



ROAR

May, 2025

Volume 25, Issue 5

Inside This Issue

PRESIDENT'S POINT	2
KAUTION KORNER	3
Oil Spots	5
Oil Spots	5
Previews of 2025!	8
General Meeting	12
Board Meeting	13
Celebrations	14
Business Market	15
Top Cat Patrons	16
Event Calendar	17
TC Organization	18

The Kick-Off Crew!
Good Riding...
Good Friends...
More Rides to Come!
Be Ready!



The
Official
Publication
Of Top Cats
Illinois

Upcoming Events

MAY

- 6 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 BIKE BLESSING
- 13 BOARD MEETING
- 31 DOUBLE CLUTCH LUNCH

JUNE

- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 7 LUNCH RIDE
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 14 RIDE FOR DREAMS
- 21 LUNCH RIDE

Talk to Greg Smith and Jim
Wiseman and get your





PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello, Top Cats!!

Spring is in full bloom, making this time of year one of the most exciting for me. Weather getting better, trees and plants are blooming all around, and the main riding season is ahead of us... I hope you take the opportunity to get out with your family and friends, especially the Top Cat ones as we would love to see you too.

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 attendees 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 April...

Apr 26) WSHD Spring open house-Rigsby. No... I didn't buy another bike at this event... But it was a good turn out of attendees. Would have been great to have more Top Cats there, but the ones that were made it a great time and the time just flew by. We had a good amount of interest in NISRA as well as the club. Aren't these the two things we should be most passionate about and put the most effort into...?? Well there is the riding part, and safety, and so on..... It's your club. Get involved. I hope to see you out next time.

Apr 27) 2025 Kick-off ride - Bradbury. Mike of course paid off Mother Nature and the weather was great for this ride... We had a nice ride out to Crandall's for a good brunch and great conversations amongst our Top Cats family. If you weren't, you should have been there.. I hope to see you next time.

Activities for May...

May 10) Bike Blessing - DeLordo. American Legion Riders Post 911 & 703 are holding their 20th Annual Bike Blessing & Blow the Carbon out Charity Ride for North Carolina American Legion Riders affected by the 2024 storms. We will have an escorted ride to St. Peters Church in Volo followed by a ride to Knucklehead's pub in Eagle, Wisconsin and the back to Post 911. \$10.00 - per person - Ride only; \$20.00 - per person - Ride & Dinner. If you are interested in attending please contact Don DeLordo by email No later than May 8th donde47@outlook.com

May 31) Double Clutch Lunch Ride - Rigsby. We will be heading out on an easy ride through the winding roads on the north shore ending up at Double Clutch Brewing for lunch, then making our way back to the starting point. More details to come, so watch the calendar and for blasts. In the meantime, check out Double Clutch here: <https://www.doubleclutchbrewing.com/>

There are a couple opportunities to make next time, now... So do it. I hope to see you there.

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!

Don't need to be complex. **KISS**...

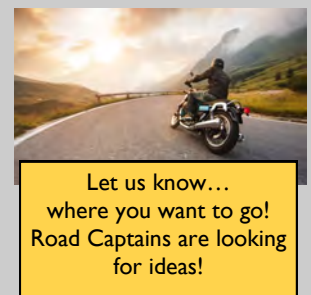
***See the club's calendar for more details about these and other events...

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

Make sure to send any activity or ride ideas to Greg Smith, Jim Wiseman and I, so they can get it on the calendar and get the word out to the club.

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

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



Let us know...
where you want to go!
Road Captains are looking
for ideas!



KAUTION KORNER



As we are heading deeper into spring riding season and mother nature is really starting to throw out some curveballs, here are some weather related topics to consider.

Prepare for Inclement Weather

Springtime is notorious for suddenly changing weather patterns, including unexpected showers and storms. This can be incredibly dangerous for motorcyclists. Wet, slick roadways can cause slide-outs and low-side crashes, as well as other dangerous accidents. Additionally, heavy rain can significantly limit visibility, putting motorcyclists at an even higher risk than usual.

Here are a few ways you can prepare for—and stay safe in—inclement weather:

- ♦ Make sure you have the right gear. You'll want to wear waterproof clothing that is highly visible to others on the road. You should also make sure your hands and feet are properly covered with waterproof gloves (A pair of latex gloves inside your non-water proof gloves can make a huge difference) and boots, and you should always wear appropriate protective eyewear. An anti-fog face shield can make all the difference when riding in the rain.
- ♦ Slow down! When riding in inclement weather, reduce your speed and cover the brake to ensure that you are able to safely slow down or stop when needed. It's also a good idea to lengthen your riding distance to about 8 – 10 seconds behind the vehicle in front of you.
- ♦ Keep an eye on extra-slippery areas of the road, such as the center track at stop signs or lights, painted lines, manhole covers, metal bridges, railroad crossings, and tar snakes. When wet, asphalt becomes slicker, as well, which is why you should reduce your speed and drive with caution in or just after a period of rain. It's also important that you watch for puddles and avoid them whenever you can. Utilize dry lines, like car tracks, when possible.
- ♦ Make sure your bike is properly equipped. Ensure your motorcycle's tires are relatively new and/or not worn and that they have the proper tire pressure (PSI) before you ride. You should also make sure your headlight and taillight are working, as well as all other parts of your bike. It's smart to get a full motorcycle tune-up at the

Are you ready for Riding in the Rain? And other challenges...

By: Gene Rigsby
Sr. RC and President of Top Cats Illinois!

beginning of the season to make sure everything is in good, working condition.

Really severe weather - Lightning

Many years back, Noelle and I were just heading out to help set up at the "Ride For Dreams" event, which was being held in Woodstock. It started to rain just as we were leaving our garage. We had a feeling it was going to rain even though the weather report sounded more promising, we dressed accordingly.

This was by no means the first time we ever rode in the rain as I know most everyone reading this article has experienced this as well.

Well on this particular day, as we moved down the road through the rain, it started raining harder, but eventually started to ease up and we thought we may be in the clear as we sat waiting for a traffic light to change, when all of a sudden the rumble of a nearby, lighting strike shook both of us, not only physically, but mentally as well. Sitting in the rain, exposed, with an electrical storm building, to me, is an intimidating thing and I felt very vulnerable.

Talking about this situation and hearing many people compare riding exposed ON a motorcycle to the old traditional thought of being protected from lighting while riding IN a car, I started to research how true this thought truly is.

As you can imagine, there is a great deal of information about this on the internet, which you can Google and see firsthand. Here is an article which is just a portion of the information I found on-line and I would suggest you further research.

"Electrical Storms Riding out from under them could be a big mistake" By: James R. Davis

"No doubt you have heard that because your tires are made of rubber, and because rubber is not a good electrical conductor, so long as you keep your feet on the pegs lightning will not hit you since it cannot find a path to ground through you and the bike. WRONG!!!

Though rubber is a pretty good insulator at the normal voltage levels we mere humans deal with, it is not very effective against the voltage in a lightning bolt.

On the other hand, you may also have heard that if a lightning bolt hits a car the occupants are safe because the car is riding on rubber tires, etc. Actually, this is almost true! So long as the occupants stay away from anything metal they will more than likely survive a lightning hit without any injury whatever.

(Continued on page 4)



KK, continued

What protects occupants of a cage is not their rubber tires, but the fact that they are enclosed in a metal container. If a lightning bolt hits the surface of the car it spreads around the occupants, NOT THROUGH THEM, and goes to ground.

A lightning bolt that hits you or your motorcycle is a different matter entirely.

Let me give you an idea of magnitudes we are dealing with here. The master fuse on your bike handles about 30 amps before it blows. An average lightning bolt produces a current of about 20,000 amps. Even 30 amps can easily kill you because it disrupts your heart's electrical system and the heart then simply stops working. Your heart doesn't stand a chance against a lightning bolt.

Anyway, if you are out in the open on your bike when lightning flashes begin, and if you can hear the thunder caused by those flashes in less than three seconds from when you see the flash, it's time to stop your bike and get off it.

- Immediately find low ground, but NOT under a single or small group of trees.
- Squat on the ground with your legs together, head lower than back, but NOT touching the ground. Do NOT lay on the ground.
- LET YOUR CLOTHES GET WET!!! (In this way, if you are hit the majority of the electricity will follow the moisture of your wet clothes around your body.)
- Do not get up until thunder following a lightning flash is AT LEAST five seconds after the flash. (Which means the lightning struck more than 1 mile away.)

Incidentally, lightning can, and DOES, hit the same place twice - frequently.

If there are more than 5 seconds between the lightning flashes and your hearing that thunder, head for shelter. This is the only time trying to ride out from under an electrical storm makes any sense.

Best shelter, of course, is a hard covered surface connected to ground with metal. Get under it and wait out the storm.

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<http://www.msgroup.org> (James R. Davis is a recognized expert witness in the fields of Motorcycle Safety/Dynamics.)

I hope this article helped to educate, inform and motivate further research at least to the point that you are comfortable, as I feel it is better to hear news you may not want to hear from yourself, just as the folks with the hardest heads, are less likely to wear a helmet.

Oh, by the way, Noelle and I rode back home from the Ride for Dreams, after hearing the thunder and drove our car to the event and eventually were able to bring our bikes out, though too late for the actual ride, it was a nice afternoon to enjoy the good weather and safely ride back home.

Really severe weather - Hail

Just don't... Small hail can lead to big hail and of course not only hurt you directly by hitting you, it can also make the road extremely slippery. Best option is to look for a place to get out of the storm, if not for you and your bike, at least you. It will pass and eventually you can make your way back out on the road... safely.

As we say at GRASS class, "It Never Hurts To Ride Safe"
Stay safe

Gene "Lucky" Rigsby...

Looking forward to seeing you there

Roaring with Laughter!

It's always a good thing to laugh with friends! Take a minute and get a few chuckles and exercise those muscles!



The Breakup

Dear Winter, I'm breaking up with you. It is time I started seeing other seasons... Like Spring. I at least get flowers from spring... and I can ride my motorcycle!

Control

Don't believe all those silly cartoons. No matter how hard you throw a toilet plunger, it won't actually stick to someone's face. Please don't ask me how I know this...

Scales Don't Lie

A lady noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. Thinking he was trying to weigh less with this maneuver, she commented, "I don't think that's going to help." "Sure it does," he replied, "it's the only way that I can see the numbers!"

Remember...

My ability to remember song lyrics from the 80's far exceeds my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen!

There... now don't you feel better? Exercise those muscles whenever you can... and send in some new ones for next month!!



Oil Spots

By Traveler



BMW Unveils Small-Displacement Concept F 450 GS Model



BMW launched pretty heavily revised S1000RR and M1000RR models this year, but the announce-

ment of the all-new Concept F 450 GS grabbed the attention of a far wider audience.

Just based on the lines and ergonomics of the concept, along with a sweet Akrapovič end can, the German manufacturer appears to have taken this model seriously. Now, the official concept model is about to be unveiled.

BMW will also unveil the R20 Concept and prices of the latest M1000RR, M1000R, and S1000R. In total, there'll be 23 of Bavaria's finest models including a special R 18 series in its 2025 color scheme.

6 tips to increase your Safety awareness and riding proficiency



1. Take a refresher skills course with professional organization.
2. Ride defensively and confidently, not timidly or fearfully.

Anticipate what other road users are going to do and be prepared to react appropriately.

3. Practice. Head to a vacant parking lot and practice slow speed and emergency maneuvers.
4. Ride within your skill level. Proficiency and muscle memory take practice and saddle time to develop.
5. Ride smoothly. You can react a lot more quickly than any vehicle out there, but that doesn't mean you have to

turn, cut in and out, and make quick moves that startle others.

6. Scan your environment. Check your mirrors every five to seven seconds to keep track of what's going on around you. Mirrors don't tell the whole story, though, so do a visual scan as well.

Harley Board Nominates Replacement for Member Who Resigned in Protest.



The Harley-Davidson world has been in the spotlight in recent weeks due to its CEO Jochen Zeitz announcing his retirement, and the power play that his retirement kicked off with a former member of Harley-Davidson's board.

A few weeks ago, Jared Dourdeville of H Partners Management, an investment firm with about a 9% stake in the company, left in protest after the rest of the board told Zeitz that he could pick the company's next CEO. Dourdeville wasn't too happy about that and, with the backing of his investment company, launched a campaign not only to see Zeitz leave immediately, but also oust two long-standing board members, and pick his favorite candidate for CEO.

Harley, for its part, released a SEC filing pretty much poking holes in every single one of Dourdeville and H Partners Management's claims about corporate malfeasance, and how he and they voted with the rest of the board *every single time*. That fight is still playing out, as H Partners Management has launched a proxy war to, hopefully, convince the brand's other investors, owners, and board members to sway their way.

In spite of all that, however, Harley-Davidson recently nominated someone to replace Dourdeville on the board, and the quickness of the nomination feels like such a knife twist.

According to the SEC filing, "Following Mr. Dourdeville's resignation, the Board acted to reduce the size of the Board from nine to eight members. The Board nominated Ms. Lori Flees, who is currently oil-giant Valvoline's President for election as a Director as part of the Board's commitment to ensure a balance between institutional knowledge

(Continued on pg. 6).



Oil Spots, , Continued...

and fresh perspectives to Board discussions. Flees has been at Valvoline for the last three years, and at Walmart for the eight years prior.

Harley also used the nomination filing to urge Harley's shareholders to vote in favor of the board's directors and nominees, saying, "Although Mr. Dourdeville is no longer a director nominee, the WHITE proxy card that we made available with the Proxy Statement remains valid, and WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO VOTE 'FOR ALL' THE COMPANY'S DIRECTOR NOMINEES." Dourdeville and H Partners Management distributed Blue Proxy cards that would essentially hold the company hostage until their demands for Zeitz's immediate departure, as well as the departures of board members Thomas Linebarger and Sara Levinson.

Charity Ride Supports Amputees



Trauma can come in two forms, at least when you're involved in an accident. The first is the accident itself and toll it reaps on your body. But there's a secondary toll, too. That one occurs when, due to your incurred injuries, you're no longer able to do the things you once did.

That toll can weigh on you. It can weigh on your soul. And it can feel as if you're in that accident over and over again as its grip won't let you leave.

And while there are those who still have the mental fortitude to return, it's sometimes cost-prohibitive to do so, or even attempt to do so. For those who've lost limbs, replacements aren't cheap. And for replacements that are useful, work no matter what, and allow you to once again regain that semblance of your life, well those are expensive.

That's the reasoning behind the "Missing Parts" motorcycle charity ride that Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson and influencer and veteran Justin Nunley are putting on this June.

Nunley conceived the idea for the ride with an amputee named Joel Rooker who showed up at Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson one day. After waiting to meet the one-

armed man who still rode motorcycles, Nunley asked Joel how it all worked, which he showed him. However, the impetus for the ride began when Joel told Nunley how much the rig that allowed him to still ride cost.

That number? A cool \$50,000+. Nunley then worked with Joel and Emerald Coast to put together the "Missing Parts" ride because, "People shouldn't be held back from doing what they love just because of money". And thus, the ride was hatched. Over the months since which it will be on June 28th and starting at Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson.

According to the dealership's site, "Join Justin 'Danger' Nunley, Joel Rooker, and Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson for the first-ever Missing Parts Ride on Saturday, June 28th in Fort Walton Beach, FL to help get amputees the support they need to be back on two (or three) wheels!"

Nunley goes on to state, "We're going to put as many people back on bikes as we possibly can." Hopefully, he, Rooker, and Emerald Coast does just that as no one should carry that second weight just because they lacked the funds to fight back.

A lot of opinions are waiting to be formed until BMW announces how much the production F450 GS will cost.

50-Plus Motorcycles Burned



It was early afternoon on a Thursday in Las Vegas when a fire broke out at a local powersports dealership. It's a mega-large place, the kind that sells both new and used motorcycles from multiple brands, as well as ATVs and UTVs.

The place where the fire happened was in back of the RideNow Powersports location, near Boulder Highway and Russell Road. It's not clear exactly which motorcycles were affected, but you can clearly see crates of motorcycles out back, as well as a few charred husks of badly burned side-by-sides that were also damaged in the incident.

According to local news reports, it took about an hour for multiple Clark County Fire Department crews to successfully put the fire out. Passersby reported hearing loud bangs.

(Continued on pg. 7).



Oil Spots, , Continued...

It's believed that somewhere between 55 and 70 motorcycles were damaged, likely amounting to a quarter of a million dollars or more. It's not clear how many side-by-sides were damaged at this point.

Investigators are working to trace what caused this fire, but have not released details at this point. Some have immediately jumped to the conclusion that a nearby homeless encampment is involved, though there isn't much in the way of evidence.

LiveWire Will Offer Police Package Electric Motorcycle



The current crop of electric motorcycle powertrains make a lot of sense if you're using them for dirt bikes, as you don't

need a lot of staying power when you're riding the trails. Having around 80 to 100 miles of range makes it easy to get back to the truck.

LiveWire, came up with supplying law enforcement and security companies with the LiveWire S2 Patrol.

LiveWire will make two Patrol models, one based off the Alpinista and one off the Del Mar, both of which use the company's S2 platform.

According to the brand, the Patrols "offer a multitude of benefits for patrol officers, security forces, and motorcade duty, in scenarios that allow the motorcycles to demonstrate the very best of EV technology with simple twist-and-go operation (no clutch, no shifting), low heat signature, minimal vibration, excellent low speed maneuverability which lend to lower levels of rider fatigue and enhanced focus and concentration.

Additionally, the quiet operation and zero emissions offer benefits not only on the street but also indoors where the S2 Patrol models have been identified as ideal for conventions, summits, and stadium use."

And police departments, as well as private security companies, will have a host of accessories to chose from—as you'd expect from a company whose parent has an 800-page accessories catalog. Those accessories will include standard tip-over protection, both top case and side cases, a 120dB siren, 12 SpeedTech LED lights, AUX power supply, hand guards, and the "requisite controls" for said accessories. Basically, everything you'd need from a patrol

motorcycle just wrapped in an EV wrapper.

LiveWire states the S2 Patrols will start between \$15,999 and \$16,249, depending on which one you choose.

The company has already secured its first customer with the St. Cloud, Florida police department. You could very easily see these becoming more common across the country, and the world as more cities reduce their reliance on gasoline-powered machines, as well as continue reducing ICE machines in general in city centers.

Likewise, stealth and quiet make a whole heck of a lot of sense in terms of security.

New Harleys are About To Get More Expensive In Europe



The US raised tariffs, so the European Union is raising countertariffs. Who loses? Everyone!

The European Association of Motorcycle Manufacturers (ACEM) issued a call to exclude the entire motorcycle category from the trade war. ACEM Secretary General said, "While we recognize the need for a balanced response to trade disputes, motorcycles should not become collateral damage in broader trade conflicts. The motorcycle industry provides high-quality manufacturing and related jobs, mobility and access to employment for millions of people and is a fundamental economic driver. As nobody wins in trade wars, we strongly call for a return to reason and for both parties to reach a fair solution."

Pre "Tariff War tariffs saw the EU taxing Harley Davidson motorcycles at 50% tariff and 150% luxury tax.

"Tariffs are taxes. They are bad for business, and worse for consumers. They are disrupting supply chains. They bring uncertainty for the economy. Jobs are at stake. Prices will go up. Nobody needs that – on both sides, neither in the European Union nor in the United States," said European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen as she announced new tariff counter-measures on certain specific American imports into the European Union.

(Continued on pg. 8)



Oil Spots, continued...

The news came on Wednesday, March 12, in response to new American tariffs of 25 percent against EU-made aluminum and steel. The European countermeasures will be levied against specific American-made goods, including peanut butter, whiskey, blue jeans, and motorcycles made in the US.

Under the terms of these new European measures, American-made motorcycles saw an additional 50 percent tariff imposed, effective April 1, 2025.

Indian Motorcycle has less reason for concern with regard to any potential EU tariffs. While Indian and parent company Polaris continue to manufacture motorcycles in the US for the US market, Indian also has a factory in Opole, Poland where it manufactures mid-size motorcycles for the European market. However, all of its large motorcycles are built in Indian's Spirit Lake, Iowa factory.

But while tariffs are frequently wielded as political tools, their effects are generally borne by the businesses who import the goods affected. Those businesses then pass those added costs on to their customers.

That's the math. They end up costing businesses more, and in turn, end up costing customers more—that is, assuming those customers aren't priced out entirely by the newly increased cost of ownership.

The ongoing tariff wars are a constantly evolving situation, with many moving parts.

What's Coming....

Check out the Website for details at TopCats.org

or..

Call Mike Bradbury: 847.702.6613

KickOff Ride!

April 27, 2025

A great Ride and good company! If you didn't make it... We're looking forward to seeing you on the next one!





What's Coming....

Check out the Website for details at TopCats.org
or..
Call Mike Bradbury: 847.702.6613

Bike Blessing - May 10th, 2025
Wauconda Post 911 with Don DeLordo!



AMERICAN
LEGION

Wauconda, Illinois Post 911
Serving veterans and the community since 1946

Double Clutch Lunch - May 31st 2025
Destination: Evanston with Gene Rigsby!





What's Com-

Lunch Rides
with Greg



Olbrich Gardens and Dinner at
Prime Table with
Mary Kirkpatrick on July 13th!



Coops BBQ with Don DeLordo!
July 19



And of Course.... Sturgis
and Front Range Rides
with a whole lot of Road
Captains!
July 28 through August
10th!

See the website for last
year's pictures! This is a
beautiful experience from
start to finish!



Ride For Dreams! June 14th, 2024!

Join us for our 26th Annual Charity Ride! Volo, and a *Very Special Cause... NISRA!*

Volo is offering us a great deal on their new family friendly layout! Come, bring the family and help to make this a **REAL SUCCESS!**

Please Help to
make this a
memorable event
for our Top Cat
Family and the
NISRA Families
too!

Lets get everyone talking
about the FUN time to be

had on the

Ride For Dreams!

TOPCATS.org

TOP CATS ILLINOIS

26th Annual **RIDE FOR DREAMS**

June 14, 2025
\$25 per Bike + \$5 per Passenger
Includes: pre-ride coffee & pastries and entitles the ticket holder to a 1/2 price ticket to the Volo Museum and/or Jurassic Park.

WOODSTOCK HARLEY-DAVIDSON

All Bike Brands WELCOME

NISRA
Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association

All proceeds benefit: nisra.org

The Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association provides year-round recreation activities for people with disabilities. Since 1976, children and adults of all ability levels have enjoyed socializing, building skills and having fun in hundreds of weekly programs, special events, camps and trips each year.

NISRA— enriching the lives of people with disabilities through meaningful recreation experiences.

Ride STARTS:
Woodstock Harley Davidson
2235 South Eastwood Dr.
Woodstock, IL 60098
woodstockharley-dav.com

- Registration 9:00 am
- Ride Brief 10:15 am
- Kick-Stands Up 10:30 am

Ride ENDS:
Volo Auto Museum
27582 Volo Village Rd.
Volo, IL 60073
volocars.com

Volo MUSEUM



General Membership Meeting Minutes April 1st, 2025

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance

Guests

- Dan Loughridge

Announcements-Birthdays

- 4/6 – Sandra Hotton
- 4/9 – Chuck Carlson

Vice President: Bozenna Haszlakiewicz (Absent)

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Jurgen (our friend in Germany) is saving up to make a trip here.
- Harley Davidson has 7 new models this year.
- Potholes are showing up all over – watch out!

Safety: Mike Bradbury (Absent)

Accident/Safety Review

- No video was shown tonight.

Kaution Korner

- Don reviewed his Kaution Korner article in in the Roar. He asked the group some questions from the 2025 Illinois Motorcycle Operators Manual and found we don't know everything about motorcycles! It was a fun review.
- Gene will provide the Kaution Korner article for May about riding in inclement weather.

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- No new inquiries.

Activities: Greg Smith

Recent Activities:

- March 15 - Road Captain Meeting was held at Wauconda Legion Hall. Road Captains have come up with some ideas for rides. Watch for details.
- March 23 – GRASS Class was held at Keller Williams, Barrington. We had a good turnout and good feedback from guests.

Future Activities:

- April 6 – GRASS Class will be held at Keller Williams, Barrington for the McHenry Hogs.
- April 26 - WSHD Open House (Gene). We will set up the TC table and promote our club and the upcoming Charity Ride. Please come out and help.
- April 27 – Kick Off Ride (Michael). Deciding on 1 of 3 options for this ride. If you plan to attend, please RSVP him so he can let you know which option he chooses.
- May 10 – Bike Blessing (Don). Ride to American Le-

gion to support their bike blessing.

- May 31 – Double Clutch Ride (Gene). Ride to Double Clutch Brewery in Evanston.
- June 7 – Rock River Ride (Greg). More details to follow.
- June 14 – Ride for Dreams (Mary). Save the date. More planning details need to be done.
- July 13 – Continental Gardens (Mary). Will be stopping in Janesville at a steakhouse.
- July 19 – Coop's BBQ (Don). Ride out to Belvidere for lunch at Coop's.
- July 26 – Pierogi Fest (Ted). Whiting, IN. More details to follow.
- July 28-August 5 – Sturgis (Bard & Wayne). Currently have 10 people and 8 bikes going.
- August 5-10 – Front Range Ride (Wayne). Will have pick your ride every day.
- September 13-14 – Ooo Ooo Kalamazoo (Ted). Overnight ride. Details to follow.
- September 26-30 – Lake Superior Waterfalls (Mary). 4-day trip making stops along the way. Details to follow.
- December 7 – Toys for Tots Ride.

Jim Wiseman has joined the Activities Committee. Please send information for rides/activities to him so he can get the blasts out to everyone.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- June 14 – Father's Day weekend. Hopefully, we will get a good crowd for the day. Flyers are being printed up to distribute at WSHD Open House and at other dealerships and venues.

Products: Ted Makarewicz

- Top Cats merch is available. Also look at the Land's End website to order directly from them.

50/50 Raffle: Andy Haszlakiewicz (Absent)

- No raffle tonight.

Meeting was adjourned by Gene at 7:56 p.m.



Board Meeting Minutes April 15th, 2025

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom. All Board members were present.
- Gene reminded the board again that this is Top Cats' 30th anniversary. Should an event be planned or a 30th year patch/pin? We need to order soon if we go the patch/pin route. Let's ask the club members at the next general meeting.
- Wayne mentioned that Top Cats is the oldest motorcycle club in the northwest suburbs. There are a lot of spinoffs or auxiliary groups but not original clubs.
- 2025/2026 Banquet – DeLordo's and Smith's checked out The Tap House across the street from Emmett's. They won't have their 2026 banquet menu available until May. Suggest we get 2026 prices from Emmett's or we look further at other venues. Was suggested we check out Pin Stripes in Barrington. Don will give them a call.

Vice President – Bozena Haszlkiewicz

- Reviewed Article III-Membership, Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the By Laws. Eligibility has not changed. Membership applications are not available online and must be made in writing using the approved application form. Section 3 – Classes of Membership remain the same although no one falls under Charter Member anymore. Our only Life Member is Nick Bender and the only Honorary Member is Sandra Hutton.
- Document Repository: Gene suggests we collect materials from the club and put them all on Goggle Drive Space. He will go over this with Bozena at the May General meeting.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Nothing.

Treasurer: Don DeLordo

Report/Review

- The only expenditure for March was reimbursement for refreshments at Senior Road Captain meeting. There was no activity in the Charity account.

Activities: Greg Smith

Past Events:

- March 15 – Senior Road Captain Meeting at Wauconda American Legion.
- March 23 – GRASS Class for TC members and others.
- April 6 – GRASS Class for McHenry Hogs group.

Future Events:

- April 26 – WSHD Open House. We will have our table set up and promote our club and the upcoming
- Ride for Dreams.
- April 27 - Kick-Off Ride. Mike will do an "option" ride again to Crandell's in Hebron. Depending on the weather

you can ride your bike or meet there via your car.

- May 10 – St. Charles Motorcycle Museum, Bike Blessing (Don). Don & Cindy visited the museum. They have a big meeting room and a bar. He left some Top Cats brochures for them to hand out. Owners are very interested in safety so could be a good place to have a GRASS class. They would help promote it and we could pick up some more members.
- May 31 – Double Clutch Ride (Gene). Ride to the Double Clutch Brewery in Evanston.
- June 7 – Rock River Ride (Greg)
- June 14 – Ride for Dreams Charity Ride.
- July 13 – Continental Gardens (Mary)
- July 19 – Coop's BBQ (Don)
- July 26 – Pierogi Fest in Whiting, IN (Ted)
- July 28-August 4 – Sturgis (Wayne & Bard)
- August 5-10 – Front Range Ride (Wayne). Wayne will set up a get-together with group going. It would be nice to have each rider do a ride a day and get credit for it.
- Jim Wiseman will be doing the calendar and blasts. Gene will meet with him as he has been having problems with the programs. Please send your ride/event information to Jim and cc Greg and Gene. Please use the event forms so Jim has all the information needed.
- Greg suggested that board members should engage other members to join their committees and become more involved in the club. It takes about a year for new members to become comfortable with a club. Asking them to help out on a committee may make them feel more included.

Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- A GRASS class was held for the Fox Valley HHogs at Keller Williams on April 6. There were 24 attendees. It was well received – good questions and lots of engagement. Mike took a photo of the group and will continue to take photos for upcoming GRASS classes. Patches and attendance cards were passed out to the group. They were very appreciative.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

- A new potential member, Dan Loughridge, attended the GRASS class. Dan is not committed to joining just yet. Ted will continue to send him info on our rides.
- Ted also sent information on upcoming rides to a couple that attended the Chili Cookoff.
- Products: A blast should be sent out as a reminder about ordering TC merchandise off Land's End site.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- Samples of artwork done by Shawn (Sandra) for flyers and donation boxes were reviewed by the board. A few minor corrections need to be made.

(Continued on page 14)



Board Minutes, continued

- April 16 – 7:00 pm – A Charity meeting will be held via Zoom. Watch email with info.
- The website needs to be updated with the current information for the event.
- Wayne mentioned that the bike show trophies will need to be updated. Maybe we'll do a separate show rather than at the Charity event. Was suggested we talk with the St. Charles Motorcycle Museum to do the bike show there.

Secretary: Jane Smith

- No comments.
Meeting adjourned by Gene at 8:06 p.m.

And... a few more chuckles!

How do Harley Owners greet each other?

With Hogs and Kisses!

I got a motorcycle for my brother last week.

Best Trade ever!

Why did the tomato get a motorcycle?

To Ketchup with his friends!

Who sings Reggae and rides a motorcycle

Bob Harley!

What web browser does a biker use?

Chrome!



May Birthdays and Anniversaries!

No birthdays and....

No Great Love Stories for May! (That we know of...tell us if we're wrong!)

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities
for May

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



Top Cats Buy, Sell, Trade....

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good quality at fair prices!***

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**LOOK TWICE
FOR MOTORCYCLES**



GREAT DEALS!

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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
Success
Realty**

**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

(815) 770-0302

TAK MC (Primarily Harleys)

Contact: **Tim Harwood**

28841 N. Darrell Road

McHenry, IL 60051

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

www.warperformance.com

(866) 927-7373

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help them?





RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, May 6th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, May 10th	Bike Blessing	Thortons in Algonquin	Post 911 Wauconda	8:30 AM	DeLordo
Tuesday, May 13th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, May 31st	Double Clutch Lunch	TBD	Double Clutch Evanston	TBD	Rigsby
Tuesday, June 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, June 7th	Lunch Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Smith
Tuesday, June 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday June 14th	Ride for Dreams	Woodstock HD	Volo Auto Museum	9:00 pm	MKirkpatrick
Saturday, June 21st	Lunch Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Smith
Bring Your	Ride Ideas to	Greg Smith or	Rick Agrimonti	SOON!!	

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



Barrington Library

Location and Hours

505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300

balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

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

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

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



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

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President	Gene Rigsby- gene.rigsby@gmail.com	Activities	Greg Smith GregSmith@kw.com	Executive Editor & Board Liaison	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
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Director	Greg Smith GregSmith@kw.com	Website	Mary Kirkpatrick mawalters57@gmail.com	Membership	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com
Director	Mike Bradbury bradbundy@comcast.net	Products	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com	Charity	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
Director	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com	SGT at Arms	Andy Haszlakiewicz andyh9946@gmail.com	Events & Calendar	Greg Smith GregSmith@kw.com & Jim Wiseman JWiseman1884@gmail.com
Founder	Carl 'Virgo' Bender 1941-2001			Motorcycle Community	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at

ROAR@TopCats.org