



# ROAR

May, 2024

Volume 24, Issue 5

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The Kick-Off Crew!  
 Good Riding...  
 Good Friends...  
 More Rides to Come!  
 Be Ready!



The  
 Official  
 Publication  
 Of Top Cats  
 Illinois

### Upcoming Events

#### MAY

- 7 GENERAL MEETING
- 14 BOARD MEETING
- 18 PROGRESSIVE PICNIC RIDE

#### JUNE

- 4 GENERAL MEETING
- 8 MEMORIAL RIDE
- 9 RIDE ROCK RUMBLE
- 11 BOARD MEETING

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 families are all well.

A bit of a weather rollercoaster we are seeing at the start of the season... Not so unusual.

Noelle and I were heading south on route 12 and the air temperature going through Fox Lake was about 54°. As we headed into Volo, the temperature climbed up to 66°. By the time we got home, it was back down to 54°... Just goes to show you how the weather can change quickly. So be prepared.

Before getting into reviewing the upcoming rides, I can see, or rather I do not see rides scheduled on our club calendar. I know this was supposed to be done during our RC meeting and Mike had followed up all the RCs a few times since, but I still do not see them on the calendar. What are you waiting for...? I would like to formally ask all of our **Road Captains**, if they have not already done so, to get their ride information to Mike and Greg ASAP so it can be loaded into the club calendar. This is how your Top Cat family will know when your ride is going to be and they can plan **NOW** to attend before they find something else to fill open space on their schedule..

You like people to attend your rides, don't you?? **So, again... What are you waiting for???** RCs, please reach out to Mike, Greg or me if you need help with moving this along. We can help. Your Top Cat family depends on it.

#### Activities from April...

- Apr: 7 GRASS at Keller-Williams in Barrington. Mike, with the support of our RCs, held this class which was fairly well attended. **Remember**, attending **GRASS** class will not only satisfy your requirement to stay a **member in good standing**, but also get and keep you prepared for riding with your Top Cats family.
- Apr: 21 Kick-off ride – Bradbury. Mike Bradbury was hard at work arranging our first ride of the season (Kick-off Ride) and the result was a great time for a number of our members. Most by bike, despite the chili start to the day! Thanks, Mike for a good time to spend together!

#### Activities for May...

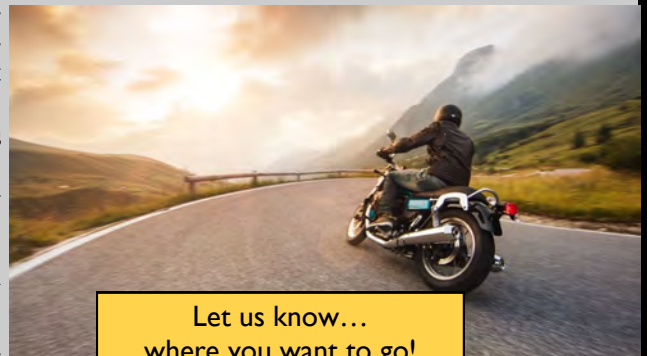
- May 18: Progressive picnic ride: Rigsby. This event has become an annual one for us and has always been a good time. Wouldn't do it if it wasn't, would we...?? For those who have not attended this ride before, it goes something like this. Top Cats will RSVP to this ride. I will create a route based on the home locations of folks that RSVP'd. I will ride to the first victims, I mean participants house and "pick them up". We will then progress through the remaining route "picking up" all the remaining participants until we are all together and all arrive at my house for a picnic and campfire. If you would like to attend but want to drive, just say so, and I can provide my address. More details as well as an option for inclement weather will be provided.
- May 25: Ride, Rock, Rumble route pre-ride: Bradbury. This is the pre-ride the RCs do every year of our charity ride route. This is not a typical club ride as we may stop along the way to review changes etc... but all Top Cats are welcome.

**\*\*\*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](mailto:gene.rigsby@gmail.com), or phone, 847-770-9425.



Let us know...  
where you want to go!  
Road Captains are looking  
for ideas!

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



## KAUTION KORNER

As Motorcyclists, we understand the importance of keeping our motorcycles in tip-top shape for safety and optimal performance. We also know one of the most important things to do is checking our tires. Tire pressure is very important and should be checked every time you're going to ride your bike and preferably checked in the morning when your tires are cool.

In addition to pressure, a regular visual inspection of your tires for signs of wear, damage, or potential problems should be performed. Doing a tire inspection can help identify potential problems and prevent accidents caused by tire failure. We may feel we do a good job at inspecting our tires, **but how well do we really inspect?** With most bikes it's difficult to see much of the tire surface, especially on baggers or any large bike with saddle bags.

Checking tire sidewalls is probably the easy part of the tire to inspect so there should be no excuse for us not to do a complete and thorough job. But what are we looking for? You want to check for sidewall cracking, cuts, bulges or bumps. These can be signs of internal damage or sidewall weakness. You should also look at the age of the tire. This can be found on the sidewall with the DOT info. At the end of that info, you will see four numbers (for example 2316), sometimes in a recessed oval. This is your tire's birth date (manufacture date). The birth date above (2316) is the 23rd week of 2016. All manufacturers use this coding of two numbers for the week and two numbers for the year. Manufactures vary on the longevity of a tire, but it seems to fall between 6-11 years. Therefore, as an example, a tire that looks good with maybe only 200 miles on it, but manufactured in the year 2009, should be replaced because of its excessive age.



Adequate tread depth is essential for maintaining traction and stability on the road. To perform a tread depth check, you can use a tread depth gauge. Many tire pressure gauges have tread depth gauges attached. If a depth gauge is not available, a Lincoln head penny will do. Place the penny into the grooves with Lincoln's head facing down. If the tread depth is below the recommended minimum or

## Our Tires... How well do we really Inspect???

By: Greg Smith  
Sr. Road Captain of Top Cats Illinois!



if you can see the top of Lincoln's head on the coin, it's time to replace the tire. The middle of your tire will always have the most wear. All tire depth checks should be taken as close to the middle of the tire as possible. Your tire also has Tread Wear Indicators (TWI). You have little arrows placed around the tire on the sidewalls identifying the approximate TWI locations. If your tread is worn down to the TWI you need to replace your tire.

Check the entire running surface of your tire. This is the surface where the rubber meets the road. On a bagger the circumference of the rear tire is around 78-80 inches, however



at any one time we can only see about 8 to 10 inches. That leaves approximately 70 inches not inspected. That's a lot of tire surface being ignored. We can continue to inspect the surface by moving the bike about 8 inches each time so we inspect the entire tire. But how often have you performed this type of thorough inspection? In this surface inspection you should be looking for imperfections, embedded objects like nails or screws, punctures, uneven wear patterns, bald or flat spots, and exposed belts. We have all heard of someone who happened to spot a nail or screw in their tire. Or maybe someone who happened to see a bare spot with belts showing. When asking them when did it happen or how long has it been like that, they have

That's why doing a thorough tire inspection regularly on your motorcycle is essential for rider safety and optimal bike performance. You should consistently monitor tire pressure, check tread depth, examine sidewalls, check the surface for embedded objects, and for flaws and uneven wear patterns around the entire tire. By following this plan, you can confidently identify any tire related problem, ensuring your tires are in excellent condition for your next open road adventure.

Enjoy the Ride!



# ROAR

## We Like Motorcycles, Right?

Worth another printing!

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??

### 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/](https://bike.feedspot.com/motorcycle_podcasts/)

### Let's find motorcycling in our communities

- <https://mrf.org/>
- <https://americanmotorcyclist.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>

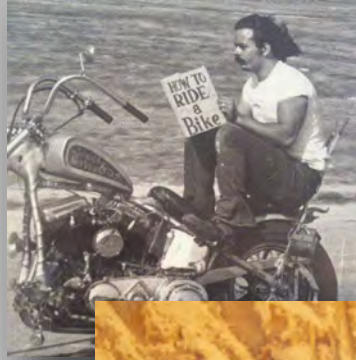
Maybe you can share things you learned from one of these sites with our Top Cats family at the next meeting. That would be awesome!!

### 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...

Well, let's get started....





## Oil Spots

By Traveler



### Motorcycle Fun Facts



Have fun with these facts about the history of the motorcycle.

- On average, motorcycles are about twice as fuel efficient as cars.
- Insurance statistics show that in inner cities, one in five motorcycles are stolen. Honda is the most common brand stolen and Harley is the least.
- The famous 65-foot jump over a barbed wire fence in the movie *The Great Escape* was not performed by Steve McQueen, but by motorcycle stuntman Bud Ekins, who did it in one take.
- Evel Knievel holds the world record for breaking the most number of bones and surviving. His real name was Robert Craig Knievel and during his stunt career, he spent a total of three years in the hospital.
- Early bike helmets were lined with cork.
- The first rider to ever go over 300 mph was Don Vesco in 1975, on a 1496cc Yamaha-engined streamliner.
- Front tires disperse water at three times the rate of rear tires.
- When rounding corners, 75% of a bike's grip comes from the front tire.
- You don't stop riding when you get old; you get

old when you stop riding.

- We don't ride a bike to add days to our life. We ride a bike to add life to our days.

### Motorcycle Lane Position?

Each traffic lane is split into three equal parts: the far left lane, center lane, and far right lane. Motorcycles can travel in any one of these positions at any given time and still technically be "in their lane." However, there are advantages and disadvantages to each one. Consider the following when riding:

**Far left lane.** Many motorcyclists choose to ride slightly offset of the traffic in front of and behind them, such as in the far left side of the lane. However, this can potentially place you in a driver's blind spot. Even if you are visible in a driver's side mirror, many drivers fail to check these before moving over. This position is also more likely to involve wind blast from other vehicles traveling in the opposite direction.

**Center lane.** In most cases this position makes you easily visible in the rearview mirror of the vehicle in front of you, prevents lane sharing by other vehicles, and allows for sudden movements to either the right or the left. But the center lane has a major drawback: oil dripping from other vehicles is most likely to drip straight down the middle of the lane and becomes particularly slippery when wet.

**Far right lane.** If there is only traffic to your left, you may consider traveling closer to the right. However, this places you nearer to the shoulder, making it more likely that you will come upon debris, loose gravel, or vehicles stopped at the side of the road. Riding in this lane also limits your visibility to other vehicles

The most important factor in selecting the best path while riding is to find a position where you can both see and be seen. Change positions as the flow of traffic changes around you, but make sure you always signal your intentions before moving.

### Tesla Autopilot Killed a Motorcyclist



*Distracted Tesla S Driver flees scene after hit and run.*

There are a lot of things wrong with Tesla. But one of the biggest issues is how they've approached marketing the brand's adaptive cruise control system "Autopilot."

(Continued on page 6)



Oil Spots, , Continued...

The feature is slightly more advanced than what you get in some other vehicles but what it absolutely isn't is autonomous. It can do what most other adaptive cruise control systems can do, but little else despite its name. A motorcyclist was recently killed in Washington after a driver of a Tesla Model S enabled the car's Autopilot feature and ran a motorcyclist over.

According to *Herald Net*, "A Tesla driver who had set his car on Autopilot was 'distracted' by his phone before reportedly hitting and killing a motorcyclist on Highway 522," adding, "The man, 56, had activated Tesla's Autopilot feature. He was using his phone when he heard a bang as his car lurched forward and crashed into the motorcycle in front of him."

The police report then states that though the man was ejected from his motorcycle, the Tesla became "lodged on top of him." The Tesla driver called police and EMTs, but the man died at the scene.

To the cop's credit, after performing a field sobriety test, they arrested the driver as by "putting the trust in the machine to drive for him" he failed to be attentive enough to halt the car before killing the motorcyclist.

The tech isn't what the auto industry claims it to be and the people using it don't seem to learn more than the hype put out. And now another person has lost their lives because of it.

If you are going to operate a motor vehicle, you should be the one operating it. As many have seen, the idiots clapping their hands in a truck commercial sends the wrong message to drivers. Power brakes and power steering, automatic are driving aids. Going beyond that lulls a driver into a false sense of security resulting in deaths and an automotive engineering department somewhere going..."Woops!"

## Evel Knievel's Final Stunt Bike Is a Watch



Watchmaker Rec specializes in making watches that are more than just a watch.

Its latest is especially cool as the company used part of Evel Knievel's final stunt motorcycle and turned those parts into a series of watches celebrating the infamous stuntman. Imagine showing up

to the bar and someone asking, "Hey, cool watch. What is it?" and being able to reply it's part of Evel's bike. You'd be the bar's new cool king.



According to Rec, the TTT Knievel—the watch's name—

stands for "Twist The Throttle," and is part of the company's "dual-case construction, enabling wearers to rotate the dial 30 degrees clockwise." The TTT Knievel uses a sapphire crystal with "3 layers of anti-reflection coating" for better clarity, and the movement is a Swiss-made.

The case, however, is where it gets special, as Rec used metal from the Knievel's handlebars from his Harley-Davidson XR750 that he used in his final televised stunt.

Rec states, "At 38 years old, Knievel was approached by CBS for a new live event in January 1977, titled 'Evel Knievel's Death Defiers.' The main act, 'The Shark Jump,' aimed to leap over a large indoor salt-water pool filled with sharks, capitalizing on 70s shark paranoia from the movie 'Jaws.' The Shark Jump, set to take place at the Chicago International Amphitheatre, was meant to be a less risky stunt, drawing on fears from the movie 'Jaws'. However, during an unscheduled rehearsal, Knievel lost control upon landing, crashing into a cameraman and fracturing his collarbone and arm."

The company added, "This incident marked the end of his daredevil career, and The Shark Jump became his final televised performance. Rec Watches incorporated the original levers from Knievel's bike into the TTT Knievel timepieces."

And Rec definitely went with an Evel Knievel vibe with the design featuring a star, as well as red, white, and blue theme throughout. The watch is also numbered for its limited edition run of just 736 watches total. There's also a "King of the Daredevils" inscription along the watch face.

As for pricing, it isn't cheap, as Rec wants \$1,695 for the watch if you pre-order it right now. However, once the pre-order is over, that number will rise to \$2,295. So if you're a big Evel Knievel fan, act now and save a bit of cash.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, , Continued...

## Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Sales Flat For 2024 Q1

Harley-Davidson reported its 2024 Q1 financial results on April 25, 2024. Overall, motorcycle sales stayed flat worldwide, though the official release also points out a glimmer of hope in the six percent growth in North American market sales for Q1 2024 over the



same period in 2023. Revenue is down three percent for the same period.

For reporting purposes, Harley

breaks its reporting segments up like so. The parent company is Harley-Davidson Incorporated, and Consolidated Financial Results gathers all the reporting for its various segments under one larger umbrella.

Within the consolidated report, you'll find Harley-Davidson Motor Company (HDMC), which handles its traditional combustion motorcycles, parts and accessories, apparel, and licensing. For reporting purposes, Harley-Davidson Financial Services (HDFS) and LiveWire are both their own segments.

And although LiveWire was spun off into its own company in 2022, its financial results are still reported as part of Harley's consolidated report at the usual and expected reporting intervals.

Overall, worldwide Harley-Davidson motorcycle sales stayed completely flat for Q1 2024 as compared to Q1 of 2023. In both periods, Harley recorded 39,400 total motorcycles sold around the world (not including LiveWire).

In North America, sales were up six percent over Q1 2023, going from 26,000 one year ago to 27,500 in Q1 2024.

For Q1 2024, Harley reported that it sold 117 LiveWire motorcycles in Q1 of 2024. That's an increase of 86 percent over its 2023 Q1 sales of just 63 bikes.

## Sheriff's Deputy May Have Been a Secret Outlaw Biker

Outlaw biker gangs have deep roots in the history of American motorcycling. And their roots are inter-

twined with law enforcement officers, as they routinely come into conflict with one another. But that sort of intermingling is usually reserved for an antagonistic relationship.

That, however, may not be the case of San Bernardino Sheriff's correctional depu-



ty Christopher Bingham who, for years, may have been a secret member of the outlaw biker gang, the Mongols. In fact, according to investigators, the deputy used an alias in his secret life, and it's all coming out during his preliminary hearing on the matter, of which he's charged with a total of 13 felony counts.

Apparently, an investigation culminated with a raid that followed his arrest in Riverside County during a traffic stop. Bingham was riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle with two other Mongols wearing fully patched vests. The raid on his house turned up Mongols paraphernalia, a full patched vest, 160 firearms and accessories, and explosive devices.

Bingham, posted bail but was subsequently arrested after he was charged with further felonies, including stealing a police-issued less-than-lethal shotgun, and possession of a machine gun, a short-barreled AR-15 assault rifle, two explosive projectile devices and four gun silencers.

The deputy has reportedly pleaded not guilty to the charges and stated he's not a member of the Mongols. Prosecutors obtained a lot of evidence during their raids, including cell phones, conversation data Bingham had with people talking about the Mongols and the group's rallies, along with discussing what "omerta" means, referring to an outlaw's criminal code of silence. Bingham reportedly had it painted across the helmet he was wearing when he was first arrested. And below it was the number "1312," which numerically spells out ACAB along the alphabet and stands for "All cops are bastards."

During the raid at Bingham's home, his wife said that "Her husband made the Mongols vest himself and ordered the patches online," and that "in her 11 years living with Bingham, no Mongols gang member had ever visited their home."

(Continued on page 8)

Oil Spots, continued...

Bingham's case, however, has been delayed while the judge determines whether the original arrest was lawful or not.

4

## May is Motorcycle Awareness Month!

*From A.B.A.T.E May Newsletter*

### TIPS FOR MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH.

#### FOR RIDERS:

1. Never assume that drivers can or do see you.
2. Use extra caution when riding through construction areas.
3. Avoid riding in poor weather conditions.
4. Position yourself out of a driver's blind spots.
5. When riding always wear reflective clothing.

#### FOR MOTORISTS:

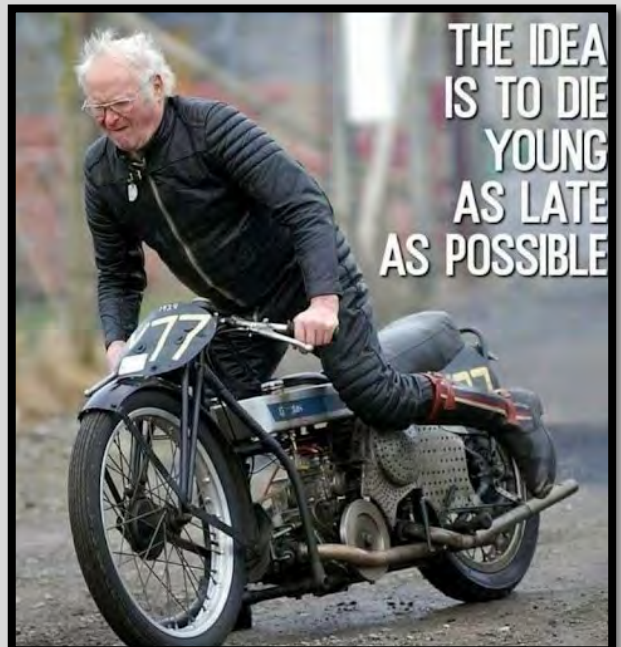
1. Reduce your speed and increase stopping distance.
2. Exercise extra caution while at intersections.
3. Check your blind spots before making any lane changes.
4. Have passengers alert you of a motorcycle rider's presence.
5. Stay alert and always be willing to share the road.

## Illinois MC Legislation

*From A.B.A.T.E.*



According to A.B.A.T.E. it appears that the phone calls and witness slips everyone has made over the last month have killed Rep. Dan Didech's mandatory helmet bill...for this legislative year. Another win for motorcyclists is the defeat of sound monitoring / enforcement on Lake Shore Drive. Thanks to the City of Chicago for reaching out to the Chicago Chapter of A.B.A.T.E. in an attempt to find a solution that will not unfairly target motorcyclists.







## The Bikeriders

Submitted by 'Traveler'

Some Top Cats may remember Karsten Striewe, a rider from Germany who would come over every year to ride for two or three weeks in the early 2000's.

Karsten and I spent many an hour around a campfire discussing motorcycles. He was an incredible expert on motorcycle history. Karsten could tell you about any Harley – Davidson models, dates of manufacture, MC gangs and their evolution, and all things historic.

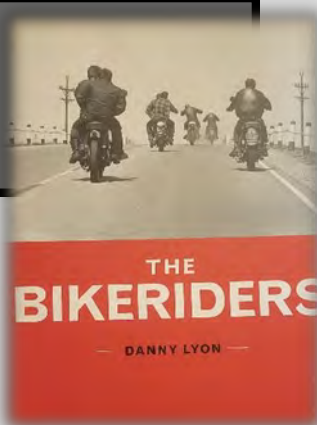
Eventually Karsten opened a gasthaus in Germany called the "Davidsons" named after William and Arthur Davidson.

On the topic of American motorcycle gangs, Karsten word adamantly argue that MC gangs started in the Chicago area and not in California as Hollywood would portray.

One year after a great two weeks of riding, he mailed me a book titled "Bikeriders" by Danny Lyon, that substantiated his claim that motorcycle clubs, gangs, groups, etc, started in Chicago with many references to areas in the northwest suburbs. 20+ years later Jeff Nichols made it into a movie.



On June 21, 2024, *The Bikeriders* will debut in theaters across America. Written and directed by Jeff Nichols, and inspired by Danny Lyon's venerable black-and-white photography book, "The Bikeriders," which was originally published in 1968, the movie follows a Midwest motorcycle club that strug-



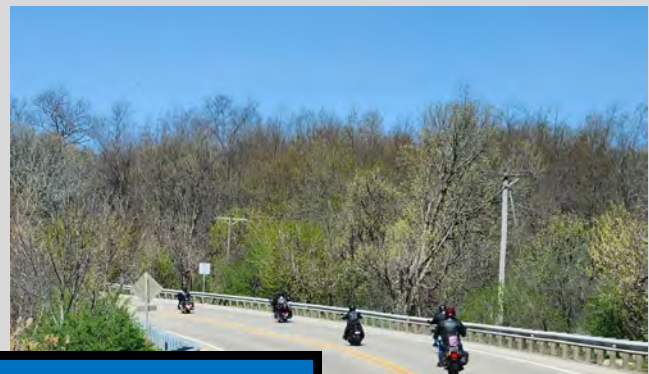
gles with its morality.

The club founder and leader, Johnny (Tom Hardy), rides a bobbed 1956 Harley-Davidson FLH that inspired the Harley-Davidson Hydra-Glide.



Johnny, the Club founder, represents the ex-World War II men who founded motorcycle clubs to foster community, ride bikes, and have a good time. While Johnny is not without his faults and does not hesitate to violently set fire to a local bar after a bone-breaking altercation.

The book was interesting in that it referenced many local areas and contains many B&W pictures of motorcycling back in the "day". If you can find the book, you might your picture in it and learn a bit about local MC history!



Our Bikeriders...  
On our Kick-Off Ride!





## What's Coming....

Check out the Website for details at [TopCats.org](http://TopCats.org)  
or..  
Call Mike Bradbury:  
847.702.6613



### KickOff Ride! April 21, 2024

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

A great Ride and good company! If you didn't make it...  
We're looking forward to seeing you on the next one!



### 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, A D.J. 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!**

**27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

# RIDE ROCK RUMBLE

**JUNE 9, 2024**



**TOPCATS.ORG**

**\$25 Per Rider  
\$ 5 per Passenger  
Ride in Bike Show!**



**Music by:  
D.J. Bobby Styles!**





## General Membership Meeting Minutes March 5, 2023

Respectfully Submitted  
by: Jane Smith

### President's Section: Gene Rigsby

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Guests – Two members (Ace Fontanez and Mike Malicki) of Rosemont Hog Chapter were present to talk about the Ric Case Memorial Ride with Gene after the meeting.

### Announcements

Birthdays:

- Shawn Hotton: April 4
- Rich Kimball: April 4
- Chuck Carlson: April 9

**Vice President: (Vacant) No report.**

**Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick**

Open Topics

- Information provided by ABATE of Illinois was recently emailed to club members with a link to the Witness Slips to be filled out in support of a bill that was presented to Illinois Congress for a mandatory helmet law. It did not pass as written. It will be presented again with the stipulation that this would pertain only to motorcyclists 18 and under. Another blast with a link to the revised Witness Slips will soon be sent out to club members again for signature. Don't mistake this as a duplicate email. The 2<sup>nd</sup> email needs to be read and the form filled out and filed again.

### Safety: Mike Bradbury

Accident/safety review

- A video from Ride Smart Florida geared toward new teenage auto drivers was viewed. Safety tips mentioned in the video, however, are also beneficial to motorcyclists.
- Gene reviewed his Kaution Korner article in the April Roar about preparing for spring riding – not only preparing your equipment and bike, but also your mind and body. See the article for some helpful hints on what to do.
- Greg gave a short preview of next month's Kaution Korner article about tires. Do you check both tires before you head out; where do you check on the tire; what problems are you looking for?

### Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- No new inquiries. Have membership applications available for those interested.

### Activities: Greg Smith/Rick Agrimonti

Recent Activities:

- March 9 – Volo Auto Museum. Toured the museum for over 2-1/2 hours and still didn't see everything. They have added a lot more exhibits. Had lunch together at their little restaurant which serves hot dogs and pizza.

Future Activities:

- April 7 – GRASS class at Keller Williams-Barrington. Knights on Bikes will also be attending. Please consider attending so you are ready for the upcoming riding season.
- April 20 – Woodstock HD Open House – We will have a table set up to promote the club and our upcoming Charity ride. The event will be outdoors.
- April 21 – Kick off ride (Mike). There will be 3 options depending on the weather. Please RSVP Mike Bradbury ([bradbundy@comcast.net](mailto:bradbundy@comcast.net)) if you are thinking about going so he can let you know what option he has chosen for the day and the particulars. 148-mile round trip ride to Hanks Farm in Ottawa. OR 29-mile ride to Crandell's in Hebron. By bike or car.
- May 18 – Progressive Picnic Ride (Gene). Let Gene know if you plan on attending so he can plan a route to pick up everyone at their homes and head to the Rigsby's for a picnic lunch and social time around the campfire.
- June 8 – Ric Case Memorial Ride (Last "Rev") with Hog Chapter. Details will follow.
- June 9 – Ride, Rock, Rumble '24. Ride is from Woodstock HD to Volo Museum. Please support our Charity Ride.
- June 23 – Adler '24 ride in Germany. Details will be shared with those going.
- July 13-14 – I Would Ride 500 Miles. Mike has planned a 500-mile ride to Omaha. Watch for details.
- July 29-August 6 - Sturgis Adventure (Bard)– Still time to sign up. If we don't get more Top Cats, it will be opened up to other clubs.
- August 3 – AHRMA Races at Blackhawk Farms (Gene). More details will follow soon.
- August 6-12 - Front Range Ride (Wayne) – In planning stages and locking in hotels.

Watch the calendar for more rides being added.

(Continued on page 13)



**Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick (absent)**

Plans are in place. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS RIDE BY ATTENDING.

**Products: Ted Makarewicz**

Ted has a minimal amount of inventory left.

50/50 Raffle: Andy Hasztrakiewicz (absent) - No raffle tonight.

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 7:42 p.m.

**No Board Meeting for April**

## Why so Passionate about Riding?

Submitted by: Mary Kirkpatrick

Source: [The Psychology of Motorcycle Riding: Why We Ride | Arlington Motorsports Texas](#)

Ever wondered why motorcyclists are so passionate about their rides? Is it just about the speed and the thrill, or is there more to it? Let's dive into the psychology of motorcycle riding to explore the deeper reasons behind why we ride.

### The Freedom of the Open Road

Motorcycle riding is often synonymous with freedom. Straddling a bike, feeling the wind against your face, hearing the roar of the engine - it's an indescribable feeling that transcends the everyday mundanity. The open road offers an escape from the constraints of our daily lives, a sense of liberation that isn't easily found elsewhere.

### Mindfulness and Focus

Believe it or not, motorcycle riding can be a mindful practice. When you're on a motorcycle, you're fully in the present moment. You're hyper-aware of your surroundings, the road ahead, the machine underneath you, and even your own body. This intense focus often leads to what psychologists refer to as a 'flow state,' a complete absorption in one's activity that leads to an altered sense of time and self.

### The Thrill Factor

There's no denying the adrenaline rush that comes from a motorcycle ride. This thrill, this exhilaration, stimulates the release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. This biochemical reaction partially explains the sheer joy many riders experience.

### The Sense of Community

Motorcycling often breeds a strong sense of community. Whether it's a wave to a fellow rider on the road, sharing stories at a bike rally, or the camaraderie of a motorcycle club - these shared experiences create bonds of friendship and belongingness that are deeply satisfying on a psychological level.

### Challenge and Mastery

Riding a motorcycle is a skill, and like any skill, it presents a challenge. The process of learning, practicing, mastering the art of motorcycling, and even overcoming fears associated with riding, can contribute to a sense of achievement and self-confidence. This process of personal growth and mastery can be immensely rewarding.

### Identity and Self-Expression

For many, motorcycles are an extension of their identity - a way to express themselves. The type of bike one rides, how one rides it, and even the gear one wears - all of these elements can be forms of self-expression, reflecting one's personality and values.

### The Connection with Nature

Lastly, motorcycling offers a unique connection with nature that's rarely found in a car ride. Exposed to the elements, riders can truly immerse themselves in the environment, experiencing the sun, the wind, the scents, and the scenery in a profoundly intimate way.

Motorcycle riding, in essence, is not merely a mode of transport but a complex psychological experience that intertwines freedom, mindfulness, thrill, community, personal growth, self-expression, and connection with nature. It's a blend of these elements that captivates the hearts of riders and fuels their passion for the open road. So why do we ride? Maybe the question should be, why wouldn't we?



## 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!

Watch the Calendar for the next Class!



### May Birthdays and Anniversaries!

24 - Cindy DeLordo!

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

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities for May

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



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### There's a life riding on it.



LOOK TWICE FOR MOTORCYCLES



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*And Be Thankful!*



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



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## RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, May 7th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday, May 14th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, May 18th	Progressive Picnic ride	Your Home	Rigsby's Home	TBD	Rigsby
Tuesday, June 4th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, June 8th	Memorial Ride	TBD	TBD	TBD	Bradbury
Sunday, June 9th	RIDE, ROCK,RUMBLE	Woodstock HD	Volo Auto Museum	9:00 am	M Kirkpatrick
Tuesday, June 11th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Bring Your	Ride Ideas to	Greg Smith or	Rick Agrimonti	SOON!!	

All ride and event information along with the Photo Gallery can be found at [www.TopCats.org](http://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](mailto:ROAR@TOPCATS.org)



# ROAR



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For more information about the Top Cats visit our website at [www.TopCats.org](http://www.TopCats.org)

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