



ROAR

March, 2026

Volume 26, Issue 3

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The Official
Publication
Of Top Cats
Illinois

Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 1 GRASS CLASS (CANCELLED)
- 3 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 BOARD MEETING
- 14 WINDY CITY TOUR
- 21 HD MUSEUM & LUNCH

APRIL

- 7 GENERAL MEETING
- 14 BOARD MEETING
- 26 KICK-OFF RIDE

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

SPRING IS COMING! LET'S FLY!





ROAR

PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello, Top Cats!

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

I jokingly said this last month and we have actually had some decent weather. I've been out for a ride once before writing here and am planning to go out again tomorrow., Friday, February 27th. It's going to be 60°. No need to wait. Unless you miss tomorrow... Then it is forecasted to drop off again... and rain... So get out when you can. You have to shake out the cobwebs.

Anyway.. I hope all is well with you and yours...

We had our Top Cats Safety/RC meeting and some good rides have been added to the calendar in addition to our annual Sturgis and Front Range Rides. Plenty to start planning for. Much more to come so keep watching for blasts and check the calendar.

Activities from February...

Feb 15) Annual Top Cats award dinner - The awards committee team. We had a great time. The location was a bit far (for us up north) but a great place makes it worth the trip. The food was great. The people were great. And we had special guests attend which we can talk about at the March meeting. Again, a big thanks to The Smiths for checking into new venue options for us and making arrangements at the Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin.

Activities for March...

- **Mar 1)** G.R.A.S.S. (Group Riding and Safety Seminar) – Mike Bradbury.
- **Mar 14)** Windy City HD tour - Gene R. We will meet at WCHD and tour the facility, meeting the staff along the way, talking about their capabilities as we go along. We will plan to have lunch nearby in Libertyville. More to come.
- **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

Preview for April and beyond...

- **April TBD)** Kick-off ride - Bradbury. Mike is still working out the details so more to follow

Beyond...

- **May 16 - 18)** Wisconsin Dells Ride - Pat Theilen - Pat (with some assistance) is putting together a long weekend ride up to the Dells area. Information has been sent out in a blast. Please review and get back to Pat ASAP as he is looking to work on getting the best rate with the lodging folks and getting feedback on ideas of things people want to do while up there, hoping for a good trip for all.
- **July 11)** Top Cats 30 year picnic - Mike, Bozena. As mentioned some time ago, planning is underway to celebrate the Top Cats 30th year, and we have a date set for a picnic (Thanks Mike). More details to come.
- Bard (and Wayne) has been working with them on Sturgis (8/3 - 8/10) 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 8/11 - 8/16) 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...

- **NOTICE: Please plan to attend the April 7th meeting so we can get a group shot of our 30 year gang. Yes, that's right. Time to pull out the clean underwear...**
- *****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...**



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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.

See You There!

Gene 'Lucky' Rigsby, President, Top Cats Illinois



KAUTION KORNER

Are You Road Captain Material?

By: Mike 'Motorcycle' Bradbury,
Senior Road Captain and Safety Director



Becoming and being a road captain requires a lot of effort to conceive, plan and implement group rides. It is an effort built from a passion to show routes and ride ideas to other motorcyclists.

Do you like motorcycling in groups? Do you like the satisfaction of a project you manage completely from "birth to death" done well? Well, then you have some of the qualities to become a Road Captain and lead a safe and exciting ride.

Top Cats is a premier riding club, known for doing safe group rides to interesting and fun destinations using motorcycle friendly routes. The rides can utilize a variety of roads that help riders to continue practicing their group riding skills. The rides are experiences that contribute to our confidence as group riders. To meet this challenge, a Road Captain takes time to make a detailed plan, solve the problems that arise, and recognize the needs of the riders who will be going on the ride. He utilizes a Senior Road Captain as a mentor who reviews the ride with a second set of eyes to provide constructive feedback. It is a great challenge, a fantastic opportunity AND can be very satisfying. This position requires the conviction and willingness to put the safe group riding above personal riding preferences.



Generally, when I start a ride idea, I begin with a destination. I am looking for places with pleasant, motorcycle friendly, attractions, scenic roads I cull from many sources. Sources I use consist of

word of mouth, google and other online ones with motorcycle routes. Road America, HOG Route Planner, Rever are some of the ones I use but there are several you can find. The internet seems rife with route ideas. In some cases, you can even download a *.GPS or *.GPX file of those routes. Talking about rides with other motorcyclists and clubs creates a nice forum to learn other ideas.

Now you have an idea and need to make your plan. This is the nuts and bolts of your ride's logistics. This is the refinement process to make your ride work with normal limitations. Some of those limitations might be something like be home by dark, avoiding grave roads or construction. Appropriate ride plans include routing, scheduling with stops plus lunch time, a start and end point, gas stops, snacks and beverages all to support rider's doing your ride safely. An important one for rider health is to have a rest stop anywhere between 1 to 2 hours of riding. This combats dehydration and fatigue along with allowing riders to check their motorcycles and gear. These stops can build group socialization opportunities too. Keep in mind, rider comfort is a good goal for any ride.

Here is my advice on how to make sure the ride is safe for all. And to make sure that you have a satisfying experience that will keep you leading rides long into the future!

- ◆ Get a mentor from the Senior Road Captains. They all have seen what works and what does not work and can offer recommendations for safety and avoiding potholes (pun intended) in your route. Their support is priceless!
- ◆ Learn and know your destination. Choose a place such as a lunch stop, museum, rally, mini-golf course or a strip club or anything that you feel makes your ride fun, interesting and attractive.
- ◆ Do a pre-ride with a mentor. There is a big difference between what you can see online vs. the route realities. Pre-riding will allow you to see the less safe portions like crossing four lanes of traffic to go the other direction on the road or an intersection with a stop sign, not a stop light.. Or exiting the gas station in a direction that leaves no room for pulling your group out safely. Or finding your rest stop has only one bathroom and your planning did not allow for the time it takes for a large group to use it. The pre-ride allows you to see the route conditions first hand.

(Continued on page 4)



KK, continued...

- ◆ Ask your mentor to do the ride. With the route knowledge you shared with them, they can be an invaluable assistant for your ride in many ways.
- ◆ For rides of 12 or more, ask a road captain on the day of the ride to position themselves in the middle of the ride. When the group gets broken up, they can assist by leading the rest of the riders left behind by a traffic light or missed turn and lead them back to the group.
- ◆ On the day of the ride, ask several times for rider feedback. This serves two purposes; to get the knowledge of anything you need to manage and to help your riders feel you are focused on them, their comfort and the overall ride condition from their perspective.
- ◆ Promote your ride. It is much more fulfilling to lead a ride with more people than less.
- ◆ Train on and learn the Group Riding and Safety Seminar. These modules address ways to ride safely. Learning all of the seminar helps you lead safer group ridings. The presentation consists of these sections:

- Module 1 – Group Riding and Hand Signals
- Module 2 – Rider / Co-Rider Obligations
- Module 3 – Co-Riders
- Module 4 – Accident Scene Management
- Module 5 – Road Captain Course

Detailed criterions for Road Captains and Senior Road Captain are In Module 5, Pages 41 and 42 of the seminar. Studying and learning our G.R.A.S.S. information including the criterions and practicing those principles helps you be a safer road captain and rider.

Becoming a Road Captain comes with can be very gratifying. With good research, routing, planning, the guidance of a mentor and a pre-ride you can show all of us a safe, fun, interesting and entertaining ride. And as a safe road captain, you will be an important part of maintaining the strong SAFE traditions of riding in the Top Cats – Illinois!

Some (not all) Online Resources:

Ride Ideas

- <https://www.motorcycleroads.com/motorcycle-roads>
- <https://www.twistedroad.com/blog/posts/discover-the-top-chicago-and-illinois-motorcycle-routes-and-destinations>
- <https://www.rever.co/common-tread/explore/motorcycle-roads/us-routes/illinois>

Google Maps;

<https://www.google.com/maps>

HOG Route Planner;

https://maps.harley-davidson.com/?source_cd=Vanity_rideplanner

Hope you find yourself thinking of taking these steps and taking our club to your favorite places! We all look forward to having more opportunities to explore! Let's get going!

Spring's coming!
Getting ready to ride?
 Talk to Patrick Thielen or Karin Toth
 and get a great deal on caring for your
 bike before you ride!



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Oil Spots

By Traveler



[A Motorcycle Parked Outside of a Therapist's Office???](#)



This thought is the most clever thing a motorcyclist can say. You may never realize this fact, but as soon as you hear it, you will learn how authentic it is.

The quote “You Never See a Motorcycle Parked Outside of a Therapist’s Office” proves that [motorcycling benefits mental health](#). It was once considered a saying or a myth. However, research now proves that motorcycling has many mental health benefits.

According to a [study conducted by Brain Research](#), motorcycling helps in reducing the level of cortisol (sad hormone). At the same time, the adrenaline and dopamine (happy hormone) are observed to increase a great deal while riding a motorcycle.

It doesn't matter how stressed and depressed you are due to your personal and professional problems; you will feel good as you ride a motorcycle. You will get indulged in the process of motorcycling and will forget what was making you feel anxious. These are the wonders of motorcycling.

[Key 2026 Illinois Motorcycle Law Updates](#)



Expanded Scott's Law (Move Over Law): Effective in 2026, this law expands to protect all stationary emergency vehicles, not just police cars. Motorcyclists must move over and / or slow down for any authorized vehicle, including tow trucks, stationary or in motion.

Motorcycle Safety Training (HB 1226/Senate Bill 2075): New legislation (signed Aug 2025) requires IDOT to establish standardized training curricula, accredits more training courses, and sets a minimum age of 16 for enrollment to increase safety and accessibility.

Driver License Renewal (Road Safety & Fairness Act): Starting July 1, 2026, the age at which drivers must take a behind-the-wheel test to renew their license is increased from 79 to 87.

[Salty Bike?](#)

The best way to remove salt from a motorcycle is to rinse it immediately after every ride with large amounts of cool or lukewarm water, focusing on the undercarriage, engine, suspension, and wheels. Using hot water can accelerate the chemical reaction of salt and cause faster corrosion.

Here is the best step-by-step method for removing and preventing salt damage:

Immediate Rinse (After Every Ride)

- Do not wait: Salt, when combined with moisture, is extremely corrosive to aluminum and steel.
- Rinse top to bottom: Thoroughly rinse the entire bike with cool/lukewarm water.
- Focus Areas: Pay special attention to the engine cases, exhaust pipes, wheels, swingarm, and lower forks.
- Avoid High Pressure: Avoid high-pressure washers, which can force salt into bearings and electrical seals. Use a gentle hose spray or a pump sprayer.

Deep Cleaning and Salt Removal

- Use a Salt Dissolver: Products like Salt-Away or Star Brite Salt Off are highly recommended as they chemically break down salt deposits and leave behind a protective polymer coating.
- Hand Wash: Mix a mild, PH-neutral soap (or dedicated salt remover) with water in a bucket to wash the bike.
- Clean the Chain: The chain is highly vulnerable. Use a chain cleaner to remove grime, dry it thoroughly, and apply a wet-weather lubricant.
- Neutralize: For heavy accumulation, a mixture of water and baking soda can help neutralize the acidity of road salt.
- Proper Drying
- Prevent Rust: Salt plus water equals corrosion. After washing, dry the bike thoroughly.
- Use Air/Cloth: A leaf blower, air compressor, or micro-fiber towels are effective for removing water from crevices.

(Continued on page 6)

Oil Spots, continued...

Corrosion Protection (Prevention)

- Apply Protectant: Spray a corrosion inhibitor like ACF-50 or Muc-Off HCB-1 on all metal surfaces, engine cases, and fasteners.
- Protect Electricals: Use dielectric grease on connectors to stop salt from causing electrical failures.
- Avoid Brake Components: Do not get protective sprays on brake discs or tires.

Summary:

- Don't ignore the undercarriage: Salt often builds up in hidden spots.
- Use a pump sprayer: A garden pump sprayer filled with hot water makes it easy to clean hard-to-reach spots.
- If you ride in winter, you must clean constantly: Frequency beats heavy scrubbing later.

Norton Is Back. Again.

It's long been a rule that British brands never die; they just go dormant between revivals. It's Norton Motorcycles' turn to be revived, joining Triumph, Ariel, Royal Enfield, MG, and Mini

among other famed British marques that have been brought back from the dead via massive infusions of cash and enthusiasm, often from overseas.

The new Norton Motorcycle Company plans to begin U.S. deliveries of a futuristic sport bike called the Manx R. It packs an in-house 1200-cc V-4 engine making 206 horsepower, and the price is expected to land north of \$25,000.



Competitors include Euro super-sports such as the Ducati Panigale and BMW M1000R. A naked street-fighter version called the Manx is also on the boards.

Later, a less expensive dual-sport adventure bike called the Atlas will ship from India with a 585-cc parallel-twin engine.

The Norton name, with its illustrious racing and wartime history, goes right back to the beginnings of the motorized age. James Landsdowne Norton launched the firm in 1898 in Birmingham in Britain's industrial Midlands. In 2020, the Indian two-wheel giant TVS, bought Norton Motorcycles out of British receivership.

Unlike Royal Enfield and Triumph, which have deliberately produced retro-styled bikes that harken back to their individual brands' glory days, Norton is only looking ahead.

The sleek Manx, at first glance, looks like one of many other full-fairing road rockets, until you notice its spacey tail cone and flowing carbon-fiber panels swept clean of obvious fasteners and other clutter. Norton claims a 450-pound dry weight for the loaded-up Manx R, which includes software to make wheelies and rear-wheel slides less hazardous, ABS, and launch control. A less-loaded trim level with alloy wheels (instead of carbon fiber) and a fixed suspension will also be available. The 72-degree V-4 has supposedly been tuned for streetability, prioritizing low-end torque over high-end scream.



Staying Comfortable on Two Wheels



Layering for motorcycle riding involves a three-layer system—moisture-wicking base, insulating mid-layer, and protective/windproof outer shell—to ensure warmth and safety. Use synthetic or Merino wool materials to manage sweat, avoid cotton, and add fleece or heated gear for insulation. Key accessories include windproof neck gaiters, balaclavas, and waterproof gloves to prevent wind chill.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

Key Layering Principles

Base Layer (Moisture Management): Wicks sweat away from the skin to prevent chilling. Synthetic, silk, or Merino wool base layers are ideal for regulating temperature.

Mid-Layer (Insulation): Retains body heat. Fleece jackets, vests, or specialized thermal liners (e.g., Klim Inferno, Dainese D-Mantle) provide warmth without excessive bulk.

Outer Layer (Protection & Shield): A motorcycle-specific jacket and pants with armor (CE-rated) that blocks wind and rain. Leather or high-quality textile (e.g., Firstgear) with waterproof membranes are recommended.

Essential Tips for Cold Weather

- **Seal Gaps:** Use neck gaiters or balaclavas to seal the helmet-jacket gap, preventing cold air from entering.
- **Heated Gear:** For extreme cold, electric heated liners or vests offer active heating.
- **Avoid Cotton:** Cotton retains moisture, which can cause severe chills in cold, windy conditions.
- **Ensure Proper Fit:** Layers should be snug but not restrictive, allowing for mobility and ensuring armor remains in the correct position.
- **Protect Extremities:** Use insulated, waterproof gloves and thermal socks to prevent freezing fingers and toes.
- **Best and Proven Option:** Best comfort is to wait until Spring riding weather!!

[Changes in National Park Entrance Fees for 2026](#)

If you're riding to National Parks this year, here is some good news.

The National Park Service has announced several updates to entrance passes and fees beginning **January 1, 2026**. These updates include changes to pass design, nonresident fee structures, and eligibility guidelines.

Beginning in 2026, all America the Beautiful passes will cover entrance for up to **two motorcycles** at participating federal recreation sites.

The current America the Beautiful Annual Pass remains valid for **12 months from the month of purchase**, including full validity throughout 2026 if purchased now.

You can view the current pass here:

https://shop.usparkpass.com/collections/popular/products/america-the-beautiful-national-park-pass?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=677884209&utm_term=america+the+beautiful+annual+pass&tw_source=google&tw_adid=&tw_campaign=677884209&tw_kwdid=kwd-79715210183293%3Aloc-190&msclkid=0726df4f8785159590fbb6c4e0f6423f&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=UPP_National_Park_Pass_Legacy&utm_term=america+the+beautiful+annual+pass&utm_content=America+the+Beautiful+Pass



May the Luck of the Irish slide in on a rainbow!
May it come with a pot of gold and the bike rides
of your dreams! 2025 Riding Season is coming!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



General Membership Meeting Minutes February 3rd, 2026

Respectfully Submitted by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Guests – Arlene Walsh (guest of Dave Bakke) and Jodi Hicks (wife of Mitch Hicks)
- Announcements – None

Vice President: Bozenna [Haszlakiewicz](#)

- It was just Ground Hog Day. He didn't see his shadow however weatherman says it's still going to be cold.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Wayne recently attended a Posse Meeting. Good turnout - 31 motorcycle clubs were represented.

Safety: Mike Bradbury

- Kaution Korner – We watched a short & comical You Tube video on motorcycle safety tips.
- Mary reviewed her KK article in the Roar about things to do during the winter months to get ready for the riding season. Use the T-CLOCS inspection system to get your bike in order. Take care of yourself by doing some cardio, strengthening, and balance exercises. Get your riding gear in order. Leather jackets, chaps, boots, and gloves can dry out and lose their water resistance. Use some leather cleaner/conditioner to bring them back to life. Helmets should also be cleaned of dried bugs & debris. Inside liners should be removed and washed in mild soap and air dried. Visors can be cleaned with warm water and a drop of mild soap. Do not use cleaning products that contain alcohol.
- Wayne mentioned a You Tube video showing dash cam motorcycle accidents. He found these interesting to watch and review what you would do to avoid these accidents.
- Mike will do the Kaution Korner next month about an actual accident that happened on one of his rides.

Membership and Products: Ted Makarewicz

- No new inquiries about membership.

Activities: Greg Smith

Recent Activities

- January 18 – Hot Dog/Movie Night (Greg). Fun night with members enjoying Chicago dogs with all the fixings, popcorn, and a comedy movie.

Future Activities

- February 15 – Top Cats Annual Awards Banquet. This will be held at Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin. RSVP's, dinner choices, and payment are due tonight.
- February 22 – Road Captain/Safety Committee Meet-

ing – Keller Williams, Barrington.

- March 1 – GRASS Class at Keller Williams, Barrington. Flyers have been placed in local dealerships to encourage others to attend.
- March 21 – HD Museum & Lunch. Meet up at 11:00 at museum to purchase tickets.
- TBD Date – Wisconsin Dells Ride – A 4-day/3-night ride leaving on Friday and returning on Monday is being planned by Patrick visiting various attractions in the area staying at the Meadowbrook Resort. Patrick distributed a sample itinerary showing types of cabins available and ideas of places to go and restaurants to eat at. Still working on group rates and what would be the best date as prices vary each month. Watch for more info on this ride.
- August 3-10 – Sturgis Motorcycle Rally (Wayne & Bard). Save the dates if you're thinking about joining the group to Sturgis in 2026. A group of rooms have been reserved for our group. Alex Johnson rates will remain the same as last year but checking into other hotels for competitive rates too.
- 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

- A Charity Committee meeting will be held at the Kirkpatrick's house on Saturday, February 21 at 1:00 pm. If interested in helping plan this year's event, please join us and bring your ideas! If you can't make it on this date, but have some suggestions, please contact Mary.
- Other locations for ending the ride have been suggested and will be discussed at the planning meeting.
- Save the date cards were handed out, however there is one typo that needs to be fixed before distributing – change the date to read "Sunday, June 14."

50/50 Raffle: Andy Haszlakiewicz

- The raffle was won by Patrick Thielen tonight.

Other:

Wayne reminded us that the club was founded and based on networking. We don't seem to do a lot of that anymore. Let's get back into supporting each other again. Patrick will be running a special for Harleys in March.

Meeting was adjourned by Gene at 7:50 p.m.



Board Meeting Minutes February 10th, 2026

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.

Vice President: Bozenna Haszlkiewicz

- Ted has given Bozenna some additional ideas for the 30th year patch. She will bring them to the Charity planning meeting.
- Meeting on 2/21 (Charity planning) for the Board to view designs. We can discuss more on the ideas for pins and patches at the meeting.
- Alternate designs for patches and pins could be considered or to keep costs down, we could order 500 patches, half with 30 years and half with 35 years.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- Wayne reported that Gracie is the new marketing person at WSHD. He enlightened her on upcoming motorcycle events. She was very appreciative of the information.
- February 28 is Cabin Fever at WSHD. We will have a table there so introduce yourself to Gracie. We will have to reschedule the Windy City facility tour that was scheduled for the 28th.

Treasurer: Karin Toth

- Paid for the entire year for the lockbox.
- Creative Hosting must be paid within next 11 days. Should she pay? Yes.
- Main account balance: \$3,158.38. Charity account balance: \$5,009.91
- Confirmed that a check for \$3,000 will be presented to NISRA (Jim Wiseman) at the Banquet.

Activities: Greg Smith

Recent Activities:

- January 18 – Chicago Dogs and Movie (Greg).

Future Activities:

- February 15 – 2026 Awards Banquet. Location: Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin. Everything is set to go.
- February 28 – WSHD Cabin Fever
- March 1 – GRASS Class
- March 13 – Windy City Facility Tour (Gene) 11:00. Lunch somewhere afterwards.
- March 21 – Harley Davidson Museum and Lunch in Milwaukee (Greg). Meeting at the museum at 11:00am. Will have lunch first and then tour the museum.
- May 15 – Wisconsin Dells ride (Patrick/Karin). More details will follow.
- June 14 – Ride for Dreams (Mary)

- July 11 – 30th Anniversary Picnic at Moraine Hills State Park in McHenry. More details will follow.
- August 2-10 – Sturgis Ride
- August 11-16 – Front Range Ride

Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- A GRASS class is scheduled for March 1, 2026, at the Keller Williams office in Barrington. Expect a big turnout with other groups joining us.
- Mike found some new material for the safety videos that will be geared toward the season.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

- George Raab will be bringing the new hats to the banquet for those who ordered them.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- Planning meeting will be held at Kirkpatrick's house on Saturday, February 21 at 1:00. Bring your ideas. New flyers are being made with the correct date.

Secretary: Jane Smith

- Nothing to report

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 7:48 p.m.





ROAR

Top Cats Banquet... Another Good Day!

The pictures show the faces of Top Cats enjoying the celebration of a great 2025!



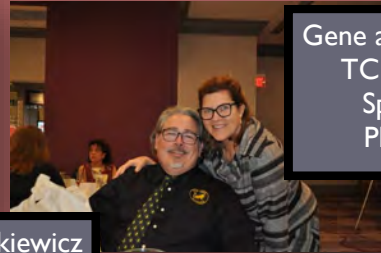
TC Banquet's Fearless Leaders!
Gene Rigsby and Mike Bradbury



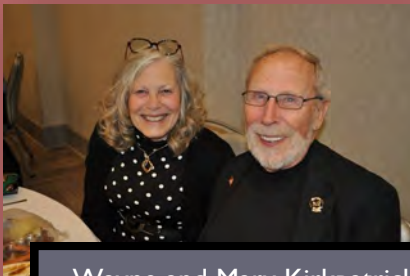
Mike and Kathie Bradbury
TC Safety Chair and Wife



Bozenna & Andy Haszlakiewicz
TC VP and Husband



Gene and Noelle Rigsby
TC President and
Special Events
Photographer



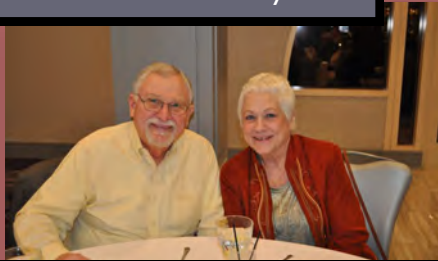
Wayne and Mary Kirkpatrick
Past President and Charity Chair



Ted Makarewicz & George Raab



Ted Makarewicz and Linda



Jane and Greg Smith
TC Secretary and Activities Director



Special Attendees...
Virgo Bender, our Founder's
Children.
Nick Bender, Son
Jennifer Bender, Daughter
Joey Bender, Grandson



Dave Bakke and George Raab



Dave Bakke and Arlene Walsh
New Members! So Glad You're Here!



Karin Toth and Patrick Theilen
New Members! So Glad You're Here!





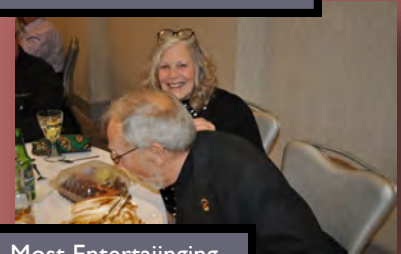
Jim Wiseman,
Activities committee.
Volunteer of the Year and Vice
President's Award Winner!



A beautiful room with great ambiance
for celebrating a great year!



Looking back on a good year
just brings on the excitement
and anticipation of the year to
come!
Welcome, 2026!
Let's Ride!



Most Entertaining
Top Cat!
(Not an actual award)



Top Cat of the Year,
Ted Makarewicz



Mary Kirkpatrick
RC Gold Pin, 20 pts.

The Toast of the Founders Cup Holders!



Donation Made to
NISRA!



And a wonderful ending with Chocolate! It
doesn't get any better than this!

Women on Bikes... A Growing Powerhouse!

Information collected by Mary Kirkpatrick..
AI and [Women in Powersports Continues to Grow](#)
- [Motorcycle & Powersports News](#)

About 20% of motorcycle owners in the United States are women, and this number is growing. Women are more likely to ride motorcycles in younger generations.

Motorcycle ownership by generation..

- **Millennials:** 26% of motorcycle owners are women
- **Gen X:** 22% of motorcycle owners are women
- **Boomers:** 9% of motorcycle owners are women
Women's motorcycle preferences
- Cruisers are the most popular choice for women, with 34% of female riders choosing them
- Scooters are also popular, with 33% of female riders choosing them
- Sport bikes are the third most popular choice, with 10% of female riders choosing them
- Many women prefer to work on their own bikes rather than taking them to a shop
Safety and training
- Women are more likely to enroll in and complete hands-on intensive training courses
- 58% of women regularly undergo rider safety courses
- Women are also significant influencers in motorcycle and motorsport purchases

Traditionally, the women who rode were either college age or empty nesters," says Sarah Schilke, co-chairwoman, WomenRidersNow.com. "That gap is filling in. There is an influx of younger and post-college-age women and an increase in women's rider groups, popularized by social media."

Women are on the move!!



March Birthdays and Anniversaries!

No March Birthdays... That we know of....

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities for March!
Let us know your special dates so that we can celebrate with you!

March 25,
Greg and Jane Smith



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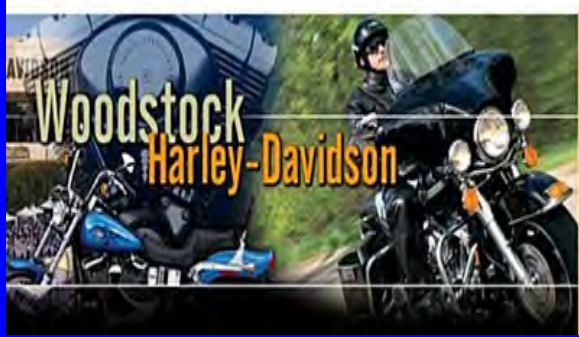
*Network with your fellow
Riders here...*

And Be Thankful!





Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Woodstock HD and Staff Support our Top Cat's Ride for Dreams!

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

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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.

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GRASS Classes are held at the Keller – Williams Offices!

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



Greg Smith

Keller - Williams Success Realty

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Have one of our own Top Cats work with you to buy or sell your home!

NISRA Families have so many wonderful opportunities because of the NISRA staff... Can we find ways to continue to help them?





RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Sunday, March 1st	GRASS Class (Cancelled)	Barrington	Keller Williams	8:00 am	Bradbury
Tuesday, March 3rd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, March 10th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, March 14th	Windy City Tour	Libertyville	Windy City Harley 1400 W Rockland Rd	11:00 AM	Rigsby
Saturday, March 21st	Harley Davidson Museum	Milwaukee	HD Museum 400 W Canal St.	11:00 am	Rigsby
Tuesday, April 7th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, April 14th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
IDEAS?	Talk to	Greg or Rick	And get them	On the	Calendar!

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



ROAR



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

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For questions or to submit comments or articles for publication, contact the editors at ROAR@TopCats.org