



# ROAR

August, 2023

Volume 23, Issue 8

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Sturgis - The Mecca of Motorcycles  
AND 500 Miles... Looks like it  
was easy for these three!



The Official  
Publication  
Of Top Cats  
Illinois

## Upcoming Events

### AUGUST

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
- 5 BLACKHAWK RACE RIDE
- 8 BOARD MEETING
- 8 FRONT RANGE RIDE

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 GENERAL MEETING
- 12 BOARD MEETING

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





## PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello, Top Cats!

I hope you and your "other" family are well and getting out spending time together while the weather is good. Summer took so long to arrive, now summer is almost over... well it seems like it is, so don't wait to get out riding with your Top Cat family, too!!!

More great opportunities to ride are available this year and more are being added. 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 July, thanks to our Road Captains. They are the backbone of a **RIDING CLUB**.

**Trempealeau 7/1-7/3.** Mike Bradbury led us out for another great weekend in the Driftless region. We rode on some very ride worthy familiar roads and saw some beautiful familiar places. Always a great time and the weather was terrific to boot.

**500 miles 7/8-7/9.** I led the "I Would Ride 500 Miles" this year to Duluth Minnesota. The northern scenery and the weather was great. We had a small group but big fun and lots of laughs. Who will lead us out next year and to where??? Any case, sign me up!

**Sturgis 7/30.** Bard and his group are headed off on their adventure to the Black Hills Motorcycle Rally (aka. Sturgis). A few changes this year on the way out, but lots of great scenic roads to look forward to.

**Grumpy Troll 7/30.** Mike has also decided to add the **Grumpy Troll** ride back into the lineup this year. For which, I am glad. So, who's the Grumpy Troll...??

### Coming in August...

#### **Ride to the races at Blackhawk Farms Raceway (8/5).**

I was able to sneak in a ride for August 5th to see the AHRMA (American Historic Racing Motorcycle Association) races at BFR. Great place and action. Should be a lot of fun. Check out the calendar for details.

**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.

There is still room on the August calendar for any RCs looking for an open spot. Get it now!! Let's fill it up. **And** to our Top Cat family. Check the Top Cats calendar **NOW** for details and get **ready to RIDE!!!**

As usual, watch for blasts and check the Top Cats event calendar regularly and by all means **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](mailto:Gene.rigsby@gmail.com), or phone, 847-770-9425.

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

Gene, I may take you up on that 500 mile challenge... Cape Girardeau, Missouri along the Mississippi. It may have to be a 3 day ride, though-to have some time to see the sights!

[\(50\) Road Trip #776 - US-61 S - Missouri - Cape Girardeau - YouTube](#)

Mary K.





## KAUTION KORNER

### TIPS for a Long Trip!

By: Mary Kirkpatrick  
Senior Road Captain



This may be too late for those who are traveling to Sturgis, but for those of you who are planning other long-distance rides, this information may help you to be prepared!

What is a long-distance ride? For some it may be 2-3 days with 200-300 miles each day. Someone else may feel it isn't long-distance until you reach 3-4 thousand miles for the trip. For this article, let's talk about a trip where you're going to be leaving your 'usual' travel patterns. Here are some tips for you to use and...be prepared!

(From [Tips for Long-Distance Motorcycle Trips \(aarpforemost.com\)](http://aarpforemost.com))

- ◆ **Check your Insurance!** Know if your insurance has towing coverage, rental, and check the coverage amounts to be sure that they will cover any challenges that you may encounter.
- ◆ **Prepare Your Bike.** Completely inspect your motorcycle and give it a thorough tune-up.
  - Change the oil and filter
  - Check the air and fuel filters
  - Check all fluid levels
  - Adjust throttle and brake cables
  - Adjust and lube the drive chain (if applicable)
  - Check tire pressure and tread
  - Check all gauges, lights, horn and signals
  - Visually inspect the entire bike for any broken or worn parts
- ◆ For more in-depth maintenance information, refer to your owner's manual.
- ◆ If you're not comfortable preparing your bike yourself, bring it to a qualified motorcycle technician before your trip.
- ◆ **Remember Your Tool Kit.** Make sure you have what you need to make quick adjustments or repairs on the road. Bring a flat repair kit too.
- ◆ **Do Testing.** Test all new accessories and gear before your trip, not during.
- ◆ **Pack Light and Bring Only What You Need.** Distribute the weight evenly. Keep heavy items low to ensure the motorcycle maintains a low center of gravity. Plan for a way to secure your belongings at stops. Bring your cell phone too.
- ◆ **Dress Safely.** You and your passenger need to wear proper safety gear: helmet; eye protection; a protective jacket; long, thick pants; boots and gloves. Help other motorists see you by wearing brightly colored outer

layers and helmet.

- ◆ **Prepare for Weather Conditions.** Bring along extra clothing layers or an electric vest for warmth. Remember your rain gear and put it on before it starts raining.
- ◆ **Know Your Limits.** Stop often to get off of your bike and stretch. Plan for an adequate number of stops, especially if you don't have much experience with long rides.
- ◆ **Take it Easy.** As much as possible, try to stay off of the brakes and avoid any extremes with the throttle. This allows for a less-tiring, more relaxed ride.
- ◆ **Stop if You Feel Tired.** Don't rely on caffeine to keep you awake. Operating a motorcycle when your senses are less than sharp is extremely hazardous. And of course, never drink and ride.
- ◆ **Eat Right.** Eat well and often enough to keep up your energy. Be sure to bring water and energy bars or trail mix. Eat and drink before you feel hungry or thirsty.
- ◆ **Get Gas Before You Need It.** In rural areas, you may travel several hundred miles without passing a gas station. Don't wait until you run low to fill up.
- ◆ **Plan Ahead.** Each night, go over your plans for the next day. Get a feel for the route, how long you think you'll ride and places where you might want to stop.
- ◆ **Keep it Fun.** Enjoy the scenery, welcome meeting new people and experience the freedom of the road!

### ENHANCE YOUR ENDURANCE (FROM DEB GILLE AND WAYNE KIRKPATRICK)



Everyone has a different fitness level. Improvement in your lungs and heart health can be achieved by performing aerobic exercises. It will increase oxygenation of your body and help nutrients flow. Experts

recommend doing aerobic training for at least 30 minutes three times per week

You can boost your endurance by doing simple exercises like walking or light running. Swimming and cycling are other activities that will help increase endurance. Before starting any cardiovascular program, consider consulting your physician if there are any health issues.

(Continued on page 4)





KK continued...

## GLUTES STRENGTH

If you're thin and have a "weak butt," there is a higher probability of developing back, and hip pain during the ride. There are many simple workouts that will strengthen your glutes and back.

Your hips are the genetic muscle of your body. They accumulate fat and muscles, which you can reshape by working out. If you are super skinny, consider gaining pounds that will add up a layer of fat which serves as cushioning. If you already have it, do physical training like body weight and weightlifting exercises. I would recommend squats, planks and deadlifts.

## ACQUIRING & MAINTAINING FLEXIBILITY

Performing stretching exercises on a daily basis is a highly effective method of improving and maintaining flexibility. You need high flexibility at your back, neck, thighs and hamstrings as well. Having flexibility in your body helps with maintaining proper posture.

Making your own stretching program starts with a warm-up session of 5-10 minutes, followed by aerobic activity, like cycling. While performing those stretching workouts, remember to adopt correct body posture. Not doing so can cause injury. Consistency and commitment plays a major role in achieving flexibility before you get on the road. It is not possible, naturally, to improve the flexibility over the course of two days before a motorcycle trip, so start several weeks in advance.

## CORE STRENGTH

Your core consists of the muscles that you use the most while riding a motorcycle. Core muscles are located in your abdominal region and back and cover the spine. Most people relate it with body building.

Being a motorcyclist, it is essentially important to have strengthened back and abdominal muscles as they help with maintaining balance and stability. Yoga and pilates are the effective exercises to strengthen your body's core body strength. Moreover, it tones your abdominal muscles and improves your appearance.

## BEFORE HITTING THE ROAD

Refrain from drinking alcohol before your trip, as it requires many hours for regaining muscle control and being completely sober. Moreover, consuming alcohol before a long motorcycle trip might lead to a disaster, as it drains the body's hydration and it will cause you to lose focus. Remember, we do not drink and ride. A beer with lunch is acceptable but, plan on parking the bikes before opening the bottle.

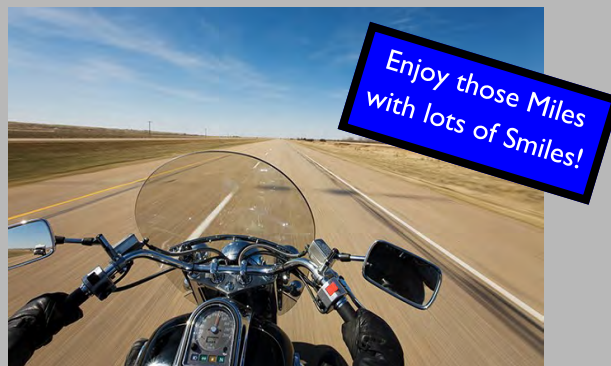
Around 60% of your body is composed of water, so it is highly suggested to avoid dehydration. Make sure you hydrate yourself properly before getting on your ride. Start doing it a few days before your trip.

## SIMPLE TIPS TO MAKE THINGS EASY ALONG THE WAY!

- ◆ Take along some of those dryer sheets that make

clothes smell better. They work well when you pack a few in your luggage to keep things from smelling stale.

- ◆ Carry some trash bags. They work well for carrying old clothes that you haven't been able to wash yet.
- ◆ Space savers: Roll your clothes (shirts, pants, etc) instead of folding them. They take up less space rolled. Or use the storage bags that allows you to squeeze the air out of the bag..
- ◆ Pack socks or any clothes in your stored boots or shoes. It saves space.
- ◆ A few zip ties may come in handy. For what? You never know.
- ◆ Pack with small, travel - size toiletries like toothpaste, shampoo, hairspray, etc. Use the ones that are in your hotel rooms!
- ◆ Zip lock bags are great for storing used clothes, socks, etc.
- ◆ Remember, fill out some USPS mailing labels so you can send old / new clothes and stuff home.
- ◆ Look for laundry services along your way – or schedule an hour at a laundrymat.
- ◆ Double check your first - aid kit to make sure that everything is up to date.
- ◆ Remember, on any motorcycle trip, there is absolutely nothing that money can't fix. Carry current credit cards, travelers checks and a bit of cash for those items that you may have forgotten.
- ◆ Never pack your saddle bags crammed full. Leave space for items you buy on the way out.
- ◆ Riders remember that you might need an octane booster when we stop at gas stations that only have "Tractor" gas i.e. 85 - 89 octane.
- ◆ Don't take your entire Snap-On tool box. Your bike's tool kit along with a road-side recovery membership, should solve any mechanical problem.
- ◆ Pack ear plugs, sunglasses/eye protection, sunscreen (recommend 35 SPF or greater), night eye protection.
- ◆ A neck scarf / bandanna / tube helps protect your neck from sunburn.
- ◆ Keep the scarfs with cooling beads in your pack for those very hot days!
- ◆ Just in case, bring an IPass / Easy Pass for toll roads.





## Oil Spots

By Traveler



### Watch Out! Watch Out! Watch Out!

Tesla plans to expand their use of dangerous technology in Illinois by testing their experimental full-service autonomous driving technology on public roadways. They plan to do this in 14 additional cities including **Elgin, Illinois**. They announced new positions for drivers to collect data from the use of their autopilot and full-service driving systems. This technology was the subject of a blockbuster Washington Post Report that revealed TESLA's full-service driving & autopilot driving systems have killed more drivers than previously disclosed. This included four motorcyclists, three of whom were run over at highway speeds by TESLA vehicles using these driving modes.

The specific threat posed to bikers by Tesla vehicles was recently recognized by former NHTSA Senior Safety Advisor Missy Cummings who stated, "It's very dangerous for motorcycles to be around Teslas". Missy continues to be active in the autonomous vehicle field as a professor at George Mason University's College of Engineering & Computing.

In an effort to protect the motorcyclists of Illinois and encourage responsible development of autonomous technology in Illinois, ABATE of Illinois is calling on the Governor and legislative leaders to convene an Autonomous Vehicle Working Group to develop legislation that will both protect the public and help keep Illinois a leader in developing the next generation of transportation technologies. This group should have representatives from the manufacturing and industry sectors, transportation safety advocates and professionals, and transportation advocacy groups representing all modes of transportation and road users.

### BMW Motorrad Presents ConnectedRide Smartglasses

BMW Motorrad ConnectedRide Smartglasses are motorcycle goggles that provide a heads-up display with technology from the automotive sector and project all relevant data, such as navigation, speed or gear, directly into the rider's field of vision in real time.

The glasses can be easily connected to a smartphone via Bluetooth. The projection can be positioned, and the settings can be selected before the ride or during, via the multicontroller on the handlebars.

The BMW Smartglasses can be adapted to fit numerous helmets and face shapes. The lithium-ion battery enables up to 10 hours of operation.

For riders who wear prescription glasses, the lenses can be ground and adjusted to the required visual acuity (up to a max of four diopters) by an optician using an RX adapter. For those who wear contact lenses, the Smartglasses can be used normally. The set also includes a case and a USB charging cable.

#### Highlights

- Two sets of lenses (one tinted and one 85% transparent) integrated light sensor, certified UVA/UVB filter
- RX adapter for adjusting the lenses to the required visual acuity (up to a max of four diopters) by an optician
- Real-time GPS data transfer from app to Smartglasses
- Heads-up function for navigation with individual display
- Display of speed, speed limit, gear and navigation (reduced arrow display or detailed navigation with street names, intersections and precise directions)
- ♦ Anthracite frame

**U.S. Availability**  
The BMW ConnectedRide Smartglasses are expected to arrive in the U.S. later in 2023 and to be available in most states. Pricing and more detailed U.S. information will be available closer to on sale date.

### MOTORCYCLE SHIPPING HOW-TO GUIDE



*The following is an excerpt from an article by Clint Lawrence, founder of Motorcycle Shippers.*

Figuring out how to ship your motorcycle may seem challenging, especially if it's your first time.

Whether you're relocating, selling your bike, or going on an extended trip, shipping your motorcycle can be a convenient and reliable option. We'll walk you through the essential steps to ensure a smooth shipping process. From packing and preparation to choosing the right company and understanding insurance without a deductible requirement.



(Continued on pg 6)

**Oil Spots, continued...****Motorcycle Preparation**

Getting your bike and yourself ready will help protect your investment and get your bike delivered faster.

- ✦ Clean your motorcycle thoroughly and inspect for pre-existing damage.
- ✦ Remove personal belongings and secure any loose parts.
- ✦ Make sure you have chosen locations where a truck can navigate the streets for pick-up and delivery.

**Choosing a Shipping Method**

Understand the different shipping methods available (e.g., open transport, enclosed transport).

- ✦ Open transport is usually less expensive but means your motorcycle will be exposed to weather conditions. Most enclosed transport options use large trailers that protect your bike during transit. NOTE: Never put a bike cover on your bike when you trailer it for long distances. The cover will chaff your paint/chrome.



- ✦ Factors such as cost, distance, weather conditions, and the value of your motorcycle are important considerations here.
- ✦ Determine whether terminal-to-terminal or door-to-door shipping is more suitable for you. Some companies have options to use their terminals in order to help facilitate the move, making things a bit quicker, easier and sometimes cheaper. Understanding Transport Insurance

**It's your choice to insure your shipment, know your options**

- ✦ Contact your current insurance company, some offer comprehensive coverage while your motorcycle is being transported.
- ✦ Take the time to research and compare insurance options offered by the different shipping companies.
- ✦ Ensure the insurance coverage includes comprehensive protection for potential damage during transit.
- ✦ Verify that the insurance does not have a deductible requirement.
- ✦ Understand the claims process and necessary documentation in case of damage or loss.

**Selecting the Right Carrier**

As you would expect, Google is a great resource for finding a motorcycle shipping company

- ✦ Try searching "Motorcycle Shipping". Remember, the top 3 results in Google are sponsored ads and may or may not be motorcycle specialists
- ✦ Look for the company's Operating Authority (Federal License) as responsible companies will provide this information. You can validate their license by entering the MC number here on [fmcsa.dot.gov](http://fmcsa.dot.gov), the US government's official website.



- ✦ Verify that the company has listed its physical address and phone number for reliable customer service. Be wary if this information is not available.

- ✦ Look for companies with approved third-party

ratings or customer reviews to help ensure their credibility.

- ✦ Check to see if the carrier offers online tracking to monitor the progress of your shipment.
- ✦ Opt for professional companies that provide instant online quotes and convenient online ordering
- ✦ Take price into consideration as cheap motorcycle shipping options are not always the right choice

**Additional Recommendations**

- ✦ Providing a quote shouldn't be a complicated task. Avoid submitting your email address to websites that don't offer you an instant quote. They may sell your lead to random companies and your email will get bombarded.
- ✦ Choose a professional motorcycle shipping company that can handle the bike with fuel, eliminating the need to drain the fuel before shipping.

You have now gained a solid understanding of the step-by-step process for motorcycle shipping. By following this comprehensive guide, you'll be well-prepared to ship your beloved motorcycle with confidence. Remember to take your time, research your options, and choose a reputable carrier to ensure a smooth and hassle-free experience. Happy shipping!



(Continued on pg. 7)





Oil Spots, contin-

## Most Ex- pensive Motorcy- cles 2023...So Far



Well-heeled buyers looking for a high-end bike can afford the premium components, beautiful finishes, and exclusivity of the bikes assembled anywhere here, but these are the bikes you can buy in the US.

These bikes range from \$40,000 to \$155,000, so in order of price, here's a list of the top most expensive production bikes.



### **2023 Combat Motors Wraith | \$155,000**

At the top of the charts is the re-designed Wraith, which features a frame carved from solid

billet aluminum and power coming from a 132ci (2,163cc) S&S X-Wedge 56-degree V-twin good for a claimed 111 bhp at 4,500 rpm, with 143 lb.-ft. of torque at 3,500 rpm. Claimed top speed is over 160 mph. The machined aluminum monocoque chassis supports a massive, curved backbone to carry the fuel, and it all rolls on carbon fiber BST wheels, with fully adjustable rear suspension and Beringer brakes. Combat says it has limited stock available and most of its other models are already sold out.

### **2023 Arch 1s | \$128,000**

Keanu Reeves and Gard Hollinger's boutique motorcycle company makes meticulously detailed, bespoke V-twin muscle bikes out of a compact LA-area workshop, and while the \$94,000 KRGT-1 performance cruiser is its flagship, Arch Motorcycle also launched a second pro-



duction model, the sportier, sleeker, and more expensive Arch 1s, last year. Chief differences on the 1s include a new chassis with a steeper rake and shorter wheelbase, but it's still powered by the same burly, dual-cam 124ci S&S V-twin seen in the KRGT-1, nestled into a steel and aluminum chassis machined in-house. The 1s is the company's first production single-sided swingarm motorcycle (hence the name), and it's also the first time Arch has gone with a mid-control arrangement.

Other bits include:

- ♦ Fully adjustable, Archspec Öhlins suspension,
- ♦ ISR brakes with dual six-piston calipers up front,
- ♦ Arch-designed 2-into-1 stainless steel exhaust capped by a carbon fiber Yoshimura muffler.

The Arch team works closely with the customer to tailor each bike to their personal aesthetics and ergonomics, The 1s is tagged at \$128,000 per build.



The Curtiss 1 is definitely not your average showroom sled. In fact, the high-concept electric isn't technically available yet, though the order book is open (deliveries are expected next year). The

hook with the new 1 model is that it allows owners to tailor geometry, scale, and the ergonomics of their bike to whatever they want. With the 1 featuring multilink front and rear suspension with adjustments for trail and ride height, owners can fine-tune machines to their exact dimensions, while the handlebar and footpegs can also be adjusted in multiple ways.

list of radical features includes an exotic billet aluminum and titanium chassis, a 217 hp Axial Flux electric motor, and an upgradeable Curtiss Hex battery pack. Initial peak power estimates are 110 hp and up to 147.5 lb.-ft. of torque, with range varying from 120 miles (city) to 70 (highway).



### **2023 Indian Challenger RR | \$92,299**

Indian's Challenger RR will set you back a cool \$93,000. Built to 2022 MotoAmerica King of the Baggers series race standards but equipped with the same (sort of)

PowerPlus V-twin engine as the stock Challenger, the RR model nevertheless features all kinds of modifications to the cylinders, cams, and throttle bodies, to name a few.

(Continued on page 8)



## Oil Spots, continued...

The Challenger RR also brings a bucketload of one-off parts, but the bike that's available for sale to consumers runs a similar hot-rodded V-twin with a 112 CID big-bore cylinder/piston kit along with CNC-ported cylinder heads, S&S camshafts, and an S&S air intake system. S&S billet adjustable triple clamps and Öhlins FGR 250 fork are matched to an S&S race-modded swingarm and a TTX Öhlins rear shock, and race-spec Brembo M4 front calipers bite down on dual 330mm rotors. At the back is a Hayes rear caliper with an EBC rear rotor to further enhance the braking capabilities but, this bagger is not street legal.

**2023 Boss Hoss Limited Super Sport Big Block | \$68,900**

New ownership and full vehicle type approval from the European Commission (EC), effectively made Boss Hoss Cycles Inc. the only globally approved V-8 motorcycle manufacturer. Its latest release, the Boss Hoss Super Sport is the first new model design by Boss Hoss since 2000.

The insanely outsize specs are mind-boggling, with the 496 Big Block engine (that's 8,128cc) good for a claimed 600 hp and 569 lb.-ft. of head-snapping torque. Wheelbase is a trucklike 80 inches, and the fuel tank holds 8.5 gallons of dino juice.

Of course, you can opt for the base Super Sport model which offers smaller displacements, like a 454 small block engine (just 7,439cc!). All Super Sports have a two-speed semi-automatic transmission.

**2023 Harley-Davidson CVO Road Glide Limited Anniversary Edition | \$51,999**

Harley's priciest bike can be found in its premium Custom Vehicles Operation line, where an exclusive group of models already boast top-shelf paint, up-spec componentry, the latest electronics, and some of the finest finishes you'll find anywhere. At the top of the list is the 2023 CVO Road Glide Limited Anniversary model, which carries an eye-watering tag of \$51,999.

Since 2023 is Harley-Davidson's 120th anniversary year,

The Motor Company has made a big celebratory statement with this bike, placing a Twin-Cooled Milwaukee-Eight 117 V-twin at the heart and surrounding it with the signature frame-mounted fairing, 49mm Showa Dual Bending Valve fork, a 19-inch Tomahawk wheel, Brembo brakes, and a premium Boom! Box GTS infotainment system with premium Rockford Fosgate sound. The finishes are exquisite, with a stunning black and Heirloom Red anniversary paint job, Alcantara-covered seats, and glass-filled art-deco flying eagle motifs and a laser-etched serialization on the tank. The included Reflex Defensive Rider Systems (RDRS)—an electronic safety suite that includes cornering ABS, cornering traction control, Hill Hold, and more—are designed to match motorcycle performance to available traction during acceleration, deceleration, and braking.

The bike is limited to just 1,500 units worldwide.

**2023 Harley-Davidson CVO Street Glide | \$42,999**

Harley's CVO line contains some of the most expensive production bikes available to the regular consumer. The CVO Street



Glide underwent a significant redesign this year, with the iconic batwing fairing getting a major face-lift, while the rest of the bodywork also got resculpted. New features also include fully integrated LED lighting and a new 12.3-inch TFT color touchscreen display.

There's even bigger news in the engine room, with the new CVO Street Glide now packing the highest-displacement powertrain to be factory-installed on a Harley tourer. The Milwaukee-Eight VVT 121 engine features liquid-cooled cylinder heads, variable valve timing (VVT), and a new intake tract, said to produce more power and torque than the Milwaukee-Eight 117 engine. Ride modes, cornering ABS, and a premium sound system add to the list of premium features.

As you'd expect on a CVO bike, the finishes are world-class, with a Platinum base color and satin pinstriping or a two-tone Whiskey base and airbrushed details and pinstriping.

(Continued on page 9)







Oil Spots, continued...

## 2023 Indian Pursuit Elite | \$39,999

Much like Harley's CVO line, Indian's Elite series also features bikes loaded with premium features, the latest electronics, plush amenities, and unique finishes. The new 2023 Pursuit Elite is not just a better-looking version of the base Pursuit model (itself based on the Challenger bagger), you get lots of bonuses along with the aluminum frame, chassis-mounted fairing, and touring amenities. The cargo trunk with an integrated passenger backrest, heated grips, and touring seat are still there, but the limited-edition Elite also includes electronically adjustable Fox rear suspension (allowing you to adjust preload right from the dashboard) as well as Smart Lean Technology using a six-axis Bosch IMU to tune traction control and ABS as standard features.

Like the base model, the Pursuit Elite is also equipped with Indian's familiar 7-inch touchscreen powered by the Ride Command system, while backlit switch cubes, a Pathfinder Adaptive LED headlight, and Pathfinder LED driving lights help brighten up night rides.

The finishing touches include a swank metallic paint job with bronze accents, all augmented by color-matched Elite badging. MSRP for the Indian Pursuit Elite (available in limited numbers) is \$39,999.



## The Early Years!

Listen to a tale of the fun first years of Top Cat's in Sturgis!



## V.P.'s Vision

Sturgis 97...Right after the first of the year of Top Cats!

As you read, you'll see that many of these stops have become part of our Top Cats traditions! For those of you who have traveled on this trip will recognize those places... and as for the other destinations mentioned, well... let them inspire you to join this trip and add on some of your own places to investigate! There is so much beauty this area has to offer motorcyclists! I advise you to do it while you still can!!!

Bard "Judge" Board, Terry Kumro, Jim "Tiger" Irving and myself met every month planning the route, including where we wanted to stay and what type of roads we wanted to experience. We added riders Eric E and Harper's Head Coach John Elias.

Sturgis starts the first full week in August, and we wanted to get there early. So, our final itinerary had us leaving Barrington/Lake Zurich area the last Wednesday morning of July, riding to Mankato Minnesota and staying the night. Then the next day we rode to Pierre South Dakota. Finally riding on Friday riding through the Badlands to Sturgis.

The Badlands are a great ride. It has a full array of sweepers and some marvelous scenery.

The three riders new to the



Badlands on this trip decided to view the sites while Bard, Jim and Terry decided to aggressively ride the sweepers. At one point from an overlook, we could see them stopped at a much lower elevation and could even talk to them.

We continued onto Wall Drug which has a great history. It was established in the thirties as a resting location for tourists, when traveling in cars over the new highways became popular! The draw was their offer of free ice water and because of this, business grew and it is now quite a town with many souvenirs.



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(Continued on page 10)

**VP's Vision Continued**

We then continued to the Alex Johnson, in Rapid City, our home away from home for the next five days. We visited all the major attractions. Town of Keystone and Mount Rushmore. Crazy horse where Korczak Zioldowski carved a tribute to the great Indian Chief on the side of a mountain. More great sites in Custer State Park. If you go... do not get too close to those buffalo and anger them as they just might charge you! We Rode the twisties of Needles Highway and Iron Mountain Road. We Saw Devils Tower, visited Deadwood's saloon # 10 where Wild Bill Cody was shot, and did some very small gambling. That all happened before Tuesday evening.

For me, it was time to pick up my wife, Jacquie at 10pm at the Rapid City



airport. We dropped her luggage at the Alex and headed for the town of Sturgis for the nightlife. Back to the hotel around 1:30 am for just a little shut eye. Up at 5am to go back to Sturgis and buy t-shirts and memorabilia for the family and folks back home. We then continued the adventure as we caught up with the rest of the Top Cats at Spearfish Canyon as we rode into Casper Wyoming to stay the night.

The next day we split into two groups: One went to the Remington Museum and the other for some white-water rafting fun. We headed for Red Lodge and stopped to make snowballs out the left-over winter



snow drifts. Then, Jacquie and I headed to Billings MT riding the roads of Montana which do not have speed limits, to see my cousin Lori's Victoria home and have dinner. Back to the hotel around 2am. We got an early start in the morning for the next day's riding adventure into Yellowstone State Park to enjoy Old Faithful. We checked into our NOT air-conditioned room at the South Gate lodge of Yellowstone and headed to the air-conditioned lodge for an evening of sharing our observations... and of course, dinner. We woke up to 38-degree temp in Our room.... Which explained why they are not air conditioned. We then rode to Casper for our next night lodging.... A whole lot packed into this trip!

Jacquie took the shuttle to fly home from Casper, Wyoming and I started the day's ride home in the freezing rain at 6:30am to catch up with the rest of our clan. We rode in the continuing rain and mustered on to Barrington to greet the little woman and show her I was safe.



Thus ended 13 days - riding 4300 miles and my first long distance experience.

Your then Road Warrior,  
Vice President of Top Cats







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

Information from our Website: [TopCats.Org](http://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! Even so, the turnout was small. No matter 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 was exceptional as usual! Good people good roads! An awesome Ride!





## General Membership Meeting Minutes July 11th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted  
by: Jane Smith  
For  
Mary Kirkpatrick

### President's Section (Gene)

- ♦ The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. sharp.
- ♦ The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### Announcements:

- ♦ Birthdays for Ted Makarewicz on 7/14 and Don DeLordo on 7/18 were acknowledged.

There were no guests in attendance.

### V.P. (Ric)

- ♦ Ric reminisced about one of the original pickup rides where the road captain rode to the first house, picked up a rider, then went to the next house, etc. and then rode to a lunch stop. Article is in the July Roar.

### Past President (Wayne)

- ♦ Wayne talked about the Independence Ride for the Oscar Mike Foundation at Woodstock Harley-Davidson on July 9<sup>th</sup> that featured Paul Tuttle of Orange County Choppers. Was \$45/bike and about 25 people were there.
- ♦ Harley-Davidson 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event In Milwaukee is July 14-16<sup>th</sup>. Price is about \$232.00 for a 2-day pass.

### Safety (Mike B.)

- ♦ Kaution Korner Safety Tip was to be summarized by Bard, but he was not prepared to do so. Read his Tip in the July Roar.
- ♦ GRASS class on 7/22 – no RSVP's have been received so class will probably be cancelled.
- ♦ Mary is scheduled to do the Safety Tip for August.

### Membership (Ted)

- ♦ Two candidates are looking to join. Brian Kemper joined us on the Route 66 ride. He wasn't aware of the change of date to the July General Meeting so he will attend the August meeting. Ben Low is in Hong Kong this month so will try to attend the August meeting also.

### Activities (Rick A./Greg)

#### Recent Activities

- ♦ Trempealeau Ride (7/1-3) – Was a lot of fun. There were 14 bikes and 19 people attended. We had dinner (as usual) at the supper club. Roads and weather were

outstanding.

- ♦ I Would Ride 500 Miles (7/8-9) – Three riders attended (Mike B, Gene, and Andy Hay). Encountered one bad 8-10 mile backup, but otherwise was a good ride overall.

#### Future Activities

- ♦ Sturgis Ride (7/30 – 8/7) – Bard will be leading the annual ride to Sturgis meeting at the BP Gas Station in Wauconda (Hwy 12 and 176) at 8:00 am. He mentioned the usual stops along the way.
- ♦ Grumpy Troll Ride (7/30) – The start of the ride will coexist with Bard's group riding to Sturgis. The group will then veer off on their own (under Mike B's leadership) after the first stop and head to Mt. Horeb, WI. for lunch at the Grumpy Troll Brew Pub. Ride will be about 250 miles.
- ♦ Front Range Ride (8/8-8/14) – Wayne will lead this ride from Sturgis to Colorado and other points of interest.
- ♦ Blackhawk Farms Raceway (8/5) – Gene will be leading this ride. More info will follow in the coming weeks.

### Charity

- ♦ No discussion was held as Rich L. and Mary were absent.
- ♦ Raffle prizes from the raffle drawing at the Charity Ride were awarded to Bard (model motorcycle and a gun range gift card) as he was not in attendance at the drawing. Also, Andy Hay won a model motorcycle at the Ride. Since a lot of raffle tickets were not sold, we will still continue to sell them at the meeting tonight and at other activities to build up the pot. We will then raffle the gun safe and shooting range membership at a later date.

### Products (Ted)

- ♦ Merchandise is still available.

### 50/50 Raffle (Andy H.)

No 50/50 tonight as Andy was absent.

**Meeting was adjourned at  
7:22 pm  
(short meeting!)**







## This One's a HIT! AI and Sturgis!

Submitted by: Traveler and Son



I used to think that artificial intelligence was something you often encountered in a road-side biker bar or that frequently defined a "Poser".

Looking further into AI, one of my inquisitive off – spring found an AI app and asked it to come up with a song about riding a motorcycle from Chicago to Sturgis. Holy S...! This is incredible.

Here is what that AI app came up with:

*(Verse 1) In the heart of the city, where the engines roar, We'll mount our steel horses, ready to explore, From Chicago's skyline, we'll break free, On a wild adventure, just you and me.*

*(Pre-Chorus) Leather jackets gleaming, as we hit the road, The wind in our faces, a story yet untold, With every twist and turn, we'll feel alive, As we ride to Sturgis, where dreams will thrive.*

*(Chorus) We're riding motorcycles, from Chicago to Sturgis, Through the open highways, where freedom urges, With the thunderous engines, we'll conquer the miles, Roaring like lions, beneath the sun's smiles.*

*(Verse 2) Through the rolling plains, we'll chase the setting sun, As the world rushes by, we'll feel like we've won, From the Great Lakes' shores to the prairie's embrace, We'll leave our worries behind, without a trace.*

*(Pre-Chorus) The rumble of the engines, a symphony of power, As we ride through the night, hour after hour, With every passing mile, our spirits ignite, On this journey of a lifetime, we'll find our light.*

*(Chorus) We're riding motorcycles, from Chicago to Sturgis, Through the open highways, where freedom urges, With the thunderous engines, we'll conquer the miles, Roaring like lions, beneath the sun's smiles.*

*(Bridge) Through the valleys and mountains, we'll forge our way, Through the storms and the rain, we'll never sway, Together we'll conquer, no challenge too tough, As we ride side by side, our hearts will be enough.*

*(Chorus) We're riding motorcycles, from Chicago to Sturgis, Through the open highways, where freedom urges, With the thunderous engines, we'll conquer the miles, Roaring like lions, beneath the sun's smiles.*

*(Outro) As we reach Sturgis, our souls will be free, United by the road, forever you and me, From Chicago to Sturgis, this journey we'll cherish, Riding motorcycles, our spirits will never perish.*

Now, the real question is...who owns this song? Us or the app?



Come On,  
Boys!  
Ready to  
GROOVE?



## 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
<del>Keller Williams Success! 600 Hart Rd. #105 Barrington, IL 60010</del>	<del>Success! Sunday, March 26, 2023</del>
<del>American Legion Post 911 515 S. Main St. Wauconda, IL 60084</del>	<del>Saturday, July 22, 2023</del>
Keller Williams 600 Hart Rd. #105 Barrington, IL 60010	Sunday, October 22, 2023

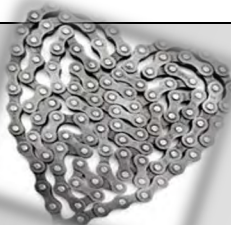
**Directions into the Keller Williams site:**

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!



### August Birthdays and Anniversaries!

16 Jane Smith

24 Greg Smith

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!)



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*And Be Thankful!*

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Can we find ways to continue to  
help them?







## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
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 Meting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Saturday, August 5th	Blackhawk Farms Raceway	South Beloit	Blackhawk Farms Raceway	TBD	Rigsby
Tuesday, August 8th	Board Meting	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
Tuesday, September 5th	General Meting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Tuesday, September 12th	Board Meting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby

All ride and event information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at [www.TopCats.org](http://www.TopCats.org).



### Barrington Library

#### Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway  
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300

[balibrary.org](http://balibrary.org)

See the Top Cats Archive

## FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

### Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

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

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

Submit your ad along with contact information to the ROAR editors at [ROAR@TOPCATS.org](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)



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