



ROAR

August, 2022

Volume 22, Issue 8

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The Official
Publication
Of
Top Cats
Illinois



Deadwood is waiting for the
Top Cats to arrive!

Sturgis, Here We Come!

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 9 BOARD MEETING
- 9-15 FRONT RANGE RIDE
- 13 MANNY'S SNACK SHACK
- 14 ROCK RIVER VALLEY LUNCH
- 26-28 FIELD OF DREAMS

SEPTEMBER

- 6 GENERAL MEETING
- 13 BOARD MEETING
- 25 MEMORIAL RIDE

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





ROAR

PRESIDENT'S POINT



And Now a Word from your President...

Hello Top Cats!!

Summer riding season is here...!!!! I hope all is well with you and your families, so that now maybe you can arrange a bit of time away from them to ride with your Top Cats Family!!

What's the best way to stay socially distanced...? On the road with your Top Cats family!!!

Speaking of our expanding Top Cats family.... We have several new members to welcome and say hello to at our next meeting. There is Bruce Handler, Christine and Richard Kimball, Daniella and Sefan Maca, David Ramierz, Robert Rudy and Brandyn Simmons. I'm looking forward to getting out on the road with all of you soon.

July was a little light on the riding as most of our RCs seemed to take the month off. Not sure why, but I hope they figure out how to get rides together and fill up the August and September calendar... DO IT!!

Mike Bradbury didn't forget how to put rides on (Wayne and Bard too), as he has been leading the pack (or Pride??) and did not disappoint putting together an overnight ride to Kansas City. 500+ miles each way with some great BBQ in between!! It was fantastic!! We enjoyed it so much that we are making it a standing annual ride and calling it "I would ride 500 miles". It will be the second full weekend in July and feature a different location and RC each year. I am putting on the 2023 ride which will be out to Duluth Minnesota the weekend of July 8 and 9. Put it on your calendar now to save the date. Details to come.

Speaking of riding... Mike is also putting on the Grumpy Troll ride, tagging onto part of Bard's ride to Sturgis, which is leaving 7/31. Mike is also leading a satellite ride out to Estes Park Co. and then to meet up with Wayne and the Front Range Riders

(sounds like an ol' timey music group) to head into the southwest, riding off into the sunset. We will be covering some great parts of the country during this ride. Can't wait!!

August has great riding opportunities.... Sturgis, Front Range Ride and Ted's Field of Dreams ride.... Hopefully it's not too late for you to get in on the action. If it is and you're an RC. Get your own ride on the calendar and you can strut your RC talent for your Top Cats family and maybe take them to a place they have never been, or someplace familiar. Either way, DO IT!!

With all that, **WE STILL HAVE OPEN SPACE ON THE CALENDAR**.... Let's go Road Captains!!! Let's fill it in. Get your rides on the calendar so we can plan to attend. DO IT!! Contact Mike, me or any of the Sr Road Captains if you need help getting a ride idea started. We can help.

As I always mention (so you should know now, right??), stay on top of all the opportunities to enjoy riding and being with your Top Cats family. Keep looking out for blasts and check the calendar often for details of events and save the dates ASAP. Take a few minutes right now to go to the Top Cats event calendar and write down the ride/event dates on your calendar. I'll wait.... It's great to see folks I haven't seen for a while out on a ride. That makes it worth all the effort to keep our club going.

Add them to your phone as well, just in case you are not looking at the calendar enough. Also, contact Greg Smith or Rick Agrimonti if you are not seeing the blasts.

Buddy Check... It would be great to hear from you. Let me know how you are keeping busy. gene.rigsby@gmail.com, or phone, 847-770-9425. . Looking forward to seeing you there!

Gene "Lucky" Rigbsby

KAUTION KORNER



Stretch It Out!

Mary "Trooper" Kirkpatrick
Senior Road Captain

Pictures and info from: [Motorcycle.com/top10/10-stretches-to-keep-you-limber-while-motorcycle-riding.html](https://www.motorcycle.com/top10/10-stretches-to-keep-you-limber-while-motorcycle-riding.html)



Last year, Deb Gille, a yoga instructor who rode with us, gave us some stretching options to use when starting the ride... Things that could make the ride a little easier and comfortable. I found an article with some tips that may work!

Wrist Flexor This stretch will loosen the upper part of the forearm which can help keep your forearms loosened up after long rides and alleviate issues with arm pump. You can perform this stretch by extending your arm straight out while pointing your fingers down and with your opposite hand, put your thumb at the inside of your wrist and wrap your fingers around the front of your outstretched hand. Then apply firm, gentle pressure, pushing toward your body. You can also extend your arm out, fingers pointed down, and push the back of your hand against a wall. You should feel this stretch across the extensor muscles located on the top of your forearm. Hold for 30 seconds per arm, 2-3 times.

(Continued on pg. 3)



Kaution Korner, Continued

Wrist Flexor Stretch: Similar to the extensor stretch, this will loosen the muscles in your forearm and help with arm pump sufferers. However, now we will focus on the flexor muscles on the inside of your forearm. To perform this stretch, extend one arm out, forearm facing up, and with your opposite hand, place your thumb under your outstretched wrist, wrap your fingers around your palm, and pull toward your body. You can also use a wall by pushing your outstretched arm, fingers up, against a wall. You should feel this stretch across your entire inner forearm. Hold for 30 seconds per arm.



Standing with your arms down at your side, point your thumbs out to the front and make a fist. Slowly rotate your arms so your thumbs are pointing out to your sides while pushing out your chest. Then, rotate back past the original position so your thumbs are pointing backward. You should feel this across your chest and in your shoulders. Being in the riding position for long periods of time can leave us tightened up into a position with our shoulders pressed inward. This stretch can feel great after a long day of touring.

Hip Compression: This can be done while standing or lying down. While standing, bring your knee up and with both hands, grab just under the knee cap and pull your leg toward your body with both arms. Hold for 30 seconds and alternate to the other leg. Do this stretch 2-3 times per leg.



Quad Stretch: This is your standard quad stretch, however, focusing on correct technique will help you get a much better stretch. While standing, bring your foot up behind you and with the arm on the same side, grab from the outer side of your foot and pull up gently. Focus on keeping your knees together, your legs in line with one another, and pull your stomach in to maintain straight posture. Focusing on these steps will help you get a better stretch across the top of your leg.

Lunges: For this stretch you will want a wide stance. Wide enough that when your arms are outstretched to the sides, your ankles are below your wrists. You will then point one foot out to the side and, while facing forward, bend at the knee of the foot facing sideways until your thigh is parallel with the ground. Be sure your stance is wide enough that your knee does not go past your ankle. Now bring yourself back up and repeat five to seven times. Then switch to the other side.



Deep Squat: For this your stance, you will want your feet pointed out about 45 degrees, not as wide as the previous slide but a bit further than shoulder width. Squat down until your thighs are parallel with the ground. With your hands on your legs just above your knees, bring your shoulder forward and across then alternate shoulders. I really enjoy this one, as it stretches your inner thighs, lower back, and mid-back all in the same stretch.



Stretch: You can do this standing or lying down but to change things up, we will focus on executing this one lying down. Lay down on your back, put your ankle on top of your opposite thigh, reach under said thigh with both hands, interlocking your fingers and pull toward your body. Hold for 30 seconds and repeat with the opposite leg. Perform this stretch 2-3 times per leg. This exercise will also stretch your glutes and hips which will keep you limber while moving around on the motorcycle.



(Continued on page 4)

Stretching, Continued...

Seated Saddle Stretch: Sit on the floor with your legs in the widest “V” as possible without causing pain.

Keep your head, neck, and back straight with your hands on the floor in front of you, slowly slide your hands as far forward as possible while keeping your back straight and without causing pain. Hold for 30 seconds repeat two or three times.



Hip Flexors: This stretch will really loosen your hip flexors, which are the inner muscles of the hips allowing for better knee-to-the-ground flexibility. Basically, a lunge where you bring your knee to the ground and lean forward. You should feel this stretch through your inner hip, down through your quad.



So these 10 will definitely get you started... and at the age that makes these a bit less probable... you can just give them a try and do the best you can! If you feel the stretch, it's definitely better than not stretching at all! Enjoy and see you on the road. If you're smiling, we'll know you are

not sore and maybe those stretches worked!



Oil Spots

By Traveler



Hells Angels Founder Sonny Barger Dies At 83

Ralph 'Sonny' Barger (2004) AP Images



Sonny Barger, the notorious founding member of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, author, ex-convict, occasional *Sons of Anarchy* actor and one of the bikers who

provided the violent, bloody security at the infamous 1969 Rolling Stones Altamont concert, died of Wednesday of cancer. He was 83.

Barger announced his own death in a pre-written message subsequently posted today on his [Facebook page](#): “If you are reading this message, you’ll know that I’m gone. I’ve asked that this note be posted immediately after my passing. I’ve lived a long and good life filled with adventure. And I’ve had the privilege to be part of an amazing club. Although I’ve had a public persona for decades, I’ve mostly enjoyed special time with my club brothers, my family, and close friends.

“Please know that I passed peacefully after a brief battle with cancer. But also know that in the end, I was surrounded by what really matters: My wife, Zorana, as well as my loved ones. Keep your head up high, stay loyal, remain free, and always value honor. – Sonny”

Barger, long the public face of the notorious and frequently outlaw Angels, was a founding member of the club’s Oakland, CA, chapter.

Barger had written six books, including his autobiography *Hell’s Angel — The Life and Times of Sonny Barger and the Hell’s Angels Motorcycle Club*, in which he put the blame for the disastrous Altamont concert squarely on the Stones.

The Angels had been hired by the band to provide security, a decision the Stones would regret: The bikers beat audience members with billiard sticks, punched and knocked out Jefferson Airplane singer Marty Balin and attacked (in self-defense, they claimed) a pistol-wielding 18-year-old Stones fan named Meredith Hunter. One of the Angels stabbed and killed Hunter but was acquitted after claiming self-defense.

(Continued on page 5)



Oil Spots, , Continued...

The incident became one of rock history's defining events, and Barger, in his autobiography, blamed the Stones for delaying their arrival and working the crowd into an impatient frenzy. Barger said in his book that he forced Richards, at gunpoint, to begin the concert. The performances and the violence were captured in the classic 1970 documentary *Gimme Shelter*, directed by Albert and David Maysles.

Barger also tangled with the law over the years. He was acquitted in the 1972 murder of a drug dealer but convicted in 1973 and 1988 on narcotics and weapons charges and serving about four years for each conviction.

He levied his notoriety into fame as early as the mid-1960s, when he played significant roles in nonfiction books by Hunter S. Thompson (*Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs*) and Tom Wolfe (*The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*).

Barger also took part in a number of documentaries about the bikers. In 2010 he began a recurring, three-episode role on FX's biker drama *Sons of Anarchy*, portraying Lenny "The Pimp" Janowitz. He reportedly assisted show creator Kurt Sutter as a sort of de facto consultant on biker culture.

Barger was diagnosed with throat cancer in 1983 and prostate cancer in 2010. It was unclear today exactly what type of cancer caused his death.

As of 2035, the ICE age is officially over in Europe



After 16 hours of heated debate in Luxembourg, the European Union has agreed to ban new gasoline and diesel combustion-powered vehicles from sale in the bloc's 27 countries from 2035.

Despite objections from several nations who complained that wealth inequality would make it much harder for buyers to go all-electric, and from Italy, which wants a stay of execution for its legendary sports car makers, the new rules call for a "100 percent CO2 emissions reduction target by 2035 for new cars and vans." Five years earlier a new Euro 7 emissions standard will require a reduction in CO2 by 55 percent for cars and 50 percent for vans.

The reality is that the demise of the internal-combustion engine in Europe will come even faster. Brexit Britain has opted to ban gasoline and diesel engines in new cars in 2030 and the European market is already shifting rapidly to EVs.

Tips for Riding In Summer Heat

Motorcycle events are in full swing and motorcyclists can use their bike as their main source of transportation,



cutting down on fuel costs. While the weather is generally pleasant during the summer months, there will be days where there is extreme heat. Riding in the summer heat can be dangerous if you don't prepare or take the proper precautions.

Here are five tips to help you safely ride in the summer heat:

Stay hydrated. You're going to sweat a lot riding on a hot summer day, especially if you're wearing a lot of riding gear. Since sweat can evaporate quickly while you're riding, the amount that you're sweating may be less noticeable and can lead to heat exhaustion and dehydration very quickly. Drink a lot of water to stay hydrated. It's best to bring more water with you than you think you'll need and even bring a few frozen water bottles to help keep cool. Don't forget to not only hydrate but also replace electrolytes. You can get them in pill form which is easiest to carry at CPR-1stAid.com

Avoid riding if you're tired. If you're tired before you plan to ride, then it's not a good idea to get on your bike. The heat will make you even more exhausted and you won't be able to properly focus on your surroundings. Avoiding energy drinks is a good idea as well, since you'll eventually be tired again after drinking them and they can add to dehydration. Rest up first!

Use the right gear. Dehydration and exhaustion aren't the only ways you can be injured in the heat. Intense heat is usually accompanied by intense sunlight that can cause extreme sunburn in a few minutes. Using the proper riding gear will help keep you covered from the sun and safe in the event of a crash. Many companies even make cooling gear to help you beat the heat on a sweltering day. If you choose to ride without gear or a helmet, make sure that you're wearing sunscreen of 30 SPF or more. Wearing long-sleeve light weight shirts is actually better than riding in short sleeves as it reduces sweat evaporation and sunburn.

Remember to rest. Long rides can be exhausting, even without extreme heat. In warm temperatures, plan to take more rest breaks at various stops along your ride, so you can sit in the shade or in an air-conditioned location. Being in top shape for riding will make sure you are able to give your full attention to the road and have a safe ride.

(Continued on pg 6)



Oil Spots, continued...

Note melting roads and parking lots and use a kickstand puck.

Asphalt melts in hot temperatures, making newer roads soft and affecting the handling of your bike. Drive with caution on roads that may be affected by the heat. Even parking your bike on asphalt could be hazardous. A kickstand can sink into hot asphalt in parking lots or on roads, making your bike vulnerable to tipping over. Using a kickstand puck gives your kickstand more surface area and prevents it from sinking into the ground, keeping your bike upright. Hupy and Abraham hands out free kickstand pucks at many motorcycle events. For more information on how you can get your free kickstand puck, go to HUPY.COM.

Being prepared for the challenges of riding in hot weather will give you a better chance of having a safe and enjoyable ride.

Along with these tips, make sure that you're always doing the most to stay seen by others on your bike. Hupy and Abraham has supported motorcycle safety for decades and promotes rider awareness with the firm's "Watch for Motorcycles" message. Hupy and Abraham is a law firm proud to help riders. If you're injured while riding, call Hupy and Abraham right away at 800-800-5678. We've collected over \$1 billion for over 70,000 injured people.

Indian Limited-Edition Challenger and Chieftain

The 2022 Indian Challenger Elite and 2022 Indian Chieftain elite are both available in very limited numbers.



The bikes sport custom-inspired designs that won't be available on other Indians. "From factory-custom details to premium amenities, and advanced ride-enhancing technology, we left no stone unturned when designing our new Elite baggers," said Indian Motorcycle Vice President, Aaron Jax. "These two Elites elevate both platforms with gorgeous custom-inspired design elements straight from the factory."



2022 Indian Challenger Elite

The Challenger Elite makes its worldwide debut with only 200 bikes available. The motorcycle has a unique design and styling, inspired by muscle cars, and it packs plenty of punch for both urban and rural roads.

ty of punch for both urban and rural roads.

The bike has an exclusive Stealth Gray/Black Metallic colorway with Indy Red accents. Red stitching on the seat and matching badging completes the performance-inspired look.

But that performance isn't limited to looks. The Challenger Elite features a liquid-cooled 1769cc PowerPlus engine. The powerplant can put out 122 horsepower and 128 lb-ft of torque.

Three ride modes—Standard, Sport, and Rain—let riders customize throttle mapping based on their preferences and riding conditions. Each mode comes with distinct traction control settings to alter the engine's performance.

The Challenger Elite has advanced ride-enhancing technologies, such as electronically adjustable Fox rear suspension preload. Indian's Smart Lean Technology helps with handling and keeps the bike grounded in curves.

The bike features an integrated 400-watt PowerBand audio system with saddlebag speakers. The electronics are easy to control through the seven-inch touch screen with Ride Command that can connect to Apple CarPlay. Buyers also get a free year of Ride Command+ connectivity.

Other goodies on the Challenger Elite include an adaptive LED headlight, adjustable flare windscreen, heated grips, ABS, TPM, and remote-locking saddlebags with 18 gallons of space.

2022 Indian Chieftain Elite

The Challenger Elite was already exclusive, but the 2022 Indian Chieftain Elite has it beat. Only 150 of these bikes will be available worldwide, so they won't be on sale for long.



In contrast to the muscle car-inspired styling of the Challenger, the Chieftain Elite's look takes its cues from custom bikes. The Heavy Metal Smoke paint job is complemented by bronze finishes on the tank, saddlebags, center console, primary cover, and the airbox.

Adding to the bike's style are the oil-rubbed bronze push rod tubes, horn cover, and cam cover. The Chieftain rides low and sports premium blacked-out finishes and a two-up comfort seat.

Powering the machine is the Thunderstroke 116 engine—Indian's most powerful air-cooled motor with 126 lb-ft of torque. The Chieftain Elite comes with three ride modes (Standard, Tour, Sport) and has rear cylinder deactivation to make riding more comfortable in slow traffic.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

The Chieftain Elite has the same electronic aids and goodies as the Challenger. On top of them, it features rear saddlebag LED lights and backlit switch cubes

Both bikes can be further customized with a slew of Indian accessories. The extensive list of upgrades includes driving and saddlebag lights, ClimaCommand seats, luggage and bag options, and hard lower fairings.

The bikes are available from Indian at MSRPs of \$34,999 for the Challenger Elite and \$32,999 for the Chieftain Elite.



[Gold Wing Road Rider Association motors into the sunset this fall](#)

Formed in 1977, the Gold Wing Road Riders Association spanned 53 countries with nearly 80,000 members at its peak,

but sadly the group will dissolve this fall. Operating under the motto "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge," it was a huge group of riders dedicated to the famous Honda touring bike.

The official last day for the club will be July 31 and current members are able to get a prorated refund for any pre-paid memberships.

Groups like GWRRA were a great resource for new and seasoned riders alike. Running a large club like this takes a big effort from those who take on the mantle, though, and that means the closing of the group may come as no surprise to some. With any luck a similar group will form, or many small clubs will spin off. Even if that doesn't happen, those who connected and rode together as part of GWRRA will always have the miles spent on the road to remember.



[Harley - Davidson 120th Anniversary Homecoming](#)

H-D will celebrate its 120th anniversary in 2023 with the launch of Harley-Davidson Homecoming, an annual four-day festival filled with music, food and moto-culture. Details at: (<https://www.harley-davidson.com/us/en/content/event-calendar/homecoming.html>)



The inaugural event will be held in Harley's hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on

July 13-16, 2023. Riders, enthusiasts, and fans from around the world will gather for this unforgettable weekend. Check out the lodging suggestions and book yours today.



[HOTELS & PRIVATE RENTALS](#)

Visit Milwaukee is a central hotel booking site for the Homecoming at:

(https://www.visitmilwaukee.org/harley-davidson-homecoming-2023/?xd_co_f=MGRhYzU4MzUtN2MzNy00ODRmLTg5NjAtMzBIMGVIN2YyZTFj)

This site provides a list of lodging options in the Milwaukee area or call hotels directly.

Private home rentals can be found on sites like Vrbo, Airbnb and many others. Search online for "vacation rentals".

For those who have been to a Harley Anniversary Homecoming before, you know that hotel accommodations are almost impossible to get so...consider booking now if you plan on going.

[Record-High Gas Price Forces Police In Michigan To Cut Back On Patrols](#)



Fuel prices are skyrocketing, more so in Michigan where the average price of gasoline across Michigan is \$5.21 per gallon, according to the American Automobile Association – a 50-cent gap from the \$4.71 per gallon price from last week.

As such, fuel-saving measures are in place in the Great Lake State, including the Michigan State Police. With fuel prices now at a record-high, some jurisdictions have already "exhausted" their budget allocated for fuel with several months to go before the budget reset.

(Continued on page 8)

Oil Spots, continued...

Police have been instructed "to attempt to manage whatever calls are acceptable over the phone." These calls include non-in-progress calls, non-life-threatening calls, and calls that do not require the physical presence of the police such as evidence collection or documentation.

Deputies will continue to provide patrols to all areas of the county, they will respond to those calls that need to be managed in person.

Apart from the police, the soaring fuel prices are also felt by businesses. In March, Uber added a surcharge to its rates due to rising prices at the pump. Despite that, Americans still preferred buying large vehicles, such as SUVs and trucks, during the first four months of 2022, according to the information provided by JATO dynamics. It remains to be seen whether this trend will continue amid the global oil crisis.

Sturgis Rally Numbers - How Big Was the 2021 Sturgis Rally?



The dust has settled on an incredible rally, and now everyone is asking the same question - How big was the 81st Sturgis Rally in 2021?

This year was a bounce back year for the Sturgis Rally. Leading up to the 81st, rumors swirled that 2021 would see a massive turnout, maybe even the largest Sturgis Rally ever. In some ways, the rumors were true.

SD Department of Transportation numbers as reported by the department and local News Source KOTA, indicate

"more than 525,000 visitors attended the 81st Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally."

"Rally attendance was up 13.8% over last year when COVID19 kept attendance low at 462,182."

2021 Sturgis Rally Vehicle Count Numbers

**STURGIS RALLY
10 DAY
ATTENDANCE TOTALS**

2021:	525,768 Vehicles
	Up 13.8% over last year
2020:	462,182 Vehicles
2015 (75 th Rally):	747,032 Vehicles

Source: South Dakota DOT

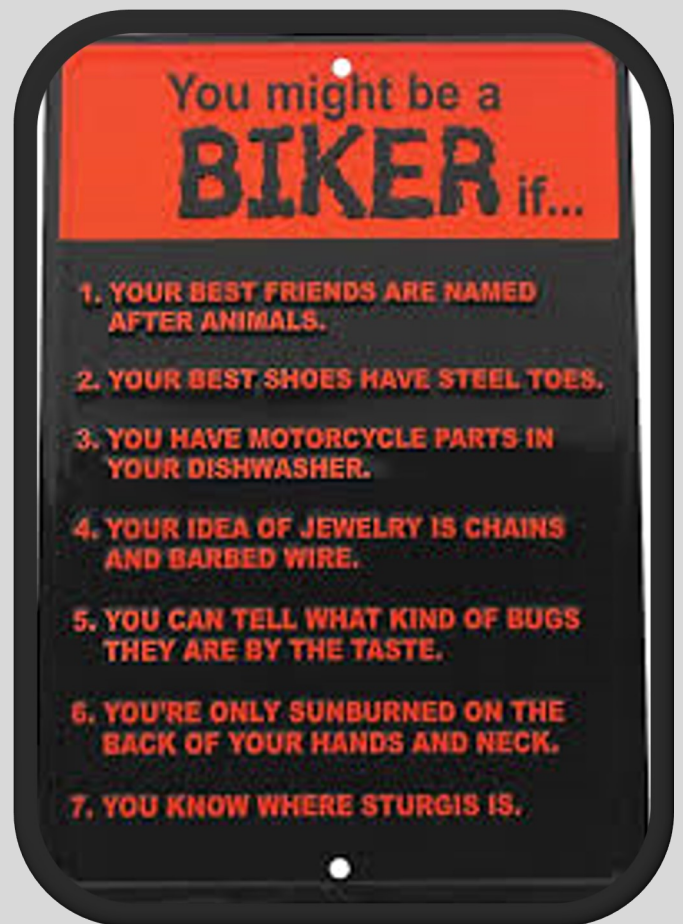
According to the official traffic numbers released by the South Dakota Department of Transportation, the 81st Rally in 2021 was not nearly as big as the 75th, but traffic was up almost 14 percent from 2020.

The South Dakota DOT gathers these numbers from road tube counters placed at nine locations where traffic enters Sturgis. One vehicle is counted for every two axles that hit the counter on their way into town.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is reporting that the 2021 Sturgis Rally was a safer rally than 2020. Though the traffic was higher this year, the number of crashes were about the same, but fatalities and DUI arrests were down.

South Dakota State News Reports the Department of Revenue's tax collections at the 2021 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally are currently at \$1,795,706k, 34% more than 2020.

The 82nd Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is scheduled for Aug. 5-14, 2022. Get a jumpstart on 2022 by registering for the rally and receiving your free welcome packet at Sturgis.com/registration.



You might be a **BIKER** if...

1. YOUR BEST FRIENDS ARE NAMED AFTER ANIMALS.
2. YOUR BEST SHOES HAVE STEEL TOES.
3. YOU HAVE MOTORCYCLE PARTS IN YOUR DISHWASHER.
4. YOUR IDEA OF JEWELRY IS CHAINS AND BARBED WIRE.
5. YOU CAN TELL WHAT KIND OF BUGS THEY ARE BY THE TASTE.
6. YOU'RE ONLY SUNBURNED ON THE BACK OF YOUR HANDS AND NECK.
7. YOU KNOW WHERE STURGIS IS.



New Top Cats You Should Know! David Ramirez



I started riding motorcycles when I was 16teen years old. There was a place that you could rent a Bridgestone motorcycle for a 24hr period. After that first day I was hooked. I have owned two Honda's 1970, 1983, a 1971 triumph, 1999 FXST Harley and 2011 Fatboy. Which I'm riding now.

Road trips; Chicago to New York city, Chicago to Williamsburg Virginia and last year I rode to Sturgis with Top Cats. I enjoy riding towards the east coast thru the Appalachian mountains.

Riding partners would be Jack Hamilton, Prinya Bunya and Wayne Kirkpatrick.

My hobbies consist of reading books, from historical to fiction and nonfiction. Building and rehabbing things (woodwork and mechanical) and listening to music.

I went to a trade school for deasil and gasoline engines and stayed in the profession for about six years. Went back to school (Metro State) in Denver Colorado and studied music and art. I was working as a model when I was approached by an Ad Agency and stayed in that industry for ten years. Then I went to work for United Airlines for thirty-six years. I will be fully retired from them at the end of August of this year. I am one of eight children and I'm proud to say

that we all get along and socialize often. I have five children and only two live with me now.

New Top Cats You Should Know! Christine and Richard Kimball

Richard bought his first bike in 1984. It was a Hondamatic 400. Then, he didn't ride again until 1998 when he bought a Kawasaki 750 Vulcan Cruiser. Two years later it was the first Harley... a 98 Bagger. And since 2012, he purchased 3 new baggers. A lemon that had the trans

go out after 150 miles. As soon as the warranty was up, he bought a 2014, and rode that for 6 years until buying the current 2020 Black on Black.

Richard and Christine like to rent bikes when traveling and have done so in Hawaii, San Diego, Las Vegas, and Palm Springs. Their own bikes have gone around Lake Erie with stops in Windsor, Toronto and Niagara Falls. They've been to Sturgis, the Tail of the Dragon, shipped their bike to Arizona for bike week, Lake of the Ozarks, and all thru the Midwest.

They love to ride anywhere really. Favorite spots? Tough question. It always the last trip or where they are going next. The last trip includes our annual trip through southwest Wisconsin to Minnesota and down the Great River Road to Dubuque. Our next trip is around Lake Michigan with stops in Green Bay, an overnight on Mackinac Island and then a few day in Traverse City. Favorite riding partner? Each other!

When not riding, they enjoy opportunities to travel, shoot, play poker and workout. Richard and Christine have been married for 28 years and have a small dog named Charlie. They are looking for a used bike with a sidecar for him. As for work, we've both been in the mortgage business for over 30 years and that's where we met. Richard runs an office for Cross Country Mortgage in Schaumburg and has been with that company going on 11 yrs.

They are from the area and have family here that they spend time with. Richard says, "Not surprising we spend a lot time with our biker friends in the Summer and all others after riding season."

New Top Cats You Should Know! Bruce Handler

I started to ride in 2007. I've had a Yamaha 125 scooter, Yamaha 650 V Star. Then Yamaha 1300 VStar and current bike is Kawasaki Vulcan voyager 1700 ABS. My travels have been mainly in and around the Chicagoland area, various parts of IL and Wisconsin. The Galena area is my favorite place to ride. Nice distance, scenery, little traffic.

And it's a fun destination I like riding by myself. Riding is my favorite thing to do. It's very zen like for me.

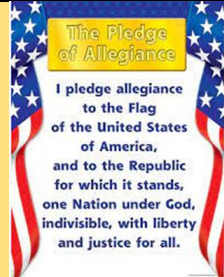
My other favorite activities include bike riding on an electric bike, golfing, walking my dog, traveling to the Caribbean, skiing, and studying tornados.

Those I spend the most time with...I have two grown kids. Boy and girl. Both still going to school. Have been with my wife 8 years. She's a drug rep for Pfizer. We Live in Highland Park. I'm semi retired from corporate America. Last worked for Discover as head of employee relations in HR. Now have my own business. I'm an executive, career and life coach, resume writer and HR Consultant. Don't have pic of me and bike.... I'll have to take one.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES JULY 7TH, 2022

Respectfully Submitted
by: Diana Lanute



President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ 7:00 pm, Meeting called to order by Gene Rigsby
- ◆ Members and visitors stood to recite the Pledge of 'Allegiance
- ◆ Moment of silence
- ◆ Guests – Introductions – Grant Lawson, Rich Kimball and Bruce

Handler

- ◆ Announcements: Birthdays
- ◆ 7/14: Ted Makarewicz
- ◆ 7/18: Don DeLordo

V.P.: Ric Case

- ◆ Please read the Patriotism Article in this month's ROAR.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Attendance is up in our National Parks; some are requiring reservations to gain admittance,
- ◆ Motorcycle parts are having 3-4 week backlogs in some cases.
- ◆ Mega dealerships have been able to control motorcycle pricing.
- ◆ Safety – Streets are in state of deterioration – So, be careful where you are.

Safety: Mike Bradbury

- ◆ The most common cause of an accident is not being seen! Stay near center line. Where do majority of motorcycle accidents happen? At intersections and curves. One way of being more visible is to get side lights added.
- ◆ Kaution Korner Safety Tip – Mary – Mary will discuss "stretch before you ride" next month.
- ◆ Kaution Korner – Bard – Bard explained how to load a bike for a long trip. Place heavy items low and center. Tools should be placed in bottom front. A ROK strap demonstration shown by Bard, Rich and Diana Lanute.

Safety Videos: Mike Bradbury

Long Haul Motorcycle Touring - Tips for Staying Awake

- ◆ https://youtu.be/2XP_qr9NNcc
Ways to fight fatigue – Start trip early in day. Pull over and get off bike. Drink fluids. Lift your visor to get wind in your face. Chew gum. Viewing of

video stopped here due to technical issues.

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ New member into/welcome package given to Bruce Handler. Ted gave Grant Lawson a TC membership application to fill out.
- ◆ Membership drive ideas?

Activities: Rick Agrimonti / GregSith

- ◆ Recent activities
- ◆ 6/12: Ride for Dream (Thank you!!) – We had 19 members there. Top Cats received a thank you card from Laura Culotta at NISRA.
- ◆ 6/19: Who likes BBQ 2 – BRADBURY led this ride.

Future activities

- ◆ 7/9: Kansas City here we come – BRADBURY KSU 6:30am.
- ◆ 7/23: GRASS class – BRADBURY 9am to noon Alley 64. We will probably have another one in October.
- ◆ 7/23: Post GRASS class ride – RIGSBY – Leads a ride for anyone interested.
- ◆ 7/31: Sturgis - BOAND/KIRKPATRICK
- ◆ 7/31: Grumpy Troll – BRADBURY - There will be a gift for someone on this ride.
- ◆ 8/6 – Satellite Ride – RIGSBY AND BRADBURY – A 1,000 mile, 2-day ride.
- ◆ 8/9 – Front Range Ride – KIRKPATRICK – Wayne explained all the modules of this ride. Read full article in this July's report.

Charity: Rich Lanute

- ◆ Mary and Rich will have information to share on plans for next year's NISRA event.

Products: Get your gear now!! Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ Ted sold hats tonight. Mike Bradbury discussed a system available from Lands End for buying our products with our logo embroidered on it for an additional \$7.95 over price for item.

50/50 Raffle Andy Haszlakewicz was not in attendance, so there was no 50/50.

Picture: Mike Bradury We had a group picture taken tonight.

Meeting Adjourned by Gene Rigsby at 8:15pm



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES JULY 14TH, 2022

Respectfully Submitted
by: Diana Lanute

President: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ Meeting called to order
- ◆ Emails – Pay attention to emails you receive and answer in one day please.
- ◆ Immediate needs? – None.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Open discussion – Honda Gold Wing Road Riders Association will officially close on July 31

VP: Ric Case

- ◆ Bylaws overview continued: Requirement to maintain membership –
- ◆ Charter Members are not required to participate; dues are optional for rest of life.
- ◆ Full members are required to attend 5 meetings annually, attend GRASS class and pay dues.

Treasury: Don DeLoro, absent

- ◆ Report/review given by Gene: Dues are \$75/year for individual; \$130/year per couple.

Activities: Greg Smith, absent.

- ★ Future Events Calendar review - Jul/Aug, etc.
- ★ 7/23 - GRASS – Bradbury, details, venues, leader covered/9:30 to noon. BRADBURY
- ★ 7/23 - Ice cream – Rigsby – Rigsby house/optional. RIGSBY
- ★ 7/31 - Sturgis Kickoff – Board – Will change start time to 7:30 BOAND
- ★ 7/31 - Grumpy Troll – Bradbury - BRADBURY
- ★ 8/6 - Satellite to the Front Range Ride – Bradbury – All set - BRADBURY
- ★ 8/9 - Front Range Ride – Kirkpatrick – Ready to go!
- ★ 8/26 - Field of Dreams – Makarewicz – Wayne to reach out to Ted. MAKAREWICZ

Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- ◆ GRASS class prep – Ask Road Captains to participate in confirm and brainstorm; GPS. Will ask club to subsidize \$15/meal. Schedule later in August. Will set up in July.
- ◆ RC activity ideas were discussed.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz, absent

- ◆ New member application - Rich Kimball – Need to approve new application.
- ◆ New member mentor - Assign mentors – Gene asked Ted to assign responsibility to members to help out with all our new members.
- ◆ Membership drive ideas? – If we have someone come by to check us out we need to approach them and give information and make acquaintance with them.
- ◆ Product needs – LOGO – Wayne Kirkpatrick found 6 different Top Cats logos in use. We need to standardize it. (501C7) Incorporation.

- ◆ Gene, We should get a style guide for our patches, i.e., on Front, and Nothing in Back.
- ◆ Land's End – official source – our patch is controlled by Land's End.
- ◆ Mike to distribute LOGO to Board.
- ◆ Shirts – approximately \$45.
- ◆ Don suggested a markup on our purchased products. Wayne suggested a 10% markup to go into a fund for our "parties", etc.
- ◆ All agreed to restrict to member email list.

Charity: Rich Lanute

- ◆ Destinations for Ride For Dreams – Mary, Rich and Laura meeting.
- ◆ Ideas for Venue for 2023: Cantigny – Problem getting group there. H-D Museum – Milwaukee – Do we need to do power point for club members?
- ◆ NOTE: NISRA has other yearly events we could do for Charity, but need to coordinate with NISRA. Rich: Bring to General Meeting and ask members for destinations with our criteria; food, accessibility, admission cost, interest to the motorcycle riders, something with bike shows and car shows possibly.

Secretary: Diana Lanute

- ◆ No report!

Meeting Adjourned by Gene Rigsby at
8:07pm

**BELOW IS A LIST OF
REASONS WHY YOU
SHOULD NOT RIDE YOUR
MOTORCYCLE.**



ROAR



nette at Hannibal, Missouri. Parking was a little dicey but the catfish I ordered was pretty good.

Onward we went, going West facing the sun. On and on we went roaring along at 70mph speed limit in a hot, direct sun. Finally, we got to our logging at the palatial Best Western in North Kansas City, MO. After a short rest, We found dinner in an industrial district at a place called the Hawg Queue and Brew. Finally, good barbeque for dinner!

After a neat evening of socializing with some people watching, we launched our ride home at 7:37-ish am on Sunday. After this diabetic had a low blood sugar reaction our lunch stop became a necessity! Lunch at the Country Pride restaurant in Council Bluffs, IA served us well and our server could not wait to end her shift to either ride her Vulcan 900 or her Ace



I Would Ride 500 Miles #1 Kansas City!
By: Mike Bradbury,
Accompanied by:
Gene Rigsby
Wayne Kirkparick

On July 9th, I led the “Kansas City, Here We Come” Ride. This was an overnight ride that I selfishly set up to evaluate the limits of my chronic back issues

to do the Front Range Ride. I wanted to determine how limiting my back pain would be on a long-distance ride. I brought many things to support me including, muscle medicines, a backrest and a back support strap. How fortunate was I to have two seniors, I mean veterans, wait, I mean experienced road captains and riders with me by the names of Gene “Lucky” Rigsby and Wayne “Traveler” Kirkpatrick. You guys may have heard of them. Anyways, this small ride with experienced riders was going to be fun. And it did not disappoint!

We started off with an issue I made identifying the start point. Fortunately, we were across the street from each other, so it was resolved very quickly. We began our journey from Lombard off Hwy 355. On 355 South I created another mistake causing a little time loss to the ride of about 30 minutes. Eventually we were Southbound Hwy 55 to Springfield. After our gas stop, we were to follow Hwy 55 around Springfield intending to turn West on Hwy 36 / 72. I say intending because I had a few problems managing my GPS and missed that turn. I caused about 1 hour of extra time turning around to get back on track. We finally started West in the “land of nowhere”. We kept going until we stopped for lunch at the Mark Twain Di-

Shadow 700 motorcycles. We certainly empathized!

Two things became obvious on this ride. I have many user and hardware related issues with my GPS. This is a great topic to share with the Road Captains to learn from and support each other on GPS technology and proper handling to best create and use routes. We also could use a discussion to develop more rides for the club! I will be organizing a weeknight RC conference asap in July to implement this.

The second thing was how much we enjoyed this 500-mile, 2-day, single overnight ride! How about doing this annually with different RC’s to lead us to a 500-mile minimum ride. What do our members think about that? Please give me your feedback in person, call at 847-702-6613 or by email at bradbundy@comcast.net.



was the total miles.

This was a different, fun, demanding and long ride. I missed seeing more of our riding members at my ride. Many more rides to come to have opportunities to ride together as brothers and sisters of Top Cats – Illinois!

Gene and Mikes Most Excellent Adventures! And Wayne in St. Louis too!

Satellite Ride to the FFR 2022!





Let's Go!

V.P.'s Vision

I heard from Traveler and the travelers who are journeying to Sturgis for the 82nd Annual Sturgis Rally! Check out these pictures and begin to dream about going for the 83rd Annual Rally! Top Cats has a schedule that allows for a ride that has hotels, sites and food options that make the trip EASY as well as memorable! Get started dreaming! 2023 will be here before you know it!





The Alex Johnson has our Top Cat Mug waiting every year! Come with to have a chance to 'drink from the cup'!

Bike for Sale!

2007 YAMAHA V STAR 650
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262.344.6228



August Birthdays and Anniversaries!



4 Brandyn Simmons
16 Jane Smith
24 Greg Smith

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities
for May!!

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

28 Gene and Noelle
Rigsby



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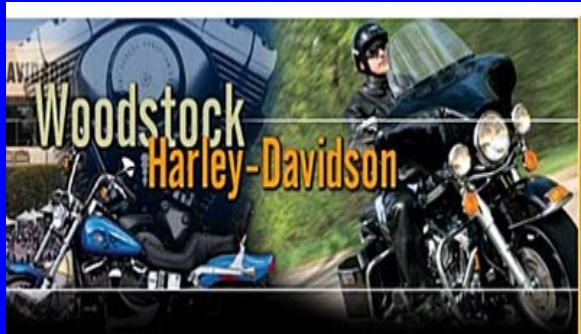


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Thanks, Greg for supporting our Top Cat's Safety Class!

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NISRA Families have so many wonderful opportunities because of the NISRA staff...
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RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Sunday, July 31st	Sturgis	BP Rt 12 and Rt 176 Wauconda	Sturgis, South Dakota	8:00 am	Boand
Sunday, July 31st	Grumpy Troll Ride	BP Rt 12 and Rt 176 Wauconda	Mt. Horeb, Wi	8:00 am	Bradbury
Tuesday, August 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, August 9th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	After GM, If needed	Rigsby
Tuesday, August 9th	Front Range Ride	Rapid City , SD	Variety of Destinations!	8:00 am	W. Kirkpatrick
Saturday, August 13th	Manny's Snack Shack	Thorton's at Lake Cook and 62	MSS Twin Lakes, WI	8:30 am	DeLordo
Sunday, August 14th	Rock River Valley Lunch Run	Shell Circle K Lake Cook and Rand Rd.	Byron	8:30 am	Smith
Friday - Sunday August 26th - 28th	Field of Dreams	TBD	Dyersville, Iowa	TBD	Makarewicz
Tuesday, September 6th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, September 13th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, September 25th	Memorial Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Case

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



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Barrington, IL 60010

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See the Top Cats Archive

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We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it.
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Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at ROAR@TOPCATS.org



ROAR



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