



ROAR

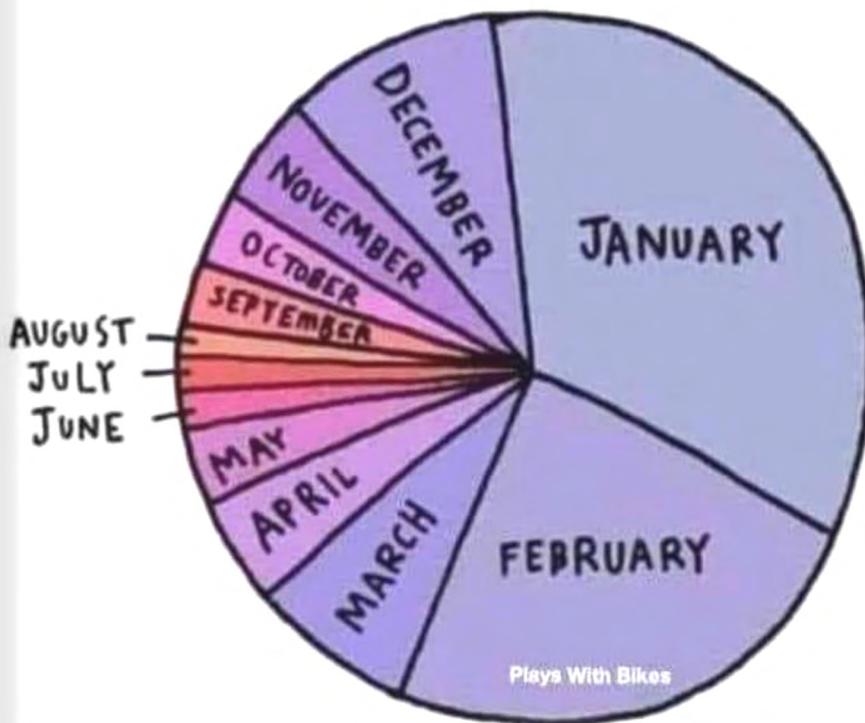
February, 2026

Volume 26, Issue 2

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How Time Passes... For Motorcycle Riders



Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 15 TC BANQUET

MARCH

- 1 GRASS CLASS
- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 21 HD MUSEUM AND LUNCH



The Official Publication Of Top Cats Illinois

Talk to Greg Smith and Jim Wiseman to get your ideas on the calendar!





ROAR

PRESIDENT'S POINT



And Now a Word from your President...

Hello, Top Cats!! I hope all is well with you and yours...

Well, great weather is here!! Let's get out and ride!!

I know it's not April yet but you never expect the trickery on that day. So, I'm sure you didn't fall for that, but you were thinking how great that would be. Right? Soon... At least the days are getting longer, which is a great sign we are headed in the right direction.

Anyway, the 2026 riding season is getting closer and will be here before you know it. Hopefully Punxsutawney Phil brings good news this year. If not, time to look for a new source to control the weather... I already know how to make it rain, be cold and sometimes snow... so I got that covered. I need help with the warm and sun part... Let me know if you have any ideas.

Activities from January...

Jan 18) Classic Movie & Chicago Dogs Night - Smiths. Greg and Jane (likely mostly Jane) put together a great event featuring a classic movie ("Planes, Trains and Automobiles") and Chicago style hot dogs to boot. Yum!! It was a great time.

Activities for February...

Feb 15) Annual Top Cats award dinner - The awards committee team. This is our annual event remembering our past riding season adventures and giving thanks to members who have strived to make our club what it is today. Again a Big thanks to The Smiths and DeLordos for checking into new venue options for us. This year we will be having our event at the Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin which looks like a very nice venue with great food. Details will be on the Top Cat calendar and sent in a blast along with cost and RSVP details. I'm looking forward to it. Work is still underway. If you haven't already RSVP'd, get in touch with Greg or someone from the board ASAP. You can pay at the 2/2 general meeting or make arrangements with Greg.

Preview for March and beyond...

Mar 1) G.R.A.S.S. (Group Riding and Safety Seminar) – Mike Bradbury.

Mar 21) Harley Davidson Museum and Lunch Run - Greg Smith. This will probably be a car run. We will meet at the Harley Museum at 11:00am Saturday, 3/21/26. We will grab lunch there and tour the Museum

Beyond...

Bard (and Wayne) has been working with them on Sturgis arrangements for 2026. Keep on the lookout for announcements and get rooms booked ASAP. In addition, and if he is planning to, Wayne will likely have Front Range Ride (FRR) info out soon. Both of these iconic club rides are scheduled around the last week of July and first 2 weeks of August, so block that time now if you are interested.

AND, there is more to come... Rides for 2026 are being planned now. Mike has scheduled the S/RC committee meeting for February where more rides will be added to the calendar so keep checking it out.

*****Check the Top Cat calendar for more details for these events.**

SAVE THE DATE(S) NOW: AND... STILL always 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.

**Wishing you and yours a healthy and prosperous Valentines Day!!
We'll be on the road soon!**

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



KAUTION KORNER

Take Care...

Mary 'Trooper' Kirkpatrick
Sr. Road Captain



Take Care... the comment that we say as we leave people who are important to us! Now let's apply this to the Motorcycle season. Take Care... we left the 2025 season behind, so as we move beyond the riding, let's 'take care' of the important things so that we are ready for the next riding season.

There are three main things that need our attention during the 'off season'. Our Bike; Our Bodies; Our Gear! There is so much valuable information on all of these areas and in our group... so much valuable experience. I'll mention the usual information on the bike and body... but want to focus on gear for this article.

The Bike

- ✦ **Fuel System:** Fill the gas tank to 90-100% full to prevent moisture buildup and rust, adding a fuel stabilizer and running the engine briefly to circulate it.
- ✦ **Battery Maintenance:** Remove the battery or use a trickle charger/battery tender to maintain voltage throughout the winter.
- ✦ **Engine Protection:** Change the oil and filter to remove contaminants, and optionally remove spark plugs to add a small amount of oil to the cylinders.
- ✦ **Cleaning & Lubrication:** Wash and wax the bike to protect the finish from rust. Lubricate control cables, chain, and pivot points.
- ✦ **Tire Care:** Inflate tires to correct pressure and use front/rear stands to lift the bike, preventing flat spots.
- ✦ **Storage Environment:** Store in a dry, climate-controlled space (garage or shed). Use a breathable cover, avoid plastic tarps, and cover exhaust pipes to prevent rodents from entering.
- ✦ **Corrosion Protection:** Apply anti-corrosion products like ACF50 to exposed metal parts, avoiding brakes.

That was a quick look at the general 'care' needed for the bike.

The Body

- ✦ **Strength Training:** Focus on compound movements to build stability and control. Key exercises include deadlifts, squats, lunges, and push-ups for core and upper-body strength.
- ✦ **Cardiovascular Endurance:** Aim for 3-5 sessions a week of 40-60 minutes of moderate-intensity cardio like cycling, running, or swimming to increase stamina.
- ✦ **Balance and Flexibility:** Use balance boards or yoga to improve coordination and joint mobility.
- ✦ **Specific Muscle Areas:** Strengthen the neck, grip, and legs (using wall sits or calf raises) to handle bike weight and braking.

You can google more detail on each of these areas and here is a link (copy and paste) for a quick video to guide you on 'taking care' of your physical readiness!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQVO4LnbkDy>

AND NOW...The Gear

Proper off-season motorcycle gear requires cleaning, treating and storing items in a cool, dry and ventilated space. This area is sometimes left till the spring, and then hurried through or sometimes just left for after that first ride that is so exciting! But if we take a good look at these things now, and check on our gear while we have plenty of time to 'let it soak in', our gear will last longer and serve us better over our motorcycling lifetime.

Cleaning Textile Gear: Wash textile gear (machine or hand) using gentle, specialized cleaners. Line dry and store in breathable bags.



(Continued on page 4)

Care, continued

What is textile gear?

Key features and Benefits:

- ◇ **Weatherproof:** Often features waterproof, breathable membranes to keep riders dry.
- ◇ **Versatile & Comfortable:** Lighter than leather and typically offers better airflow or, conversely, thermal protection for cold, wet, or varying weather.
- ◇ **Protection:** Equipped with armor (CE-certified) in key areas like shoulders and elbows, and built from durable materials to provide good abrasion resistance.
- ◇ **Functional:** Often includes more pockets and storage options for daily use or long trips.

Types of Textile Gear

- ◇ **Standard Textile:** Durable, often waterproof, for three-season riding.
- ◇ **Mesh:** High-airflow textile for summer, offering maximum breathability.
- ◇ **Waxed Cotton:** A heavier, water-resistant, and classic-styled alternative.

Leather Cleaning: Clean leather with leather cleaners and avoid soaking. Here is a quick video that is actually an advertisement for Master-son's... but it is a fun to watch video... especially if you love to clean! :) **“Treat Yo Leather!”**



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=Mh9zlpDirY>

- ◇ **Conditioning:** Apply leather conditioner to prevent drying and cracking during storage.

- ◇ **Storage:** Store in a cool, dry, and ventilated area. Use padded hangers to prevent deformation.



Inspection: Check all armor, zippers, and seams for wear and make a plan for any repairs...

Helmets: How to wash a helmet!

- ◇ **Disassemble:** Remove the visor, breath guard, and all removable cheek pads and comfort liners.
- ◇ **Wash Liners/Pads:** Soak pads in warm water with a small amount of mild soap or baby shampoo for 3-4 hours, then hand wash gently.
- ◇ **Clean Shell:** Use a damp, soft, non-abrasive cloth to wipe down the exterior. For stubborn debris, place a wet towel on the helmet for a few minutes to soften dirt before wiping.
- ◇ **Clean Visor:** Use warm water and a microfiber cloth to clean the visor. Avoid harsh cleaners like Windex, which can damage the visor coating.
- ◇ **Vents:** Use a soft bristle toothbrush or low-pressure compressed air to clear out debris.
- ◇ **Dry:** Let all parts air dry completely before reassembling. Clean with water/mild soap, remove inner liners to wash, and store in a breathable bag.



A good quick video to help!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YH9_skNX08

Gloves/Boots: Clean, dry thoroughly, and apply leather conditioner if applicable. Use the details above if you are cleaning leather gloves/boots.



Bored this winter? Looking for something to do? Hope this gives you some direction and helps you to find some motivation to get that gear ready for our next very important riding season! Meanwhile...

Take Care....



A Road Less Traveled Could it apply to Motorcycles too?

Submitted by:

Mike 'Motorcycle' Bradbury

It is always a good time to dream about motorcycle riding with our knees in the breeze, basking in the warm sunshine in beautiful weather and in a big group of fellow brother and sister riders doing a fun, interesting Top Cats ride together. Doing so while it's cold is even better.

Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" is a poem where a narrator describes their solitary walk in the woods, deciding what path to take in the

woods and the difference that choice made.

Instead of walking in the woods imagine a dream about motorcycle riding with your knees in the breeze, basking in the warm sunshine in beautiful weather and in a big group of fellow brother and sister riders doing a fun, interesting Top Cats ride together. Just like the walker, the motorcyclist has many choices in their ride and invariably choosing the road less traveled leads to finding scenic, interesting rides. Now imagine riding the roads less traveled together!

See you on the ride!

Anonymous Top Cat

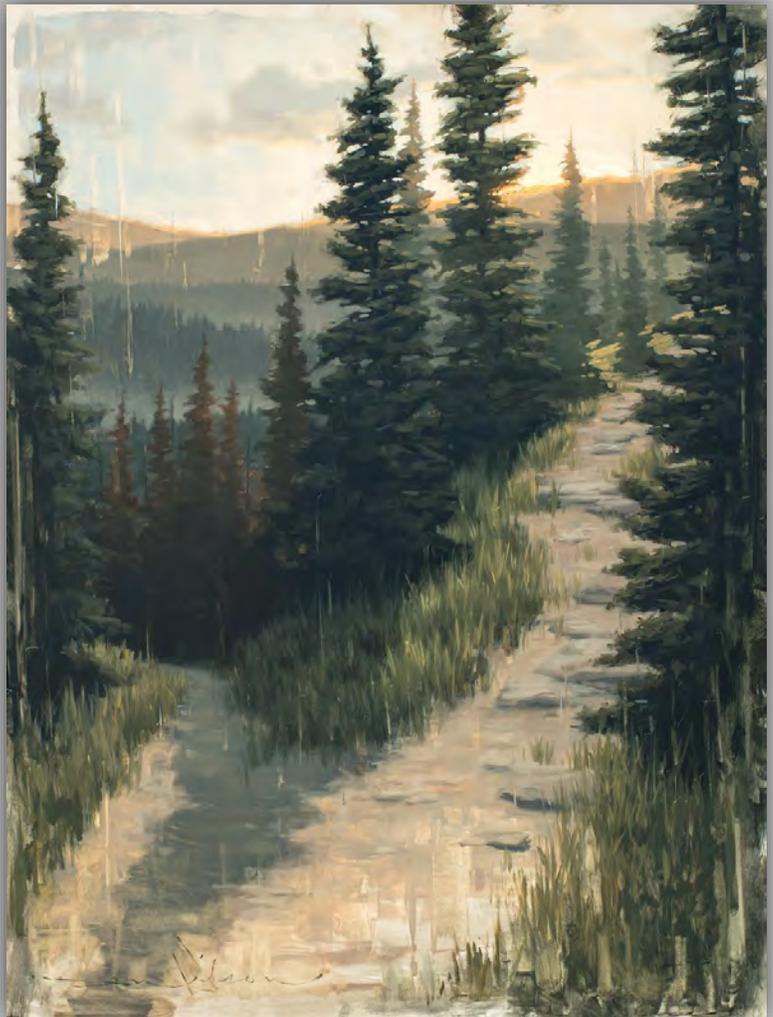
The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference





Oil Spots

By Traveler



Must-Have Accessories for Your Motorcycle

Every **motorcycle** enthusiast knows that the ride isn't just about the bike; it's about the entire experience. To enhance safety, comfort, and style, certain accessories become essential. Here's a buying guide for the must-have accessories for your motorcycle!



Safety Gear: Helmets and Protective Apparel

First and foremost, investing in high-quality helmets is crucial because a reliable helmet can save lives. Look for models that meet DOT or Snell standards to ensure maximum protection. Alongside helmets, protective apparel, such as riding jackets, gloves, and riding pants made from durable materials, provides necessary protection against abrasions during a fall.

Luggage Solutions: Saddlebags and Backpacks

Luggage solutions can significantly enhance your riding experience. Saddlebags are great for long trips, allowing you to carry essentials without compromising space on the bike. Consider weatherproof options to protect your belongings from rain or splashes while maintaining a sleek look on your motorcycle.

Communication Devices: Bluetooth Headsets

For those who love to stay connected while on the go, Bluetooth headsets are a game-changer. They offer hands-free communication with fellow riders or provide GPS navigation seamlessly integrated into your helmet. Choose models with long battery life and noise-cancellation features for an optimal riding experience.

Motorcycle Covers: Protect Your Investment

Protecting your motorcycle when it's not in use is as important as driving it safely. Invest in a good-quality motorcycle cover to shield it from environmental elements like

dust and UV rays. Ensure it's breathable to prevent moisture buildup underneath that can lead to rust.

Visibility Enhancers: LED Lights

For enhanced safety on the road, especially at night or in low-light conditions, you'll want to invest in high-quality LED lights. They not only boost visibility but also help personalize your bike's appearance. Look for easy-to-install kits that offer plenty of lighting options.

Widespread Closures of Harley-Davidson Dealerships

In the last year, many Harley-Davidson Illinois dealerships have shut their doors for the final time amid major changes for the corporate brand.

Harley has 1400 worldwide dealerships, 622 in the USA and 19 in Illinois. At the end of 2025, we saw HD close 650 dealerships across the globe after a \$377 million shortfall.

While these closings might seem unconnected, they may speak to universal issues being faced by Harley-Davidson showrooms across the nation and the brand at large.

Some of the Harley-Davidson dealerships that closed in 2025 faced total closures, while others changed hands and brands.

That includes multiple family-run showrooms, some that were in business for several decades, and even legendary locations in metropolitan areas.

Although the unique communities of each store and distinct circumstances of their respective closures may seem unrelated, the timing speaks to corporate commonalities between them.

One of the most concerning points is the company's quarterly revenue struggles across the last decade, peaking with \$1.861 billion in June 2016.

Since then, the company's revenue has been streaky at best, highlighted by two major slumps with valleys of \$0.725 billion and \$0.668 billion in December 2020 and December 2024, respectively.

(Continued on page 7)





Oil Spots, continued...

The latter slump can be partially attributed to an industry-wide issue in a 9.2% year-over-year drop in United States motorcycle sales through the first half of 2025.

These issues resulted in 2024 being the worst sales year for Harley-Davidson this decade with 94,930 bikes sold, nearly 4,000 less than 2023 and 15,000 less than 2022.

The average rider age for Harley-Davidson is also a point of concern for the brand. Although stable at ages 44-45 from 2013 through 2023, the brand is facing sustained difficulty in attracting younger clientele.

Although Gen-Z may not be hitting up Harley showrooms, one boon at least comes in women riders accounting for 14% of the total population as of 2015, a 50% surge from a decade prior.

Closures and dealerships sold included such dealerships as:

- * Hall's Harley-Davidson Dealership in Springfield, Illinois closed after 63 and was renamed to Simpson's Harley-Davidson
- * Vreeland's Harley-Davidson dealership in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania closed in September 2025
- * Iowa's family-owned dealerships McGrath Dubuque Harley-Davidson and McGrath Hawkeye Harley-Davidson closed in October
- * In Elkhart, Indiana, Hoosier Harley-Davidson dealership shut its doors in December after nearly two decades in business
- * A District Harley-Davidson in Gaithersburg, Maryland was sold in October after 40 years
- * Empire Harley-Davidson closed down in September after 13 years of serving the suburbs of New York City
- * Two dealerships shut down in Frederick, Colorado, and Cheyenne, Wyoming in August after 25 years
- * Five dealerships in Illinois sold just recently to Legendary Group of Ohio

Based on 2024 models, the average price for a Harley came in at \$25,633, while rivals like Indian, Ducati, and BMW came in at least \$2,000 lower at \$23,256, \$23,552.89, and \$17,292.42, respectively.

Upon exiting the company shortly after former CEO Jochen Zeitz, ex-board member Jared Dourdeville called out the brand for a "cultural depletion" under Zeitz's five-year run leading the company, rife with controversial leadership decisions and pushback from dealers.

Even Ford CEO Jim Farley, a well-known Harley fan himself, warned that the company must be able to change and "live in the future" in order to survive.

However, new CEO Artie Starrs has already made sweeping changes to right the ship, starting with an executive staff members and their responsibilities.

They're starting to go back to a lot of the vintage stuff, with the clothing and advertising and all that, and that maybe a good direction to go, bringing it back to America and the US and where it started.

Clever new helmet from Caberg



Caberg helmet with smart app

A pioneering new helmet system from Caberg that stores your vital information

in case of an emergency has now been rolled out onto four different models – with the likelihood of more to come.

'SOS Medical ID' is a microchip-based data system designed to be fully integrated into a motorcycle helmet. It has been developed by Italian helmet brand Caberg, and allows personal information, essential medical data, and emergency contacts to be stored and accessed quickly and securely.

According to the company the system uses NFC (Near Field Communication) technology to make the stored data easily accessible to those who may intervene in the event of a critical event. Most modern smartphones make use of NFC technology – including all Apple products since the iPhone 6.

"Simply bring a compatible (NFC equipped) smartphone close to the dedicated area of the helmet," a statement from the company read, "and without the need for apps, tags or additional codes, you can instantly access vital information such as allergies, medical conditions, blood type, emergency contacts and, if available, the rider's location."

BMW goes Clutchless



BMW is looking to revolutionize the way you can change gears by launching a new automatic transmission, dubbed Automated Shift Assistant (ASA) offering both a manual and full

auto setting.

(Continued on pg. 8)



Oil Spots, continued...

BMW has been working on the project for five years, with the aim of evolving their up/down quickshifter systems into a fully automatic transmission, with a ‘manual’ mode where the rider selects their own gears.

In both modes, the clutch operation is completely automated, with no clutch lever on the handlebars. There’s still a foot gear lever, though it’s merely an electric ‘switch’ with no mechanical function.

Meanwhile, the Transmission Control Unit adjusts the gear shifting parameters according to riding style, and which riding mode the bike is in – so an Off Road mode would have different gear change characteristics from Rain or Sport modes.

What about the foot gear lever? Could BMW have used an electrical ‘paddle’ shift on the handlebars instead? They decided to have a gear lever, so it stays the way you ride a motorcycle now.

The ASA can’t be bump-started if your battery runs flat, but it does have an additional anti-theft feature. Turn the ignition off with the bike in ‘Park’ and the transmission is locked in gear, with no way to change into neutral without the ignition key. So thieves won’t be able to wheel the bike away, even if they overcome the steering lock.

New Indian Chief Vintage

Indian Motorcycle has kicked off a year of 125th anniversary celebrations with a new Chief Vintage cruiser, said to be inspired by the Chief models of the 1940s.

Based on the existing Chief platform, it’s powered by the 1890cc air-cooled Thunderstroke 116 V-twin engine – producing a claimed 115.1lb.ft of torque at just 3300rpm.

It’s the first piece in an ongoing ‘Never Finished’ anniversary campaign that was launched on January 7 – marking 125 years since the first ever Indian model rolled off the production line in 1901 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The most noticeable change to the Vintage is seen in the styling, with the wide sweeping lines on the front and rear fenders, 16in spoked wheels with balloon tires, vintage curved handlebar, and floating single front seat all designed as a nod to the bikes of more than 80-years-ago.

A pillion perch and rear back rest are available in the optional extras catalogue – as are vinyl saddlebags with 5 gallons of storage either side, rider footboards, front highway bars, a windscreen, and more.

Prices for the Vintage will begin around \$26,000 for metallic black and rise to about \$27,000 in the more traditionally

Indian deep red.

“The Indian Chief from the 1940s remains one of the most recognizable and celebrated motorcycles in American history,” Design Director at Indian Motorcycle, Ola Stenegård said.



Away from the classic looks, the Chief Vintage features a number of modern touches, including a choice of three riding modes: Tour, Standard, and Sport. There’s an LED headlight upfront,

plus ABS at both ends.

As with other members of the Chief family, you’ll also find a subtle circular four inch color TFT.

Mobile phone connectivity is available too, as is turn-by-turn navigation, call and text history, and more.

Away from the subtle tech, the chunky air-cooled motor is paired with a six-speed manual gearbox and fed by a 4 gallon fuel tank. Wet weight is a claimed 719 lbs – with the seat height coming in at just 27 inches to help make things less intimidating at slow speeds.



Braking comes via a single front and rear disc set-up, with a 298mm rotor and four-piston caliper at the front end. Forks are 46mm telescopic units, with the blacked-out preload adjustable rear

shocks subtly flanking the rear bodywork to give the illusion of a hardtail.

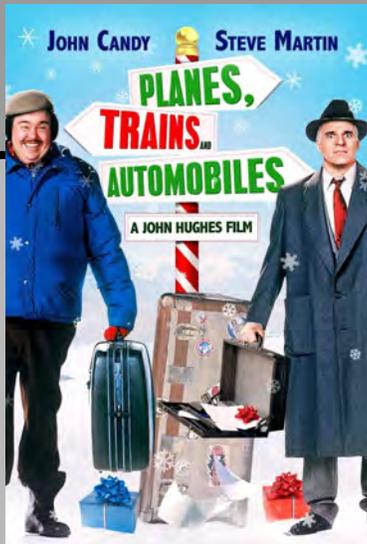
This is the first model of what is expect to be a busy year for Indian Motorcycle. Indian is celebrating their 125th anniversary, with a number of products, programs, and promotions now promised to help mark the impressive milestone.



Why Don't We?

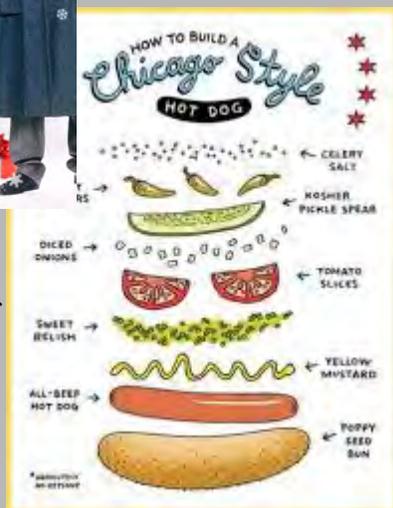
There are blogs with biker stories... some funny, some informational and all memories about biking adventures. Why don't we begin our own monthly 'blog' to gather memories of our past 30 Years? Send me stories that you recall from the Top Cats Adventures! Type them, or leave me a voice mail and I'll type them for you!

Read the next paragraphs and get ideas of the kinds of things we can add...What stories do you have and that you want to add to our collection? We'll highlight each month's events and add things from the past. Today, I'm filling with "Amazing" or NOT. But going forward, lets stick to TOP CATS! So many GOOD travels and stories!



Planes, Trains and Automobiles... and Hot Dogs. Chicago Style!

Word on the street was



that the back-stage information on the movie made it a lot of fun to watch! And the entire crew enjoyed building their dogs...with the colorful instructions.

And a good time was had by all!

No pictures were taken, so this is all just here say! Submit your rebuttals for next month's 'blog'!

"Amazing" or Not?

Until we have some more scuttlebutt, here are some possible scenarios... "Amazing" or Not!

1. The weather will be warming up and will arrive unseasonably early! We can start planning rides for Mid April! In the words of Gene Rigsby, "Let's Get Out and Ride!" Ideas? See Greg or Jim!
2. Every Top Cat has ridden at least 500 miles in one day during their motorcycle lifetime.

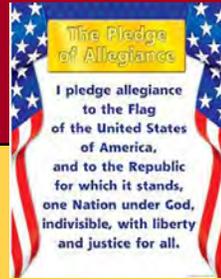
3. 74% of motorcyclists in 2023 wore DOT compliant helmets.
4. 1 in 5 motorcyclists are women!
5. The Experience Gap: A staggering 92% of riders involved in crashes were self-taught, emphasizing the value of professional training courses like the MSF.
6. The 12-Second Rule: The Motorcycle Safety Foundation recommends looking 12 seconds ahead to anticipate hazards. At 60 mph, this means scanning nearly 1,000 feet down the road.
7. Bigger is Popular: Over the last 20 years, the preference for large bikes has surged. In the early 2000s, only 10% of motorcycles were 1400cc or larger; today, that number is 35%.
8. California Dreaming: California has roughly double the registered motorcycles of almost any other state, consistently leading the U.S. in ridership.

O.K.... Only #1 is 'Amazing'... all the others are true!!!

NOW... as you go through your day and as you remember stories about being a 'Top Cat', send me your memories and pictures if you have any and We'll Walk through the past 30 years together!

**Let's
celebrate!**





General Membership Meeting Minutes

January 6th, 2026

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Guests – None
- Announcements – Birthdays
- Jan. 1 – Wayne Kirkpatrick
- Jan. 2 - Noelle Rigsby
- Jan. 11 – Jim Wiseman
- Jan. 15 – Jim Chevalier
- **Vice President: Bozena Haszlkiewicz**
- Working on 30th anniversary stuff.
- Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick
- Wayne summarized an article written by the Top Cats founder, Virgo, in the May 1995 newsletter which back then was called “American Dream in Motion.” It talked about suggestions of names which eventually led to the name, “Roar.”
- **Safety: Mike Bradbury**
- Kaution Korner – Wayne summarized his article in the January Roar about how to “read” the pavement. Road surfaces have many distinctive characteristics which require different riding techniques and precautions. Read the article for details about the different types of road surfaces and how to best manage them.
- Mary previewed the Kaution Korner article for February. The winter months are a good time to check your bike for maintenance and repairs. Shops aren't as busy during the winter so great time to get things fixed and ready to go once the weather turns warm. Get yourself in shape too by strengthening your muscles. Look for rider courses to sharpen your skills and sign up now before the classes are full. More in next month's Roar.
- **Membership and Products: Ted Makarewicz**
- No new inquiries about membership.
- The deadline for ordering the new hats with your initials and the 30th emblem has passed. Those who ordered will be receiving them soon.
- Be sure to check out the assortment of items that can be ordered off the Lands' End website. Mike recently ordered a knit hat with the Top Cats logo.
- **Activities: Greg Smith**
- *Recent Activities*
- December 7 – Toys 4 Tots (Ted). Due to inclement weather the event was cancelled.

Future Activities

- January 18 – Hot Dog/Movie Night (Greg). We will meet at the Barrington Keller Williams office 4:00-7:30 for some Chicago dogs and movie and popcorn with our fellow TC members. A Blast will be sent with all the details.
- February 15 – Top Cats Annual Awards Banquet. This will be held at Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin. Dinner will be \$38/person. Drinks (cash bar) will start at 5:30, followed by dinner at 6:15-7:15 with awards after that. Watch your email for the formal invitation asking for your RSVP and choice of dinner entrée.
- March 1 – GRASS Class at Keller Williams, Barrington. Flyers will be put in local dealerships to encourage others to attend.
- March 21 – HD Museum & Lunch. Meet up at 11:00. HOG members are free to the museum and veterans get a discount. If you purchase your ticket for the museum before lunch, you can get a discount on lunch. The museum changes its displays frequently so don't think “oh, I've been there before.”
- August 3-10 – Sturgis Motorcycle Rally (Wayne & Bard). Save the dates if you're thinking about joining the group to Sturgis next year. Rooms have been reserved for our group. Alex Johnson rates will remain the same as last year.
- August 11-16 - Front Range Ride. It will be similar as last year with planning each day's ride the night before based on what the group wants to see and do. Wayne has indicated that if there is not enough interest in this ride, he will not be planning it.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- The date for the Charity ride will be Sunday, June 14. Plans for the event will start soon. Save the Date cards are being made for distribution.

50/50 Raffle:

Andy Haszlkiewicz
No raffle tonight.

Meeting was adjourned by Gene at 8:00 p.m.





BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 13TH, 2026

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom. All Board members were present except for Karin Toth.
- Gene will ask club members for suggestions for "Member of the Year" and "Volunteer of the Year" for the upcoming Awards Banquet.
- Gene asked Board for suggestions for a member to receive the Founder's Club award.
- Gene will get the information to Bozena for the VP Award to decide if anyone meets the criteria for it this year.
- Gene reiterated that he has opened a Google email account where he is putting all TC documents in for documentation.

Vice President: Bozena Haszlkiewicz

- The date for the 30th Anniversary Picnic is confirmed for July 11 at the Moraine Hills State Park in McHenry, at the Whitetail Picnic site.
- Wayne has indicated we are waiting for prices and mock-up for designs for the 30th anniversary patch. Gene will put together a printout for the next General meeting of the suggested designs for members to see and vote on.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Cabin Fever and Open House dates at WSHD have not been confirmed yet, but we will plan to have a table to promote the club and charity ride at these events. Gene will talk with Windy City HD also about setting up a table at their Open House.

Treasurer: Karin Toth (Absent)

- No report.

Activities: Greg Smith

Future Activities:

- January 18 – Chicago Dogs and Movie (Greg). Since the Bears are playing on Sunday (18th) in the playoffs, we are changing the date for this event to Sunday, January 24th. Location will be at the Keller Williams office in Barrington starting at 4:30 pm.
- February 15 – 2026 Awards Banquet. Location: Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin. An email invitation has been sent to all 2025 members for their response for attendance and choice of entrée. Payment of \$38.00 per person must be made by February 3 (February General Meeting).
- March 21 – Harley Davidson Museum and Lunch in Milwaukee (Wayne). Meeting at the museum at 11:00

am. Will probably have lunch first and then tour the museum.

- July 11 – 30th Anniversary Picnic at Moraine Hills State Park in McHenry. More details will follow.
- Wayne suggested a dealer tour for a club activity. Gene will check at Windy City to see if they offer anything like this.
- Lots of room on the calendar to schedule more activities for 2026. Keep ideas coming.

Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- A GRASS class is scheduled for March 1, 2026, at the Keller Williams office in Barrington. He has received 12 RSVPs so far from TC's, RT, and Blue Knights.
- Wayne and Mary have offered to do the first couple Kaution Korner articles for the year until Mike can get a schedule made up to cover the rest of the year.
- Mike is getting together the information pertaining to Road Captain points for the Awards Banquet.
- Mike will post about the upcoming GRASS class on Windy City's meet up group link.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

- The new TC hats with initials that people have ordered will also be getting the "leaves emblem" on them.
- Mike modeled his newly ordered Top Cats winter knit hat in black from Lands' End.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- Calls have been made to WSHD and Volo Museum to confirm the June 13 date for the Charity event will work for everyone. If this date does not work, a bowling alley in Johnsburg has offered their location as a starting or ending point or Greg suggested checking with the McHenry Legion. We talked with them last year, but our date did not work for them then. The cost might be too much, but Gene will give them a call.

Secretary: Jane Smith

- Nothing.

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 8:06 p.m.



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RIDES & EVENTS

| Date | Ride/Event | Location | Destination | Time | Leader |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|
| Tuesday, February 3rd | General Meeting | Palatine | Alley 64 | 7:00 pm | Rigsby |
| Tuesday, February 10th | Board Meeting | Palatine | Alley 64 | 7:00pm | Rigsby |
| Sunday, February 15th | TC Banquet | Elgin | Grand Victoria Casino | 5:30 pm | Smith/Rigsby |
| Sunday, March 1st | GRASS | Barrington | Keller Williams | 9:00am | Rigsby |
| Tuesday, March 3rd | General Meeting | Palatine | Alley 64 | 7:00 pm | Rigsby |
| Tuesday March 10th | Board Meeting | Palatine | Alley 64 | 7:00pm | Rigsby |
| Saturday, March 21st | Harley Museum | Milwaukee | HD Museum | 11:00am | Smith |
| IDEAS? | Talk to | Greg or Jim | And get them | On the | Calendar! |

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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See the Top Cats Archive

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ROAR



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