



ROAR

January, 2023

Volume 23, Issue 1

Inside This Issue

PRESIDENT'S POINT	2
KAUTION KORNER	2
Oil Spots	5
Fun Facts AARP	9
VP's Vision	9
GENERAL MEETING	10
BOARD MEETING	11
New Board	12
Celebrations!	12
Business Mart	13
Top Cats Patrons	14
Rides and Events	15
TC Organization	16

HAPPY NEW YEAR

May all you dare to dream of come true for you,
and may you have many safe and enjoyable rides with clear skies,
good roads and great friends.



The Official Publication Of Top Cats Illinois

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 21 SHOOT OUT!
- 28 PRIME QUARTER SH

FEBRUARY

- 4 ROAD CAPTAIN MEETING
- 7 GENERAL MEETING

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





ROAR

PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello Top Cats!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Well, we did get a white, though chilly, Christmas after all this year.. I hope you and your families had a fantastic Christmas and were able to enjoy the New Year holiday together, maybe even with some friends.

Last month I wrote about looking ahead to all the promises a new year will bring. Noelle and I like to look forward to December 21st when it starts getting cold with the understanding that starting on the 22nd, we are on the upswing of more daylight again and eventually warmer temps. And, ah.... Yes. Riding. Can't wait!

Speaking of new things, though not really new, congratulations to all the re-elected board members. Your dedication and teamwork are what keeps our club going and helps to make it the premier club it is. Cheers to a new year with new adventures ahead.

Speaking of riding... our calendar already has some great rides listed, like Sturgis, the Front Range Ride, overnight ride in Door County, I would ride 500 miles (actually 1000), as well as events coming up in the winter months, so take a look at the calendar and block the dates and book your rooms NOW. Reach out to the RC or me if you need additional information.

In addition to what is on the calendar now, there is some work going on to get more cold weather events on the calendar like our annual award banquet, shootout, GRASS class, so keep your eyes open for more opportunities to spend time with your Top Cats family.

Buddy Check...

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, or phone, 847-770-9425.

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

KAUTION KORNER

Use Winter Wisely!

By: Traveler



Each year, as the riding season comes to an end, riders typically store their bikes and count the days until the next riding season approaches.

Storage often consists of simply connecting a battery tender, adding a fuel stabilizer to the gas tank, and placing a cover over the bike. Winter storage complete, right? Not for the experienced rider....

As with any mechanical item and vehicle, some components deteriorate when sitting, unused, and unnoticed. Broken or worn components clearly are unsafe and can contribute to accidents, injury, or death.

ENGINE

Today's motorcycle engines are pretty much bullet proof yet, they still need attention to assure reliability and performance. Check things like:

(Continued on Pg 3)



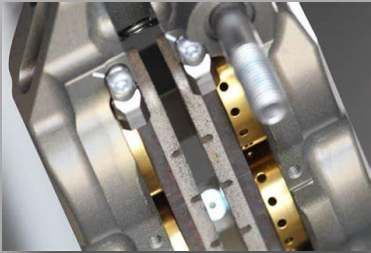


Kaution Korner, Continued

- ◆ Engine oil, primary oil, transmission oil. Is there any indication of white residue? If so, that indicates moisture in that component.
- ◆ Old engine oil contains acids, condensation, and other damaging particles it absorbs thru normal operation. Left in your engine during winter storage, it can cause damage. That is why manufacturers recommend an oil change before storing your bike.

BRAKES

Brakes wear out thru normal use. Typically, we have our brakes serviced when we replace tires however, it's a good idea to check these items before storage:



- ◆ Brake fluid is nasty stuff. It eats away at paint and some metals. Check your brake lines from the master cylinders to the calipers for deteriorating hoses and fittings.

- ◆ Look over your brake rotors for deep grooves and any physical damage. Brake rotors are stamped with the allowable depth of a groove. When in doubt, it is an excellent idea to replace the rotor. Note that some surface rust is normal. DO NOT lubricate your brake rotors.



- ◆ Brake pads are easy to check also. Simply shine a light on your brake caliper and look at the pad. If they look thin, change them. Worn brake pads can cause extreme adrenaline rushes, pain, and injury!

RUBBER

All rubber components can deteriorate from normal use, and during storage. Ultraviolet, chemicals, heat all contribute to deterioration. Check:

- ◆ Coolant hoses for hardening, for loose or rusty clamps and for cracks. Coolant hoses should have a degree of flexibility when squeezed.
- ◆ Rubber can deteriorate in the most obscure places also. Check your handlebar grips, foot pegs, any rubber bushings, and floorboards for breaks, cracks, and excessive wear.
- ◆ Tires are the most obvious rubber items to wear. Check, not only the tread depth with a good depth



gage but, look for sidewall cracks, nails, etc. Check air pressure before storage, during storage and after storage to identify any slow leaks.

- ◆ Tires harden during extended storage. Hard tires have less traction and wear out faster.



The old thumb-nail poke of the tire can give you an idea of hardening when you compare it to a newer tire.

HYDRAULIC FLUIDS



Hydraulic fluids like brake fluids (DOT 3, 4, 5.1) are hygroscopic meaning that they absorb moisture. This reduces the viscosity of the fluid and the effectiveness of it.

For reliable, consistent brake system operation, brake fluid must maintain a constant viscosity under a wide range of temperatures, including extreme cold. This is especially important in systems with an anti-lock braking system (ABS), traction control, and stability control (ESP), as these systems often use micro-valves and require very rapid activation. Check:

- ◆ Your owner's manual to determine the type of fluid required i.e. DOT 2,3,4,5, 5.1). DO NOT mix types of fluid. It can cause rapid deterioration of your hydraulic system.
- ◆ Check all hydraulic systems both front brake, rear brake and clutch if hydraulic.
- ◆ Look for discoloration in the fluid. This is an indicator that it is deteriorating and needs to be changed.
- ◆ On all of your hydraulic systems, activate them by pulling the lever, pressing the pedal. Check for a good feel of resistance and limited travel. If you must pull the brake lever almost to your handlebar, or push your brake pedal to the floorboard, you need to service your brakes.

Controls

Modern bikes today have fewer cable-activated controls. However, on those bikes with cable-activated controls like the choke, carburetor enricher, front brake, throttle, etc., check them for:



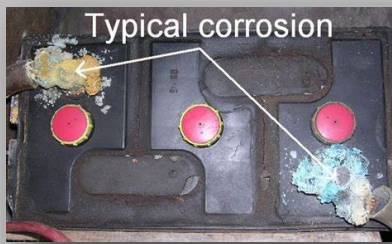
(Continued on page 4)

- ◆ Wear. Look for frizzled ends indicating more damage where you can't see it easily.
- ◆ Cables should operate smoothly. If you feel resistance, it is an indicator of excessive wear.
- ◆ Cables require lubrication. This is often a slow tedious process but, one that helps assure longevity and smooth function.
- ◆ Don't forget to check the operation of your electronic controls like throttles. Any stiff resistance usually indicates a problem. With both electronic and cable throttles, they should quickly, and smoothly return to the off position when released.
- ◆ Don't overlook your switches like turn signals, headlight, dimmer, etc.

ELECTRONICS

Motorcycles are becoming increasingly electronic. That means that we have much more to check like:

- ◆ Batteries. Look for corrosion at the battery terminals. Corrosion



can be cleaned with baking soda and water mixed. Lubricate the terminals with a good battery lubricant or grease.

- ◆ Make sure that your battery tender is compatible with your battery. Charging rates differ between battery needs and battery tenders. Also, if you have the newer lithium battery, they require a different battery tender.



- ◆ Check all electronic connections that you can see for tightness. Loose connections cause many problems from sparks to component failure.
- ◆ It pays to look at your fuse box for corroded fuses and to check the presence and condition of the spare fuses.
- ◆ Lights are a seemingly obvious item to check. Are they on or off? What you need to look for on all lights like headlights, taillights, turn signals, gage lights, warning lights is not only do they work properly but, is there any sign of corrosion or are bulbs loose? If so, replace the bulb and, it's always good to use a corrosion prevention lubricant.
- ◆ Be sure to check your warning lights. When the ignition switch is first turned on, your warning lights like oil pressure, ABS, alternator, temperature or whatever your bike has for warning lights, should illuminate.



RIDING GEAR

All riding gear deteriorates! No exceptions. Those favorite gloves, boots, goggles, and helmets all wear out and when they do, their level of protec-

tion deteriorates. During the "Off Season: it's smart to check:

- ◆ Helmets for wear of the lining and fasteners. Normal life span of a helmet is 2 to 3 years unless dropped. If dropped, it's best to replace it.
- ◆ It's hard to replace that favorite pair of riding boots and, the price of new boots makes it even harder. If they obviously look worn out, the protection that they provide will be less.
- ◆ Heated vests only fail when you need the most...riding in the cold. Put it on, plug it in, turn it up and make sure that you feel the heat. It's too late to discover a bad vest when you're out on the bike.
- ◆ Gloves with holes, goggles with severe scratches, old ear muffs, coolant scarfs all need to be checked for function before you really need them.

PAPERWORK

Probably the most overlooked aspect of motorcycling is the paperwork side of it. Yet, it is just as important to safe motorcycling as any other component. Make sure that you:



- ◆ Renew your insurance to recommended levels of coverage and, carry an insurance card that proves so.
- ◆ Check your driver's license for the expiration date. You don't want it to expire when you're in the middle of your trip across country.
- ◆ The same expiration date should be a concern for your State registration. Make sure you carry a copy and that it will be valid throughout any trips you have planned.
- ◆ Most roadside assistance programs have subtle limitations like; only good within 100 miles of home, good for one recovery per term of contract, only good for the vehicle registered on the plan, etc.
- ◆ Our bike is new, our bike runs great, our bike is in great condition are all easy traps that we can fall into unless we go one step further....check for NHTSA Recalls at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>.

So, your bike is put away for the winter and you have nothing to do regarding our sport of motorcycling? If that's what you think, I would encourage you to read this article again.



Why go through all of this? It just makes sense to find things that need to be fixed before the riding season so you won't have to waste good riding time getting your

bike fixed and back into safe riding condition.



Oil Spots

By Traveler



Piaggio Group Comes Out Swinging for 2023



Aprilia and Moto Guzzi—both in the Piaggio Group stable—will be stirring the marketplace and emotions with several new machines for 2023.

Aprilia's aptly named Extrema

heads the brand's RS 660 line-up, setting a power-to-weight ratio with a dry weight of just short of 366 pounds matched to 100 hp.

Standard electronics keep the inherent performance manageable, including traction control, cornering-ABS, an engine brake system, selectable engine mapping, and wheelie control.

The RS 660 Extrema has software that allows the rider to set the quickshift to accommodate a reverse shift pattern for track riding without any special componentry or altering of the bike.

A new, lighter exhaust system with a carbon terminal snakes along the right side of the machine, as opposed to running underneath the engine. The front mudguard and lower fairing are made of carbon fiber.

The aerodynamic, wedged bodywork is augmented by a single-seat tail section. Race-inspired graphics and paint scheme preserve Aprilia's racing pedigree.

Aprilia ELECTRICa Project



This electric motorcycle benefits from the experimentation with electric vehicles, which began in 1975.

The project machine has a dynamic, modern look with decidedly familiar Aprilia lines and branding.

The ELECTRICa is compact, with a low seat to accommo-

date a wide range of rider dimensions.

Placing both the front and rear brake controls on the handlebar helps facilitate rider transition from scooters. Keyless operation and LCD instrumentation provide ease and practicality, while a host of Aprilia's pioneering electronic aids ensure safe riding.

Moto Guzzi V100 Mandello

Moto Guzzi's new Mandello ushers in a new page in the history of the Italian manufacturer.



Fitting neatly within the realms of sport riding and touring, the V100 is laden with advanced technologies mixed with a colorful heritage and innovative adaptive aerodynamic tank-mounted wings, making their first appearance on a production motorcycle.

The aerodynamic wings deploy at preset speeds to route air more efficiently and improve riding conditions with regard to air temperature, as well as working as rain deflectors. The wings work in conjunction with the adjustable windscreen to control cockpit turbulence.

Four ride modes manage three different engine maps, with four levels of traction control, two levels of engine braking, and adjustable calibration of the semi-active Öhlins suspension. The system allows the rider to tailor the Mandello to personal preference.

Moto Guzzi V7 Stone SE & V9 Bobber



The V7 is tastefully dressed in a special Shining Black gloss accented by red graphics, red shock springs, and tasteful red seat stitching.

Head covers are in graphite coloring while bar-end mirrors and the Arrow exhaust system give the V7 a sporting profile. A plate on the handlebar riser identifies this special, prestigious edition of a classic Moto Guzzi.

Stepping further into nostalgia for Moto Guzzi there's the V9 Bobber, which takes its bold looks from the chopped bobbers and dirt trackers that emerged in the '40s, with fat tires and blacked-out components. The teardrop gas tank is rendered in a special two-tone black and gray scheme, set off by the billet aluminum cap and side panels. The retro 850 Guzzi generates its unmistakable sound through matte black slip-on exhaust pipes.

(Continued on pg. 6)

Oil Spots, continued...

Touring Tip: Get Suspended!



Let's talk about motorcycle suspension.

This is an area that OEMs often shortchange in order to keep the MSRP of their products in a lower price range. They know that a

bike's suspension performance is difficult to assess on a short test ride and impossible to do in the showroom.

If riders haven't experienced the joys of a bike with a high-performing suspension, they often just accept the bike's limitations without question. And many would rather spend their money on shiny stuff than on aftermarket suspension components, which can't be seen by others.

That approach is all well and good if your motorcycling is limited to short day rides. If you're a serious touring rider, however, the comfort and performance of virtually all motorcycles can be improved by suspension upgrades.

Most OEM suspensions are not strong enough to effectively manage the weight of many touring bikes. Fork springs should be designed to handle the weight of bike, rider, passenger, and luggage, and should increase resistance progressively as they compress. But, the additional weight of a passenger and/or luggage may not always be present, so it's important that a suspension be adjustable for changing circumstances. The motorcyclist's riding preference of plush versus sporty also requires the flexibility of an adjustable suspension.



The best suspensions allow for adjustment in three main areas:

1. preload, which changes spring force for increasing or decreasing weight loads;
2. rebound damping, which adjusts the rate at which a spring returns to its starting position; and
3. compression damping, which adjusts the rate at which a spring moves from its starting position.

A properly adjusted suspension is immediately noticeable to the rider. The motorcycle is smoother and more comfortable on changing road surfaces and more confidence-inspiring in the curves.

Most hi-end shocks today have a remote reservoir that is adjustable to riding conditions.

The finer aspects of motorcycle suspensions and their adjustment can become very technical. One of the leading authorities on the subject is Race Tech's Motorcycle Suspension Bible, which is a good companion for anyone doing the modifications themselves. Most aftermarket suspension suppliers also have information on their websites and/or technical support telephone numbers to consult for help with installation and adjustment.

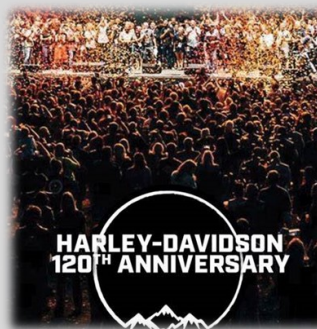
One course of action for those who don't feel confident doing all the work themselves is to have someone else who has suspension installation and adjustment experience do the work for you.

On the bikes I have that are designed to handle the weight of multiple riders and luggage, I have upgraded the suspensions in just about every conceivable combination of ways and have not been disappointed.

An aftermarket suspension improved both ride comfort and cornering capability.

These upgrades are well worth the time, effort, and investment. So go forth and get properly suspended!

Harley-Davidson Kicks Off the 120th Celebration



On Jan. 18, 2023, Harley-Davidson will reveal both its 2023 motorcycle lineup and details of the first annual Harley-Davidson Homecoming, a celebration 120 years in the making. All the news will stream live at 10 a.m. CST at [Harley-Davidson.com](https://www.harley-davidson.com).

"2023 marks the 120th anniversary of Harley-Davidson during which we'll honor our rich heritage, celebrate with our fans and riding community, and reveal our newest motorcycles and product offerings," said Jochen Zeitz, chairman, president and CEO of Harley-Davidson. "Please join us as we kick off our 120th anniversary with exciting new model introductions and a peek at what we have in store for the landmark year ahead."

The first wave of new 2023 Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Genuine Harley-Davidson Accessories, and Harley-Davidson MotorClothes gear and apparel will be revealed on Jan. 18 and will be available at authorized Harley-Davidson dealerships afterwards. (Continued on pg 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

The 2023 Harley-Davidson Homecoming event will fill four days with music, food and moto-culture at multiple venues throughout the Milwaukee area on July 13-16, 2023. Details on entertainment, scheduled events, venues, ticket packages and lodging will appear at [H-D.com](https://www.harley-davidson.com) on Jan. 18, where visitors can also sign up for ongoing Homecoming updates.

Can-Am Motorcycles Returning



performance race bikes, instantly recognizable in their distinctive livery. Then, in 1987, they stopped.

For 19 years, the brand was dormant until returning in 2006 with a range of off-road vehicles. Since then, Can-Am has manufactured its three-wheelers. But over the past 35 years, it hasn't made a single new motorcycle—until now.

In early 2022, Can-Am announced it would return to motorcycles to mark the brand's upcoming 50th anniversary. But there's a twist—the new Can-Am bikes will be all-electric.

The first two upcoming models are titled Can-Am Origin and Can-Am Pulse. Can-Am states the Origin will be a "dual-purpose" bike that harkens back to its track and trail legacy. The Origin will be capable of traversing both paved roads and rougher trails. The Pulse, on the other hand, will be a street bike.



bikes are set to have fast charging, sucking juice from standard Level 2 charging stations. Going forward, the Rotax motor will find its way to all electric vehicles produced by Can-Am's parent company BRP.

Can-Am says that the smooth and simple experience will suit both beginners and veterans. As with any electric bike,

Can-Am bikes were the cream of the crop in the moto-cross scene in 1973. The company built high-

there'll be no need to mess with a clutch or transmission—just twist the throttle and go. In electronics, Can-Am highlights the high-performance LED headlight. The brand also says the bikes will provide good smartphone integration.

Style-wise both bikes have a modern, angular design that takes some cues from the brand's old motocross machines. Expect them to be available at least in the showcased gray-and-yellow colors.

Can-Am says it'll release the full specifications of the bikes in August 2023 to coincide with its half-centennial celebration. The electric bike range is set to hit the stores in mid-2024.

10 CRUCIAL TIPS FOR NEW MOTORCYCLE RIDERS

Get a new bike for Christmas? Know someone who is a new rider?



While there's nothing like the feeling of riding your own bike, no matter what level of experience you have, it's important that all of us follow certain safety precautions. Below is a Top 10 to help you be safer riding your motorcycle.

1. GO TO SCHOOL (GOOD CHRISTMAS GIFT)

New motorcycle riders have a lot to learn when they hop on their first bike or a new bike. Safety must take priority; novice riders should remember that knowledge is power. A riding course will provide this important safety training as well as introduce riders to the basics of how a motorcycle works and the rules of the road.

Taking a riding course will save you money; many states offer discounted insurance rates for riders who complete certified courses, making it clear that rider education pays off.

2. GET COMFORTABLE WITH THE BIKE BEFORE TAKING IT ON THE ROAD

No matter how much you know about the rules of the road, if you're unfamiliar with the motorcycle itself, it's easy to get into trouble. Before you hit the highway, make sure you're comfortable with how your bike functions and are confident about using it. Get to know how your bike handles, what the brakes feel like and how it responds to different inputs. Practice in an empty parking lot or on a closed course before doing any serious road riding. This will help to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

(Continued on pg. 8)

Oil Spots, continued...

3. RIDE DEFENSIVELY AND BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

It's important for riders to stay alert and aware of their surroundings — especially when it comes to other drivers. Defensive driving techniques, such as scanning ahead and maintaining an appropriate following distance, can help riders to anticipate potential dangers and avoid them. Be especially aware of cars making left-hand turns, as drivers may not be expecting to see a motorcycle.



4. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR HELMET AND OTHER PROTECTIVE GEAR

A helmet is the most important piece of safety equipment for a motorcyclist. It can save your life in the event of an accident. Invest in a high-quality, properly fitting helmet and wear additional protective gear such as gloves, boots and reflective clothing when riding. This can help to protect you in the event of a (or when you) crash and make sure your ride as comfortable as possible.



5. GET YOUR MIND RIGHT

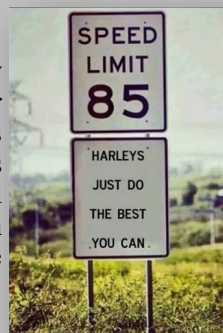
No matter how much you've practiced, the mental part of riding is just as important. Riding a motorcycle can be overwhelming for new riders, and it's easy to let fear take over. To help keep your nerves in check, focus on staying relaxed and taking deep breaths. Stay positive, stay focused, and be confident in your riding skills.



To help keep your nerves in check, focus on staying relaxed and taking deep breaths. Stay positive, stay focused, and be confident in your riding skills.

6. OBEY SPEED LIMITS

Riding too fast is one of the primary causes of motorcycle accidents. Never exceed the posted speed limit, as this can be deadly. Even experienced riders can benefit from slowing down and appreciating the scenery rather than rushing through a ride. Take your time and enjoy it.



7. AVOID BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS

Rain, snow, ice and strong wind can all make riding a motorcycle tricky. Poor weather conditions can reduce traction on the road and impair visibility, making it difficult to ride. It's best to avoid riding in bad weather conditions, if possible. Wait for the weather to improve before heading out, especially for new riders.



8. CHECK YOUR BIKE BEFORE EACH RIDE

As a new rider, it is important to check your bike before every single ride. Doing basic maintenance and upkeep checks can go a long way in preventing any equipment malfunctions and potentially dangerous situations. At the very least, always inspect your bike for tire pressure, chain or drive belt condition and tension, braking system state, wheel alignment and road worthiness.



9. PAY ATTENTION WHEN CORNERING

Cornering is one of the trickiest maneuvers for new riders to learn, but it's also one of the most important. Make sure to keep your head up, look where you want to go, and lean into the turn to maintain balance. Always use brakes judiciously, and don't try to take a corner at too high of a speed.



10. SURVEY THE ROAD AHEAD



Get in the habit of scanning and surveying the road ahead. Look for potential hazards, such as potholes, debris and uneven surfaces. Taking a few minutes to plan your route can help you anticipate any potential issues and be better prepared to react if needed.

Finally, always ride at your level of comfort. Never try to ride someone else's pace or skill level if you don't feel safe.



Motorcycle Fun Facts From AARP

Submitted by:
Ted Makarewicz

Have fun with these facts about the history of the motorcycle!

- ◆ On average, motorcycles are about twice as fuel efficient as cars.
- ◆ Insurance statistics show that in inner cities, one in five motorcycles are stolen. Honda is the most common brand stolen and Harley is the least.
- ◆ The famous 65-foot jump over a barbed wire fence in the movie *The Great Escape* was not performed by Steve McQueen, but by motorcycle stuntman Bud Ekins, who did it in one take.
- ◆ The German inventor Gottlieb Daimler is generally credited with building the first practical motorcycle in 1885.
- ◆ The first Harley Davidson motorcycle, built in 1903, used a tomato soup can for a carburetor.
- ◆ Evel Knievel holds the world record for breaking the most number of bones and surviving. His real name was Robert Craig Knievel and during his stunt career, he spent a total of three years in the hospital.
- ◆ Early bike helmets were lined with cork.
- ◆ The first rider to ever go over 300 mph was Don Vesco in 1975, on a 1496cc Yamaha-engined streamliner.
- ◆ The Dodge Tomahawk is considered the fastest motorcycle in the world to date. It uses a 10-cylinder, 90 degree v-type engine and can reach up to 350 mph.
- ◆ Front tires disperse water at three times the rate of rear tires.
- ◆ Kawasaki was solely involved in aerospace development and only created the Kawasaki motorcycle to aid in marketing and publicizing their "heavy industries" which was unknown by the public.
- ◆ When rounding corners, 75% of a bike's grip comes from the front tire.
- ◆ In 1999, Harley Davidson tried unsuccessfully to trademark the name "hog," which was originally coined from a group of 1920s farmers known as hog boys because they had a live pig as a mascot.
- ◆ BMW is the only current major manufacturer to reject the use of telescopic forks on its big bikes. Yet BMW was the first to use and patent them, on the R12 in 1935.



Winter adjustments that can make summer riding better!

V.P.'s Vision

Think about last summer and the possible adjustments that you thought you'd like to try, but forgot about when you reached your destination. Are you looking for more comfort or ease of shifting gears? Now is a good time for making adjustments... or to learn how to make adjustments!

Sit there for a while... maybe watch a movie or a couple of the episodes of your favorite show. Keep your hands on the bars and every 5 minutes or so, pull on the clutch and breaks and think about how that feels. Move your feet from the foot boards to the highway pegs. Is it comfortable? Could you do this all day with only small breaks? If so, you can be confident that those summer journeys will be enjoyable. If not... now is the time to see what you can do.

At this point, take some time and talk with your favorite motorcycle technician. Explain what you would like to do and ask for advice on how to make this happen. There is also a good article in *Motorcycle Cruiser* that may give you ideas too. Here is the link: [Just Adjust: Set Up Your Motorcycle to Fit YOU | Motorcycle Cruiser](#). Take the time now and enjoy the rides this summer with more comfort! Looking forward to seeing you at our January Meeting and finding opportunities to hear what you are adjusting!

Well, the Holiday Breaks are over and the months of getting ready for summer are here. You may be asking yourself what can we do during these long winter months to make sure that summer riding is rewarding and enjoyable? Well, here are a few things that you can look at...

First, Move your T.V. to the garage along with a heater too. Get on that bike and while you are there, think about the position of the handle bars, how easy is it to pull in the clutch and break levers, and how do your legs feel on the foot boards and highway pegs.



Think about these items when finding the riding position fits you best!

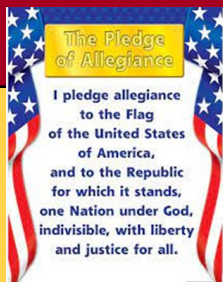


General Membership Meeting Minutes September 6th,

Respectfully Submitted
by: Diana Lanute

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ 7:00 pm, Meeting called to order
- ◆ Pledge of Allegiance
- ◆ Announcements
 - ◇ 17th - Emil Kornecki-- B-Day
 - ◇ Guests – Introductions: Andrew Kass & Gina Woods



V.P.: Ric Case

- ◆ Please read my column in The Roar where I reflect upon some experiences I've had at Top Cats.

Past President : Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Charlie Madsen replaced Doug Jackson at HD Woodstock.
- **Elections -**
 - Gene – President
 - Ric - VP
 - Diana – Secretary
 - Don DeLordo – Treasurer
 - Ted - Membership
 - Rich – Charity
 - (Greg Smith and Ted – incumbent)
 - Mike Bradbury – incumbent - Safety

Safety: Mike Bradbury

- Kaution Korner Safety Tip - Wayne (on deck for January)
- Wayne discussed taking care of motorcycles and batteries in cold weather. More details will be in the January ROAR.
- Kaution Korner – Ric
- The most important item is tires. Warm up tires and make sure the bike is ready for cold or nighttime driving. Beware of critters! Check brakes. Please see Ric's tips in The Roar.

Safety Videos – In lieu of the Safety Video we had a Guest Speaker this evening. Mike Bradbury

- Guests' tonight are Andrew Kass and Gina Woods. Andrew is an Attorney and has provided insurance advice for motorcycles riders for over 30 years. He discussed elements important to an accident report:
 - ◇ Who is at fault?
 - ◇ Is there an injury?
 - ◇ Where do I recover from? Wealth of at fault party? Insurance policy of at fault party? Most important is your own policy.

- ◇ Insurance coverage most important items – Liability, Property Damage, and Health Insurance. This covers bicycle, pedestrian and motorcycle. \$250,000 is minimum everyone should have.

- Andrew has authored a free book, "Standing Up For Bikers That Go Down". Which is coming out this week. (Call 1-800-Motorcycle).

Membership: Ted Makarewicz (ABS)

No new member into/welcome package presentation

Activities: Rick Agrimonti / Greg Smith

Recent activities

12/4 Toys for Tots and Polish restaurant - Ted M
NISRA Fashion Show and silent auction. Auctioned off 4 seats behind home plate for \$600.

Future activities

Gene has a ride to Duluth – TBD
Greg and Mary – June 2-3 – Door County – fish boil.
Front Range Ride with Wayne – August 5-11.

Charity: Rich Lanute

- ◇ Ride for Dreams 6/11/2023
- ◇ HD booked the day for us.
- ◇ Flyers – David has done some work on it. Any ideas for flyer – we need a catchy name for this ride!

Products: Get your gear now!! Contact for Ted can be found in back of The ROAR if you need products.

50/50 Raffle: Andy Hazliekewicz Winning ticket is #8745 and the winner is...

Wayne gave the election results.

Wayne also reminded us that tomorrow is Pearl Harbor Day, coinciding 7:55am HI time to 11:55am our time.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm by Gene Rigsby, President of Top Cats, Illinois!



BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2022

Respectfully Submitted
by: Diana Lanute

President's Section: Gene Rigsby
7:00 pm, Meeting called to order
Immediate needs – None.

V.P.: Ric Case

- ◆ City Limits now has permanent management. There is a new service manager, who has been there one week now. They are charging a flat rate.
- ◆ On Target has new management who do not work weekends.

Past President

- ◆ **Election: Wayne Kirkpatrick**
- ◆ Wayne discussed election results.
- ◆ Top Cats website needs to be updated.~

Safety: Mike Bradbury(Abs)

- ◆ Kaution Korner Safety Tip - Wayne (on deck for January)
- ◆ Kaution Korner – Ric
- ◆ Nothing to report with Mike being absent.

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ New member, Bill Fulton, will be joining us.
- ◆ Do we need to do more, as to focus on our meetings?
- ◆ Reinforce mentor program.
- ◆ Focus on core confidence. Improve public image.
- ◆ Eliminate third patch on the back of T-shirt.

Activities: Greg Smith (ABS)

- ◆ Recent activities
 - ◇ 12/4 Toys for Tots - Ted M
- ◆ Future activities
 - ◇ Nothing on calendar for January.
 - ◇ Ride for Dreams – 6/11
 - ◇ There was some discussion about a chili cookoff, return trip to the Dunn Museum, perhaps a return trip to Janesville for some steaks, or the Pritzger Museum -Chicago.

Charity: Rich Lanute

- ◆ Ride for Dreams - 6/11/2023
 - ◇ Ric has a membership at On Target shooting range and he will try to schedule us some time there. He will look into a gift certificate from them for auctioning off for NISRA.
 - ◇ Volo – Last year Mary and Ted spent some

money for printing for “Ride for Dreams”. This year we could use the Boy Scouts to join in to help us handle the crowd. We need Save-the-Date cards made out early. Rich will get in touch with the printer, and also the law firm that helped us with printing costs.

Treasurer: Gene gave report, Don DeLordo was absent

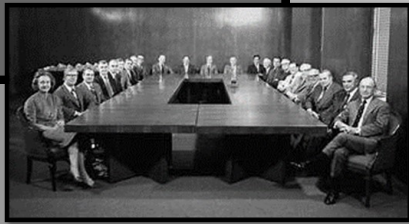
- ◆ New dues reported.
- ◆ Banquet discussion. Ask Don to supply budget for banquet.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:12pm. by Gene Rigsby,
President, Top Cat Illinois**





Board of Directors Election Results! 2023



Consistent with our Bylaws, we have completed our nomination/election process for three vacant positions for 2023 - 2024. Those position vacancies and current qualified incumbents, or nominees, were:

I. President (2023-2024): Nominee – (Incumbent) Gene Rigsby

II. Two Directors (2023 - 2024): Nominees – (Incumbents), Ted Makarewicz, Greg Smith

Where our Bylaws are silent on protocol and procedure, we refer to Robert’s Rules of Order. In the case of only a single nominee for a position, the Board of Directors may confirm that nominee and simply hold a voice vote of confirmation. The same procedure applies when multiple positions are up for election as we have here. We followed that procedure at our 6 December meeting.

Our nominees were vetted for eligibility and the slate was reviewed and approved by our Board on 8 November 2022. The slate was presented to, and approved by quorum, at the general membership on 6 December 2022. Approval was unanimous. Our new Board will take office on 1 January 2023.

Our full Board of Directors, going into next year will be:

- ✦ **President (2023 – 2024):** Gene Rigsby
- ✦ **Vice President (2022-2023):** Ric Case
- ✦ **Secretary (2022-2023):** Diana Lanute
- ✦ **Treasurer (2022-2023):** Don DeLordo
- ✦ **Past President (2023-2024):** Wayne Kirkpatrick
- ✦ **Director (2022-2023):** Rich Lanute
- ✦ **Director (2023-2024):** Greg Smith
- ✦ **Director (2022-2023):** Mike Bradbury
- ✦ **Director (2023-2024):** Ted Makarewicz

Our Club is directed by our Board and....we could not do the great things, adventures, charity work, and events that we do without them. Please join together to thank our current Board for their dedication and effort toward maintaining the Top Cats legacy as a premiere motorcycle enthusiasts’ organization!

January Birthdays and Anniversaries!



- 1 Wayne Kirkpatrick
- 1 Juergen Lutz
- 2 Noelle Rigsby
- 11 Jim Wiseman
- 15 Jim Chevalier

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities
for January!!

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

No January
Anniversaries
(That we know of...)



*Top Cats Buy, Sell, Trade....
The best way to ensure
good quality at fair prices!*

GREAT DEALS!

Put your items here and get the
word out that you have stuff to
sell!





TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS

kw SUCCESS REALTY
KELLERWILLIAMS.

Mary Kirkpatrick

Realtor

262-344-6228

e: marykirkpatrick@kw.com

w: MaryKirkpatrick.kw.com



600 Hart Road, Suite 105
Barrington Illinois 60010



Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated

600 Hart Road, Suite 105
Barrington Illinois 60010



Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated



*Network with your fellow
Riders here...*

And Be Thankful!



Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Woodstock HD and Staff Support our Top Cat's Ride for Dreams!



PALATINE, IL

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

Membership Has Its Privileges!

GRASS Classes are held at the Keller -Williams Offices!

All suppliers and vendors who support the Top Cats by providing support to Top Cats members will be listed in ROAR.

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

Sign-up your favorite merchant today!



Greg Smith

**Keller -
Williams
Success
Realty**

**600 Hart Rd.
Suite 105
Barrington, IL
60010**

847.870.0957

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

NISRA Families have so many wonderful opportunities because of the NISRA staff...
Can we find ways to continue to help them?





RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, January 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, January 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, January 21st	Shoot Out	Crystal Lake	On Target	7:00 am	Case
Saturday, January 28th	Prime Quarter	Janesville	Prime Quarter, Janesville	4:00 pm	M Kirkpatrick
Saturday, February 4th	Road Captain Meeting	Waukanda	Am Legion Post 911	8:00am	Bradbury
Tuesday, February 7th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, February 14th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
IDEAS?	Talk to	Greg or Rick	And get them	On the	Calendar!

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



Barrington Library

Location and Hours
505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300
balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

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

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

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



ROAR



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

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

ELECTED OFFICERS & DIRECTORS		COMMITTEE LEADERS		ROAR	
President	Gene Rigsby- gene.rigsby@gmail.com	Activities	Greg Smith GregSmith@kw.com	Executive Editor & Board Liaison	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
Vice President	Ric Case Riccase@Comcast.net	Archives	Open	Editor-in-Chief	Mary Kirkpatrick mawalters57@gmail.com
Treasurer	Don DeLordo Don_De@att.net	Charity	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com	Publisher	Open
Secretary	Diana Lanute Diana.Lanute@att.net	Membership	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com	ASSOCIATE EDITORS	
Past President	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com	Awards	Mike Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net	Executive & Board	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com
Director	Rich Lanute Richard.Lanute@att.net	Safety	Mike Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net	Safety & Road Captains	Mike Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net
Director	Greg Smith GregSmith@kw.com	Website	Mary Kirkpatrick mawalters57@gmail.com	Membership	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com
Director	Mike Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net	Products	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com	Charity	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
Director	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com	SGT at Arms	Andy Haszlakiewicz andyh9946@gmail.com	Events & Calendar	Greg Smith GregSmith@kw.com & Rick Agrimonti Rickandyolie@att.net
Founder	Carl 'Virgo' Bender 1941-2001			Motorcycle Community	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com

© Copyright 2010 **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**
ROAR is the official publication of the **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**
and is published on the 1st of each month.

The content and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of **TOP CATS OF ILLINOIS**

For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at ROAR@TopCats.org