



ROAR

April, 2024

Volume 24, Issue 4

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Time to Ride!
Where to?
See the Calendar!

Upcoming Events

APRIL

- 2 GENERAL MEETING
- 7 GRASS CLASS
- 9 BOARD MEETING
- 21 KICKOFF RIDE

MAY

- 7 GENERAL MEETING
- 14 BOARD MEETING

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



The Official
Publication
Of Top Cats
Illinois



ROAR

PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



it out.

Hello, Top Cats!

Spring has sprung!!

I hope you and your family are all well. Spring has just begun and the weather has been participating quite nicely. With the time change, comes more daylight increasing outdoor activity opportunities. I know this will include riding very soon!!

The RCs are hard at work getting dates and rides ready to get on the calendar, get the info out and get on the road. I hope you'll be ready,, **HINT**, this is part of my KK for this month. Check

Activities from March...

Mar 9: Lunch and exploring at the Volo Auto Museum (no Johnnypam cakes... ☹️. Next time...)

Mar: 24 GRASS at Keller-Williams in Barrington

March 9) It was a great day at the Volo Auto Museum. We spent hours there. And I think we might have missed a bit (or a lot) too... We went rather quickly but there is SO much to see that it still took a long time. What a great place to see pieces of the past. We couldn't help but see something and start reminiscing about the car or whatever we or someone we knew had. And especially how many opportunities got away... If I have a dollar for how many times I heard, if I only kept that "insert classic item here"... If you have been there or not in a while, plan to get out there on 6/9/24 with your half price entry. Well worth it.

March 24) GRASS. You're in luck!! You didn't miss it. This class date was changed to April 7th ☺️. Get in there!!

Activities for April...

Apr: 7 GRASS at Keller-Williams in Barrington

Apr: 21 Kick-off ride - Bradbury

April 7) GRASS at Keller-Williams in Barrington. Mike has arranged this class so you all have the opportunity to start the season off right with a refresher of how we ride. Attending this class will not only satisfy your requirement to stay a member in good standing, but also get you prepared for our first ride (Kick-off Ride), which Mike Bradbury has in the works. Not to mention, you get to spend more time with your Top Cats family.

April 21) Mike Bradbury has been hard at work arranging our first ride of the season (Kick-off Ride). He has 3 options for us to choose depending on the weather. This is a good planning tip for RCs and a way that we all still have an opportunity to come together even if we can't ride. Awesome!! Check the calendar for details and make sure to RSVP so Mike can share the option chosen when ready.



**Kick-Off Ride!
Coming Soon!
Reserve your Spot!**

FYI... The award banquet for 2024, held in 2025 is **already reserved** for **February 15th, 2025**. Get it on your calendar now.

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

Stay safe and have a great, happy Easter!!

Looking forward to seeing you there....



KAUTION KORNER



In doing research for this article, searching the web. One thing I found most interesting and a bit frightening is that when searching for spring riding tips, the first page of results in Google produced over 20 law firm links. All providing spring riding tips (Almost all the same, even the same text) All looking to grab your attention so you can remember them WHEN something bad happens.

This should tell you something about spring riding... Get yourself ready now, before you head out on the road.

Preparing for spring riding should start now. Before you get out on the road with your Top Cats family. Not only preparing your equipment, which is a given. But, also preparing your mind and body.

Ted wrote his March '24 Kaution Korner about clearing your mind and being in the moment, when spring riding, so you can focus on what you are doing and the action of riding defensively. Being in the moment.

Great advice and an even greater thing to practice. Something that will be a benefit to you as well as your friends and Top Cats family. One way to get practice and get your mind right is by reviewing motorcycle safety with some of the most knowledgeable experts around. Who are they you ask...?? Well, they are members of YOUR club! And they are willing to provide a wealth of information to help you prepare for the riding season. All for FREE... As a matter of fact, there is a **GRASS class** coming up on **April 7th**. You should attend. Check the Top Cats calendar for location, time, etc... If you can't make that class, talk to Mike Bradbury about getting another one together soon, so you and your Top Cat family can attend. It is a benefit to all who ride around you, well... and you... You would want the same security from those around you... Right??

Ready, Set, Whoa!!

By: Gene "Lucky" Rigsby,
Sr. Road Captain and President of Top Cats Illinois!

In all seriousness, this is a great class, and a huge benefit in getting your mind focusing in on riding habits and of being on the road. Not to mention all the other things you learn from the class.

Our GRASS class is not the only source of riding and motorcycle information. There are a large number of groups and organizations that service the motorcycle community. Not all are the same though. So be careful about what advice you take. See my note above about the Law Groups, though they have a good purpose as well. Most sites are very beneficial to review and have interesting content. Wayne provides a great amount of motorcycling related information, including links in his monthly OIL SPOTS article, as well, other ROAR contributors have provided suggestions. I provided a few lists of website links to Mary for this edition of ROAR. Take a look and let's talk about them at a meeting or out on the road.

We like motorcycles, right...?

Now that you started getting your mind right and focused, let's work on preparing the body.

I had a wee bit of a problem with my knee last year and had to go to physical therapy. During a PT session, I realize that this activity was a necessity to getting me ready for riding and something good to do all year, but especially when getting ready to ride, whether at the start of the season or after a long break. Keep in mind, 2 weeks is a long break. Atrophy (loss of muscle) starts in 2 weeks. So, keep them muscles moving to keep them.

The PT I took may be a bit much, so here are some items I found on one of those great motorcycle related websites I spoke about. ([St. Charles HD](#))

As with riding on the road, always use caution when exercising and know your limits. Do not over do it. These are activities intended to benefit you and make you feel better. If you are not feeling better or feeling even slight pain. Stop. And see a doctor about what may be the cause. It may be something to address before you get out on the road.



(Continued on page 4)

KK., continued...

Pull Ups

Pull-ups are an exercise that will test your upper body strength. Having excellent upper body strength is ideal for handling a motorcycle. You will be thankful if you ride a large motorcycle with a powerful engine. More upper body strength will let you more easily control your motorcycle around tight corners and turns. **Could substitute push-ups**



Squats

Along with upper body strength, you also need lower body strength to handle a motorcycle well. Simple squats can give you lower body strength. Squats will also help you work on your flexibility and balance. Having excellent balance is essential for a safe motorcycle ride. If you cannot keep yourself steady during turning, acceleration, or braking, you will be in big trouble on the road or the track. Eventually, you can work your way up to doing squats with weights. **Planking would be a good substitute or an addition. Doing this also develops your core, which is needed when handling your motorcycle**

Lunges

Lunges are another exercise that works out your lower body and improves flexibility. Many different riding techniques depend on good lower body strength, particularly in your legs. For example, if you need to put a knee down on a race track while taking a corner. Lunges give you quads, glutes, and hamstrings a proper workout. You can also do them wherever and whenever. **This can be done with a chair to help as you develop balance and strength Arm weights also are an option.**



Bicycle Riding

Although it may sound a little funny to ride a bicycle to get in shape to ride a motorcycle, it is a good test of your endurance and stamina. Cycling for a few miles will help you build yourself up for long drives on your motorcycle. Mountain biking is another similar exercise option. Mountain bikes require you to use and work out a lot of the same muscles you need for a regular motorcycle ride. **Also a good way to start getting your riding muscle memory as well as your mental memory jump started.**



Of course there are more or alternate exercises you can do.
The point is, to do something to get yourself ready. Now.

If you are looking for a challenge, ask me about the Spartan 500 next time you see me.

Next step in your preparation journey would be to get out on the road for some short, easy trips. Reflect on GRASS class, using what was taught. Hand signals. Riding in a particular track. Practice the method for measuring spacing to a vehicle in front of you, etc... and also start getting the muscles reacquainted with the things that they must do to keep you and those with you and around you safe while we ride. Riding is a team sport. Everyone around you is counting on you to do it right, as you would expect from them. Right..??

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



We Like Motorcycles, Right?

By: Gene "Lucky" Rigsby,
Sr. Road Captain and President of Top Cats Illinois!

We like motorcycles, right...??
We like to read about motorcycles,
right...??
We like to talk about riding motorcycles,
right...??
We like to learn more about motorcycles,
right...??
We like to ride motorcycles, right??

Well, let's get started....

Let's read about it

<https://www.roadrunner.travel/>
<https://www.motorcycle.com/>
<https://www.cycleworld.com/>
<https://www.motorcyclistonline.com/>
<https://ridermagazine.com/>
<https://www.asphaltandrubber.com/>
<https://adventuremotorcycle.com/>
<https://motorcyclemojo.com/>

Let's talk about it

<https://www.advrider.com/>
<https://adventureriderradio.com/>
<https://motorcyclesandmisfits.wordpress.com/>
<https://motowitch.com/podcast/>
https://bike.feedspot.com/motorcycle_podcasts/

Let's find motorcycling in our communities

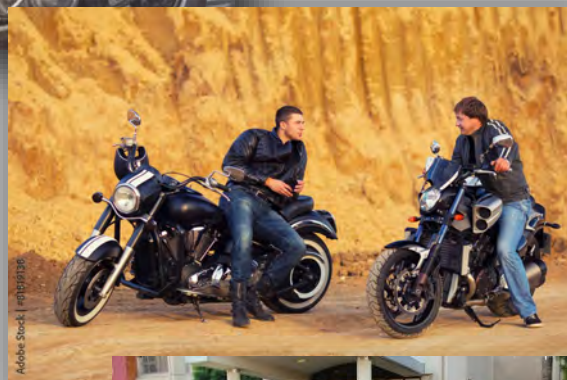
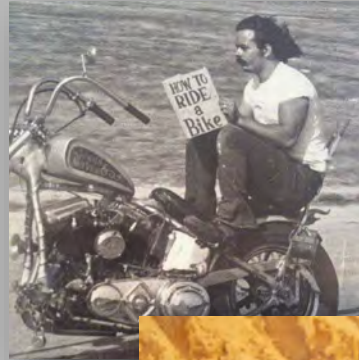
<https://mrf.org/>
<https://americanmotorecyclist.com/>
<https://msf-usa.org/>
<https://www.antiquemotorcycle.org/>
<https://www.ahrma.org/>
<https://nmsfund.org/>
<https://www.abate-il.org/>
<https://dukaneabateil.org/important-links/>
<https://www.nts.gov/Advocacy/safety-topics/Pages/Motorcyclist-Safety.aspx>

Maybe you can share things you learned from one of these sites with our Top Cats family at the next meeting. That would be awesome!!

Let's study it

<https://www.topcats.org/safety/>

Here it is!! The most impactful safety training course in the motorcycling community and it is yours for FREE. So easy to get for you...



Oil Spots

By Traveler



The front end is a Honda Goldwing, and the frame is built around the engine. What looks like the fuel tank on top is actually a cover for the ignition and throttle cables, while a cylindrical aluminum gas tank is tucked down the center of the engine. A small fuel pump pushes fuel up to six carburetors that are mounted at the front of the engine.

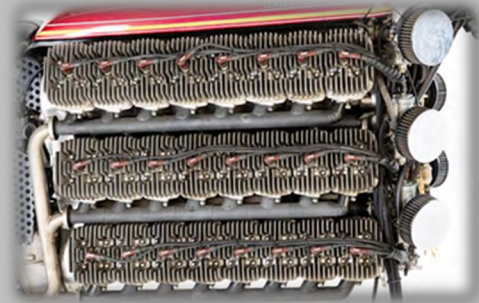
48 Cylinders + 2 Wheels + 1 World Record = This Motorcycle.



World records can be wild feats of courage, exhibitions of mental fortitude, or the outcome of years of patient practice. They can also be a marvel of engineering

that carefully coordinates the movement of 48 pistons into a functional machine.

The whole thing displaces 4200cc, or 256 cubic inches, and massive in size if not necessarily displace.



There is no way a human is going to kick start such

a beast, and an electric starter might not have the oomph to keep the engine turning while the cylinders begin to fire.

This 48-cylinder creation—the official record for an engine with the most cylinders—is the product of Briton Simon Whitelock and is an exercise in solving problems. The project started in 1999 and seems to have been constructed in a small shed packed full of stuff.

That's why it has an auxiliary engine—a smaller second engine solely to get the six crankshafts spinning.

Sixteen Kawasaki KH250s, which were three cylinder two-stroke, contributed their engines to this build. The original cases were cut to remove the



transmissions and then welded together, forming inline-eight engines that were then stacked and lined up using large aluminum plates at either end. With three inline-eight two stroke engines on each side so they could be linked with a gear drive that feeds into a BMW K1000 transmission, and a shaft drive to the rear wheel.



And yes, it does ride under its own power. In reality, though, running it for longer periods of time would take even more engineering prowess due to heat

generation. Regardless, if you find this this 48-

cylinder wonder as intriguing you can raise a paddle and bid (its estimate is \$51k-\$76k) to make it yours late April at the Bonhams Spring Stafford Sale in the U.K.

(Continued on pg. 7)



Oil Spots, , Continued...

Where Was Your Harley Made?



Harley-Davidson motorcycle with American flag © Andresgarciam/Getty Images

Harley-Davidson was founded in 1903 by William Harley and three Davidson brothers: Walter, Arthur, and William. After more than a century of successes, the company is now publicly owned, with over 138 million free-floating shares and over 24.5 million company-owned shares. In other words, American individuals, foreign investors, and other stock-market participants own Harley-Davidson now.

Of course, investment firms like Vanguard, BlackRock, and H Partners Management have a decent chunk of the shares, with Vanguard owning over 9% of HOG (Harley-Davidson's stock ticker symbol). Many of these shares are placed in index funds, meaning individuals still own a slice of the pie.

Thus, Harley-Davidson is an American company with millions of American owners and many more owners all around the world. But the manufacturing side isn't quite as cut and dry. The production of parts and assembly of Harleys takes place in multiple countries, with a complex order of operations.

For most of the company's history, the majority of Harley-Davidson motorcycles and their parts were made in the United States. In fact, four U.S.-based factories were in operation until 2019, with thousands of employees and hundreds of U.S. material suppliers. But with rising global demands and increasing steel-import costs in the 21st century, one plant in Kansas was closed, and a new one was set up in Thailand.

If you're buying a Harley in the United States, however, you can still trust that it was assembled in either Wisconsin or Pennsylvania. In this way, the company's American-made reputation continues to this day, and the three existing American plants employ thousands. But the parts themselves aren't necessarily produced in the states.

The manufacturing of the motorcycle parts used by Harley-Davidson occurs in several factories located across the

world. There are parts manufacturers in Mexico, Germany, Italy, Taiwan, and Japan. Some of the parts are still made in the U.S. and used with enough frequency to earn the "Made in America" label on any Harley purchased in America. However, with so many different sources, parts, and motorcycle models, it's nearly impossible to pinpoint the exact origins of parts of every motorcycle that rolls off the line.

Whether you're a fan or not, it can't be denied that Harley-Davidson is an American company. Since its Milwaukee inception in 1903, Harley-Davidson has produced millions of motorcycles on U.S. soil, starting with Harley-Davidson Model 1. But as one of the oldest manufacturers of motorcycles still in existence, it's no surprise the company has shifted its business model and taken some things overseas.

Outsourcing parts manufacturing, assembly, and supplies to other countries isn't new for Harley-Davidson. When the Great Depression hit supply lines hard for U.S. manufacturers, some Harleys were made in Japan starting. Business was disrupted after the onset of World War II, but after the war, production continued, and some Japanese assembly lines stayed active through the late 1950s.

Harley-Davidson has survived an increasingly globalized world for over 120 years by outsourcing some of its parts and production. However, it's worth remembering that every Harley sold in the U.S. market is assembled, and therefore made, in the United States. It's reasonable to assume that Harley-Davidson could save money by exporting all of its manufacturing overseas, but the company has a reputation as an American brand to live up to.

Illinois Class L or Class M Motorcycle License

The process for obtaining a Class L or Class M endorsement is the same for either license.

You can complete an IDOT-approved Motorcycle Safety Course and be exempt from the written and driving exam required to

obtain your Class L or Class M motorcycle endorsement. Or you can prepare for the exam by studying the Motorcycle Operator Manual and by taking practice tests.

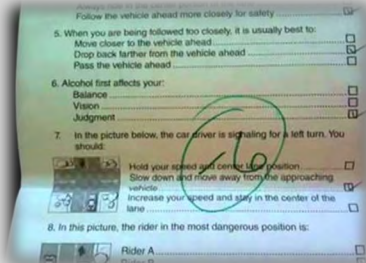


(Continued on pg 8)

Oil Spots, continued...

To get your Illinois motorcycle or motor-driven cycle endorsement, visit an SOS Driver Services location and:

- Provide identification (Government ID, Drivers License, Passport, etc.) The Illinois SOS web site provides a list of acceptable documents.
- Present a completion card from a Motorcycle Rider Education course.
 - Applicants 16 to 17 years old must complete the Motorcycle Rider Education course to be eligible for a Class M license. You must also still take the motorcycle practical skills exam.
 - Applicants 18 years or older may present a course completion card to waive both the written and motorcycle practical skills test.
 - Complete the written and driving exams (unless you are presenting a certificate of completion from an IDOT motorcycle safety course—see “Waiving the Written and Driving Exams” below).
- If you do not already have a valid Illinois driver's license, you must also pass the basic written exam and vehicle behind-the-wheel test.
- Pass a vision exam.
- Pay the \$10 fee.



Waiving Written and Driving Exams

Completion of an IDOT motorcycle safety course will qualify drivers 18 years old and older to waive both the written and driving exams when getting their Class L or Class M license. Applicants 16 to 17 years old who complete the course must still take the driving exam and the written test.

To waive the exams, you must present a completion card from an IDOT Motorcycle Rider Education course. The completion card is valid for 1 year.

Renewing Class L or M Motorcycle License

You can renew your Illinois Class L or M license when you renew your Illinois driver's license for a \$5 fee.

To review steps on motorcycle license renewal in Illinois, check the Illinois Motorcycle Operator Manual or visit their web site page on renewing your license in Illinois.

Why, on Earth, Ride a Harley?



10 Things Harley-Davidson Owners Keep Quiet about© Provided by HotCars

Hidden beneath the gleaming exterior and the deafening roar are untold tales only recounted by the fervent riders. We peel back the layers of Harley-Davidson ownership exploring the complexities and difficulties rarely discussed in public and certainly never mentioned when Honda, BMW, or Ducati riders are around.

Maintenance Is Expensive: Average Annual Maintenance Cost: \$1,600 (Average 5000-mile service costs \$250 - 400)

To keep these machines operating efficiently, genuine Harley parts and expert servicing are preferred; these services are not cheap. Harley owners must quietly navigate a world of expensive maintenance. In fact, the maintenance cost is so high that the Harley-Davidson touring motorcycles often top the charts when it comes to the most expensive used bikes to maintain in the entire industry.

The complexities of Harley's upkeep go beyond the cost. It can be difficult to find knowledgeable mechanics who comprehend the subtleties of the contemporary hi-tech vehicles. Harley owners tend to be close-knit groups that exchange suggestions for reputable mechanics, but within the Harley-Davidson community, the search for trustworthy professionals is still a secret problem.

Harleys Are Heavier Than Other Motorcycles: Average Curb Weight: 862 lbs. (481 - 1,243 lbs.)

Harley-Davidson bikes have a price for their sturdy design: weight. Due to their weight, Harleys are more difficult to keep steady at very slow speed and a true test of strength to lift when it does fall down. To put into context how heavy Harleys are, the Harley-Davidson CVO Road Glide Limited weighs over 950 pounds, nearly twice that of a BMW F 850 GS.

Performance Is Mediocre: Average Horsepower: 120 hp (90 - 150 hp)

Every Harley-Davidson has a strong engine that pays homage to the tradition of American engineering.

(Continued on pg 9)



Oil Spots, continued...

(Continued on pg. 8)

. These engines are frequently hailed as masterpieces and offer power and exhilaration. Nevertheless, these engines' actual performance occasionally fails to live up to the grandiose noises they produce. The best example is the Harley-Davidson Sporter S, which has been locked to a mere 143 mph despite its 1,252cc V-Twin.

Motorcycles Are Challenging To Ride:

Average Ground Clearance: 5.9 in (3.5 - 8.3 in)

Even the most committed riders may find their endurance tested on lengthy rides due to the constant noise and vibration. These vibrations, when combined with the weight of the motorcycle, create a complex ballet of strength and balance when negotiating traffic and twisting roads.

The passenger seat also makes things more uncomfortable. Riders may enjoy the freedom of the open road, but passengers have a far less enjoyable experience. While there are ways to improve the ride comfort on a Harley-Davidson, many riders choose to concentrate on the unrivaled sensation of freedom even if they know these difficulties. Silently accepting the sacrifices made for the unmatched thrill of Harley cruising, we wear the discomfort like a badge of honor.

Gas Mileage Is Annoying: Average Fuel Economy: 46.7 mpg (41 - 52.4 mpg)

There is a price to be paid for the allure of a Harley engine roaring to life: a thirst for fuel. Motorcycles made by Harley-Davidson are infamous for using more gasoline than the industry average. The experience of owning a Harley is linked to frequent stops at gas stations, which adds inconvenience to the entire trip.

Buying A Harley Is Expensive: Average MSRP: \$32,749 (\$13,499 - 51,999)

Buying a Harley-Davidson is investing in a fragment of American heritage. But this investment has an above-average cost. This is because even the most affordable Harley-Davidson Motorcycles, like the Nightster, will cost \$13,499++++.

The silent determination to preserve the image of luxury and exclusivity associated with Harley ownership becomes an intrinsic part of our identity, demonstrating a dedication to the brand.

Handling Isn't A Strong Suit: Average Wheelbase: 62.75 in (59.8 - 65.7 in)

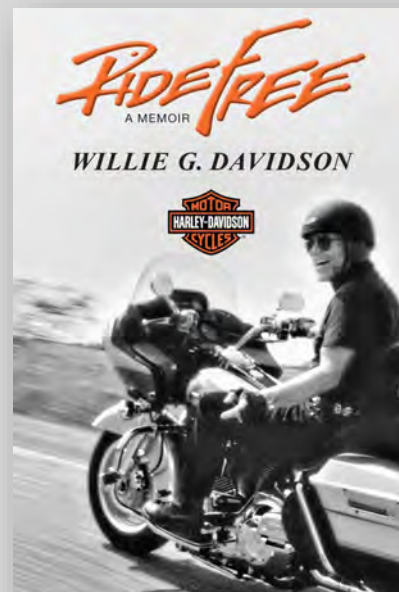
Although Harley-Davidson motorcycles are excellent at projecting charisma, agility is frequently sacrificed. The bikes' mobility is impacted by the weight and design, particularly on difficult terrain or crowded urban areas. Riding a large machine with grace requires a special set of talents. Contrast this to something like a Kawasaki Vulcan S, and you will see how lacking Harleys are in handling.

Many Foreign Components: Harley-Davidson Parts Are Sourced From Japan, Italy, Mexico, China, And Australia

With its strong ties to American culture, Harley-Davidson symbolizes the American dream. Not every part of a Harley-Davidson is produced in the USA. This is to make them more affordable. Harley uses Showa (Honda) suspension components from Japan, brake and clutch parts come from Italy, wheels are imported from Australia, and electronic components from various Asian countries.

Insurance Costs Are Sky-High: Average Monthly Insurance Cost: \$201.5 (\$101 - 302)

Insurance for a Harley-Davidson typically is expensive. The brand's fame, expensive repair parts and service, also contribute to exorbitant insurance costs. Harley owners seldom allow insurance charges to dampen their love of riding knowing that one of the non-negotiable aspects of ownership is higher insurance rates.





Sturgis! Information for You to Plan on Joining a Great Ride!

Submitted by Bard Board



If you've missed the blasts in your email and you're wanting to join the Annual ride to Motorcycle Meca and do it in style, here is the information that you will need!

Monday, July 29th. Leave 0800 BP Gas Station, 1 N Rand Rd (US12), Lake Zurich, IL

- ◆ Arrive Hilton Garden Inn, 20 Civil Center, Mankato, MN. Phone (507) 344-1111. Contact front desk for booking under Top Cats of Illinois block. Special rate \$139.00. Any issues ask for Victoria Vogel.

Tuesday July 30, 2024

- ◆ Arrive Governors Inn, 700 W. Sioux Ave (US14), Pierre, SD. Phone (605) 224-4200. Contact front desk under Top Cats block. Special rate for ground floor walk in from parking lot \$82.00. Any issues, ask for Ron or call his cellphone at (605) 224-0004.



Wednesday July 31 thru checkout August 6, 2024

- ◆ Arrive Hotel Alex Johnson, 523 6th St., Rapid City, SD. Phone (605) 342-1210. Book under Top Cats of Illinois block at front desk. Wed and Thurs special Top Cats rate: \$209.00. Fri, Sat, Sun and Mon Top Cats rate: \$220.00. Any issues, ask for JoAnna Wagner, Sales Manager or Jessica Scheurer, Director of Sales.

- ◆ *Make sure you identify yourself as being with the Top Cats of Illinois block of rooms and book only under that block*
- ◆ CUT OFF DATES: Hilton Garden Inn - Mankato, MN July 8, 2024
- ◆ Governors Inn - Pierre, SD. July 30, 2024
- ◆ Hotel Alex Johnson - Rapid City, SD June 1, 2024



Any additional questions, email Bard at bboand48@gmail.com or call at (847) 721-7470.





5 Steps to Getting your Bike out of Storage!

By: Traveler

Step #3: Prepare to Start

Even when properly stored, a dormant engine can benefit from a slow startup. Ensuring components are ready to move again goes a long way to not only a good driving season but



a long, healthy engine life. Engines typically drain oil from top to bottom, and after sitting all season there is likely very little oil at the top end of the engine. A good technique is to disconnect the sparkplugs and spin the engine over so that oil pumps thru the engine before starting the engine. Hopefully, your inspection told you that the fuel line was in good shape so it's time to get fuel pressure in the system. Be prepared for anything at this point, especially if you stored the bike filled with fuel that has ethanol blended into it. When you turn the ignition on, you energize the fuel pump. Look for any raw fuel leaking. If it is....DO NOT start your bike until you fix it! Ideally, you stored your bike with Stabil, Sea Foam or some kind of fuel stabilizer for the winter and everything is still in good condition. Check your oil levels and.... You're ready to start 'er up.

Step #4: Start

One of the great thrills of motorcycling is starting your bike for the first time in the season. When it comes to life, the sound, vibrations and smells all combine to bring back great memories of last season.



A few pumps of the accelerator on a carbureted engine will get some raw fuel in the intake manifold to make starting a bit easier. Fuel-injected engines will only need a turn of the key. Once running, let the engine idle for a few minutes as you look around the engine compartment for any leaks and listen for strange noises. If you have any difficulty finding oil leaks or seeps, spry powder, like baby powder or foot powder around the suspected source of the oil. It will show the trail of oil immediately.

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The snow is receding, rain is washing

salt from the roads, the sun is shining and the temperature is on the rise. These conditions cause flowers to start blooming, trees to start budding, birds to start chirping and bikers to start salivating at the thought of twisty roads, warm winds and good ol biker camaraderie. If you are anxious about riding that long-stored motorcycle, here are five very important steps to follow to get your riding season off to a good start.

Step #1: Inspect

Even if you stored your bike properly, and periodically checked on it over the winter, the first thing you should do is go over it with a detailed look. Examine your bike



from tire to tire to look for cracks, evidence of leaks, worn-out bushings, or wiring that may be frayed. Check cables for smooth operation, windscreens for cracks, seats for cracking / tears, handles and straps for tightness, lights for operation, fluid levels, and tires for correct inflation, cracking and wear. Get your owner's manual and go down the major service checklist to do a full check. Meticulously taking stock of the bike before the first ride assures that deteriorating parts do not cause additional damage, accidents, or simply leave you stranded.

Step #2: Clean

Even in storage, dirt, condensation, and grime accumulate on your bike. Remove all this damaging debris from both painted, chromed, and soft surfaces. You can perform this step at the same time as the inspection.



Treat rubber parts to keep the properties intact and functional. Seats should get a protectant to start the season off right and make for easier cleaning later on, when you would rather be riding than detailing.



ROAR

5 Things, Continued

Step #5: Go for a Short Ride

You finally made it to the part you have been waiting for this the entire winter. Make absolutely sure that your front and rear brakes work properly then, kick it in gear and start slowly for a short trip around the block or down the street. Pay attention to any noises or vibrations that seem out of the ordinary and don't assume that they will simply go away with more riding.

Now, the bike is ready, you've already checked your riding gear during the winter, and you attended a recent GRASS class.

Just like that, you are on the path to another great riding season. However, maintenance of our bike, our safety gear and our skills doesn't end here. Keep it all maintained throughout



Hmmmmm?

By Traveler

Often times, when we ride long stretches, our mind tends to wander. We know that we should stay

focused on riding however, we still fall into that trap of dreaming of a variety of things.

So, for this year, when you are out of things to think about while riding, ponder the answers to these questions:

1. If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
6. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
7. Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
8. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
9. Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
10. Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
11. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
12. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
13. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
14. Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
15. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
16. If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
17. Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
18. Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?
19. How come abbreviated is such a long word?
20. Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
21. Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
22. Christmas - What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?





Eating Right on the Road!

By Traveler



Healthy eating on **the** road—where fast food, bags of chips, sodas, candy bars, high calorie desserts, and other fatty food seem to be the only stuff available—can be a real challenge.

Eating "junk food" for several days leaves you fatigued. Getting your body the nutrition it needs, while enduring the physical demands of a multi-day motorcycle ride, is important for a rider's health and riding enjoyment. Here are a few strategies for eating right on the road:

- **Drink Plenty of Liquids:** It's important to keep hydrated with water, low calorie energy drinks, and liquids that replenish fluids and electrolytes. High liquid intake helps to avoid binge eating. Sodas and high sugar drinks pass through your body faster with little nutritional benefit.
- **Pack Healthy Snacks:** Stuff your saddlebags with healthy snacks that contain polyunsaturated fats like nuts, raisins, dried fruits, low fat energy bars, whole-grain crackers, and fresh fruit (such as bananas, oranges, and apples). Snacking between meals keeps your energy level up, and also helps curb any tendency to overeat at mealtime.
- **Always Eat Breakfast:** After fasting for eight or more hours at night, your body needs "fuel" in the morning. You wouldn't consider riding your bike out of town on an empty gas tank would you? A high sugar and carbohydrate breakfast may increase your energy for a short time, but it won't last long. Instead, drink milk, juices, and eat fruit, hardboiled eggs, and yogurt; minimize the toast, bagels, and hot sticky buns.

- **Avoid Large Portions:** Restaurants generally provide portions that exceed what most of us need to operate a motorcycle. Eat one or more appetizers, instead of an entree, or share an entree your group.

- **Avoid Fried, Fatty Foods and Minimize Carbohydrates:** We usually have a strong craving for these foods, which are frequently on the menus of small town, family-owned restaurants as well as chain restaurants like Cracker Barrel and Denny's. Virtually all restaurants, however, have other healthier food options on their menus. Salads, for example. Your body metabolizes carbohydrates into sugar, go easy on the pizza, dinner rolls, and other similar starchy foods, and stick to whole grains whenever possible.

- **Find Fresh Fruit:** Fruit often can be found along your route and offers a refreshing and healthy break from the food at gas stations and fast food restaurants.

- **Stop at Grocery Stores:** When passing through small towns, with little or no good restaurant options stop at the local super market and picked up fruit and other low fat food for a picnic lunch.

- **Don't Skip Meals:** It's important to plan for and eat three meals each day. Those healthy snacks in your tour pack are especially beneficial when it's time to eat, you're hungry, and there's no place around to buy food.

Eat the Healthy Stuff First: Cafeterias offer a wide variety of dining selections, some healthy, others not so much. Load up your first plate at the salad bar and you won't be as hungry for the meat, potatoes and gravy, and cherry pie on the second and third passes. The key is to find that medium between denying all high-sugar and fatty foods, and the occasional indulgence that keeps a trip enjoyable. The bottom line, though, is that eating right on the road will increase your stamina, your alertness, and the overall enjoyment of your ride.





What's Coming....

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



KickOff Ride! April 21, 2024

2 Options...

Option 1: Good Weather = Hanks in Ottawa! 148 Miles

Option 2: Questionable Weather = Crandals. Car or Bike
30ish Miles!

Join us and lets KICKOFF the year with a huge gathering!



Ric Case Memorial Ride! With the Newly Formed Chicago HOG June 8th, 2024



I will Ride 500 Miles! July 13-14

Get your buns ready for baking on a 500 mile run...
just because! Mike Bradbury will lead to Omaha, Nebraska



Ride, Rock and Rumble!
June 9th, 2024!

Join us for our 26th Annual Charity Ride! Bike Show, Volo, and a *Very Special Cause... NISRA!*
Volo is offering us a great deal on their new family friendly layout! Come, bring the family and help to make this a **REAL SUCCESS!**

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

We will have lunch, music and a stage for NISRA kids to sit on some bikes for pictures!

Lets get everyone talking about the FUN time to be had on the **RIDE ROCK RUMBLE RIDE!**

27th ANNUAL

RIDE ROCK RUMBLE

JUNE 9, 2024

\$25 PER BIKE
\$5 PER PASSENGER

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

 **NISRA**
Northern Illinois
Special Recreation Association

TOP CATS ILLINOIS
TOPCATS.ORG

DETAILS ON BACK



General Membership Meeting Minutes March 5, 2023

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.
- ◆ Pledge of Allegiance
- ◆ Guests – Bard Board introduced a guest: Tom Duensing (tduensing@tomduensing.com)

Announcements

- ◆ Birthdays:
 - ◆ Prinya Bunyasanand: March 8
 - ◆ Cindy DeLoro: March 24
- ◆ Anniversaries:
 - ◆ Greg and Jane Smith: March 25

Vice President: No report.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Bills have been presented to Illinois Congress for mandatory helmet law and noise standards.

Safety: Mike Bradbury

Accident/safety review

- ◆ With the warm weather we are experiencing, keep in mind to watch out for motorists – they are not used to seeing motorcycles at this time of the year.
- ◆ Ted reviewed his Roar Kaution Korner article about preparing mentally for motorcycling. Focus on the present ride – not thinking about other things. Road Captains should make sure everyone is ready to go before taking off.
- ◆ Gene gave a short preview of next month's Roar article about preparing for spring riding. Do the TCLOC routine, take it slow on the first ride out, and watch out for motorists.

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ No new inquiries.

Activities: Greg Smith/Rick Agrimonti

Recent Activities:

- ◆ February 10 – Awards Dinner at Emmett's in Palatine. Very pleased with the new venue.
- ◆ February 17 – Cabin Fever at Woodstock HD. Got to talk to many people and promote our upcoming Charity ride. Handed out over 200 Save-the-Date cards.
- ◆ February 24 – No IMS Breakfast at Tiffany's in Des Plaines. Enjoyed by attendees.

Future Activities:

- ◆ March 9 – Volo Auto Museum. Tour the museum and have lunch together.
- ◆ April 7 – GRASS class at Keller Williams-Barrington. Knights on Bikes and possibly McHenry Hogs will

also be attending.

- ◆ Rolling Thunder has a GRASS Class scheduled for March 10 which you can attend if this date is more convenient – same location as above.
- ◆ April 27 – Kick off ride. There will be 3 options depending on the weather.
- ◆ Just a short 150-mile round trip ride to Hanks Farm in Ottawa (nice, 55 degrees or above).
- ◆ 28-mile ride to Crandell's in Hebron (cooler, but still rideable weather).
- ◆ 28-mile ride to Crandell's in the car (cold or rainy).
- ◆ June 8 – Ric Case Memorial Ride (Last "Rev") with Palatine Hogs. Gene will set up a ride for our group to their starting point.
- ◆ June 9 – Ride, Rock, Rumble '24. Ride is from Woodstock HD to Volo Museum
- ◆ July 13-14 – I Would Ride 500 Miles. Mike has planned a 500-mile ride to Omaha. Looking for a good BBQ place for dinner and lodging. Watch for details.
- ◆ July 29-August 6 - Sturgis Adventure – Still time to sign up. (Boand)
- ◆ August 6-12 - Front Range Ride – Only a few have committed; would like more! If interested, talk with Wayne.
- ◆ February 15, 2025 – Awards dinner for next year at Emmett's has been booked. Save the date.
- ◆ Watch the calendar for more rides being planned.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Plans are in place. The ride will be from Woodstock HD to the Volo Auto Museum. Lunch of hot dog or pizza will be included in the ride ticket. Half price museum admission tickets will be offered.

Products: Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ Ted has a minimal amount of inventory left. Mike is testing out the Land's End link for merchandise.

50/50 Raffle: Andy Hasztrakiewicz - No raffle tonight.

**Meeting adjourned by
Gene Rigsby, President at
7:50 pm tonight.**





Board Meeting Minutes March 12th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. All Board members were present except for Ted M.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ The website is not up to date on the 2024 photos and the 2024 issues of Roar. Gene has reached out to our website people on other things, but they are slow in getting back to us.

Vice President: Open Position

- ◆ Since we have not come up with a suitable candidate for the open position, we will leave the position open for now until the next election or a candidate becomes available. We are still in compliance with 4 officers and 4 directors.

Treasurer: Don DeLordo

- ◆ Report/review
 - ◆ The Treasurer's reports for the main and charity accounts were reviewed.
 - ◆ Don has purchased 24 black bandanas for the club and has given them to Ted.

Activities: Greg Smith

- ◆ Review Past/Future Events:
 - ◆ March 9 – Volo Auto Museum Tour/Lunch. Toured the museum and had lunch there in preparation for the Charity Ride.
 - ◆ April 20 – Open House – Woodstock HD. Will put up TC tent to draw attention to our table. Will have a sign-up sheet for people who might be interested so we can follow up with them. Wayne is planning to bring his Shovelhead to put in front of the tent to draw people in.
 - ◆ April 7 - GRASS Class
 - ◆ April 21 – Kick-off Ride (Bradbury). There will be 3 options depending on the weather.
 - ◆ May 18 – Progressive Picnic Ride (Rigsby). Details to follow.
 - ◆ June 8 – Ric Case Memorial Ride. We will join the HOG group for this ride.
 - ◆ June 9 – Ride, Rock, & Rumble '24 (Mary K.) More details in upcoming months.
 - ◆ June 24 – Riding in Germany (Kirkpatrick & Rigsby). Working on details.
 - ◆ July 13-14 – I Would Ride 500 Miles Ride (Bradbury). Need to update info on calendar.
 - ◆ July 29-Aug 6 – Sturgis Adventure (Kirkpatrick). Finalizing details.
 - ◆ Aug 6-12 – Front Range Ride (Kirkpatrick). Finalizing details.

Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury

- ◆ April 7 – GRASS class is scheduled at Keller Williams office in Barrington. Knights on Bikes will be attending as well as Top Cats members. Wayne, Mary, Mike, and Greg will be teaching the modules.
- ◆ GRASS Classes
- ◆ Discussion about members attending other GRASS classes (i.e., Rolling Thunder based class or other groups using Top Cats material). It was decided that TC members and instructors would receive credit for these classes provided they are certified Top Cats GRASS material classes (although open to exceptions).
- ◆ Will look into sharing the cost of purchasing GRASS patches with Rolling Thunder.
- ◆ Need to work on people who are not up to date on their GRASS class attendance.
- ◆ Plan to do some more safety subject videos at general meetings.
- ◆ Will check with Paul at Rolling Thunder again about a CPR class.
- ◆ Greg will be doing his Kaution Korner article in May regarding a recent issue he had with his tire.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz (absent)

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ◆ No updates.

Secretary: Jane Smith

- ◆ No updates.

General

Discussed again about the idea of a memorial page on the website for deceased members. Will discuss further.

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 8:01 p.m.

How to Winterize A Motorcycle!





G.R.A.S.S. CLASS

Group Riding and Safety Seminar (G.R.A.S.S.) is your chance to learn how to ride safely by yourself, with a co-rider, the rider / road captain obligations and accident scene management. A course on how to be a road captain is optional for those who are interested. Members need to take this to become fully active and be qualified to vote in our elections. All active members should take this once every 3 years. Even so, taking this more often always helps.

It does not hurt to ride safely!

Next Class: April 7th!
See the Calendar for Details!

There's a life riding on it.



LOOK TWICE
FOR MOTORCYCLES



April Birthdays and Anniversaries!

- 4 Shawn Holton
- 4 Rich Kimball
- 9 Chuck Carlson
- 11 Diana Lanute

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities for April!

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

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



*Top Cats Buy, Sell, Trade....
The best way to ensure
good quality at fair prices!*

GREAT DEALS!

Put your items here and get the word out that you have stuff to sell!





TOP CATS BUSINESS MART

BUSINESSES OWNED AND/OR MANAGED BY TOP CATS MEMBERS

This spot is open for anyone who would like to share their business dreams with the club! Send your info to Mary Kirkpatrick and we will set this spot up with your Logo and Picture!

Mawalters57@gmail.com



*Network with your fellow
Riders here...*

And Be Thankful!



Support the TOP CATS Patrons



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

Knight Performance (Harleys only)

Contact: **Eric Knight**

304 N. Johnson St

Harvard, IL 60033

ericknight1@hotmail.com

(815) 770-0302

TAK MC (Primarily Harleys)

Contact: **Tim Harwood**

28841 N. Darrell Road

McHenry, IL 60051

timharwood11@yahoo.com

(708) 525-6316

WAR Performance (All makes plus dyno and storage)

Contact: **Mike Witt**

120 Grant Highway

Marengo, IL 60152

info@warperformance.com

www.warperformance.com

(866) 927-7373

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.

Sign-up your favorite merchant today!

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

600 Hart Rd.
Suite 105
Barrington, IL

60010

847.870.0957

Have one of our own Top Cats work

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
Tuesday, April 2nd	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, April 7th	GRASS Class	Palatine	Keller Williams	8:00 AM	Bradbury
Tuesday, April 11th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Sunday, April 21st	KICKOFF Ride	Speedway, Kelsey Lake Barrington	Hanks Farm or Crandalls	9:00 AM or 10:45 AM	Bradbury
Tuesday, May 7th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, May 14th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
	Ideas?	Contact	Greg Smith		
	Or	Rick Agrimonti	SOON!		

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



Barrington Library

Location and Hours
505 N. Northwest Highway
Barrington, IL 60010

847-382-1300
balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for TOP CATS Business Owners

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

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

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

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



ROAR



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

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