



ROAR

June, 2023

Volume 23, Issue 6

Inside This Issue

PRESIDENT'S POINT	2
KAUTION KORNER	3
Oil Spots	4
VP's Vision	7
WILDLIFE	9
RIDE PREVIEW!	10
GENERAL MEETING	12
BOARD MEETING	13
GRASS Schedule	14
Celebrations!	14
Business Mart	15
Top Cats Patrons	16
Rides and Events	17
TC Organization	18



Route 66 - You Never Know What You May Find Along the Way!...



The Official Publication Of Top Cats Illinois

Upcoming Events

JULY

- 1-3 TREMPLEAU
- 11 GENERAL MEETING
- 8-9 I WOULD RIDE 500 MILES
- 22 GRASS CLASS
- 30 LEAVE FOR STURGIS!

AUGUST

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
- 8 BOARD MEETING
- 8 FRONT RANGE RIDE

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!

I hope you and your "other" family are doing great and getting ready to wish our great nation a happy birthday.

Why are you reading this?! You should be out riding with your Top Cat family!!!

Top Cats is a riding club... Let's go!! Lots of great opportunities to ride are available. Check the Top Cats calendar now and get them on your calendar so you don't miss the action!!

In case you missed them... We had some great rides in June,

The 3-day Door County Dreaming Ride, led by Mary and Greg. the Route 66 Museum ride led by Don.

The Ride, Rock, Rumble (previously known as the Ride for Dreams) was on June 11th starting out at WSHD and ended at Volo Auto Museum. With the new date and the possibility of rain, the turnout was low but the spirits were high. It was great to see all of our members coming together to support our community. Thank you to Rich and Mary for driving our event. Cheers!!

Coming in July... More great rides!!

- ✦ **Trempealeau 7/1-7/3.** Mike will be leading us out for another great weekend in the Driftless region. We will be on some very ride worthy familiar roads and see some beautiful familiar places. I can't wait!!
- ✦ **500 miles 7/8-7/9.** I am leading the "I Would Ride 500 Miles" this year, heading up to Duluth Minnesota. The northern scenery in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" should be great this time of year.
- ✦ **GRASS 7/22.** Mike is hosting the annual pre-Sturgis/Front Range Ride class for folks heading out. RSVP to him ASAP if you plan to attend.
- ✦ **Sturgis 7/30.** Bard is making his final route review and making sure the group gets a great start off on their adventure.
- ✦ **Front Range Ride 8/8.** Wayne is keeping an eye on the places to stay, eat, routes to take, activities to do, and so on.... He also reported that there is a good size group heading out this year which should make for some great memories.
- ✦ Mike has also decided to add the **Grumpy Troll** ride back into the lineup. This will be 7/30.

AGAIN, check the Top Cats calendar NOW for details and get ready to RIDE!!!

Just a quick note on how much effort can go into planning and executing a ride for the Top Cats, especially multi-day rides.... Thank your Road Captains, and a great way to do that is by attending their rides. It should you appreciate and support their efforts, and they do appreciate it.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Diana Lanute** for being our secretary for the past few years. **Much appreciated!!!**

As usual, watch for blasts and check the Top Cats event calendar regularly and **SAVE THE DATES first.** Don't forget to get any activity or ride ideas to Rick Agrimonti or Greg Smith.

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



Looking forward to seeing you there....

Gene 'Lucky' Rigsby
President of Top Cats Illinois



KAUTION KORNER



Loading up for a Long Trip!

By: Bard Board,



We aren't going to talk about WHAT to bring. That's a topic for another article! Here, we will talk about

HOW to load what you do bring. Low, center, tight and secure is the key to carrying a months-worth of stuff for your weekend get-a-way.

Loading a motorcycle properly is very similar to getting the weight and balance factor correct on a cargo aircraft, or even a small plane. The CG, or center of gravity is critical for proper and safe flight, and on a motorcycle packing weight needs to be as close to the middle of the bike as possible, and as low on the bike as possible.



Heavy tools should be in the front of the saddle bags, and on the bottom, NOT up in your tour pack on top of your rain gear. All heavy items should be packed in the lower bags and light items in the tour pack. Also, items you may need to access in a hurry, like rain gear, should be on top in the bags or the tour pack. If you are traveling solo, favor using the rear seat area for storage of heavier luggage vs. the tour pack.

What you are trying to accomplish is the elimination of a "polar moment". This would occur when coming to a quick stop or if the pavement is wet and the weight, which SHOULD be center and low, is hanging off the rear of the bike. This would aggravate handling and may cause that weight on the rear of the bike to swing around towards the front by a 'polar moment of inertia.'



Good Tie Downs are an important part of keeping your packs in place. Bungees have been traditionally used, but take a look at these ROK Straps. This video, ROK Straps vs. Bungee

straps, is a great start.

<http://www.rokstraps.com/index.html>

I guarantee once you've used a ROK strap you will never use a bungee again. Safer, tighter, adjustable, they are the only way to secure a load securely.



Oh, did I say, don't bring so much? The tendency is to over pack. Do you really need 6 tee shirts knowing you're going to buy 3 or 4 tee's while at Sturgis? Also, consider using the post office, UPS or FedEx to ship extra stuff to your destination a few days before you leave. Then, all you will have to pack are the supplies you will need while on the bike! All three shipping options have a variety of boxes you can choose from.

For those things you DO pack on the bike, the use of plastic garbage bags or vacuum storage bags are great options to wrap or cover stuff that you want to stay dry. Even HD hard bags and tour packs sometimes leak.

Once you have all of these decisions made, check the recommended tire pressure, shock absorber settings and air pressure as outlined in your owner's manual for heavier loads. Recommended settings and pressures are much different for a fully loaded up bike!

(Continued on page 4)



KK continued...

Now that you have your strategies set, pack up early and BEFORE departure, pre-load your bike and go for a 10 mile ride and cross a few RR tracks and hit some bumps. Then back in your garage see what came loose and shifted... hopefully your pre-planning keeps things in place. No one, not even Gomer Pyle, likes to hear 'surprise, surprise, surprise' at this place and time!

That's it! You now have the basics for HOW to pack!

Ready, Set, Go! And...Have a nice trip!



Oil Spots

By Traveler



Whaaaat?



Consideration is being given to a unique, but not new, concept for replacing gas tax with vehicle usage tax. Simply put, you would be taxed on vehicle mileage and not have a tax added to each gallon of gas. Utah and Virginia — are generating

revenue from road usage charges, despite the looming threat of an ever-widening gap between states' gas tax proceeds and their transportation budgets. Hawaii will soon become the fourth. Without action, the gap could reach \$67 billion by 2050 due to fuel efficiency alone.

While this may be good for a car or truck, it does not appear to be advantageous to motorcycles. Here's why:

- ✦ IF a motorcycle averages 40 MPG and the state, county, city, gas tax is \$.40 per gallon, that motorcyclist would be paying \$.01 per mile in tax.
- ✦ IF a usage (mileage) tax was charged at the EPA's MPG average of 31 MPG, to equal that state, county, city tax of \$.40 per gallon, that motorcyclist would pay \$.013 per gallon.

Overall, this may save a household, with multiple vehicles, some money if they don't run up high mileage each year. While there are many unknown factors involved here (different rates for different vehicles, etc.), this looks like one more issue where motorcycles are not being considered in road / highway usage issues. Keep an eye on this one!

Riding in Limited Visibility

Riding in fog— especially when it's combined with rain and darkness— heightens a number of risks that experienced motorcyclists seek to avoid:



1. Seeing potential hazards, both ahead and behind (like being rear-ended by a faster moving vehicle) is severely restricted.
2. Moisture on windshield, face shield and glasses inhibits your ability to see.
3. The ability of other vehicles to see you is diminished.
4. Riders are more vulnerable to being struck if the bike breaks down.
5. Reduced visibility can cause misjudgment of your lean angle and a greater chance of low siding.
6. Going from a heavily forested area into fog illuminated by daylight can cause a whiteout, temporarily blinding a rider.

The best advice for riding in fog is simply to not do it; wait until weather improves. But there are times when it's not practical to do so. If you find yourself caught in heavy fog, with no good alternative for avoiding it, consider several strategies for mitigating the risk.

1. Take the most familiar route to your destination.
2. Slow down and continually adjust your speed as visibility changes.
3. Use a defogging agent on your face shield and glasses.
4. Keep your headlight on low beam setting to avoid light glaring off the fog and reducing visibility.
5. Monitor your rear-view mirrors for fast approaching vehicles from behind and prepare to take evasive action.

(Continued on pg. 5)



Oil Spots, , Continued...

6. If another vehicle is following too close, tap your brakes lightly to flash your taillight or turn on the bike's flashers.
7. Wear reflective material and bright colors.
8. Follow the taillights of another vehicle, at a safe distance and speed, to reduce any spatial disorientation.
9. Use the white line (Fog Line) on the right side of the road as a point of reference and keep it to your right, particularly when there are on-coming headlights.
10. If forced to stop, by the fog or a mechanical problem, move yourself and your bike well off the road.

Remember it's always safer to anticipate and avoid dangerous riding conditions than to try and mitigate their risk once you are in them.

Slow Down!!! Smoothly



Certain riding fundamentals apply to everyone. They help us stay safe and confident by providing an understanding of how our motorcycles have been designed to be ridden.

Hopefully we can touch on all of them, starting with the brakes.

Key Braking Terms

- **Loading the tire:** Gently initiating front brake pressure to push weight onto the front wheel, expand the front contact patch of the tire.

Working the tire: Applying more brake pressure smoothly.

Being Smooth on the Brakes

Every rider's technique should be to smoothly load the tire before you work the tire. This simply means that when you start braking, your touch must be as light as a feather. Abrupt braking can lead to equally abrupt and sometimes catastrophic results.

Correct foot positioning on the rear brake pedal allows for better pressure control. Incorrect foot positioning on your rear brake pedal increases the risk of applying too much pressure.

Practicing Brake Application

Practice braking in straight lines in a parking lot to understand how it feels. Make adjustments to the front and rear brakes themselves as necessary, just as you would with seat po-



sition, handlebar height, and mirrors. Some motorcycles even have the option to adjust brake lever and pedal positioning.

To apply the rear brake, you should use constant, *even* pressure throughout the braking motion. If you feel *heavy-footed*, move your foot back on the foot peg or floor board a little to minimize how much weight you put on your brake pedal.



When you apply your brakes, momentum moves your weight forward. Your body shifting could cause you to put too much pressure on the rear brake, which could lead to locking up your rear brake or trigger your ABS.

The front brake is applied in one *smooth* motion. *Slowly* rotate your throttle off while *touching* the front brake lever with your index, middle or all four fingers (whichever is most comfortable for your riding style) to *gently* begin *loading* your tire. Think of it like pouring fine wine. You start slowly and then fill your glass as you add more front brake pressure to *work* the tire to slow you down.

Practice Makes for Smoother Braking

Remember tires can take an extreme load—they just can't take an abrupt load. With four or three-wheeled machines, you can get away with it to a certain extent, but not with two wheels.

Practice loading the tire before working the tire and smooth braking will eventually become a permanent habit.

The alternatives to smooth braking are; locking the brakes and crashing, skidding and not stopping soon enough, and, ultimately, contacting your insurance agent for a repair estimate.

Riding in Construction Zones



Summer is here and we've already ridden through plenty of construction zones. Did you know that nearly every state has special road construction traffic laws?

As a motorcyclist, we should know the work

zone traffic laws where we ride. Here's why:

It will save you money. Currently, 33 states and Washington, D.C., double the fine for speeding in a construction zone. Some even penalize motorists with points on their license. Your insurance company may raise your premium if you are cited for speeding or committing other traffic violations in a work zone.

(Continued on page 6)



Oil Spots, continued...

You will avoid legal troubles. Several states' penalties include jail time or community service. For example, you could spend up to six months in jail, or have to complete 120 hours of community service if you commit a traffic violation in a Nevada work zone.

It will help protect your legal rights. Committing a moving vehicle violation in a construction zone isn't just illegal; it poses a serious safety risk to you, your passenger, and the vehicles near you. If you speed, pass in a no-passing zone, or ride aggressively in any way, you could cause an accident. Consequently, you may be found at fault, and motorists involved in the collision may file a legal claim against you for their injuries, missed work time, pain and suffering, and property damage.

Every State's Traffic Laws Are Different.

Before a multi - state trip review the laws at this website: <https://www.ghsa.org/state-laws>. Some states require workers or signs to be present for the laws to take effect, while others do not.

Work Zones and Road Hazards

Work zones tend to be more dangerous for motorists. Bikers are especially at risk for the following hazards:

1. Rocks and debris on the road
2. Road / shoulder drop-offs
3. Uneven pavement
4. Shifting lanes
5. Pooling water
6. Suddenly stopped traffic
7. Workers near the road
8. Areas with no shoulders
9. Metal plates covering holes
10. Fresh tar

If you're in an accident in a work zone caused by an unmarked hazard, you may be able to recover compensation. If you believe a bad road condition caused the crash or made it worse, hopefully you belong to A.B.A.T.E. and/or contact an attorney to learn your legal options.

Protect Yourself, Your Wallet, and Your Legal Rights

For an enjoyable riding season it's especially important to follow all traffic laws particularly work zone laws, whether you're riding around town or on a cross-country tour. It will help you avoid fines, community service, maybe jail time and avoid legal claims and other insurance hassles. However, the biggest reason for obeying all laws is.....avoiding injury.



The 2023 Harley-Davidson Homecoming Schedule

The four-day live music,

motorcycles, and moto culture festival takes place July 13 through 16, 2023.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the birthplace of Harley-Davidson will host the four-day event from July 13 through 16, 2023, with a full roster of events for everyone in the family to experience and appreciate.

Here's the full schedule so you can plan accordingly. With an event this big, just one venue wouldn't be enough to keep the party going—so the scheduled programming will take place across several locations.

The Harley-Davidson Museum, Harley-Davidson Powertrain Operations, Grant Park Beach, the Bud Pavilion at the Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, Veterans Park, the Lakefront Brewery parking lot, Cathedral Square Park, and Greenfield Avenue in West Allis, Wisconsin (just outside Milwaukee) will all host events throughout the four-day festival. On the final day, there will also be the official Harley-Davidson 120th Anniversary Motorcycle Parade through the heart of downtown Milwaukee. Harley Owners Group members get access to a premium parade viewing area, as well.

Thursday, July 13, 2023

The party kicks off on Thursday, July 13, 2023, with the Harley-Davidson Museum and Harley-Davidson Powertrain Operations beginning their days of programming at 10 a.m. The Museum will stay open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. that day, with access to bars, restaurants, food trucks, LiveWire, StaCyc, and Serial 1 displays and demos, as well as a Division BMW Stunt Show playing at 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. From 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., live sets from American Progress, the War Hippiess, and Hairball will light up the H-D Museum stage.

Thursday's Harley-Davidson Powertrain Operations will offer 2023 model year demo rides from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Factory tours start at 9 a.m. and run through 3 p.m. Food and beverage, retail, and police skills riding demonstrations will also be on-site from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Harley Owners Group 40th Celebration event—for HOG members only—will take place at the Bud Pavilion Wisconsin State Fairgrounds. Members can bring a guest, but the member must present their HOG card for entry.

From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Harley is hosting a Bonfire on the Beach community event at Grant Park Beach, which is open to everyone. Bring your family, bring your friends, and enjoy live music, bonfires, and s'mores while you appreciate the beauty of Lake Michigan in the summer.

Friday, July 14, 2023

On Friday, July 14, 2023, the Museum and Powertrain Operations will run similar programming to their Thursday lineup, with a few live programming differences.

(Continued on pg. 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

The Museum will host the Flat Out Friday Boonie Bike Race at 2 p.m., as well as live music from God's Outlaw at 5 p.m., the Jimmys at 6 p.m., and the Now Band at 8 p.m. Powertrain Operations will add food options from the Johnsonville Big Taste Grill (for those unfamiliar, Johnsonville is another proud Wisconsin company) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At Veterans Park, the box office will be open from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., and there will be food and beverage vendors, merchandise from both Harley and various artists, the Del Mar Experience presented by LiveWire, Wall of Death shows at 2 p.m., 4:35 p.m., and 6:45 p.m.; Nitro Circus shows starting at 2:30 p.m., 5:05 p.m., and 7:15 p.m.; and Ball of Steel shows starting at 3:20 p.m., 5:55 p.m., and 8 p.m. Veteran's Park is also where the headlining live music shows will be staged, with Abby Jeanne at 3 p.m., Kennyhoopla at 4 p.m., Phantogram at 5:15 p.m., the Cult at 7 p.m., and Green Day at 8:45 p.m.

In the Milwaukee area, you'll find the Down Under Disco running from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Lakefront Brewery parking lot. Finally, you can participate in one of North America's largest French-themed festivals as well, as Bastille Days will take place in Cathedral Square Park from 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. There's more live music, food, drink, and entertainment here, and this event is free to attend. There will also be first-come, first-served free motorcycle parking at the Bastille Days event due to its partnership with the Harley Homecoming.

Saturday, July 15, 2023

The roster of events for Saturday, July 15 remains much the same at Harley-Davidson Powertrain Operations and the Harley-Davidson Museum. The biggest change from the previous days at the Museum is that Antique Motorcycle Club of America (AMCA) Badger Heritage Chapter will host the Vintage Motorcycle Field Games Showcase at 12 p.m. Live music at the Museum will consist of the Cactus Brothers at 5 p.m., Rustbucket at 6 p.m., and Road Trip at 8 p.m.

At Veterans Park, the box office opens at 1 p.m. and remains open through 10 p.m. Wall of Death, Nitro Circus, and Ball of Steel programs are planned throughout the afternoon and early evening as on Friday. At 6:15 p.m., Matty Matheson's Burger Build Off will take place. The live music schedule starts with Ghost Hounds at 3 p.m.; White Reaper at 4 p.m.; Joan Jett and the Blackhearts at 5:15 p.m.; Cody Jinks at 7 p.m.; and the Foo Fighters at 8:45 p.m.

In Milwaukee, Community Events on Saturday consist of the Bikes on the Block Block Party from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Greenfield Avenue in West Allis, Wisconsin, as well as the ongoing Bastille Days festival in Cathedral Square Park in Milwaukee.

Sunday, July 16, 2023

On Sunday, July 16, the Museum will offer a Harley-Davidson Membership Coffee Fuel-Up event from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. In addition to the usual displays and demos, the Mama Tried & Friends Motorcycle Show will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live music will include the Toys at 11 a.m. and Rebel Grace at 1 p.m.

The Division BMX Stunt Show will be throughout the day, and the Flat Out Friday Boonie Bike Race will take place at 2 p.m. Powertrain Operations will also be offering its usual 2023 line demo rides, factory tours, food/beverage, and police riding demonstrations throughout the day.

Bastille Days will run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Cathedral Square Park. The Harley-Davidson 120th Anniversary Motorcycle Parade spectating hours will take place from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., in Downtown Milwaukee. If you're a HOG member, there will be a special premier viewing area for you to enjoy as a membership perk, so be sure to look out for it.

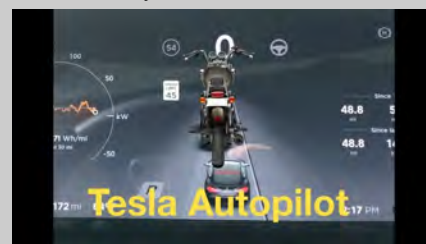
To find out more or buy a two-day general admission or one-day general admission pass, check out the official Harley-Davidson Homecoming website. Children 10 and under are allowed in free with a General Admission ticketed adult. The General Admission tickets allow access to the Veterans Park experiences for your choice of either both Friday and Saturday or, if you choose a one-day pass, Friday or Saturday for the live music and events hosted in the park each day.

The two-day General Admission pass is priced at \$205 per person, plus a \$27.05 service fee. The one-day General Admission tickets differ slightly in pricing between days, with Friday GA costing \$110 plus a \$19.10 service fee, and the Saturday GA costing \$120 plus a \$19.94 service fee.

[Electric Vehicles and Electric Chairs Both Cause Death!](#)

By Josh "SKI" Witkowski

NOTE: The following article is an excerpt from the A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois Legislative Report by Josh "SKI" Witkowski, the Legislative Coordinator for A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois. It is a perfect example of the work that A.B.A.T.E. does for us and another reason why we should all be members of A.B.A.T.E.



"It's very dangerous for motorcycles to be around Teslas" – A bombshell report published June 10th in the Washington Post detailed far more collisions involving Tesla vehicles operating in Autopilot or

involving Tesla vehicles operating in Autopilot or

(Continued on page 8)



Oil Spots, continued...

Full Service Driving Mode than had previously been reported. According to the Post, 736 collisions have occurred since 2019 with 17 of them being fatal.

In June 2022, only 3 fatal incidents had been reported, so this new in-depth report revealed flaws in the current reporting system. Four of the 17 fatalities involved motorcycles.

Previously only 3 motorcycle fatalities had been disclosed. This also means that 23.5% of Tesla autonomous fatalities are from motorcycles.

Motorcycles on average are 14% of all traffic fatalities, which means there is a greater chance of a Tesla killing a motorcyclist than the average vehicle by an almost 68% increase. This led a leading expert on Autonomous Vehicles to declare that "It's very dangerous for motorcycles to be around Teslas".

ABATE of Illinois continues to push for regulations on these dangerous vehicles at the national level, and in Illinois. We are continuing to push for a working group this summer to draft comprehensive legislation in Illinois. I brought this article up to Speaker Welch at an event and he told me that he had already read the article and was thinking about the conversations I have had with him about Tesla. Hopefully this will lead to some action on the issue.



May we always be mindful of the great land we enjoy... and know what we have to do to keep it great!



Pickup Ride.... Top Cat's version of Hitchin' a Ride!

V.P.'s Vision



One of our largest rides ever was a pickup ride... so named by our founded Carl "Virgo" Bender.

Initially it started out as a ride where he would ride to the first house, add on rider after rider until everyone was together. He would then ride to a location for lunch. Some riders opted to join in at the lunch stop and usually, we rode west or north to a

dinner location (boy did we love to eat).

As the ride grew in popularity, we added last minute spur rides until we had the "pick-ups" coming from all four compass directions. The biggest ride used the Village Tavern in Long Grove as the mid ride meeting spot. The size of the last of these rides was either 78 motorcycles or at least 78 riders. I was tail gunner for the ride. What a sight watching all those motorcycles snake the way up Mc Henry Road toward The Kettle Moraine area in Wisconsin. Exactly where it culminated, I cannot remember. But the group was incredible! It is another one of those rides that was fun and memorable. Maybe we can resurrect this one also just like the progressive dinner ride. It does provide flexibility for members to join in as they please and leave as they please.

Your VP
Ric "Clutch" Case





Wildlife!

By: Traveler

Not this kind but, the kind with fur, skin, feathers, fangs, sharp teeth, claws and big beaks.



What should we do when we encounter an imminent animal collision? Hang on and pray? That might help but, add some evasive action to supplement that prayer.

Some tips:

Deer



Watch for warning signs then search far ahead and along the roadside. Slow down at dusk / dawn. Avoid roads w/close foliage. If you can't stop in time or swerve to miss it, aim for it. It will be gone by the time you get there.

Flashing your headlights and revving your engine are foreign sounds to deer and will cause them to run.

Dogs

Slow down then accelerate. Dogs take an angle of attack. When you adjust speed, it throws off their path of attack. Sounding the horn might help also.



Birds

Watch their flight path and try to adjust your speed or swerve to avoid or minimize a collision. If you can't avoid hitting it, hold on tight and keep your head, hopefully with helmet, down.



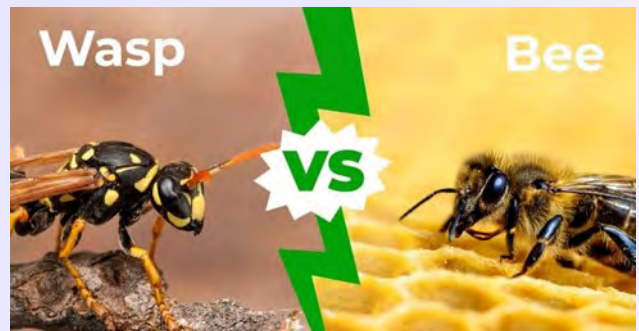
Bees

Most bees sting only once. Maintain your concentration and control, then slow down, pull over and treat the sting. Be cautious around sunflower field sand fields with flowers where bees will congregate.



Wasps/Hornets

Wasps and hornets sting more than once and can be aggressive. Maintain control, keep going to get away from the swarm. Once you out run them, locate the wasp and smash it's little head!



(Continued on page 10)

Oil Spots, continued...



Turkeys

Caution. They can be aggressive, and they can be anywhere. If you encounter turkeys in a flock, try to avoid them. If they come at you, outrun them, rev your engine and accelerate.

Turkey Vultures

They will **not** move if feeding on roadkill. Slow down and easily ride by them. Be prepared to stop as they may take off unexpectedly. Avoid startling them.



Snakes

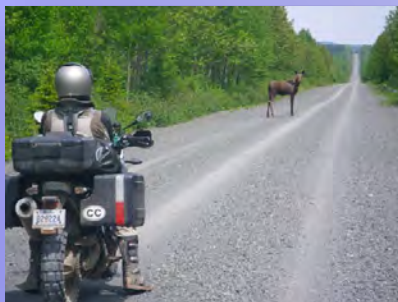


Check your bike before getting on it if you're in a snake area. They will seek warmth at night, like your engine. If you encounter them on the road, swerve around them. If they

are coiled, beware and give them a wide berth. Avoid running over them. It may toss the snake, now mad, onto your bike.

Elk/Moose

Elk and Moose are fearless and aggressive in the Fall and protective of their calves in spring. Scan far ahead if you are in a Elk/Moose area. Stop far enough away from them to allow them to move out of the way and try to be quiet. If any wild animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.



Horses/Mules

Be very cautious in Amish areas where horse drawn implements and buggies are abundant. Pass them safely and quietly. Do not startle the



animals with fast movements and loud noise. Give them as much space as you safely can.

Cows

Best to give any animal that outweighs you the right of way. Noise may scatter the herd however, the bulls may take that as a threat and charge. Yield and wait.



Turtles

Hitting a turtle is like hitting a rock. Staying alert and scanning far ahead will help to avoid them. If they are right in your immediate path, swerve around them. It's a good idea to develop your abil-

ity to swerve before you really need to do it.

Buffalo

They're most aggressive during their mating season in late July and August. Keep your distance. Stay at least 25 yards away. Snorting, hoof stomping, ears laid back is their warning sign to stay away.



If you happen to round a corner and find yourself in close proximity to a buffalo, try to back away slowly and quietly to show you're not a threat and hope your appearance didn't startle it.



Bears

Watch far ahead for bears. Normally, bears will run from a motorcycle, and they are intimidated by the loud sound, make noise. However, nothing intimidates a mama bear with cubs. If you encounter a bear with cubs stay calm and be quiet so you don't pose a threat.

Bottom line: If it outweighs you, has more lug nuts than you, has fangs or claws....avoid it or yield to it!!!



Blue Skies... Sunshine... and Reasons to Ride!

Information from our Website: TopCats.Org



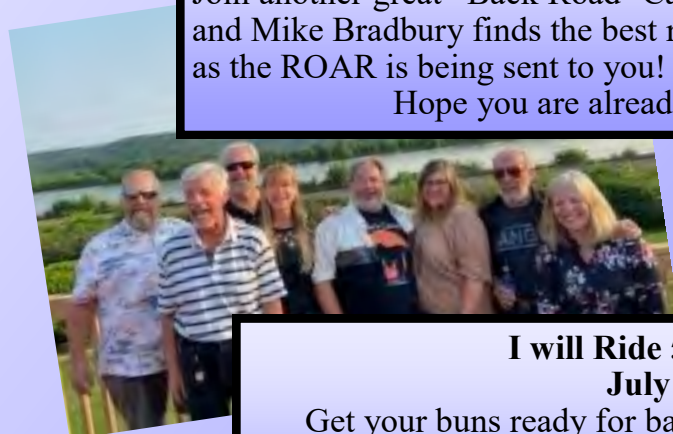
Ride, Rock and Rumble! June 25th, 2023!

Well, the weather changed the date for the event and we moved it to June 25th. The weather threatened again... but it ended up being a beautiful day! But... the turnout was light. Even though... our spirits were bright and we will work on another plan for next year!



Trempealea Trip July 1-3

Join another great "Back Road" Captain! The area is beautiful and Mike Bradbury finds the best roads! This one is taking off as the ROAR is being sent to you!
Hope you are already on the road!



I will Ride 500 Miles! July 8-9

Get your buns ready for baking on a 500 mile run... just because! Gene Rigsby will lead to Duluth, Minnesota to test stamina! It's fun to know how far you can go!
Call Gene: 847.770.9436



General Membership Meeting Minutes May 2nd, 2023

Respectfully Submitted
by: Diana Lanute

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- 7:00 pm, Meeting called to order
- Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements

- 6/10 - Joey Rizzo B-Day
- 6/25 - Bard Board B-Day
- July General Meeting date changed to 7/11
- Guests tonight:
 - Emil Kornecki! He rides an Indian and was part of the first Top Cat ride to Sturgis and has been a part of many Top Cat memories... and the roast was informative! He is rejoining! Yahoo! Welcome Back, Emil!
 - Phil. Saw the information on the website and wanted to ride with others this summer. He rides a HD Road Glide and has been riding since he was young starting with dirt bikes! Welcome, Phil... Hope to see more of you!

V.P. : Ric Case

- Ric gave us a 'Blast from the Past'! Virgo, Ric said, loved to ride through neighborhoods to let the neighbors know about motorcycles. He talked about the fun that Virgo brought along the road. At one point there were over 70 bikes! What a site it was! Ric is a great historian... and enjoys the stories that he is able to tell.

Past President : Wayne Kirkpatrick

Top Cats Forever, forever Top Cats... the three patch motto applies to many former Top Cats like Jim Henniff and Bob Brizzalera. Bard reported that Bob is now in a nursing home. He spoke of many memories that include both of these men.

Safety: Mike Bradbury

- Kaution Korner Safety Tip - (Bard) - (on deck for July) Look for Bard's words on HOW to pack a motorcycle for a long ride!
- Kaution Korner – Wayne reviewed the information that he put in the ROAR for June. See the ROAR for the entire article. The Discussion that came out of the information included many stories of avoiding animals. Lots of good memories and lively stories!

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

The guests were introduced and Ted commented on how important the website is... both Phil and another gentleman have contacted Ted for information! Let's keep it up!

Activities: Rick Agrimonte / Greg Smith

- **Recent activities** – See the pictures in the ROAR for more details! These were all great rides! Hope you didn't miss them!
 - * 5/20 - Picnic Ride - Rigsby's
 - * 5/27 - Potosi - Tom Malia
 - * 6/2-4 - Door County Dreaming - Smith/Kirkpatrick
- **Future activities:** If you missed the other rides... Put THESE on your calendar! The weather has been great... but not as great as the company! Be sure to ride with us!!
 - * 6/11 - Ride, Rock, Rumble - Lanute/Kirkpatrick
 - * 6/24 - Old Route 66 museum - De Lordo
 - * 7/1-3 - Trempleleau - Bradbury
 - * 7/8-9 - I would ride 500 miles - Rigsby
 - * 7/22 - GRASS - Bradbury
 - * 7/30 Sturgis/ 8/8 FRR updates as need - Wayne/Bard

Banquet location review – Noelle Rigsby

- The annual banquet is held each year... The location for next year will be Emmets in Palatine. Saturday Lunch is an option. The membership was asked if they would prefer lunch or dinner with a price difference of about \$2 for a buffet option. Dinner was the majority choice.

Charity: Rich Lanute/Mary Kirkpatrick

- Rich gave a review of what will be needed for Sunday's event. Mary filled in a few extra details. All is ready!

Products: Ted Makarewicz

Get your gear now!!

9.5.... Awards..... shhhh..... Noelle/Mike/Gene

During the Award banquet, there were some awards that were not given out. So tonight, Bard was given his recognition award for the MANY miles he has led the group over the years!!

50/50 Raffle: Andy Haszlkiewicz

Gene Rigsby was the winner and donated the money to NISRA!

**Meeting Adjourned
by Gene Rigsby,
President of Top
Cats Illinois at 7:40**





Board Meeting Minutes May 9th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted
by: Gene Rigsby for
Diana Lanute

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm
- No Immediate needs.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Wayne asked if the new flyer had been sent to the POSSE for dissemination to their clubs? Gene will take care of that and contact them with the new flyer.

VP: Ric Case

Nothing for tonight.

Treasurer: Don DeLordo

Report/review:

Activites: Greg Smith

- Review past / future Events:
- Calendar review - Jun/Jul/Aug, etc..
- * 6/2-4 - Door County Dreaming - Smith/Kirkpatrick
- * 6/24 - Old Route 66 museum - De Lordo
- * 6/11 - Ride, Rock, Rumble - Lanute/Kirkpatrick
- * 7/1-3 - Trempleleau - Bradbury
- * 7/8-9 - I would ride 500 miles - Rigsby
- * 7/22 - GRASS - Bradbury
- * 7/30 Sturgis/ 8/8 FRR updates as need - Wayne/Bard
- Banquet location was discussed. The Onion Pub has raised their prices so Noelle suggested that we make a change. Emmet's is the suggested new place. Mike suggested that we meet soon and have dinner there to see what they offer.
- Gene stated that he would like to lead a ride to the Mendota Corn Festival on August 13th. He will be in touch with the details.
- Gene and Mike discussed with the group the open days on the calendar and will be looking to add some day rides for those days.
- Ted Suggested that Mike lead another ride to head out with those on the way to Sturgis. They would ride along and break out for lunch and ride home.

Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- Mike feels that his safety information at the meeting is being met with indifference. Mike feels that the Road Captains with their KK articles and Safety Tips are sufficient.
- It was suggested that we put the MC Rider videos back in for the new members. They are interesting and lead to good discussions. It was agreed that these add an interactive element to the meetings.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

- New member applications for review. There have been a number of riders who have been on the rides who have not yet joined the club. Mike suggested that on the rides, we suggest that since they join as we all enjoy having them along!
- Ted mentioned that he has two possible riders who are very interested and one that he is trying to contact.
- Product needs
- Mike sent a link for the new Lands End link that everyone can use to choose their own products.
- Ted still has a lot of ready to buy product. He will continue to offer that, but the small shirts may be given out for our members children/grandchildren.

Charity: Rich Lanute

- New R3, Ride for Dreams date is now June 25th. New flyers have been printed and the membership has been asked to spend some time at Woodstock getting the word out.

Secretary:

- **Mary Kirkpatrick** was asked to be the interim secretary as Diana is moving to Florida. The club wishes the Lanutes well on the new journey.
- The club will be looking to find someone to take that position in the 2024 year and they will be added to the ballot for the December election.

Meeting Adjourned by Gene Rigsby at 7:42pm



Our Ride, Rock Rumble....
Getting on the Road!



G.R.A.S.S. CLASS FOR 2023

We have 3 dates for the G.R.A.S.S. Class this year! See the chart below and add these to YOUR calendar!

Come and learn how we ride as a group! All riders, co-riders, non-riders are welcome and all motorcyclists from our great Motorcycling Community are welcome!

If we can train other riders to ride more safely, we all benefit!

Reach out to your motorcycle friends and everyone else in the motorcycle community and invite them to come too! Watch for BLASTS for each date!

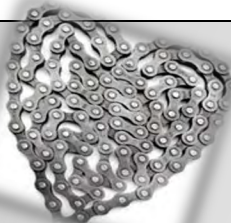
LOCATION	DATE
Keller Williams Success! 600 Hart Rd. #105 Barrington, Il 60010	Success! Sunday, March 26, 2023
American Legion Post 911 515 S. Main St. Wauconda, Il 60084	Saturday, July 22, 2023
Keller Williams 600 Hart Rd. #105 Barrington, Il 60010	Sunday, October 22, 2023

Directions into the Keller Williams site:

Enter in the main door and the first door on your left is the Keller-Williams offices. G.R.A.S.S. will be presented in the conference room at the back of the office.

Directions into the American Legion Post 911 site:

Through the main door and Immediately to your left!



July Birthdays and Anniversaries!

14 Ted Makarewicz
18 Don DeLordo

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities for July!

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

No August Love Stories! (That's all we know! Tell us if we're wrong!)



*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



*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.

Sign-up your favorite merchant today!

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



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
Friday, July 1st — Sunday July 3th	Trempeleau	Speedway, Hwy 12 Volo	Coulee and Driftless Region of Wisconsin	8:15 AM	Bradbury
Saturday, July 8th— Sunday July 9th	I would ride 500 Miles!	Shell Station 2070 Shell Dr. Libertyville	Duluth, MN	8:00 Am	Rigsby
Tuesday, July 11th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Saturday, July 22nd	GRASS Class	Wauconda	American Legion Post 911	8:30 AM	Bradbury/ Case
Sunday, July 30th	Start out for Sturgis	BP at 12 and 176	Sturgis	8:00 AM	Boand
Sunday, July 30th	Grumpy Troll Ride	BP at 12 and 176	Mt. Horeb	8:00 AM	Bradbury
Tuesday, August 1st	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Tuesday, August 8th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Tuesday, August 8th	Front Range Ride	Alex Johnson	Various Destinations and then Home	7:00 AM	W. Kirkpatrick

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