



ROAR

July, 2025

Volume 25, Issue 7

Our 28th Annual Charity Ride...
For NISRA!
Thanks to all who came out!

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The Official
Publication
Of Top Cats
Illinois



Upcoming Events

JULY

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
- 8 BOARD MEETING
- 20 CONTINENTAL GARDENS
- 29 START FOR STURGIS

AUGUST

- 4 FRONT RANGE RIDE!
- GENERAL MEETING AND BOARD MEETINGS CANCELLED

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 hope all the dads had a great fathers day. Mine will be a little late as my son was not feeling well, but at least we got to talk and I know we will make up for the lost time the next time we are together... Kind of like you and I do next opportunity we have.

We had a great spring with cool weather for comfortable riding. I hope you took advantage of it. I know some of you did cause I saw you out there... NICE...!!!

Noelle and I have been busy filling more and more of our calendar in with things to do and there is not a lot of spare time, so we need to take advantage of Top Cat riding opportunities when we can, which we have coming up real soon.

Activities from June...

June 14: Ride for Dreams - Mary Kirkpatrick. A big thanks to Mary and all the Top Cats that supported our charity event and all your hard work. It is truly a team effort. We had a good turn out this year and raised funds for our chosen charity, NISRA. But the chances for giving are not over. We do have some donated items that we had planned to raffle, which we are now planning to pass to NISRA for this year's fall fashion show auction, providing further benefits to NISRA participants. That's a big goal. You are welcome to pass along any item(s) you would like to donate as well. Just contact anyone on the board to do so and we can help you out. And, as much as it seems like we are running in circles with this charity event year after year, there are more things achieved at this event than just raising funds to benefit NISRA participants. Like promoting the Top Cats as a philanthropic and caring organization in the motorcycle community, improving the image of "bikers", promoting our club name as a means to draw possible new members and more... Even the comradery I see consistently, before, during and after our event... It's heat-warming. We had more members attend the event this year than I had on my last ride... AND.. I am not complaining but applauding... Thank you...

June 21) Rockford Country/Lunch ride - Smith. This ride is a shining example of what being a Top Cat road captain is all about. Greg took all the necessary steps to plan and pre-ride this trip and even with all this planning, he could not control the weather (I know a bit about this) which in the end, squelched the rider participation. So what did Greg do... Same as most any RC would do. He adjusted... He waited at the starting location, just in case someone decided to attend and after the KSU time, he headed out with Jane for a ride to breakfast and even found a new dining option...

That's like the old expression about cracked eggs in a basket and making lemonade.. Or something like that... whatever. Either eggs or lemons, that's how you road captain like a Top Cat...

Activities for July...

This month starts off a bit slow but goes out with a bang!!! Spilling into August.

July 20) Continental gardens - M. Kirkpatrick. Mary is busy planning a trip for us out to the Continental gardens in Wisconsin and a dinner stop at the Prime Quarter after. It is shaping up to be a nice day. Looking forward to it.

July 28 - Aug 4) Sturgis - Board/W. Kirkpatrick. Bard and Wayne have worked hard for months to get everything ready for this annual pilgrimage to the Black Hills. It is usually too late to get in on and enjoy the discounted rooms at this point, but reach out to Bard and/or Wayne to see.. You never know...

Aug 4 - Aug10) Front Range Ride - W. Kirkpatrick. Wayne is still wrangling in all the participants and working on a wild schedule of people and places that are likely to change almost every day. Not a big challenge for one of our most experienced RCs, but still a challenge. Reach out to Wayne if you are interested in going to see what options are available to join the fun.

Keep in mind RCs, you can put on a ride when these multi-day rides are going on in July and August, so by all means, please do so...

SAVE THE DATE(S) NOW:

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.

NOTICE: With all the travel, we will not have a July board meeting, nor an August general and board meeting. Update your calendar(s)

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" Rigby



KAUTION KORNER

• Look for

The Trucking Challenge!

Pass with Care... Let the truck know you're there!

By: Mary 'Trooper' Kirkpatrick
Sr. Road Captain



Passing a truck on a motorcycle requires extra caution and a systematic approach due to the truck's size, limited visibility, and potential for wind turbulence. Take some time to survey the options that you have in planning to pass. On the expressway with multi-lane options, this can be a fairly easy piece as you can see ahead as well as behind and evaluate the best plan before you make your move. On backroads, these following items become more important and there is less visibility to know what could be ahead. Take your time. Be sure. And in a group, remember... ride your own ride. Make your own decision on when to make the pass.

This list is an AI generated list, but follows what we all know to be important. Also, there is a piece below from a trucker site that offers drivers some guidance on how to 'read' motorcycle riders on the road. All are valuable comments.... Bring your additions to our next meeting, and we can update this list!

Here's a breakdown of how to safely pass a truck on a motorcycle:

1. Preparation:

- Assess the situation: Determine if passing is necessary and if it's safe to do so. **Consider the speed differential, traffic conditions, road conditions, and visibility. Each of these is important...**
- Check mirrors and blind spots: Use your mirrors and turn your head to check for any vehicles attempting to pass you from behind.
- Position yourself: Position yourself in a lane position that allows you to see the truck's mirrors and the road ahead.
- Maintain a safe following distance: Maintain at least a 4-second following distance behind the truck to allow for better visibility and reaction time.

2. Execution:

- Signal your intention: Clearly signal your intention to pass using your turn signals.
- Accelerate smoothly and decisively: Initiate the pass while accelerating smoothly, minimizing the time spent alongside the truck.
- Maintain a safe buffer: Maintain a safe distance from the truck as you pass to account for wind turbulence and unexpected movements.
- **Be aware of wind buffeting:** Be prepared for wind turbulence, especially at the **front of the truck** and when returning to your lane.

Before returning to your lane, ensure you can see the truck driver in the mirror. That will ensure enough space for you to move safely.

- Signal and merge back: Once you have sufficient space, signal your intention to return to your original lane and merge back smoothly.
 - Decelerate to the desired speed: Once in your lane, decelerate to the desired speed.
 - **In a group, keep on the throttle** until there is enough room for the entire group to make their lane changes and return to the original lane positions behind you.
- #### 3. Additional tips:
- Avoid lingering: Don't linger alongside the truck; pass quickly and efficiently.
 - Be aware of blind spots: Trucks have large blind spots; avoid riding in them.
 - Be prepared for crosswinds: Strong crosswinds can affect stability, especially when passing large vehicles.
 - Don't cut in front of the truck: Trucks take a long time to stop; ensure you have enough space before returning to your lane.
 - Pass on the left when possible: Generally, it is safer to pass on the left.

By following these guidelines and exercising caution, you can safely pass a truck on a motorcycle and minimize the risks involved.

Here is what Truckers are told about driving near motorcycles: Website: [STR Motorcycles Brochure 2021.pdf](#)
Guidelines for Professional Drivers:

- Professional drivers should provide motorcyclists with as much room as possible. By leaving a space cushion between the truck and the motorcycle, drivers can safely maneuver if necessary.
- It is important to keep track of motorcycles as they can easily disappear in a truck's blind spot.
- If there is more than one rider in the group, try to count the headlights and keep track of how many pass the truck.
- Be mindful of weather, especially if there is a crosswind present. Passing a large truck requires skill and attention for the motorcyclist. This is why it is so important to provide a space cushion for both vehicles to maneuver.

(Continued on pg 4)



KK, , Continued...

- At highway speeds, motorcycles receive a lot of turbulent air toward the front of a large truck when passing. It is always safest for the professional driver to back off the throttle to help the motorcycle rider get past as quickly as possible.
- Motorcyclists often slow down by downshifting or rolling off the throttle, not always activating the brake light. Allow more following distance and realize the motorcyclist may slow without visual warning, especially at intersections or when turning.

We get a great deal of practice riding near trucks these days as there are many on the road ~ both highway and backroads. With all of us more aware of how to maneuver these situations, we can make decisions that will keep us all safer as we move down the road!



Oil Spots

By Traveler



We all have encountered rain, nightfall, bugs, wind at some point in our riding career.

I would bet many of you have only a rough idea what to do if you find ourselves in a heavy blowing dust.

You don't always need to wait for a dust storm to find heavy dust and low-visibility conditions. You may encounter dust heavy enough to reduce your visibility of the road ahead coming from construction sites and farm fields.

It is almost impossible to prepare for dust storms or limited – visibility dry conditions. If we knew where they were we probably wouldn't ride there. But, there are ways to prepare for, and to react to, reduced visibility caused by dust storms, construction and farm sites and, any other situations.

DUST STORMS

As with most motorcycling issues, it isn't a matter of "If" but a matter of "When".



1. Maintain Visibility:

- **Goggles:** Wear goggles with clear or yellow lenses for improved visibility in dusty conditions or...have them readily available.
- **Lens Prep:** Consider using a dust-resistant treatment like a small amount of lip balm to prevent fogging. A last resort may be saliva. Your own of course.
- **Regular Cleaning:** Keep your goggles and helmet visor clean and free of debris.

2. Maintain Control:

- **Body Position:** Stand up on the footpegs and keep your body weight towards the rear, if in sand or loose terrain.
- **Squeeze the Tank:** Squeeze the tank with your knees for stability and a better connection with the bike.
- **Loose Riding:** Relax your grip on the handlebars and let the bike move around.
- **Throttle Control:** Slow down by reducing throttle instead of using the front brake, which can be less effective, in fact hazardous, in loose conditions.



(Continued on page 5)



Oil Spots, Continued...

3. Protect Your Motorcycle:

- **Clean Regularly:** Wash your bike regularly after riding in dusty conditions to prevent debris from accumulating particularly in your air filter.
- **Protective Covers:** Consider using a protective cover, like a K&N Air Filter cover to minimize dust that may be sucked in by the engine.
- **Motorcycle-Specific Cleaners:** Use cleaners specifically designed for motorcycles to protect the paint and other components from the “Sand Blasting” affect.
- 4. Additional Tips:
- **Observe and Plan:** Scan the road ahead to anticipate dust patterns and choose your course accordingly.
- **Ride with Others:** If riding in a group, be aware of the dust you kick up and kicked up by others and maintain a safe distance.
- **Patience and Persistence:** Riding in dust can be challenging, so be patient and persevere. If the dust becomes too thick, take a break or change your route.
- Nothing is as refreshing as a bottle of water, preferably cold, after riding through a dust storm.



DETAILING

90% of the fun in motorcycling is riding it somewhere, anywhere. The cost of that fun is cleaning it. So, to make the

cleaning effort worthwhile make your effort count and use microfiber towels the correct way.

The key, as the name suggests, is in the fiber: Each strand is really tiny—100 times finer than human hair—which allows them to be packed densely on a towel. That creates a lot of surface area to absorb water and pick up dust and dirt. Plus, microfibers have a positive electric charge when dry (you might notice the static cling on your towels), which further helps the towel to pick up and hold dirt. “They tend to trap the dirt in but not allow it to re-scratch the finish.

These days, the towels are relatively cheap, but in order to perform wonders consistently, they need to be used correctly.

Care for Your Towels: Dos and Don'ts

If you want them to last and retain their effectiveness, microfiber towels need more care than your shop rags:

DO: Keep your microfiber towels together in a clean storage space like a Rubbermaid container or a pretzel jar or peanut jar. They absorb dirt so readily that a carelessly stored one will be dirty before you even use it.

DON'T: Keep towels that are dropped on the ground. It's hard to get that gunk out and it will scratch your paint.

DO: Reuse your towels but, keep track of how they're used. Use a general-purpose microfiber to clean leather or a lexan windscreen or two then wash them. After about two, three washings, it starts to fade and get funky, and then that becomes the towel that does lower rockers. Then the lower rocker towel becomes the engine towel. After engines, it gets thrown away.

DON'T: Wash your microfibers with scented detergent, which can damage the fibers and make them less effective at trapping dirt. OxiClean works great, according to expert detailers.

DO: Separate your microfibers from other laundry. “Make sure that you keep the really good stuff with the really good stuff and the filthy stuff with the filthy stuff.

DON'T: Hot Air-dry your towels. Heat from the dryer can damage the delicate fibers. If you're in a rush, use the dryer's lowest setting.

DON'T: Don't contaminate your towels by tossing them on your workbench where you have been sanding something or dropping it on a dirty floor.

Detailer's Towels

The budget pack of microfiber towels will serve you fine, but if you want to, there's a dizzying variety of towel types that will help you do specific jobs more effectively.

General Use: German janitorial supply company Unger's towels are very durable.

[Unger MicroWipe 2000 Medium Duty.](#)
\$5 Unger

Drying: Towels with a big heavy nap are great for drying a wet bike (but not so great for taking off polish).



(Continued on page 6)



Oil Spots, continued...

Griot's Extra-Large Edgeless Drying towel, \$45 Griot's Garage



Polishing: Larger edgeless towels are good at picking up polishing compound residue without scratching the paint.

Are you (expletive) kidding me?



Some Lowlife Thief Stole a Woman's Motorcycle After She Crashed and Died.

Recently, some lowlife stole a woman's motorcycle off the I-10 in Phoenix, AZ, after she tragically crashed and passed away.

You read the above right. Last week, a young female motorcyclist crashed and fell down the 80-foot embankment, ultimately ending her life. After, however, and before police could reach the scene, a thief saw the fallen motorcycle without its rider and made off with it.

The family of the victim is asking the thief to please return the motorcycle to give them some closure.

According to KTAR News, 19-year-old Annabel Force "fell 80 feet to her death after hitting the median wall on the eastbound Interstate 10 transition ramp to southbound I-17 the evening of June 8," which cited the local public safety department. However, the motorcycle itself didn't fall with Force, and instead stayed at the wall as far as investigators can determine.

Before police and emergency responders could get to the scene, Force had passed away, and her 2022 Yamaha YZF-R7 motorcycle was stolen by some unknown perpetrator. Hopefully, the thief relents and sends back the motorcycle.

Dehydration

Riding in hot, dry weather can allow dehydration to creep up on a rider and passenger.

One of our members years ago was riding to New Orleans on the Natchez Trace which, as many of you may know, has few intersections and is nearly straight for miles. His first concern was "Where do I turn off here for New Orleans?" Then he realized he wasn't thinking clearly and didn't have to turn off. Next, he stopped sweating but, it was still hot.

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Griot's Microfiber Edgeless Towels, Set of 6, \$25 Griot's Garage



Wheels and other greasy areas: This roll of 75 microfiber towels from Walmart is perfect for down-and-dirty cleaning, like wire wheels. When your towel gets too dirty, throw it away and rip a new one off the roll.



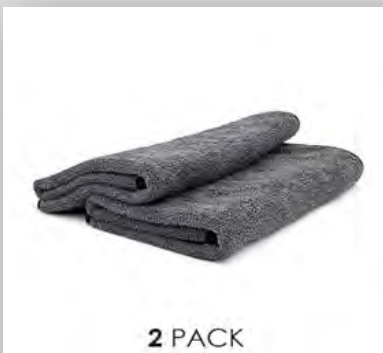
Auto Drive Tear Away Multi-Purpose Microfiber Towel Roll, 75 Pack, \$15 Auto Drive

Glass: There are specific two-sided towels for glass cleaning. One side has a thick nap that is good for getting bugs and gunk off the windshield. The other side

has no nap—just a smooth nylon finish—that's good for a streak-free final wipe down.

The Rag Company, \$29

If your time and effort are worthwhile putting into a sparkling, first-class bike....then use first-class products





Oil Spots, continued...

He pulled off of the Trace at the first opportunity and realized that those were symptoms of dehydration.

Luckily, he recognized that on a motorcycle, at speed, the wind contributes to dehydration by wicking away sweat, the body's natural cooling process so you dehydrate more rapidly. Fortunately, he was carrying water and rehydrated before continuing.

Dizziness, confusion, weakness, thirst, cessation of sweating are all signs of dehydration. Recognizing those signs is Step 2 to treating them. Step 1 is preventing them.

Stay Cool

If you are riding on a hot, dry, day for a long time, you can:

- Pull over for stops in the shade as often as possible
- Take breaks when you can and, drink energy fluids or water
- Plan your ride for the coolest parts of the day or evening, if possible.
- Make provisions for your pets if left home alone.



Stay Hydrated

Drink plenty of fluids

- Carry a water bottle. Drink and refill it throughout the day.
- Consider limiting beverages high in sugars and sodium, caffeine, and NO alcohol.
- Check your urine color. When it's light yellow or clear, it usually means you are drinking enough water. Dark urine is a warning that you are becoming dehydrated.

Know the Symptoms

If your body gets too hot, you can get sick. Know the symptoms of your body overheating and know when to seek medical care.

Symptoms can include:

- Muscle cramping
- Unusually heavy sweating
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Weakness
- Nausea
- Plus, check air quality levels – so you can plan your ride with your health in mind.

For Those at High Risk

Although anyone at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Some group rides may have to be altered on hot days based on:

- ◇ People with asthma, or heart disease.
- ◇ Many medicines can make you dehydrated or overheated on hot days.
- ◇ People 65 years of age or older.

An experienced, and concerned, road captain will always take these factors into consideration when leading a ride on very hot and humid days. And this type of road captain will be vigilant to any of the group riders showing any symptoms of dehydration.

ALL group ride participants should keep an eye on their fellow riders for signs of dehydration. It's simply called...."Camaraderie and Concern...."

Harley-Davidson Recalls Softail Motorcycles (2018 to 2024)

Harley-Davidson is voluntarily recalling 82,117 Softail motorcycles due to a defect in the shock absorber spring-preload adjuster mounting tab.



According to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Safety Recall Report, the shock absorber spring-preload adjuster mounting tab on specific 2018 to 2024 model year Softail models can break during regular operation. This can cause the shock to contact the rear tire, damage it, and lead to tire deflation, potentially resulting in loss of control and a crash. The NHTSA recall number is 25V375.

As of the date of the recall, Harley-Davidson has had no information about any injuries resulting from the problem.

Here are the motorcycles included in the recall:

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Model Code	Model Name	Years	Units Affected
FLHCS ANV	Heritage Classic Anniversary Edition	2018, 2023	2,084
FLDE	Deluxe	2018–2019	3,619
FLHC	Heritage Classic	2018–2022	8,756
FLHCS	Heritage Classic 114	2018–2024	24,718
FXLRS	Low Rider S	2020–2024	25,887
FXLRST	Low Rider ST	2022–2024	16,058
FXRST	Low Rider El Diablo	2022	739

**Oil Spots, continued...**

Here are warning signs that the breakage of the mounting tab has occurred:

- Unusual vehicle noise that the rider or passenger may notice
 - Difficulty maneuvering the bike
- Visual signs of damage or unusual wear pattern on the rear tire.

Some of the motorcycles included in this recall may have been previously recalled (M1603: Recall 0181) for the same problem. Under that recall, the 1/4-inch adjuster tab mounting screw had been replaced with a 5/8-inch nut and bolt.

Harley-Davidson initiated a voluntary recall of the affected products on May 28, 2025. Dealers will install a repair kit on affected vehicles at no charge to the owner. Owner notification began on Monday, June 16, 2025.

The vehicle repair will include a new bracket that restricts the movement of the spring-preload adjuster and also prevents the adjuster from coming in contact with the rear tire.

Owners are encouraged to verify their motorcycles' VINs on Harley-Davidson.com or to contact dealers to schedule the free repair. This month (June) Harley-Davidson will begin notifying owners and providing a VIN search tool on its website.

The groundbreaking for Allen Centennial Garden took place on a bright and sunny July day in 1985. That morning was full of excitement and anticipation over how the vision of the University's new horticulture garden would take shape in the two and a half acres surrounding the former Agricultural Dean's Residence.



Coming up.... Continental Gardens AND... Prime Quarter!

Words by: Mary Kirkpatrick

Ethel Allen, a former member of the UW faculty, received a Bachelor's Degree in Botany, a Master's Degree in Bacteriology, and an honorary Doctorate of Science from UW. She was a renowned naturalist and international authority in her field. A Madison resident and talented botanist, she was instrumental in providing monetary support for the early phases of Garden planning and construction. She remained an important member of the Allen Centennial Garden family until her death in 2006. Although Ethel made her donations to the Garden after her husband's death, Oscar's legacy is also memorialized in the Garden. Dr. Oscar Allen, prominent bacteriologist and professor at the University of Wisconsin from 1948 until his death in 1976, collaborated many times with

his wife throughout his decades long career, even co-authoring what is considered the "encyclopedia" of the role of legumes in nitrogen fixation. The honoring of both Allens recognized their commitment to the University of Wisconsin and the horticulture department but also to one another. The completed Garden was dedicated in 1989 and was named to honor the Allens and also the 100th anniversary of the Department of Horticulture.



Soooo.... Let's ride and see what has been a key to developing the understanding of Wisconsin's Flora! Riding to Prime Quarter and make a good steak! Learn together, ride together and eat together... It doesn't get much better!!

And then... Let's go





Celebrating our Helping Hands, and NISRA Families!

Words by: Mary Kirkpatrick



Last Month held our 28th Annual Charity ride in support of NISRA! So many things have changed over the years... Many different starting sites, many different destinations, many different leaders, a couple of different names, and many different outcomes! Some VERY successful, some rained out. BUT~ in all of those changes, in all of the outcomes, the one thing that has remained the same is the reason for the ride!

NISRA, Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association is the REASON FOR THE RIDE!

This organization serves so many families that need a little assistance in making sure that their loved one has a chance to enjoy recreational events.. Our donations usually are put toward transportation that includes wheel chairs and other needed technology for safely moving the NISRA members to the events that they enjoy!

Please, if you couldn't join on that special day, think about making a financial donation to add to our total donation. To those who were there that day, we hope that we have made this a great memory for our Top Cats Family AND more importantly our NISRA Friends!





General Membership Meeting Minutes June 3rd, 2025

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Guests - None

Announcements – Birthdays/Anniversaries

- June 10 - Joey Rizzo
- June 10 – Mike & Kathie Bradbury
- June 25 – Bard Board
- June 25 – Mark Krush

Vice President: Bozena Haszlakiewicz

- Absent – No Report

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Nothing to report.

Safety: Mike Bradbury

- Accident/Safety Review
- Distracted Driving: There is a study from the University of Utah that shows 90% of all people can't do two things at one time. The result – distracted drivers don't necessarily see all motorists because they are doing other things. They aren't paying attention to blind spots or focusing on their screens (phones, GPS). Pay attention in traffic.
- Kaution Korner
Greg reviewed his Kaution Korner article in in the Roar about when to replace your helmet. The best time is 3-5 years because materials used in the construction of the helmet begin to deteriorate within that time. Check the birth date inside your helmet. Also, improper storage of the helmet can lead to early replacement. Store it in a cool, dry place – not the garage. Do not drop your helmet as this leads to cracks in the outer shell. Exposure to rain, sun, and sweat and wearing it more often than not may lead to replacing sooner. Read the complete article in the June ROAR for more hints.
- Mary will provide the Kaution Korner article for July about prepping and planning for a ride.

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- No new inquiries.

Activities: Greg Smith

Recent Activities:

- May 10 – Bike Blessing (Don). Meeting at American Legion Post 911 for their annual Bike Blessing at St.

Peters Church in Volo. Only Andy and Don showed up. Don stressed how important it is to RSVP for rides so the road captain has some kind of indication who may be coming and doesn't wait around for people to show up.

- May 31 – Double Clutch Ride (Gene). Lunch ride to Double Clutch Brewery in Evanston. It was a great ride and lunch. Was able to see the warehouse where they had a number of cars on display.

Future Activities:

- June 14 – Ride for Dreams (Mary). Save the date. Everything is ready to go.
- June 21 – Rock River Ride (Greg). Lunch ride to Rockford. Watch for details.
- July 20 – Continental Gardens (Mary). Will be stopping in Janesville at Prime Quarter steakhouse after.
- July 26 – Pierogi Fest (Ted). Whiting, IN. More details to follow.
- July 28-August 5 – Sturgis (Bard & Wayne). The reservation cutoff date is past.
- August 5-10 – Front Range Ride (Wayne). Will have pick your ride every day.
- August 23 – Bob's Bitchin BBQ (Gene) Details to follow.
- September 13-14 – Ooh Ooh 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.
- Mentioned to members that if you are not getting "blasts" to let Jim know. Some people indicated that they aren't getting them. Jim will update the email blast list.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- Held a final Charity planning meeting before the general meeting. Mary indicates that everything is ready to go and everyone has their job to do. Set up at 8:00 am at WSHD.

Products: Ted Makarewicz

- Top Cats merch is always available.

50/50 Raffle: Andy Haszlakiewicz
No raffle tonight.

Meeting was adjourned by Gene at 7:35 p.m.





Board Meeting Minutes June 10th, 2025

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. via Zoom. All Board members were present.
- Gene reminded the Board of who's responsible for what. Jane is responsible for updating the membership roster so only refer to that one for information you may need.
- Checking emails for any corrections that may be needed to send out blasts. Gene found a Hubspot to allow emails to go through, however some may be being blocked by individual servers.
- Gene asked Bozenna if she could head up the 30-year anniversary committee for some kind of celebration. Tentative day is Sunday, May 3rd.

Vice President – Bozenna Haszlakiewicz

- No report tonight. Will be having surgery in June so seeing a lot of doctors right now. Will get back to the review of the bylaws after the surgery.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Don DeLardo

- Don reviewed the account ledgers for the General and Charity accounts. Received 3 deposits for the Charity account and took \$200 out for the Charity ride this Saturday to make change which will be returned. Have 1 payment due in July for insurance from the General account.

Activities: Greg Smith (Absent)

Past Events:

- May 10 – St. Charles Motorcycle Museum, Bike Blessing (Don). Stressed importance of RSVP for rides. Only had 2 riders.
- May 31 – Double Clutch Ride (Gene). Ride to the Double Clutch Brewery in Evanston.
- Good food and times with fellow members.

Future Events:

- June 14 – Ride for Dreams Charity Ride. Will watch the weather forecast and determine whether it's a no or go. Otherwise, be there at 8:00 am.
- June 21 – Rock River Ride (Greg) Nice easy country ride out to Rockford for lunch.
- July 13 – Continental Gardens (Mary). Two hours up to WI, stay for an hour and then head to Prime Quarter for dinner at 4:00 in Janesville.
- July 26 – Pierogi Fest in Whiting, IN (Ted). Ride to Whiting for the annual fest 9:00-3:00. Bring plastic bags to carry all your pierogi's. More information to

follow in the blast.

- July 28-August 4 – Sturgis (Wayne & Bard). Group going is changing as there are a few health issues for some.
- August 5-10 – Front Range Ride (Wayne). Working on day trips.
- August 23 – Bob's Bitchin BBQ (Gene) Details to follow.
- September 13-14 – Ooh Ooh Kalamazoo (Ted). Overnight ride. Details to follow.
- September 24-28 – Lake Superior Waterfalls (Mary). Changing days to Wednesday – Saturday. Details to follow

Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- A spreadsheet was emailed to each Road Captain showing requirements that needed to be fulfilled.
- Working on topics for Safety tips. Was suggested that he get some ideas from ABATE's newsletter.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

- Had an inquiry from Richard Kingman. He would like to ride with a group. Ted has invited him to the Charity ride and upcoming meeting. Also called Dan Loughridge who attended the April meeting, but did not receive a response.
- Will take membership applications to Charity ride for anyone interested.
- Ted will take the membership roster Jane sent out recently and reach out to each member to verify everyone's email.
- Talked again about raising dues for next year. The board needs to approve an increase before membership invoices go out at the end of the year.

Gene stressed that the 50/50 drawing needs to be done every month. If Andy is not there, then someone needs to step up and do it.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- Volo and WSHD are ready for the day. Mary asked that everyone be at WSHD at 8:00 am to help set up.

Secretary: Jane Smith

- No comments.

Meeting adjourned by
Gene at 8:10 p.m.





General Meeting, continued

LET'S RIDE



July Birthdays and Anniversaries!

14 Ted Makarewicz
28 Don DeLordo

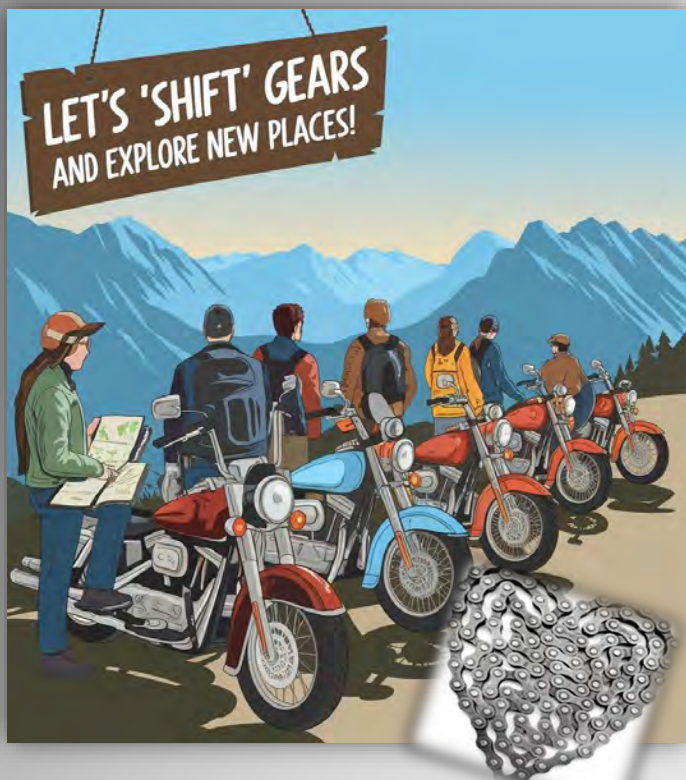
Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities
for July!

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

No Anniversaries this
month!!
(That's all we know! Tell us if
we're wrong!)



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Greg Smith

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help them?





RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, July 1st	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Tuesday, July 8th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Sunday July 20th	Continental Gardens and Prime Quarter	Woodstock HD	Rockford/Janesville	10:00 AM	M Kirkpatrick
Tuesday July 29th	Start out for Sturgis	BP at 12 and 176	Sturgis	8:00 AM	Boand
Monday, August 4th	Start of the Front Range Ride!	Alex Johnson, Rapid City, SD	Western Views!	8:00 AM	Kirkpatrick
Saturday, August 23rd	Bob's Bitchin' BBQ	TBD	Dodgeville	TBD	Rigsy



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



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Location and Hours
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Barrington, IL 60010

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balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

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



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