November	Annual Holiday Fashion Show

Call NISRA today at [\(815\) 459-0737](tel:8154590737) for more information on the possibilities!

And.. For those who cannot make it to the annual Fashion Show, Here are a few pictures... It is truly a great experience!



The pre-decorated trees with a full load of presents is one of the fun parts of the afternoon! The auctions, diamond boxes, raffles, food and people all come together to begin the festivities that fill the month of December!



The models enjoy the opportunity to show off their dance moves while looking pretty cool in the latest fashions! Their excitement and energy is infectious! A great way to start the Season!



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

## MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 5TH, 2020

Respectfully Submitted  
by: Diana Lanute



### President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ♦ 7:00 pm, Meeting called to order
- ♦ The members stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance
- ♦ No Guests tonight.
- ♦ Announcements

Birthdays - 10/11 Bozena Haszlakiewicz  
10/22 Ric Case  
10/30 Gene Rigsby

10/12 Rick Agrimonti  
10/22 Victoria Wells

Anniversaries - 10/10 Rick and Loni Agrimonte 10/22 Ric Case and Jackie Case

V.P.: Mary Kirkpatrick (ABS)

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick (ABS)

### Safety: Ric Case

- ♦ Accident review – Mike Bradbury reviewed 6 local accidents including some with fatalities. A full report can be found in this month's October ROAR.
- ♦ Tom Malia reviewed his "No Galena Ride" with us.
- ♦ Kaution Korner – Gene Rigsby discussed (practice what we teach). He
- ♦ advised us to "Dress for the slide/not for the ride."

### Safety Video: Ric Case

- ♦ The recording system was not working tonight, so we had no video. But you can screen the information yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHhRZLHA-cA&t=2s>. The title is Motorcycle Braking: Front VS Rear – When and Why
- ♦ See the October ROAR for all details and links to information given.::

### Membership: Ted Makarewicz (ABS):

New members

Membership drive ideas?

### Activities: Greg Smith

Recent activities

- ♦ 10/2 - Sunset Ride – Greg Smith – We did not do this ride because of rain. However, the group did meet for dinner as planned and the day ended with all having a good time.

Future activities

- ♦ 10/16 Haunted Picnic ride – Gene Rigsby – We will do a pick up and ride to begin at 10 a.m. Bring your own food. Drinks provided by the Rigsby's. Gene will provide details later.
- ♦ 10/17 GRASS – Ric Case - Be at Alley 64 by 9am. Class will be done by noon.
- ♦ 10/23-24 Rustic Road Migration – Greg Smith reported for Mary Kirkpatrick (ABS):. This is an overnight ride. On the first day there will be 7 roads; on the second day there will be 8 roads to ride. Room reservations and phone number of the **Autobon Hotel** in Maysville, Wisconsin can be found in this month's October ROAR.
- ♦ NEED MORE RIDES!!!! Nothing more is scheduled for October or November.

### Products: Ted Makarewicz (ABS)

- ♦ Get your gear now!!
- ♦ Embroidery ideas for our hats and shirts?

50/50 Raffle

No raffle tonight.

Meeting Adjourned: Gene Rigsby at 7:46pm.





## BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 12TH, 2021

Respectfully Submitted  
by: Diana Lanute

### President's Section: Gene Rigsby

Meeting called to order 7pm  
Immediate needs? None

### Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ♦ Election: Wayne will begin the process with the incumbents. Gene will help.
- ♦ NISRA Fashion Show: Saturday, 20 November. Cost is \$55/person. In past years a table of 12 was \$500. COVID reduces number of people to 10 per table. Question: Is cost less?
- ♦ Wayne proposed that Top Cats buy one table of 10 for \$500; the board voted and approved proposal.
- ♦ Wayne also noted that in the past TC donated to NISRA's 19 November gala. This will be tabled until it is discussed with Don DeLordo.
- ♦ Ric Case proposed a \$200 donation to Illinois State Police (ISP) gala.

### V.P.: Mary Kirkpatrick (Abs)

No feedback.

### Activities: Greg Smith

Recent Activities

- ♦ 10/2 - Greg's Ride – Sunset Ride changed to Dinner Ride because of rain.

Future Events

- ♦ 10/16 – Haunted Picnic Ride – Gene Rigsby – Begins at 10am and ends at the Rigsby house.
- ♦ 10/17 – Ric Case and Rick Agrimonti – GRASS class to be held at Alley 64 beginning at 9am. For details contact Ric and Rick,

Blast and calendar reviewed.

Calendar review – Oct/Nov

- ♦ Ted inquired about interest in a Toys for Tots ride with breakfast at a Polish restaurant. Contact for Toys for Tots is Ted.
- ♦ Top Cats 2021 Banquet (Feb/Mar 2022) Mike to solidify dates. The \$250 deposit is approved by the board.

### Safety/RC: Ric Case

- ♦ Accident Scene Management with Motorcycle Lawyers; Mark Schumann will subsidize \$30 to any TC member taking the Accident Scene Management class which is a day-long class. Ric to follow up. Wayne, Gene and Ric are instructors.
- ♦ RC meeting will be around 6 February.
- ♦ Ric to follow up on Toys for Tots with Ted.

### Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

Packets went out to Prinya and Victoria.

Discussion about giving a TC T-shirt to new members. Motion to buy ten size L mens' shirts and looking to buy size L womens' T-shirts also. Motion to allocate \$200 for purchase of new T-shirts was approved by board. Ted to reach out to Don DeLordo regarding this.

### Charity: Mike Bradbury

NISRA fashion show – already discussed.

### Treasury: Don DeLordo (ABS)

No report.

### Secretary: Diana Lanute

Discussed a new source for embroidery work.

Meeting Adjourned: Gene Rigsby at 7:33pm



## RIDE SAFE and VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!



The most important thing we do in Top Cats is safe riding. The second most important thing we do is smart voting. Our riding season has been a safe one and now it's time to vote in our annual Club elections.

For the 2022 - 2024 term, consistent with our By Laws, we have the following five position vacancies and current qualified incumbents or nominees:

### I. Vice President (2022-2024): Nominees –

Requirements for Vice President

1. Be a Full Member in good standing for 3 consecutive years prior to the date of the election.
2. Have served as a committee chairperson for one year or have served a minimum of one year in any Board position.

### II. Secretary (2022-2024): Incumbent: Diana Lanute

Requirements for Secretary

1. Have been a Full Member in good standing for 1 year prior to the date of the election.
2. Have no history of disciplinary action.

### III. Treasurer (2020-2021): Incumbent: Don DeLardo

Requirements for Treasurer

1. Have been a Full Member in good standing for 1 year prior to the date of the election.
2. Have no history of disciplinary action.

### IV. Two Directors (2022 - 2024): Incumbents; Mike Bradbury, One position open

Requirements for Director

1. Be a Full member in good standing for 12 months prior to the date of election.
2. Have served as a committee member for one year or have served a minimum of one year in any Board position.

Nominations for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors will be accepted up to 12 November via email to [wkirkpa177@aol.com](mailto:wkirkpa177@aol.com), or in person. When you find yourself faced with a nomination decision, simply look at your choices and determine who has the best interest of the Club at heart, who has a proven record of dedication to the Club, who has the experience for that particular position and, 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.

Nominees will be vetted for eligibility and the slate will be reviewed and approved by our Board in November. Voting will take place at our 7 December general meeting and our new Board will take office on 1 January 2022. Our ballot - voting procedures will be explained in the December issue of ROAR.





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## Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Doug Jackson and Staff Support  
our Top Cat's Ride for Dreams!



**PALATINE, IL**

Home to Alley 64,  
Top Cat's Monthly Meeting Spot!

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.

**Sign-up your favorite merchant today!**



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



When we are released from our  
quarantine, let's remember Alley  
64 and get back there quickly!





## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, November 2nd	General Meeting	Cancelled	Palatine	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, November 9th	Board Meeting	Alley 64	Palatine	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, November 20th	NISRA Banquet	Holiday INN	Crystal Lake	10:00am-3:00pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, December 5th	Toys for Tots	TBD	Toy Delivery	TBD	Makarewicz
Sunday, December 7th	General Meetin	Alley 64	Palatine	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, December 11th	Steaked?	Prime Quarter	Janesville	4:00 pm	Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, December 14th	Board Meeting	Alley 64	Palatine	7:00 pm	Rigsby

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)





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

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