



# ROAR

April, 2025

Volume 24, Issue 4

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## Upcoming Events

### APRIL

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
- 6 GRASS CLASS
- 8 BOARD MEETING
- 26 OPEN HOUSE
- 27 KICKOFF RIDE

### MAY

- 6 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 WAUCONDA BIKE BLESS
- 13 BOARD MEETING
- 31 DOUBLE CLUTCH LUNDH

Time to Ride!  
Where to?  
See the Calendar!



The Official  
Publication  
Of Top Cats  
Illinois

Talk to Greg Smith and Jim Wiseman and get your Ideas on the Calendar!





## PRESIDENT'S POINT

### And Now a Word from your President...



Hello, Top Cats!!

I am hoping you and your families are well and enjoying a bit of the good weather we have been getting lately....

The 2025 riding season is shaping up very nicely. Now is the time to review your bike, gear and yourself and work on any of those items that need attention. Plan to get out for a solo ride or 2 to get yourself in tuned to riding again and ready for group riding.

June 14th is the Ride for Dreams. ALL members should plan to attend and register for the ride, so get it on your calendar right now... Go on...

We really need a big push to get more attendance at the **Ride for Dreams**, so please talk to people about it, tell your friends and family, too... Are you a member of another riding club? Arrange a satellite ride to our charity ride to bring those folks along. I am willing to attend a club meeting to talk about our charity and the Ride for Dreams, if you could arrange it or just put me in contact with the person I would need to make arrangements with. It's that simple.

#### Activities from March...

**Mar 15)** Road Captain annual meeting - Bradbury. The meeting was very good and productive. We added 12 rides to the calendar, including 2 multi-day rides... Lots of choices. We also made some changes to the GRASS presentation which we got to use the very next weekend. See below.

**Mar 23)** GRASS class - Bradbury. We had a great turnout for this class, which always makes teaching it worthwhile. EVERYONE should make time to take GRASS at least one time a year. Remember, taking this class is not just beneficial for you. It benefits all the riders around you. I am sure you would want them to be well trained too, so plan to attend and bring a buddy or 2.

#### Activities for April...

**Apr 26)** WSHD Spring open house-Rigsby. This is another opportunity for you to come out to the dealership and promote the Top Cats and the Ride for Dreams. Like the last event, we will have a table with displays running pictures of our adventures and highlighting NISRA. We will pass out save the date cards. And have membership apps, etc... By the way, they will have food, music, vendors (get your new patches sewed on), and prizes. Plan now to come by for a couple hours. Last time I was there, I bought a new bike... So you never know what might happen. ☐

**Apr 27)** 2025 Kick-off ride - Bradbury. We have no details yet, but Mike is planning to arrange this ride like he did the 20224 kick-off ride, which allowed for options based on the weather and general consensus of the group that RSVP'd. Worked out great. Looking forward to it.

#### SAVE THE DATE(S) NOW:

6/14 - Ride for Dreams (Yes...! Our charity event)

7/28 - 8/5 - Sturgis - Boand & Kirkpatrick

8/4 - 8/10 - Front Range Ride - Kirkpatrick (Start date has been moved up to 8/4)

We added 12 new rides to the calendar, including 2 multi-day rides... Oh Yea!!!

AND... STILL room on the calendar... Let's get a few more rides or other activities together and let's go! Contact Greg Smith, Jim Wiseman or me! Doesn't need to be complex. **KISS**...



Kick-Off Ride!  
Coming Soon!  
Reserve your Spot!

\*\*\*See the club's calendar for more details about these and other events...

And as usual, watch for blasts and check the Top Cats event calendar regularly and by all means **SAVE THE CLUB ACTIVITY DATES FIRST!**

Feel free to reach out to me anytime via my email: [gene.rigsby@gmail.com](mailto:gene.rigsby@gmail.com), or phone, 847-770-9425.

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



## CAUTION KORNER

Before we get on the road for our 2025 riding season I thought it would be good to review some questions that might allow you to be a more informed rider before you turn the key and rev up the throttle.

While at the DMV for Cincy's vision test, I picked up a copy of the "Illinois Motorcycle Operators Manual – 2025" and figured I would share some of them with you.

So let's start with this quiz...

1. A plastic, shatter-resistant face shield:
  - a. Is not necessary if you have a windshield
  - b. Only protects your eyes.
  - c. Helps protect your whole face.
  - d. Does not protect your face as well as goggles.
2. More than half of all crashers:
  - a. Occur at speeds greater than 35 mph.
  - b. Happen at night.
  - c. Are caused by worn tires.
  - d. Involve riders who have ridden their motorcycles less than six months.
3. When riding you should:
  - a. Turn your head and shoulders.
  - b. Keep your arms straight.
  - c. Keep your knees away from the gas tank.
  - d. Turn your head and eyes to look where you are going.
4. Usually, a good way to handle tailgaters is to:
  - a. Change lanes and let them pass.
  - b. Use your horn and make obscene gestures.
  - c. Speed up to put distance between you and the tailgater.
  - d. Ignore them.
5. To reduce your reaction time, you should:
  - a. Ride slower than the speed limit.
  - b. Cover the clutch and brake.
  - c. Shift into neutral when slowing.
  - d. Pull the clutch when turning.
6. Making eye contact with other drivers:
  - a. Is a good sign they see you.
  - b. Is not worth the effort it takes.
  - c. Does not mean the other driver will yield.
  - d. Guarantees that the other driver will yield to you.
7. Reflective clothing should:
  - a. Be worn at Night.
  - b. Be worn during the day.
  - c. Not be worn.
  - d. Be worn day and night.

## What do you know?

By: Don DeLordo  
Sr. Road Captain



8. The best way to stop quickly is to:
  - a. Use the front brake only.
  - b. Use the rear brake first.
  - c. Throttle down and use the front brake.
  - d. Use both brake simultaneously.
9. When it starts raining it is usually best to:
  - a. Ride in the center of the lane.
  - b. Pull off to the side until the rain stops.
  - c. Ride in the tire tracks left by the cars.
  - d. Increase your speed.
10. If your motorcycle starts to wobble you should:
  - a. Accelerate out of the wobble.
  - b. Use the brakes gradually.
  - c. Grip the handlebars firmly and close the throttle gradually.
  - d. Downshift.
11. If you are chased by a dog you should:
  - a. Kick it away.
  - b. Stop until the animal loses interest.
  - c. Swerve around the animal.
  - d. Approach the animal slowly then speed up.
12. Passengers should:
  - a. Lean as you lean.
  - b. Hold on to the motorcycle seat.
  - c. Sit as far back as possible
  - d. Never hold on to you.
13. When riding in a group, inexperienced riders should position themselves:
  - a. Just behind the leader.
  - b. In front of the group.
  - c. At the tail end of the group.
  - d. Beside the leader.
14. If you wait an hour for each drink before riding:
  - a. You cannot be arrested for drinking and driving.
  - b. Your riding skills will not be affected.
  - c. Effects from drinking may still remain.
  - d. You will be okay as long as you ride slow.

Let's see how you did. The answers are somewhere in this Roar.



## Get your body ready! A strong body helps with bike control!

A few quick exercises you can  
do to be ready to ride!

Tips from last year's edition...

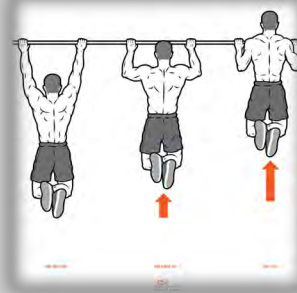
But this information is  
timeless!

Submitted by: Lucky

### Pull Ups

Pull-ups are an exercise that will test your upper body strength. Having excellent upper body strength is ideal for handling a motorcycle. You will be thankful if you ride a large motorcycle with a powerful engine. More upper body strength will let you more easily control your motorcycle around tight corners and turns.

**Could substitute push-ups**



### Squats

Along with upper body strength, you also need lower body strength to handle a motorcycle well. Simple squats can give you lower body strength. Squats will also help you work on your flexibility and balance. Having excellent balance is essential for a safe motorcycle ride. If you cannot keep yourself steady during turning, acceleration, or braking, you will be in big trouble on the road or the track. Eventually, you can work your way up to doing squats with weights. **Planking would be a good substitute or an addition. Doing this also develops your core, which is needed when handling your motorcycle**



### Lunges

Lunges are another exercise that works out your lower body and improves flexibility. Many different riding techniques depend on good lower body strength, particularly in your legs. For example, if you need to put a knee down on a race track while taking a corner. Lunges give you quads, glutes, and hamstrings a proper workout. You can also do them wherever and whenever. **This can be done with a chair to help as you develop balance and strength** Arm weights also are an option.



### Bicycle Riding

Although it may sound a little funny to ride a bicycle to get in shape to ride a motorcycle, it is a good test of your endurance and stamina. Cycling for a few miles will help you build yourself up for long drives on your motorcycle. Mountain biking is another similar exercise option. Mountain bikes require you to use and work out a lot of the same muscles you need for a regular motorcycle ride. **Also a good way to start getting your riding muscle memory as well as your mental memory jump started.**



Of course there are more or alternate exercises you can do.  
The point is, to do something to get yourself ready. Now.

**If you are looking for a challenge, ask Gene Rigsby about the Spartan 500 next time you see him.**

Next step in your preparation journey would be to get out on the road for some short, easy trips. Reflect on GRASS class, using what was taught. Hand signals. Riding in a particular track. Practice the method for measuring spacing to a vehicle in front of you, etc... and also start getting the muscles reacquainted with the things that they must do to keep you and those with you and around you safe while we ride. Riding is a team sport. Everyone around you is counting on you to do it right, as you would expect from them. Right..??



We like motorcycles, right...??  
We like to read about motorcycles,  
right...??  
We like to talk about riding motorcycles,  
right...??  
We like to learn more about motorcycles,  
right...??  
We like to ride motorcycles, right??

## Let's read about it

<https://www.roadrunner.travel/>  
<https://www.motorcycle.com/>  
<https://www.cycleworld.com/>  
<https://www.motorcyclistonline.com/>  
<https://ridermagazine.com/>  
<https://www.asphaltandrubber.com/>  
<https://adventuremotorcycle.com/>  
<https://motorcyclemojo.com/>

## Let's talk about it

<https://www.advrider.com/>  
<https://adventureriderradio.com/>  
<https://motorcyclesandmisfits.wordpress.com/>  
<https://motowitch.com/podcast/>  
[https://bike.feedspot.com/motorcycle\\_podcasts/](https://bike.feedspot.com/motorcycle_podcasts/)

## Let's find motorcycling in our communities

<https://mrf.org/>  
<https://americanmotorcyclist.com/>  
<https://msf-usa.org/>  
<https://www.antiquemotorcycle.org/>  
<https://www.ahrma.org/>  
<https://nmsfund.org/>  
<https://www.abate-il.org/>  
<https://dukaneabateil.org/important-links/>  
<https://www.nts.gov/Advocacy/safety-topics/Pages/Motorcyclist-Safety.aspx>

Maybe you can share things you learned from one of these sites with our Top Cats family at the next meeting. That would be awesome!!

## Let's study it

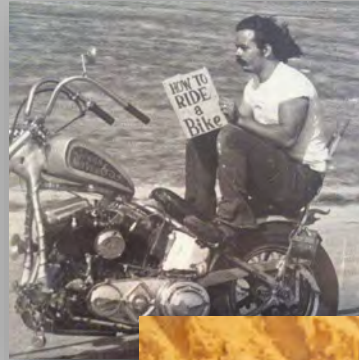
<https://www.topcats.org/safety/>

Here it is!! The most impactful safety training course in the motorcycling community and it is yours for FREE. So easy to get for you...

## We Like Motorcycles, Right?

By: Gene "Lucky" Rigsby,  
Sr. Road Captain and President of Top Cats Illinois!  
A little more of a replay from last year... again, timeless!

Well, let's get started....





# Oil Spots

By Traveler



## Just Stuff

Our close friends from Suburban HOG, Palatine HOG, Windy City HOG, then Chicago HOG have been dealt another blow. Chicago HD has closed and that HOG Chapter has been dissolved with no direction from Corporate other than "No, you are no longer a HOG Chapter". Fortunately, that group has strong members and tough leadership who will get them through this challenge also. By the way, that's already happening. Welcome our brothers and sisters who now comprise Windy City Riders.

## More Stuff.

Our showing of BikeRiders at Woodstock HD has been incorporated into Woodstock's marketing and event plans. They are now holding Movie Showings on Saturdays complete with free food and drinks.

## Distracted Driver Tips



I should probably save this for a Kaution Korner but, it makes no sense to wait to tell someone about motorcycle safety. Soooo...

April is Distracted Driving Month. As we **ride our motorcycle**, we often face one big threat: other people driving distracted causing accidents. You can't prevent encountering them, but you can take proactive steps to reduce your chances and make an encounter safer.

Plenty of people drive with impaired focus. They could be under the influence or trying to multitask (such as eating or texting while driving) or even driving while drowsy. Whatever their situation, it results

in lowered focus which increases safety threats. There are a few ways you can manage this risk while you ride.

If you spot a distracted driver, do your best to steer clear. Change lanes, pass them, do whatever you can to put plenty of distance between you two. A distracted driver could easily hit you or slam on their brakes so fast that you hit them. Stay away! Here are some of the signs to watch for:

- Struggling to drive in a straight line, such as weaving or drifting out of their lane and back in.
- Driving slower than the rest of traffic or slowing down at an odd time.
- A lack of turn signals (can indicate they have one hand on the steering wheel and one hand on their phone).
- Taking a long time to go at a green light (because they spent the red light checking their phone).
- Driver's head is angled down and they are smiling at their crotch area.



Compounding this entire hazard is motorcyclists riding while distracted like; changing a radio station; adjusting the GPS; staring at gages; looking at scenery too long; speaking on intercom; etc.

Before you take your eyes off of the road in front of you, to be safe, scan the road way ahead for any possible hazards. Be particularly alert to turning traffic, obstacles on the road, vehicles slowing in front of you, traffic control devices, etc.

A good practice is to scan ahead of the vehicle ahead of you for indicators that they may have to stop quickly or for debris, etc.

There are way too many ways to get injured than there are to avoid injury so....be alert and be careful.

(Continued on pg. 7)

The Answers to Don's TEST!! Hope you get 100%

1-c	2-d	3-d	4-a	5-b	6-c	7-d
8-d	9-c	10-c	11-d	12-a	13-a	14-c





Oil Spots, , Continued...

## Europe's new anti-tampering rules



What happens in Europe is usually a precursor of what will happen in the US.

European regulators are cracking down on noisy aftermarket motorcycle exhausts, introducing anti-tampering proposals to combat systems that exceed sound levels emitted by standard pipes.

The move, backed by the European Association of Motorcycle Manufacturers (ACEM), aims to stop riders from bypassing legal noise limits using adjustable silencers, while ensuring aftermarket brands sell products adhering to these legal standards.

One of the primary issues raised in the proposal is the use of aftermarket systems that can be adjusted, with valves that open outside of the standard testing range, allowing bikes to exceed noise limits.



These systems have been around for years and, even our favorite motor company had a technique to defeat the EU noise regulations.

The EU had a noise spec that was measured at so many decibels at a certain distance at a specific RPM. The system I am addressing was meant to be compliant yet defeat the intent of the EU's noise standard and was pretty ingenious. If the spec was 85 db at idle, 100 db at 1,500 RPM, and no more than 120 db at 2,000 RPM, a valve in the exhaust system would close at those specified RPMs in order to be compliant. At any other RPM, the exhaust valve would be wide open. Some bikes still have that factory system.

In the UK, road-legal aftermarket exhausts must already meet EU noise standards. The US Department of Transportation has stated that it will consult with the UK on whether to adopt the new regulations in the future.

The adoption of the new anti-tampering provisions marks a step in ensuring that motorcycle non-original replacement exhaust systems meet the current regulatory standards.



Olea Anett Kvalsvik, President of the Federation of European Motorcyclists (FEMA), acknowledged that while noise standards may not need to be lowered further, excessively loud pipes harm the reputation of all bikers.

The new rules were approved by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and will become part of EU type-approval regulations.

## Harley-Davidson 131 CVO Road Glide RR priced at \$110,000 each



*Harley-Davidson CVO Road Glide RR side view*

Harley-Davidson is marking their involvement in the King of the Baggers

(KOTB) racing series with a limited run of 131 CVO Road Glide RR models, priced at a \$110,000 each.

Hand assembled they can still be used on the road, and come powered by a 2147cc Screamin' Eagle 131 V-Twin engine – producing a claimed 150.6lb.ft of torque at just 4750rpm.



It's a motor that's shared with Harley's factory race bikes and is the most powerful Milwaukee-Eight engine ever factory installed on a road bike by HD.

(Continued on pg 8)

## Oil Spots, continued...

There's a revised camshaft profile and large air intake, and the redline has been upped to 6500rpm.

Chairman, CEO and President of Harley-Davidson, Jochen Zeitz said. "With this limited series of motorcycles, we've taken all the lessons from the track



and created the pinnacle of street-legal bagger performance."

The Milwaukee firm is hitting the 2025 KOTB racing series hard, with a three-rider fac-

tory line-up including British former MotoGP star, Bradley Smith. They lost the series in 2024 to close rivals, Indian Motorcycle.

H-D's season got off to a perfect start as part of the Daytona 200 weekend of March 8-9, with factory rider Kyle Wyman winning both races to take an early lead in this year's championship. Smith, meanwhile, took a second place during his debut ride.

The Road Glide RR also features CNC ported cylinder heads with CNC machined combustion chambers and ports amongst a wide range of engine internal modifications.



Additional power is unlocked courtesy of a full Akrapovič titanium exhaust system. A total of 50 + lbs is said to have been cut from the standard CVO Road Glide ST model, now weighing 748 lbs overall – complete with rider comforts like in-built speakers and a wide color TFT screen.

Helping to stop all that weight is a set of CNC machined Brembo GP4-RX front calipers and T-Drive front discs

– with suspension coming courtesy of 43mm Öhlins FGR 253 Hypersport Superbike front forks and twin shocks,



with a new billet swingarm cutting weight and improving stiffness by a claimed 10%.

You can be the first one on your block to 1) spend that much on a motorcycle, 2) own a 150 hp Road Glide that no one around here can work on or, 3) ride a race bike to your next major crash faster than anyone else.

## 2025 Indian Motorcycle Scout Sixty



Indian Motorcycle is continuing its new motorcycle release program with one notable announcement: the unveiling of its all-new Scout Six-

ty cruisers. The new family now has three members—the Scout Sixty Bobber, the Sport Scout Sixty, and the Scout Sixty Classic—all powered by a version of the SpeedPlus engine that first appeared in last year's Scout redesign, but in 999cc form.

For 2025, the Sixty series also updates its electronics; ABS is now standard across the line, with cruise control, traction control, and riding modes offered as options. Indian says that despite the new updates, designers were keen to keep the styling and proportions that are core to the Scout's DNA while allowing for easier customization with the new steel frame.

The least expensive of the bunch, the Scout Sixty Bobber, rings in at the desirable sub-\$10,000 mark.

According to Indian, the 2025 Scout Sixty's SpeedPlus 999cc engine is "all-new," which is kinda true; it certainly has a different bore and stroke than the larger 1,250cc SpeedPlus it's based on. The new 999cc Vee also produces a claimed 85 hp—more than last year's 78 hp—and while max torque is still 65 lb.-ft., the peak arrives later, at 6,500 rpm.

All Scout Sixtys run with mid-controls, and antilock braking (ABS) is included (there are no non-ABS bikes). Otherwise, the differences come down to styling, wheel sizes, handlebar shape, tire choices, and less suspension travel for the Bobber. The transmission is still a five-speed.



(Continued on pg 9)





Oil Spots, continued...

You can have your 2025 Scout Sixty in either Standard or Limited trim.



With the base level Standard, you get ABS, LED lighting, a larger battery, a fuel level gauge, and new hand controls. Standard bikes are also equipped with a basic analog gauge and keyed ignition, and come in one color: Black Metallic. For \$700 more, Limited trim sees the addition of cruise control, traction control, and three ride modes—Sport, Standard, Rain—along with a USB charging port. Limited models also feature exclusive badging, but if you want that coveted 4-inch touchscreen (with Ride Command) it's only available as an option.

The Scout Sixty Bobber keeps its slammed stance and minimal styling, with a majority of its components getting the dark treatment. A solo bobber-style seat sits at an ultra-low 25.6 inches and you get just 2 inches of rear suspension, with fat 16-inch wheels on either end. The Bobber's rake is a bit more kicked out and it uses a 2-into-1 exhaust configuration, but everything else is the same as the other Scout Sixtys. Notable is the fact that the base-model Bobber is less than \$10,000 even with ABS.



With an aggressive profile and a taller, thinner 19-inch front wheel, the Sport Scout Sixty offers "sportier" performance,

equipped with mini-ape handlebars set atop tall risers and paired with a more supportive sport-style seat. A stylish quarter fairing gives riders a measure of wind protection and caps the custom look, just like its [bigger Sport Scout](#) brother.

As you might expect, the classically styled Scout Sixty Classic leans into the brightwork big-time, with lots of chrome, longer flared fenders, and quality paint to firmly lock it in as the cruiser archetype of the group. Add in a wide bar and a big cushy seat for relaxed ergonomics, and place it all atop a pair of 16-inch cast wheels, and the formula is complete.

All Scout Sixty models will start shipping to dealers this month, with available colors including Black Metallic (the base models), Black Smoke, Ghost White Metallic Smoke, Heavy Metal Smoke, Sunset Red Smoke, Blue Dusk, Springfield Blue, and Frost Silver. Colors are an extra cost, but either way, that's a lot of smoke.



Spring is  
Here!  
Are you  
Ready?



## Sturgis! Information for You to Dream about Joining a Great Ride!

Submitted by Mary Kirkpatrick

So... you've been there before or you've never been there or you have no idea what Sturgis really is...

No matter what your position, hopefully these pictures will 'get your motor running' and push you to go west and discover the amazing roads and sights that make up STURGIS. For 11 months out of the year, Sturgis' population is just over 7,000. Neighboring towns of Deadwood and Spearfish have populations of 1,300 and 13,000 respectively. Totalling approximately 22,000 total.

Now... for one month out of the year, this area is visited by over 1/2 million people! The area's campsites, hotels and restaurants make all the money they will need for the rest of the year! It draws people from all of the 50 states and from countries around the world! Why? Well, there is a long history.. But here is a short version:



Started in 1938 by Clarence "Pappy" Hoel, the Sturgis, South Dakota, bike rally has grown from a handful of riders and spectators to a

week-long gathering attracting a half million visitors. The first Sturgis bike rally was held on August 14, 1938. Rally founder, "Pappy" Hoel, started the event after purchasing a motorcycle franchise and beginning the Jackpine Gypsies Motorcycle Club.

Rally length has grown from one day to one week. Today, more than a half million people attend the gathering every year.

- 1936 Clarence "Pappy" Hoel buys an Indian Motorcycle Franchise in Sturgis, South Dakota, and forms the Jackpine Gypsies Motorcycle Club which is still going strong today.
- 1937 Jackpine Gypsies receive an official American Motorcycle Association (AMA) charter.
- August 14,



1938 Sturgis bike rally tradition be-

gins. Known as the Black Hills Motor Classic, this first Sturgis motorcycle rally's main event is a half-mile race on a dirt track, comprising 9 contestants and a group of 200 onlookers. The initial focus of the rally is racing and stunts.

- 1942 The Sturgis rally is cancelled due to gas rationing in support of WWII efforts.
- 1961 Hill climbs and Motocross races are added to the event.
- 1964 City officials block off one section of Main Street to accommodate motorcycle parking for the 3-day rally.
- 1965 Due to its popularity, the Sturgis Rally lengthens to a 5-day event.
- 1975 The length of the Sturgis rally is once again stretched, this time to its present 7-day duration.
- 1979 The City of Sturgis, SD begins licensing temporary vendors for the gathering.
- 1988 In just 9 years since temporary vendor licensing, the vendor list grows from 9 to 117.
- 1989 "Pappy" Hoel passes away, 51 years after the initial rally.
- 1990 Rally attendance reaches 400,000.
- 1997 Celebrities featured at the rally include former NBA player, Dennis Rodman.
- 2000 Attendance reaches upwards of 600,000.
- 2002 The City of Sturgis designates an entire department to rally promotion and organization.
- *Present Day*
- Current rally attendance numbers reach well over a half million people, with 800 temporary licensed vendors descending on the small town during the gathering. Events include half-mile races, hill climbs, short-track races, area attraction tours, music and live entertainment and much more.

- And... finally, the scenery brings people back year after year! It is a beautiful area filled with MANY wonderful roads for Motorcycling! You GOTTA SEE IT!







## 5 Steps to Getting your Bike out of Storage!

By: Traveler

The snow is receding, rain is washing salt from the roads, the sun is shining and the temperature is on the rise. These conditions cause flowers to start blooming, trees to start budding, birds to start chirping and bikers to start salivating at the thought of twisty roads, warm winds and good ol biker camaraderie. If you are anxious about riding that long-stored motorcycle, here are five very important steps to follow to get your riding season off to a good start.

### Step #1: Inspect

Even if you stored your bike properly, and periodically checked on it over the winter, the first thing you should do is go over it with a detailed look. Examine your bike



from tire to tire to look for cracks, evidence of leaks, worn-out bushings, or wiring that may be frayed. Check cables for smooth operation, windscreens for cracks, seats for cracking / tears, handles and straps for tightness, lights for operation, fluid levels, and tires for correct inflation, cracking and wear. Get your owner's manual and go down the major service checklist to do a full check. Meticulously taking stock of the bike before the first ride assures that deteriorating parts do not cause additional damage, accidents, or simply leave you stranded.



### Step #2: Clean

Even in storage, dirt, condensation, and grime accumulate on your bike. Remove all this damaging debris from both painted, chromed, and soft surfaces. You can perform this step at the same time as the inspection.

Treat rubber parts to keep the properties intact and functional. Seats should get a protectant to start the season off right and make for easier cleaning later on, when you would rather be riding than detailing.



### Step #3: Prepare to Start

Even when properly stored, a dormant engine can benefit from a slow startup. Ensuring components are ready to move again goes a long way to not only a good driving season but

a long, healthy engine life. Engines typically drain oil from top to bottom, and after sitting all season there is likely very little oil at the top end of the engine. A good technique is to disconnect the sparkplugs and spin the engine over so that oil pumps thru the engine before starting the engine. Hopefully, your inspection told you that the fuel line was in good shape so it's time to get fuel pressure in the system. Be prepared for anything at this point, especially if you stored the bike filled with fuel that has ethanol blended into it. When you turn the ignition on, you energize the fuel pump. Look for any raw fuel leaking. If it is....DO NOT start your bike until you fix it! Ideally, you stored your bike with Stabil, Sea Foam or some kind of fuel stabilizer for the winter and everything is still in good condition. Check your oil levels and.... You're ready to start 'er up.

### Step #4: Start

One of the great thrills of motorcycling is starting your bike for the first time in the season. When it comes to life, the sound, vibrations and smells all combine to bring back great memories of last season.



A few pumps of the accelerator on a carbureted engine will get some raw fuel in the intake manifold to make starting a bit easier. Fuel-injected engines will only need a turn of the key. Once running, let the engine idle for a few minutes as you look around the engine compartment for any leaks and listen for strange noises. If you have any difficulty finding oil leaks or seeps, spray powder, like baby powder or foot powder around the suspected source of the oil. It will show the trail of oil immediately.

(Continued on page 12)





## 5 Things, Continued

### Step #5: Go for a Short Ride

You finally made it to the part you have been waiting for this the entire winter. Make absolutely sure that your front and rear brakes work properly then, kick it in gear and start slowly for a short trip around the block or down the street. Pay attention to any noises or vibrations that seem out of the ordinary and don't assume that they will simply go away with more riding.

Now, the bike is ready, you've already checked your riding gear during the winter, and you attended a recent GRASS class.

Just like that, you are on the path to another great riding season. However, maintenance of our bike, our safety gear and our skills doesn't end here. Keep it all maintained throughout the riding season.



## Hmmmmmm?

By Traveler

Often times, when we ride long stretches, our mind tends to wander. We know that we should stay

focused on riding however, we still fall into that trap of dreaming of a variety of things.

So, for this year, when you are out of things to think about while riding, ponder the answers to these questions:

1. If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
6. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
7. Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
8. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
9. Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
10. Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
11. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
12. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
13. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
14. Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
15. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
16. If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
17. Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
18. Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?
19. How come abbreviated is such a long word?
20. Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
21. Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
22. Christmas - What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?





## Eating Right on the Road!

By Traveler



Healthy eating on **the** road—where fast food, bags of chips, sodas, candy bars, high calorie desserts, and other fatty food seem to be the only stuff available—can be a real challenge.

Eating "junk food" for several days leaves you fatigued. Getting your body the nutrition it needs, while enduring the physical demands of a multi-day motorcycle ride, is important for a rider's health and riding enjoyment. Here are a few strategies for eating right on the road:

- **Drink Plenty of Liquids:** It's important to keep hydrated with water, low calorie energy drinks, and liquids that replenish fluids and electrolytes. High liquid intake helps to avoid binge eating. Sodas and high sugar drinks pass through your body faster with little nutritional benefit.
- **Pack Healthy Snacks:** Stuff your saddlebags with healthy snacks that contain polyunsaturated fats like nuts, raisins, dried fruits, low fat energy bars, whole-grain crackers, and fresh fruit (such as bananas, oranges, and apples). Snacking between meals keeps your energy level up, and also helps curb any tendency to overeat at mealtime.
- **Always Eat Breakfast:** After fasting for eight or more hours at night, your body needs "fuel" in the morning. You wouldn't consider riding your bike out of town on an empty gas tank would you? A high sugar and carbohydrate breakfast may increase your energy for a short time, but it won't last long. Instead, drink milk, juices, and eat fruit, hardboiled eggs, and yogurt; minimize the toast, bagels, and hot sticky buns.

- **Avoid Large Portions:** Restaurants generally provide portions that are exceed what most of us need to operate a motorcycle. Eat one or more appetizers, instead of an entree, or share an entree your group.

- **Avoid Fried, Fatty Foods and Minimize Carbohydrates:** We usually have a strong craving for these foods, which are frequently on the menus of small town, family-owned restaurants as well as chain restaurants like Cracker Barrel and Denny's. Virtually all restaurants, however, have other healthier food options on their menus. Salads, for example. Your body metabolizes carbohydrates into sugar, go easy on the pizza, dinner rolls, and other similar starchy foods, and stick to whole grains whenever possible.

- **Find Fresh Fruit:** Fruit often can be found along your route and offers a refreshing and healthy break from the food at gas stations and fast food restaurants.

- **Stop at Grocery Stores:** When passing through small towns, with little or no good restaurant options stop at the local super market and picked up fruit and other low fat food for a picnic lunch.

- **Don't Skip Meals:** It's important to plan for and eat three meals each day. Those healthy snacks in your tour pack are especially beneficial when it's time to eat, you're hungry, and there's no place around to buy food.

**Eat the Healthy Stuff First:** Cafeterias offer a wide variety of dining selections, some healthy, others not so much. Load up your first plate at the salad bar and you won't be as hungry for the meat, potatoes and gravy, and cherry pie on the second and third passes. The key is to find that medium between denying all high-sugar and fatty foods, and the occasional indulgence that keeps a trip enjoyable. The bottom line, though, is that eating right on the road will increase your stamina, your alertness, and the overall enjoyment of your ride.







## General Membership Meeting Minutes March 5, 2023

Respectfully Submitted  
by: Jane Smith

### President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Guests
- Rich Gruner, President of Northern Illinois ABATE
- Announcements - None

### Vice President: Bozena Haszlkiewicz

- Bozena summarized the history of Top Cats as it appears on the website. The first meeting was a picnic in the backyard of Virgo Bender's (Top Cats' founder) in May of 1995 and consisted of business owners/executives who enjoyed motorcycles. Monthly meetings started the following month (June) at the old Farman's restaurant in Lake Zurich. The first ride consisted of six bikes to Kettle Moraine State Park in August and the first election of officers and directors was held in September.
- A copy of the welcome message on the website from our President, Gene Rigsby, was distributed to everyone to read.

### Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

#### Open Topics

- Daylight Savings Time starts this Sunday. Don't be late!
- Wayne talked about an organization called Save-A-Joe. They partner with local businesses, corporate sponsors, and community members by hosting events to raise money to assist the many veteran service organizations that help with education, housing, therapy, and finances for veterans. Their website lists the organizations that they support.

### Safety: Mike Bradbury

- Accident/Safety Review
- No video was shown tonight.
- **Rich Gruner of ABATE was introduced** and gave a rundown of things that ABATE was able to introduce or get passed with state legislation in 2024. Some of the items were:
  - After 20 years, ABATE was able to get a state-owned park to open this spring in Carbondale for off road riding.
  - No motorcycle riding training classes in northern IL. Need to implement more training for safe riding.
  - Profiling stopped.
  - Cover trailers – hazardous to motorcycles.
  - Specialty plates are now available for motorcycles.

- Stop operation of remote vehicles and cameras.
- State tried to ban armored jackets because of body armor.

Some items for 2025 include:

- Motorcycle training again in northern IL. Trying to get the younger motorcyclist involved in classes.
- Mandatory helmet bill was filed again. ABATE wants to promote more training for safer riders, so helmets don't need to be mandatory.
- Self-driving vehicles banned.
- Fight emission.
- Profiling again – don't frequent businesses who post "No Colors."
- Want to open another off-road park.
- **Ted reviewed** his Kaution Korner article in the ROAR about first aid kits. Need to check every riding season and replace outdated products. Think about what you may encounter on each ride and supply your kit accordingly. Pack items in order that you would need them. Always have plenty of latex gloves available (they are good for rain rides too). Check out the full article in the March ROAR.
- **Don will provide** the Kaution Korner article for April.
- A GRASS class is scheduled for March 23 at Keller Williams in Barrington.

### Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- New member, Mark Krush, was sick and unable to attend tonight.

### Activities: Greg Smith

#### Recent Activities:

- February 8 – WSHD Cabin Fever (Gene). Good turnout of people. Talked with many about the club and received an application for a new member.
- February 15 – Awards Dinner (Mike/Gene). Was held at Emmett's in Palatine. Interesting awards and good times reflecting on year's rides and activities. The Founder's Cup Award was presented to Don DeLordo.
- February 16 – CPR/First Aid Training (Mike). Was held at WSHD and many of our members attended and received their certification.
- February 23 – Mama Tried Motorcycle Show in Milwaukee (Gene). Many cool bikes and lots of vendors. Lunch at a nearby supper club was good. Met a group of women riders and talked about our GRASS classes. They seemed very interested and will contact us at a later date.

(Continued on page 18)





## Board Meeting Minutes March 12th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted  
by: Jane Smith

### President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. via Zoom. All Board members were present.
- Gene reminded the board that this is Top Cats' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Should an event be planned, a 30th year patch, guest speakers, gala? Let's start thinking about it and ask the club members at the next general meeting.
- Vice President – Bozena Haszlkiewicz
- Looking at our website on the "About Us" tab page, it was suggested that the description of who we are (business owners and executives) be revised to match the "Membership" page and other references. Are we scaring people away? Everything should match what our by-laws say.
- Wayne mentioned he wrote the last update of the by-laws, so they should be current. The statement that we are a Not-For-Profit 501(c)(7) Social Business Organization should be on our website. Wayne drafted and submitted the bylaws to the State. We can't step outside the realm of what we say we are, or we are not in compliance.

### Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

#### Open Discussion

- Barrington Library previously has documented our archives. Has anything been sent to them recently? Are they still doing this for us? The history of the club is going to be lost. Gene immediately looked at the library's website and saw that Top Cats still has a file with our stuff from 1995-2019. Mary will contact the library to see if they are willing to take on the archiving again for us. Gene mentioned he has some information on a Goggle drive. Wayne has some things on a hard drive – he has pictures for over 200 rides. Gene suggested that we could get another Goggle account if we want to put everything together.

### Treasurer: Don DeLordo

#### Report/Review

- Don reviewed the financial reports for February and March for the General and Charity accounts.

### Activities: Greg Smith

#### Past Events:

Feb. 2 – WSHD Cabin Fever. Good turnout this year.

- Feb. 15 – Awards Banquet. It was held at Emmett's Brewing Company in Palatine. Many general awards and membership year pins were presented, as well as the Founder's Cup Award that was awarded to Don DeLordo.
- Smith's and DeLordo's will set up next year's banquet at Emmett's or possibly another venue nearby.

- Feb. 16 – CPR Class at WSHD. Ten members attended and received their certification.
- Feb. 23 – Mama Tried Motorcycle Show, Milwaukee. Interesting custom bikes – old and new – were displayed along with many vendors.

#### Future Events:

- March 15 - Senior Road Captain meeting at Wauconda American Legion Hall 9:00-12:00. Road Captains to bring some suggestions for upcoming rides and get them on the calendar.
- April 26 – WSHD Open House. We will set up our table and encourage new members.
- April Kick-Off Ride. Mike will probably do an "option" ride again as last year. We will either go to one destination (longer) or another (shorter) depending on the weather. Not sure of date yet.
- June 14 – Ride for Dreams. June 14. See below.
- July 18-August 5 – Sturgis. Eight people are signed up to go. Bard will do the road briefing and introduce his road captains, Wayne and Andy, who will lead the rides.
- August 5-10 – Front Range Ride. Eight people are signed up. Not all are coming and going back at the same time. May have several groups going to various locations every day depending on where people want to go.
- Other Activities:
- July 26 – Bunker Hill NISRA Event. An email was sent out to Top Cats members about this invitation only charity event at Bunker Hill. Contact Jim Wiseman for more details.

### Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- First aid and CPR class was held February 16 at WSHD. Ten members participated and received their American Heart Assn. certification. The group felt the presentation was not well organized.
- Mike is looking to get more guest speakers for the General meetings.
- A Road Captain meeting will be held 9:00-12:00 March 15 at Wauconda Legion. Everything is set so bring new ideas for rides.
- A GRASS class is scheduled for March 23 9:00-12:00 at Keller Williams in Barrington. Mike has invited members of ABATE to attend also.
- A GRASS class has been scheduled for the Fox Valley HHOGS Road Captains at Keller Williams on April 6.

(Continued on page 18)



## General Meeting, Continued

### Future Activities:

- March 15 - Road Captain Meeting (Mike). Will be held at Wauconda Legion Hall, 9:00 am. Road Captains should come with some ideas for rides.
- March 23 – GRASS Class (Mike), Will be held at Keller Williams, Barrington. Come to fulfill your membership requirements and brush up on your riding/safety skills.
- April 6 – GRASS Class (Mike) Keller Williams, Barrington. This class will be held for the McHenry Hogs, but if you are unable to make the March 23<sup>rd</sup> class, you are welcome to attend this one.
- April 19 (or May 3) Kick-Off Ride (Mike). Planning the first ride of the season. Watch for details.
- April 26 - WSHD Open House (Gene). We will set up the TC table and talk with fellow motorcyclists about our club and encourage them to attend our charity ride.
- June 14 – Ride, Rock, Rumble (Mary). Save the date.
- July 28-August 5 – Sturgis (Bard & Wayne). Still 1 or 2 rooms left. A small group of 6 are confirmed to make the ride.
- August 5-10 – Front Range Ride (Wayne). Small group of 6 have confirmed so far.
- Other Activities:
- July 26 – NISRA Foundation Rockin' the Hill. Invitation-only concert event at Bunker Hill Farms in Woodstock. Tickets are on sale online. Headliner is Stone Temple Pilots and Opener is Joan Jett & The Black Hearts. Contact Jim Wiseman for more information.

### Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- We were looking at another option for the ride ending at the Legion, but the June 14 date won't work. So will continue our original plan of ending at Volo Museum.

### Products: Ted Makarewicz

- Still have a miscellaneous inventory of shirts and hats available. Top Cat flags are available for \$20.

50/50 Raffle: Andy Haszlkiewicz

Raffle amount of \$22.00 was won by Andy.

Meeting was adjourned by Gene at 8:20 p.m.

## Board Meeting, Continued

### Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

- Ted followed up on a lead off our website from Dan Loghridge. He was a member of ROADDOCS for 7-8 years. Ted has invited him to the April General meeting and told him about the first ride coming up. He didn't commit to joining but is interested in participating in day rides. Wayne suggested Ted send him the last copy of ROAR.
- The group discussed what a new member receives upon joining the club. We used to give out a flag, patch, and pin. Maybe we should add a T-shirt or hat from the current inventory or a voucher to Land's End for a T-shirt. What's the probationary period? – 3 meetings – member of good standing.

### Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- Mary contacted McHenry Legion to coordinate the ride ending there but the June 14<sup>th</sup> date was not available, and we couldn't coordinate with WSHD to change the date. So, we will proceed with the ride ending at Volo Museum. They have said they will set up a side area for us to park and hold our after-ride festivities. We need to start gathering raffle items. We also need to update the website with the current information for the 2025 Ride for Dreams event as well as the flyer. Ted says we could use the 2022 artwork for the flyer and just change the dates.

### Secretary: Jane Smith

- No comments.

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 8:22 p.m.





## Caution!

Submitted by: Traveler

just before that no passing sign, remember there could be a pickup headed your way at a speed usually seen in fighter jets or a left turn into a field for that farm implement that has no turn signals.

Just like we have leaves to slip and slide on in Fall, Spring brings its own set of things to slide on. First is winter road slime. We have had salt, beet juice, dripping oil, antifreeze and



more spread on the road all winter. We have had a few bouts of rain but nowhere near enough to get the gunk off the road. That strip in the middle of the lane can still turn into a slip and slide with a little rain. Intersections where there has been a crash or 3 are even worse. So when it starts to rain, be even more wary than usual.

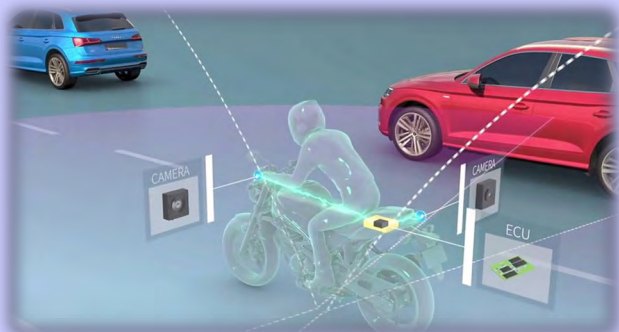
Trees are starting to bud and leaf. The pods they shed are as slick as leaves. Being so small they are quickly ground into a paste that is even slipperier. Landscapers and others are about to clean up from winter. Leaves, pine needles, old dead plants and more are being pulled, piled and placed on the street. The mud and grit they leave after being picked up is no fun.

On rural roads farmers are able to get out and start working in the field. That puts large slow vehicles out on those backroads we like to ride on. As tempting as it might be to blast past them



It is becoming more common to see drivers trying to get ahead in traffic by using a right or left turn lane to pass. Some privileged folks think it is their right to scream past those in lanes meant for through traffic using lanes marked for turns. It also seems there is a group for whom the first 10-15 seconds of a red light is optional. In a similar vein are those who feel having a right turn lane equals a green right turn arrow.

So keep your head on a swivel, your eyes on the road, cars, pedestrians and pets while remembering you are invisible.







## G.R.A.S.S. CLASS

Group Riding and Safety Seminar (G.R.A.S.S.) is your chance to learn how to ride safely by yourself, with a co-rider, the rider / road captain obligations and accident scene management. A course on how to be a road captain is optional for those who are interested. Members need to take this to become fully active and be qualified to vote in our elections. All active members should take this once every 3 years. Even so, taking this more often always helps.

It does not hurt to ride safely!

Next Class: April 6th!  
See the Calendar for Details!

### There's a life riding on it.



**LOOK TWICE  
FOR MOTORCYCLES**



## April Birthdays and Anniversaries!

4 Shawn Holton  
9 Chuck Carlson

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities  
for April!

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

No Great Love Stories for April!  
(That we know of...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*

This spot is open for anyone who would like to share their business dreams with the club! Send your info to Mary Kirkpatrick and we will set this spot up with your Logo and Picture!

Mawalters57@gmail.com



*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!

### Membership Has Its Privileges!

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

GRASS Classes are held  
at the Keller -Williams  
Offices!

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

*Sign-up your favorite mer-  
chant today!*



**Greg Smith**

**Keller -  
Williams  
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**600 Hart Rd.  
Suite 105  
Barrington, IL**

**60010**

**847.870.0957**

**Have one of our own Top Cats work**

### Knight Performance (Harleys only)

Contact: **Eric Knight**

304 N. Johnson St

Harvard, IL 60033

[ericknight1@hotmail.com](mailto:ericknight1@hotmail.com)

(815) 770-0302

### TAK MC (Primarily Harleys)

Contact: **Tim Harwood**

28841 N. Darrell Road

McHenry, IL 60051

[timharwood11@yahoo.com](mailto:timharwood11@yahoo.com)

(708) 525-6316

### WAR Performance (All makes plus dyno and storage)

Contact: **Mike Witt**

120 Grant Highway

Marengo, IL 60152

[info@warperformance.com](mailto:info@warperformance.com)

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(866) 927-7373

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, April 1st	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, April 6th	GRASS Class	Barrington	Keller Williams	9:00 am	Bradbury
Tuesday, April 8th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, April 26th	Open House	Woodstock	Woodstock HD	10 AM	Rigsby
Sunday, April 27th	KICKOFF Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Bradbury
Tuesday, May 6th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, May 10th	Wauconda Bike Blessing	Wauconda	American Legion 911 Post	TBD	DeLordo
Tuesday, May 13th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, May 31st	Double Clutch Lunch	TBD	TBD	TBD	Rigsby
Ideas?	Contact	Greg Smith	Or	Jim Wiseman	Soon!

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



### Barrington Library

#### Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway  
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300  
[balibrary.org](http://balibrary.org)

See the Top Cats Archive

## FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

### Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it. This offer is for Top Cats business owners only. We are not accepting advertising for other businesses at this time.

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



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

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