



ROAR

February, 2024

Volume 24, Issue 2

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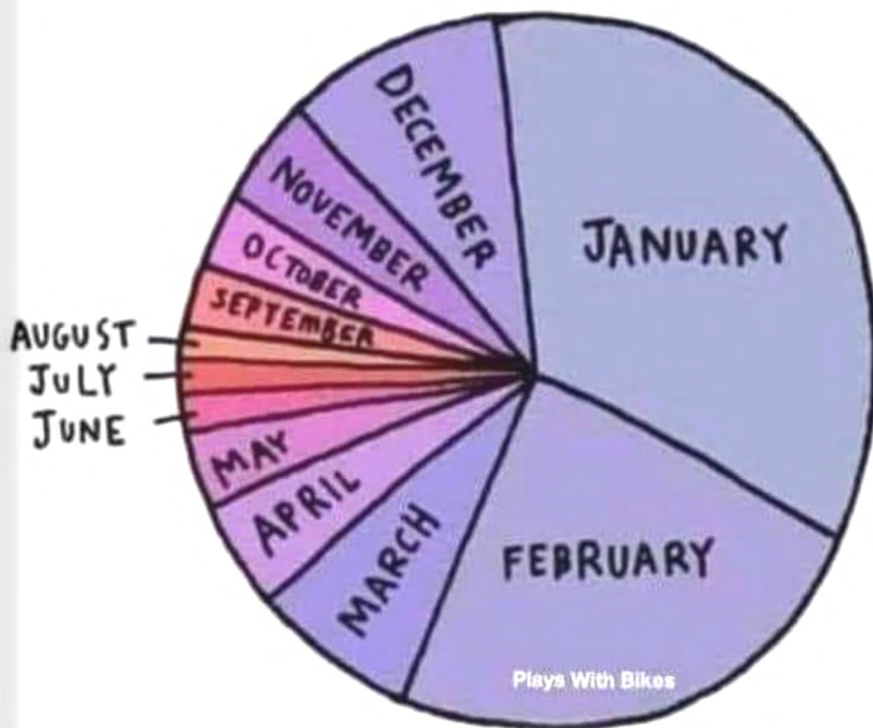
FEBRUARY

- 3 ROAD CAPTAIN MEETING
- 6 GENERAL MEETING
- 10 TC BANQUET
- 13 BOARD MEETING
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MARCH

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- 9 JONNY PAMCAKES
- 12 BOARD MEETING

How Time Passes... For Motorcycle Riders



The Official Publication Of Top Cats Illinois

Talk to Greg Smith and Rick Agrimonti and get your ideas on the calendar!





ROAR

PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello, Top Cats!

I hope you and your family are all well.

The end of 2023 and beginning of 2024 have been very hard on our Top Cats family with the recent passing of one of our club's founding members, Ric "Clutch" Case.

I, along with many from our Top Cats family and many from the City Limits HOG chapter attended the services for Ric. Ric was also one of the oldest (tenure) members of City Limits HOG and very well known in the motorcycle community.

The service and mass were very nice and often a moving testament to Ric's legacy and impact on the world around him. Many folks with many great stories were in attendance, sharing a few of those tales. I have a few as I am sure you do. Next time we are together, how about we share them and remember our Top Cats brother, Ric.

City Limits HOG invited us to attend their club meeting on February 7th (7:30p, at Emmett's - Palatine), where they will remember Ric. I have invited them to attend our February 6th meeting so we can honor Ric as well and talk about planning a joint memorial ride honoring Ric. More to come on this. **Be there...**

Coming up in February...

Feb 3: RC meeting

Feb 10: Top Cats awards banquet

Feb 17: WSHD open house

Feb 24: No IMS breakfast

3rd: The RC's will meet on Feb 3, to start planning our rides, loading the calendar with them. New opportunities to create new shining moments sharing good rides with good friends are coming!

10th: The annual award banquet (for 2023) will be at Emmett's in Palatine this year. New venue but the same great attendees. You!

17th: WSHD open house. We will have a booth there to promote our event and club. Contact Mary or Ted to help or at least stop by and enjoy the open house... Maybe a new ride??

24th: No IMS breakfast. We will be meeting at the "usual" place, Tiffanys.

*****See the clubs calendar for more detail on these events..**

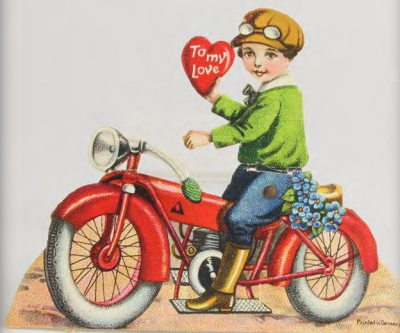
So as usual, watch for blasts and check the Top Cats event calendar regularly and by all means **SAVE THE DATES first.**

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

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

Looking forward to seeing you there....

Gene "Lucky" Rigbsy





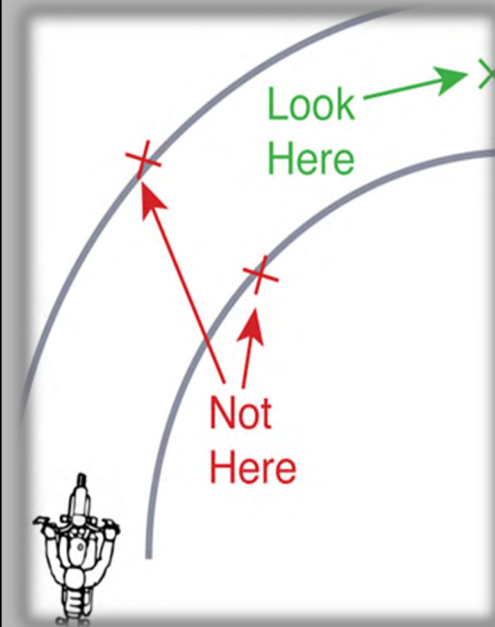
KAUTION KORNER

Head and Eyes!

Mike 'Motorcycle' Bradbury,
Sr. Road Captain



Avoiding the many obstacles in your paths of travel is such a big part of safely riding your motorcycle. How to do this seems so simply answered by just steering your motorcycle appropriately on roadways as you experience changes to orientations, encountering the usual traffic stops, varieties of traffic patterns navigating through high volumes of traffic and doing this all in a dynamic, changing way. But there is a lot more to this than is apparent.



scenery is outstanding and overwhelming like mountain passes in the Colorado Rocky Mountains or the Mackinac Bridge that connects Michigan to the Upper Peninsula, my motorcycle will drift in the directions of my gaze. My eyes are staring and my head is following my gaze. I am very afraid of heights so I don't spend more than a few moments looking at mountain scenery to avoid freaking myself out. One way I stay in the right path and mitigate my fear of heights is to stare 10 -15 feet ahead of my front tire. I adjust this distance as my fear grows or subsides.

I usually don't have problems with this for long. The effect is small and I compensate quickly and keep motoring ahead properly on the road. The point is that head and eye directions can influence your bikes path of travel.

Gazing too long at things outside your path of travel allows distractions to take your attention away from staying in your lane and following the road. This effect is called target fixation. At the very least, we all must fight this effect to be safe. Imagine if you and your motorcycle start following the target you are fixating on? Enough said!

When a rider looks in a particular direction, their body naturally leans slightly in that direction, causing a very subtle counter steering input. This input, even if unconscious, can cause the motorcycle to lean in the desired direction. Additionally, the rider's focus on a specific point can influence their body's natural movements, contributing to the motorcycle's response to their gaze

Your head and eyes are the tools that dictate your path of travel. Our hands follow our eyes and your motorcycle will follow where you look. Your eyes follow your head and vice versa. If look too long at scenery, especially when the

Our road captains teach their riders not to point at scenery, planes, animals or other potential distractions. First you are not sure they are passing an appropriate signal from the RC. The RC should be doing their own hand signals on their ride. But germane to this topic, large gestures and pointing at scenery can be a distraction that take your focus off managing your motorcycles path of travel.

The use of head, hands and eyes to manage your bike's path is very evident when managing curves and cornering. The proper motorcycle balance and lean follows the angled position your head. How you position your head is a direct result of where you are looking. Your direction of gaze shifts your balance and automatically gives your bike the right lean for your travel direction. My rider early on asked how do you lean in corners. I told her I don't think about because it should be a natural thing. If you think to hard on how to lean in a corner and instead look ahead in the curve, you will have a proper lean leading to a good balance and leaning in the best way.

Consider how your head and eyes affect your path of travel. Being conscious of these physical dynamics, practicing head and eye placement with low-speed tight cornering in a local, empty parking lot will help complement your riding capabilities and will add another tool in your toolbox to ride your motorcycle safely.

Remembering... Ric I. Case

That's R I C... No K - Okay?!

Ric's Presidency...



Remembering... By: Michael Bradbury



I first met Ric Case after becoming a member of Top Cats in January of 2006. I was a newbie to biker clubs and my first impression of Ric was seeing his vest filled with so many patches. I got a vest shortly after and vowed to work to earn or get it filled with patches like Ric's.

I never heard Ric complain or speak poorly of anyone. If there were problems he always offered solutions. He always was a pleasant, glass half full sort of guy. In his later life, he faced numerous medical challenges and never complained about it. I was

pleasantly surprised how he kept improving his physical health through what must have been a painful process.

Ric was very generous with his time and support. We all benefited and were touched by having Ric in our lives.

Like me, the other people Ric touched are certainly very sad to see Ric is no longer with us. But Ric is now in a better place. We all lost such a great guy!

R.I.P. Ric Case.



Remembering... By: Traveler!



22 October 1946 - 21 January 2024

It was a Sunday morning sunrise ride in June 1995, my second or third ride with Top Cats. I'm not sure who led the ride, but it was through downtown Chicago and my first time in Chicago. I was riding a 1994 HD Low Rider and beginning to wonder who this group was and where they learned to ride in a group. Very unorganized and uncontrolled.

Somewhere around 9:00 AM, the group pulled into a run-down furniture store parking lot to change jackets, sunglasses, etc.. I saw a guy on an old Honda, maybe a 1980's Shadow, with a milk crate tied to the rear fender. The milk crate was falling off and I introduced myself and helped him tie it down. His name was Ric Case.

Shortly after we secured the milk crate, the store owner came out yelling at us, in broken English, to get out of his lot. Someone told him to cool down and we'd be gone in a few minutes. Soon, three CPD squad cars and six cops pulled in because the store owner reported a biker gang in his parking lot who refused to leave.

The first cop out of his car started laughing and said..."We had a report of a biker gang and you guys are just a bunch of novice riders on garage - kept Harleys". Then, looking at Ric's old Honda said "You aren't with these guys are you?" To which, Ric said "Uh, no I'm not. I just stopped to fix my milk crate." And....that was my first experience with Mr. Ric "Clutch" Case.

Over close to three decades, I got to know Ric Case very well. We spent many Top Cat rides together and, of course, that included the conversations we often crammed into those 15-minute fuel stops or 30 - minute lunches. Do that about 8+ times a year over 28 years, throw in a few Sturgis rides, and....you get to know someone pretty well. I'd

like to believe that I did.

The Ric I got to know was a one-of-a-kind gentle soul. I never knew Ric to swear, tell off-color jokes, make racist comments, speak bad about someone, get mad, show any prejudices or biases, use tobacco, abuse alcohol, or to lie. Ric was, simply, a great American with a solid set of morals, ethics, and values.

You see Ric was a man who felt an extra heart tug when the American flag passed by. He was a man who stood a little taller when he heard the National Anthem. He was a man who wasn't embarrassed by the tears in his eyes when he would hear Taps played. He was a proud veteran of our United States Army.

Ric had the quiet dignity of a man who epitomized camaraderie whether he was riding his motorcycle with friends on a Sunday afternoon or teaching the motorcycle safety course in a blazing hot parking lot.

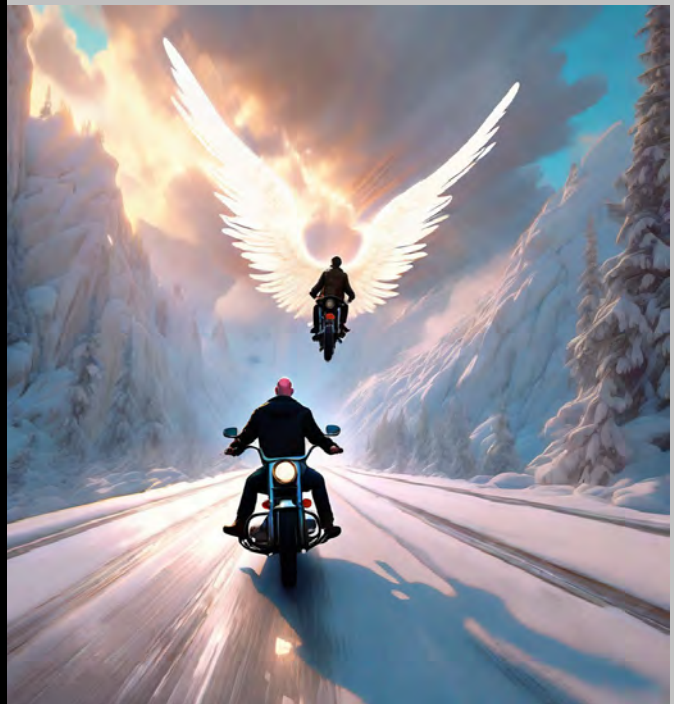
He was a friend who didn't care if you were a mechanic, a farmer, a doctor or a banker. He never cared if you were a Catholic, a Protestant, a Jew, if you were rich or poor or anywhere in between or even if you rode a Honda. He had great respect for all people particularly those in our motorcycle community.

There is so much to say about Ric and so little time or space to say it in. Ric gave so much to the motorcycle community and to all of his friends that we should embrace the words of a renown WWII soldier...Gen George S. Patton III. who said that "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived". So it should be with our brother, Ric Case..

Now you can
race the rain,
ride the wind
and chase every
sunset!

Thank you for
your
commitment to
the motorcycle
community while
you were with
us!

NOW....
Get all of the
Pre-rides done
for us, Ric!



Oil Spots

By Traveler



Dukane A.B.A.T.E.

This is one more reason why we all need to support A.B.A.T.E. The following is an extract from the A.B.A.T.E. newsletter.

"We have talked for a few months now about working to get justice for John "JJ" Jones and his family as he was killed on his motorcycle in Geneva, IL. Ricardo Rivera, the man that hit JJ head on, was not charged with anything. With that being the case, DuKane ABATE sent out a call to action to seek justice. As you've followed along, you know that a meeting was set up with Kane County State's Attorney Jamie Mosser to give her decision on charges against Rivera. That meeting happened on November 27th. Family members were in attendance along with President Chris Hansen (via Zoom), Vice President Randy Ramey (via Zoom), and Events Officer Chris Newman. Unfortunately, it was relayed to all of us that they could not find any way to charge Rivera with reckless homicide. In Illinois, reckless homicide does NOT include knowingly getting into a vehicle without a driver's license and insurance and still operating a motor vehicle. We will be attending an upcoming court date for Rivera where he's being charged with traffic violations and the Kane County State's Attorney will be asking for the maximum sentence of jail time. We will keep you all posted as this continues."

Hi-Tech Helmets

Forcite has announced the availability of Forcite MK1S, advanced motorcycle helmet, through powersports dealerships in the U.S. Forcite MK1S is a smart helmet system with advanced features in audio, visual and road alert systems.

MK1S capabilities operate as a system (helmet, built-in electronics and a related Forcite app).

Tech features include:

- A proprietary road alert and in-helmet, peripheral LED display that communicates route information and turn-by-turn directions to the rider, with no need to look away from the road ahead
- High-end audio with Harman Kardon speakers and a dual microphone designed specifically for Forcite's motorcycle environment

- Built-in action camera with 1080p resolution, low-light capability and a Sony IMX sensor.

The carbon fiber shell delivers the lightest smart helmet on the market and houses 3-D-formed foam padding throughout, a unique neck roll design and a chin curtain to reduce road noise for the rider. The visor features a Pinlock MAX120 insert, which absorbs moisture to keep the visor clear and offers a unique Pinlock closure system with a locking switch for track and high-speed use.



The design eliminates heavy clip-on cameras, unmatched headsets and difficult-to-read or -hear rider information. The Forcite app integrates with the helmet's Rider Alert System and leverages online information. Currently, there are over 3,500 Forcite MK1 and MK1S helmets in use across Australia and Europe.

Forcite captured thousands of points of on-road feedback sent in by MK1 riders. Their engineers used this info to craft more luxurious padding, high-end audio and to improve camera quality in the Forcite MK1S. The rider alert system and peripheral LED display is dialed into real-time road conditions.

Forcite's Aftercare Program ensures that an investment in a smart helmet retains its value, even if a rider is involved in a crash. Should a Forcite owner's helmet get damaged, the company will transfer the tech components to a new shell, test all of the electronics and deliver it to the owner for only the cost of the new shell. Specific details of this program are available on the Forcite website.

This helmet features groundbreaking technology in a package that works whether a rider is on pavement, dirt roads or the local track.

The Forcite MK1S suggested retail price is \$1,099.99.

How many states use I-PASS?

Traveling this Summer on Interstate roadways?

I-Pass can be used in 18 states: Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, and West Virginia.



(Continued on page 7)



Improved Hearing in Helmets

Motorcycle accidents claim over 200,000 lives globally each year. Among the myriad factors contributing to these tragedies, one often overlooked aspect is the rider's auditory awareness. In a study recently published, innovative technology on motorcycle helmets is a game-changer in rider safety.

Traditionally, motorcycle helmets have excelled in protecting the head while facilitating vision in the forward direction. However, they often compromise the rider's ability to hear the surrounding environment. Resonar's breakthrough technology, is a Protective Helmet with Earpieces to augment existing helmets to enable comprehensive perception in all directions.

The study revealed that participants perceived heightened safety while using the technology, yet comfort, fatigue and stress levels while riding showed no significant changes. This implies that such innovative technology amplifies safety without imposing discomfort or fatigue on the rider.

While much attention has historically been devoted to visual acuity and impact protection, this study underscores the critical role of hearing in averting collisions and enhancing overall safety.

By addressing the auditory limitations of traditional helmets, this innovation may redefine safety standards and reduce motorcycle-related collisions.

Recreational riders and enthusiasts stand to benefit immensely from this advancement in helmet technology.

The study's findings present a case for integrating auditory-enhancing technology. This type of innovation has the potential to revolutionize the way we ride, helping to reduce road collisions and saving lives.



Ever Increasing Cost of Riding

Each year riders accept the realization that our sport of motorcycling is becoming more expensive. Minor annual increases are expected and acceptable.

However, with new touring motorcycles now reaching

\$59,000.00, high prices may well start to erode sales and the popularity of our sport.



Arizona Bike Week at WestWorld of Scottsdale April 3 - 7

Add to this, the insane cost of some bike rallies. Passes for Arizona Bike Week now cost between \$99.00 and \$381.00. That's the cost of entry to the venue that gives you the opportunity to spend more money at the vendors. It also, in fairness, gives you access to the four concerts.

Whatever happened to.....?



No Funny Electronic Highway Signs by 2026

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration is banning humorous messages on electronic signs that appear on highways and freeways.



Apparently states have two years to implement all of the changes outlined in the agency's new 1100-page manual, which includes restrictions on "General Information Signs" like electronic message boards. The manual requires signage to be "simple, direct, brief, legible, and clear" and only be used for important information such as warning drivers of crashes ahead, adverse weather conditions, and traffic delays, as well as seatbelt reminders and warnings about the dangers of speeding or driving while impaired.

(Continued on pg. 8)



Oil Spots, continued...

Messages with obscure or secondary meanings, such as those with popular culture references, unconventional sign legend syntax, or that are intended to be humorous, should not be used as they might be misunderstood or understood only by a limited segment of road users and require greater time to process and understand.”

That’s bad news for those who enjoy the jokes, puns, and pop-culture references used by many states as a way to draw attention to important messages. Among those highlighted by the *Associated Press*: “Use Yah Blinkah” in Massachusetts; “Visiting in-laws? Slow down, get there late,” from Ohio; “Don’t drive Star Spangled Hammered,” from Pennsylvania; “Hocus pocus, drive with focus” from New Jersey; and “Hands on the wheel, not your meal” from Arizona.

Non-compliance with the new standards, which go into effect in 2026, could cost states federal assistance. Local officials may even end up in court.

A Motorcycle that can see?



All Verge TS Ultra motorcycles now feature cameras and radars that use artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The company unveiled its Starmatter software and intelligence platform with four different elements: automatic over-the-air updates (OTA), sensor technology, artificial intelligence and a Human-Machine-Interface

(HMI). Besides the standard features, Verge’s bikes have a low center of gravity, which enhances the control of the bike making the riding experience safer.



The TS Ultra’s new cameras combined with the software update make it the world’s first motorcycle equipped with the sense of sight, advising the rider and acting as a ‘whisperer’ while riding. With the updated hardware and software, the bike analyzes the environment and notifies the rider, for example, of a vehicle approaching from behind or if it changes lane.

The Verge TS Ultra also features updated displays which makes it easier to use. The new dash makes managing essential functions easier and more intuitive, it informs and warns of potential hazards, and it displays the image from the rear view camera when the rider uses the turn signal, for example.

Prepare Yourself!!

By: Traveler

Riding motorcycles is physically and mentally demanding. It requires a significant degree of skill and physical and mental conditioning.

The better condition you’re in, the safer your riding experience will be. The “Off Season” is the perfect time to start improving your skills by practicing

balance, stamina, coordination and strength.

These simple activities can help improve your balance, coordination, strength and stamina.

Balance

The more adept you are, the more confidently you can ride. To improve your balance, try these simple exercises:

- Balance on one foot while holding the other for at least 10 seconds (work up to longer times).
- Balance on one foot while putting on your socks, drying after a shower, etc.
- Do yoga to improve balance and stamina.



(Continued on page 9)



Prepare, Continued

Reaction Time

Avoiding accidents and falls has a great deal to do with your reaction time.

To improve reaction time and hand-eye coordination, try tossing a small ball in the air and catching it with your right hand then left hand. Repeat this for at least a minute. Do this while watching TV or, for an advanced exercise, do it while walking.

Bounce a tennis ball against a wall and catch it, increasing the force and speed. Alter the angle of bounce to get the widest range of movement and unpredictability.

Any racquet sport is going to help you build stamina and hand-eye coordination. Playing tennis, pickle ball, badminton, or table tennis will help develop reaction reflexes.



Physical Fitness

Being physically fit can reduce fatigue while riding and mitigate injuries from a fall. Developed muscles and regularly exercised tendons are less susceptible to injury in a fall.

- Walking, running, hiking, swimming, and bicycling all contribute to better health, both physical and mental.

- Bicycling is a great crossover sport with motorcycling since it shares the attributes of two-wheel balancing. Stationary cycling is a great “Off Season” activity.
- Lifting weights is always helpful for building your muscles, as well as flexibility.

Vision

The better you can see, the better equipped you are to prepare for and react to what is happening up ahead, like reading signs and anticipating other vehicles’ moves. especially at high speeds.



- While sitting, find several focus points around you at different distances. Move your sight from one to the other and bring it into focus before moving on to the next point. Gradually increase speed.

- Some supplements claim to help eye health, like beta carotene and vitamin A. Check with your doctor before adding supplements to your daily routine.
- Warm your eyes by rubbing your hands together and then gently laying them over your closed eyes for five minutes.
- Blink! Regular conscious blinking keeps your eyes properly moistened and can help prevent damage.
- Move your eyes in a figure-eight shape around an object roughly 10 feet away to improve your motion tracking abilities.
- Implement the 20/20/20 rule when working. Every 20 minutes look at least 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

Diet

Stay away from fast food.

- Eat healthy alternatives and you’ll feel a great deal better and have more energy.
- When you’re on the road, avoid the ease of eating at fast food joints. Instead, find local markets to get fresh produce and water (no soft drinks).



Hydration

One of the best habits for maintaining health is proper hydration.

Science is increasingly verifying how dehydrated we actually are.



- Drink more water than you feel you need. Space it out if possible, sipping any time you think of it. Adequate hydration improves mental clarity, prevents irritability, and increases stamina.
- Sports type drinks are particularly advantageous.

Healthy habits not only make you a more capable and safer ride but, they also contribute to making you an old, experienced rider....



13 Oldest Motorcycle Companies

By: Traveler

Over the years, we've seen numerous form factors, engine displacements, technological upgrades, and much more.



While some obvious candidates, like Harley-Davidson and Royal Enfield, have well-documented pasts, quite a few more manufacturers have fascinating histories since their inception. This list brings together 13 of the oldest motorcycle manufacturers that are still alive and kicking today.

Which motorcycle manufacturers have weathered not just the test of time but also faced adversities and financial insecurities and come out the other side, still raring to go? One good example is Harley-Davidson, but this list takes a tour through the ages and pinpoints just those manufacturers that have come a long way since their start.

While there were instances where manufacturers were in business for quite a few years before eventually going bust, this list focuses on those that have survived to this day.

MV Agusta

Year Incorporated: 1945

Iconic Models: Brutale, Superveloce, 500 Four

MV Agusta has a storied past. Founded by Count Domenico Agusta, their longevity might be the least on this list, but what can't be taken away from the Italian manufacturer is its commitment to producing some of the most gorgeous, tech-infused motorcycles.

Their first motorcycle, the MV 98, came through in late 1945 and featured a 98cc two-stroke single-cylinder engine. The company has faced multiple takeovers (which included Harley-Davidson for a brief while) and financial difficulties, but as a brand, they've soldiered past all these hurdles. That means we still get masterpieces like the Superveloce 98 Edizione Limitata.

Ducati

Year Incorporated: 1926

Iconic Models: Panigale, Mach 1, Sport 1000 Classic

The most recognizable Italian motorcycle manufacturer, Ducati, has been in the game for a long time. Like most companies on this list, though, Ducati had humble begin-

nings. It was initially established to manufacture radio equipment but gradually shifted its focus to motorcycle engines. Over the years, Ducati has not just produced some of the most desirable and iconic motorcycles but also cemented its status as one of the most successful teams in racing history. Today, Ducati falls under the Volkswagen Group, having been acquired by Audi in 2012.

Moto Guzzi

Year Incorporated: 1921

Iconic Models: Normale, V7 Sport, 850 Le Mans

Moto Guzzi has not just made a name for themselves thanks to their stylish and iconic motorcycles, but they've also been particularly handy out on the racetrack, winning multiple championships across different disciplines. Despite going through a lot of change over the years, one of the biggest constants in their journey has been their unique transverse V-twin, something they've adopted on their motorcycles since the '60s.

Guzzi's first motorcycle was the 8-horsepower Normale, which was followed by their rather successful 1928 G.T. Moto Guzzi is now more than 100 years old, which is the norm more than the exception for those on this list. Through their journey, they've had plenty of ups and downs, but since their takeover by the Piaggio Group, things have stabilized for the Italian manufacturer.

Benelli

Year Incorporated: 1911

Iconic Models: Leoncino Corsa, 60 Single

Benelli is one of the oldest Italian motorcycle companies still in business today. Their initial dealings had very little to do with motorcycles. Benelli, for instance, manufactured shotguns way back before joining forces with the Beretta Gun Company to make automobiles.

Over the years, they dabbled in motorsports and endured financial hardships and ownership changes. However, they have been under Chinese ownership since around 2005, when Qianjiang Motorcycle bought them. Their headquarters remain in Peraso, Italy, but production has shifted to China.

BSA

Year Incorporated: 1910

Iconic Models: Bantam, Gold Star, Super Rocket

BSA started out by shoving a small engine into a bicycle frame. Over the next 60 years, they would experience several ups and downs, but eventually, after a less-than-successful merger

(Continued on pg 11)



13 Oldest, Continued

with Norton and Villiers, they went under in 1972. Only to be revived later almost out of nowhere in an attempt to capitalize on the ever-growing retro market with the modern BSA Gold Star.

SACHS

Year Incorporated: 1905
Iconic models: 150KN, Roadster 650

Today, they are better known for their suspension components, but not long ago, they were a leading engine supplier for a long list of different brands. As an actual motorcycle manufacturer, their production has been on and off throughout history. They have experienced a minor resurgence in recent years and are now investing more in electric mobility.

Husqvarna

Year Incorporated: 1903
Iconic Models: Vitpilen, Supermoto

Husqvarna is a Swedish motorcycle manufacturer that has been around a lot longer than most manufacturers. After being neglected for several years, Husqvarna came out from under the BMW Group rather worse for wear. KTM sought to breathe new life into the ailing company, but not in the way you might hope in a story with a happy ending. In reality, nothing but the name lives on, with their new bikes all re-skinned KTMs.

Harley-Davidson

Year Incorporated: 1903
Iconic Models: Low Rider, Road King, V-Rod, Sportster

One of only two American motorcycle companies to survive the great depression, Harley-Davidson has stood the test of time. They are the only company to survive this long without actually going bankrupt.

To have been making bikes for over 120 years is an astonishing achievement. Today, Harley-Davidson is in an enviable position of being a motorcycle icon.

Triumph Motorcycles

Year Incorporated: 1902
Iconic Models: Bonneville, Thruxton, Daytona

Most motorcycles that were produced in the early years were still bicycles with engines. Triumph came along with what was the first real motorcycle in 1915.

For decades, Triumph was highly regarded, right up until the '80s when the company went under. It didn't take long for them to bounce back though, producing competitive motorcycles in the '90s and have since evolved into one of the biggest motorcycle manufacturers in Europe.

Norton Motorcycles

Year Incorporated: 1902
Iconic Models: Model 1, Manx, Dominator

Norton was once one of the leading motorcycle brands, winning several races and championships in the first half of the 20th century. Things gradually went downhill in the second half until they were shuttered, and the naming rights were sold off in the late '70s.

Selling those naming rights added a lot of complexity and confusion to their history, but by the late '80s, they were back with a Wankel engine. That failed and then by 2008 they had another go. That also stalled, and now Norton is under TVS ownership.

Royal Enfield

Year Incorporated: 1901
Iconic Models: Bullet, Standard, Classic

Royal Enfield is one of the oldest, most distinguished motorcycle manufacturers worldwide. Royal Enfield is now more than 123 years old and shows no signs of slowing down.

They did change from a British company to an Indian company in the late '60s, and production, if anything, went up rather than down. Today, their lineup consists of some very desirable, solidly engineered motorcycles that offer solid bang for your buck.

Indian Motorcycle

Year Incorporated: 1901
Iconic Models: Chief, Scout, Roadmaster

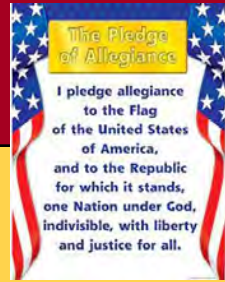
After surviving the great depression, they often outsold their bitter rival, Harley-Davidson. The post-war period was not kind to them with Harley-Davidson the clear favorite, and by 1953, Indian was done for.

They tried and failed again in the early '00s; then they showed enough promise for Polaris to buy them out and launch several new models that are now selling well worldwide. And Indian has no intention of slowing down with regard to the Harley-Davidson rivalry.

Peugeot Motorcycles

Year Incorporated: 1898
Iconic Models: 500M, P515 HS

Yes, they still make scooters to this day, largely thanks to Mahindra & Mahindra. After shifting their attention to cars in the '50s, their motorcycle division was largely forgotten. That is until Indian automaker Mahindra bought it in 2014. They have since acquired 100% ownership and produce Peugeot-branded scooters in both France and China.



General Membership Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

January 2nd, 2024

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.
- ◆ Pledge of Allegiance
- ◆ Guests – None
- ◆ Announcements
 - Birthdays
 - Wayne Kirkpatrick: January 1
 - Noelle Rigsby: January 2
 - Jim Wiseman: January 11
 - Jim Chevalier: January 15
- ◆ Condolences to Stefan Maca's wife, Daniella, and family. The visitation was Wednesday, December 27th with the funeral on Thursday the 28th. Daniella allowed club members to place bandanas in the casket.

Vice President: Ric Case - absent

- ◆ History/Open Report: No report.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Open Topics
- ◆ Windy City HD has closed because of low sales. They have, however, bought two Polaris dealerships (which is owned by Indian).
- ◆ Information on tracking devices – FIN and Trackimo – Can track location on phone for reasonable yearly amount.

Safety: Mike Bradbury

- ◆ Accident/safety review
- ◆ Looking for safety courses. Nothing is available in northern Illinois area right now.
- ◆ Kaution Korner: Wayne talked about the 5 common reasons for motorcycle accidents; 1) turning left; 2) animals on the road; 3) gravel on the road; 4) vehicles changing lanes; and 5) excessive speed in curves. See the January 2024 ROAR for all the details.
- ◆ Kaution Korner Preview: Not sure who is scheduled for next month.

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ Ted has membership applications to keep with you in case you are out and meet people who are interested in our club.

Activities: Greg Smith/Rick Agrimonti

- ◆ Recent Activities: No activities in December.
- ◆ Future Activities
 - January 20 - Breakfast at Southern Belle in Bar-

rington. (Rigsby)

- February 2 - Road Captain Committee meeting at American Legion in Wauconda. Would like some commitments on dates and ideas for rides. (Bradbury)
- February 10 – Awards Dinner at Emmett's in Palatine. Must have RSVP and payment of \$45/person by February General Meeting. (Bradbury)
- February 17 WHD Cabin Fever
- February 24 – No IMS Breakfast at Tiffany's in Des Plaines. (Rigsby)
- March 9 – Lunch at Johnny Pancakes and tour of Auto Museum in Rockford. (Rigsby)
- Sturgis update – Bard absent - no report.
- Front Range Ride – Interest? Once Wayne knows who is going, he'll look at things to see and what route to take. (Kirkpatrick)

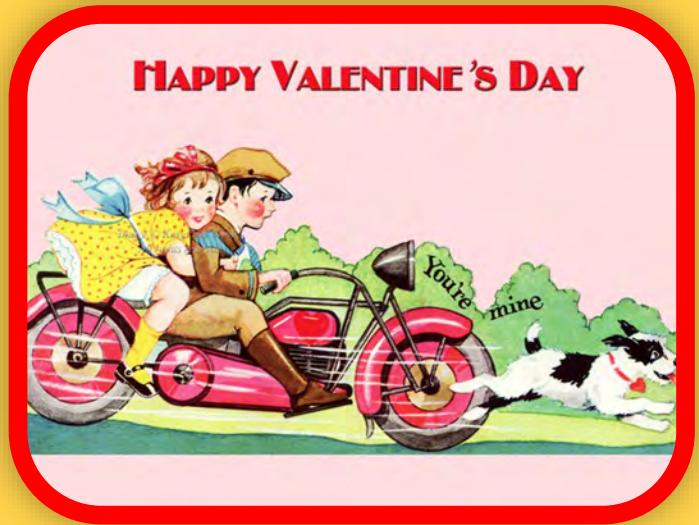
Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick – absent

- ◆ Per Wayne, Mary is meeting with Laura Culatta from NISRA and will have more information next month.

Products: Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ No. 1 seller is the long sleeve mock turtleneck shirt – on sale now for \$25.00! Also have the denim shirt, polo shirt, and black t-shirt. Buy now so you are ready for riding season.
- ◆ 50/50 Raffle: Andy Haszlakiewicz - absent. No raffle tonight.

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 7:39 p.m.





BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 16TH, 2024

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom. All Board members were present (eventually).

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ As mentioned at the General Meeting in January, Windy City H-D has closed and now has obtained 3 Polaris dealerships, not 2 as originally reported. They have also closed the Villa Park H-D.
- ◆ Wayne has a yearly subscription to Zoom in case we need to do any Zoom meetings.

Vice President: Ric Case

- ◆ No Shoot-Out location yet.

Treasurer: Don DeLordo

Report/review

- ◆ Don emailed the financial report to the Board. The balance of the main account is \$3,960.04 and balance of the Charity account is \$4,482.26. It was suggested and approved that the club give NISRA a check for \$2,500. That would leave \$1,982.26 in the Charity account for a start this year. Don will have the check ready to present at the Awards dinner.
- ◆ Twenty people have paid and/or RSVP'd for the Awards dinner. \$765 has been collected for the meals. We still have a few stragglers that have not paid yet. Don will check on some of the other "regulars" that have not responded yet. Don will call Emmett's to confirm all the food selections and arrangements.
- ◆ Don asked whether we should order more black bandanas as some were placed in Stefan Maca's casket last month. Ted indicated there were about 6-8 left in stock. He will bring these to the February meeting for those who need a replacement.

Activities: Greg Smith

- ◆ Review Past/Future Events:
- ◆ Last year there were 16 events, 5 overnight/multi day rides, and 28 overall gatherings including meetings.
- ◆ January 20 – breakfast at Southern Belle in Barrington (Rigsby)
- ◆ February 3 – Road Captain meeting at Waconda Legion (Bradbury)
- ◆ February 10 – Awards banquet (Bradbury/Rigsby)
- ◆ Don will confirm arrangements/food with Emmett's.
- ◆ February 17 – Cabin Fever at WSHD. Need to have membership flyers for table and get volunteers to help out. Perhaps should have a video of past trips or a scrolling slide show. Gene is working on one for the Awards Banquet so could possibly use that one.
- ◆ February 24 – No IMS breakfast at Tiffany's in Des Plaines (Rigsby)
- ◆ March 9 – Lunch at Johnny Pancakes at Kegel's H-D and

car museum in Rockford. The website says the car museum is closed until April 1. Gene will check on this.

- ◆ June 17 – Riding in Germany. Wayne indicated there is a soccer championship tournament June 14-18 and hotels are booked full. Juergen is looking for alternative lodging with comparable rates as the guest house he was looking at cannot accommodate us. Possibly might have to move our dates a week later. Juergen is also looking into the cost of the bike rentals. Seems they are overcharging us. This trip is still a work in progress.

Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- ◆ The Road Captain meeting on February 3 is all set. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 9:00.
- ◆ Safety Topics – Looking at some advanced training classes through Roaddocs and CPR/AED classes – can be expensive. Steve and Cindy Johnson from Rolling Thunder teach CPR classes and charge less than Roaddocs. Mike will check with them.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ New member applications for review. Consensus is the membership pamphlet is good yet. Will use these for Cabin Fever along with a slide show.
- ◆ New member packet update – items in packet are all good.
- ◆ Product needs – will check on the cost of bandanas with the logo.
- ◆ Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick
- ◆ Updates from Laura and VAM – Mary talked with Laura and Jim. The band, Modern Day Romeos, will not be in town June 9 so are not available for the Charity ride.
- ◆ Looking at ways that Top Cats can interact with NISRA more. We have lost the identity that NISRA kids have had with Top Cats and the motorcycles. In the past, we attended the BBQ and fishing derby and interacted with the kids/families. Suggest leading a ride to a NISRA event.

Secretary: Jane Smith

- ◆ Asked who should get meeting minutes (general and board). They should be emailed to Gene and Mary for content review and Mary will include them in the ROAR.
- ◆ Membership roster/activities attendance file will be emailed to the board members quarterly.

General

- ◆ Wayne reported Posse meeting locations and speakers are in the works.
- ◆ Wayne asked if we have filed yet for taxes? Ted indicated we have until May. Can be done on the internet. Gene will take care of it.

Thanks to Wayne for setting up the Zoom meeting.
Meeting adjourned by Gene at 8:01 p.m.

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February Birthdays and Anniversaries!



29 David Ramirez

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No February Anniversaries (That we know of...)



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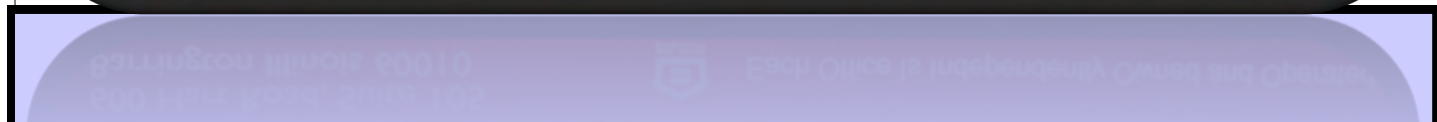
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RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Saturday, February 3rd	Road Captain Meeting	Wauconda	Am Legion Post 911	8:00am	Bradbury
Tuesday, February 6th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, February 10th	TC Banquet	Emmet	Palatine	4:30 pm	Smith/DeLordo
Tuesday, February 13th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00pm	Rigsby
Saturday, February 17th	Cabin Fever	Woodstock HD	Woodstock HD	8:00 am	Rigsby
Saturday, February 24th	NO IMS Breakfast	Breakfast at Tiffany's	Des Plaines	9:00am	Rigsby
Tuesday, March 5th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Sunday March 10th	Jonny Pancakes	Rockford	Kegal HD	TBD	Rigsby
Tuesday March 12th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00pm	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.



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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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