



ROAR

October, 2024

Volume 24, Issue 10

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Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- 1 GENERAL MEETING
- 8 BOARD MEETING
- 12 RIDE FOR SCREAMS
- 27 GRASS CLASS

NOVEMBER

- 5 GENERAL MEETING
- 12 BOARD MEETING



There was a ride to this event for our Top Cats Family... but no cheese or pictures to prove it happened! Just lots of gouda stories!

The Official Publication
Of Top Cats Illinois

Talk to Greg Smith and David Ramirez and get your ideas on the calendar!





PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



President's Point!

By: **Gene Rigsby**
President of Top Cats Illinois

Hello, Top Cats!

With the mild temps we have been having lately, I bet you have been getting out riding... So, why haven't I seen you out on a Top Cats ride?? Get out on a Top Cats ride NOW..!!

Well, you know what I mean... The next one...

Even if you can't ride out, you can meet up. Come on out!!

I hope you and your family are good. With the new season, change is coming and before long, good riding opportunities will be gone for MONTHS. Get out as much as you can and enjoy it. Then when you get back home, you can start making holiday plans with your family and friends and gently tuck your sweetie (your bike) away until the weather cooperates with your riding spirit.

Activities from September...

- ✦ Sept 7) Top Cats memorial ride: We had good weather and rode out to Harpoon Willies in Williams Bay on Lake Geneva and we shared some memories of Ric Case.
- ✦ Sept 8) Big Boy #4104 (No. Not the restaurant). Greg led a group out to the Rockford area to see the largest, still operational steam locomotive and have a bit of lunch. The area was packed with people! We had a great lunch with great views. Come to the October general meeting to hear the details.
- ✦ Sept 21) Cheese Days Ride: Mike B led us out to the Monroe WI Cheese festival. The weather was perfect. The roads were great. We had cheese. What else could you ask for?? We had a great time.

Activities for October...

- ✦ Oct 12) Ride for Screams: Save the date... The annual Rigsby's scary ride, lunch (hopefully not scary) and campfire. More details to come.
- ✦ Oct 27) G.R.A.S.S: Mike has arranged a GRASS class for October 27th at the Smiths Keller Williams office in Barrington. What for blasts and check the calendar for details.

Remember: Attending GRASS once every 3 years (you should go more than this) is a requirement to be a member in good standing and along with meeting other requirements, make you eligible to vote in our December election.

Believe it or not, we actually like to ride with you (well, to be fair, we like to ride with all of our Top Cats family), so get out to these rides so we can see your smiling face.

STILL room on the calendar RCs... Let's get a few more rides together and let's go! Don't need to be complex. KISS...

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

As usual, watch for blasts and check the Top Cats event calendar regularly and by all means
SAVE THE CLUB ACTIVITY DATES FIRST!

Make sure to send any activity or ride ideas to Greg Smith so they can get it on the calendar and get the word out to the club. And **** We still need help in many areas to support the club. If you haven't yet, ask how you can help. I'm sure you will feel good doing so. And, it helps to keep our club going.

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" Rigsby



KAUTION KORNER

Fall Riding Season! Let's Ride!

By: Gene Rigsby
Senior Road Captain



I was going to write this Kaution Korner about winter storage, but that \$%^& can wait!!

It's that time of the year again.... IT'S....Fall **riding** season... Hell Yeah!! Let's Do It!!!

There is still time to get out on the road and there are opportunities on the Top Cats calendar. Check them out NOW and get them on your calendar. I'll pitch **Rigsby's Ride for Screams on Oct 12.**

We all know about the importance of preparing your bike for the early riding season. TCLOCS is a great way to remember how to do this for the first spring ride. But, getting your bike and yourself ready for fall riding is important too.

Generally, when thinking of fall riding, I think of cool weather and beautiful scenery. But several cautionary items come to mind as well. Like, watching for leaves on the road, early frost (could be in shady spots anytime, even on a mild temp day), deer and other critters getting ready to hibernate, etc....

Here are some suggestions that I know will help make your fall riding safe, as well as, some you can use throughout the year:

PLAN YOUR JOURNEY:

Plan your route to make the most of daylight hours. Add on extra time for your route. More than you would normally, to do the same route during the summertime. Due to the colder conditions of riding in the fall, you may likely be stopping to warm up along the way. You'll also be tempering your speed due to more slippery road conditions. Plan that your daylight hours are few. So, pick routes that will bring you to your destination and back before dark. Another BIG items to consider for your route plan is Sun glare, which I will dig into in a section below.

CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST:

Pick the better weather forecasted day to take your ride if you can.

CHECK YOUR MOTORCYCLE BATTERY: Be sure to charge up your motorcycle battery the night before

to ensure a full charge for your ride. Colder weather makes your battery work more and it can lose its charge quicker than under normal dry warm conditions.

CHECK YOUR TIRES: Due to colder nights and cooler temperatures, your motorcycle [tire pressure](#) may become low. Check your tire pressure for accuracy and proper inflation while also inspecting tread looking for worn tires. During colder weather rides, tread and pressure are equally important and necessary to ensure full grip.

COLD TIRES: Your tires will take longer to warm up during colder temperature days. Make sure the first miles of your morning ride are tackled with smoother than normal inputs (movements) as your tires and the road surface can be super slippery. Your tires will likely not warm to the point you're accustomed to in warmer temps and tires with soft rubber compounds need to warm to perform best. In the cold, they're hard and that traction can be greatly reduced. Go easy!

CHECK LIGHTING SYSTEM: Be sure all your lights are functioning and if you can, increase your lighting quality and clean your lens. Read more on our tips to [BRIGHTEN UP.](#)

MOTORCYCLE GEAR: Be warm and be visible. Keeping and staying warm is key to a successful ride, and full concentration at the handlebars. It will be chilly and though you feel warm when you start, wind-chill will quickly change that factor. Heated gear is fabulous and of course add those extra linings to your jacket and pants. Winter riding gloves work well. Don't forget to layer with performance under garments and bring extra layers if you have the room. A rain suit can be used as an added layer as well. Wear high-visibility and reflective gear to make yourself visible to drivers, even in the long shadows of a fall afternoon.

LEAVES: As leaves begin to accumulate on the roadway, they can be very slick. Dry leaves can camouflage potholes and other road irregularities. Wet/icy leaves are most slippery and can appear unexpectedly in shaded areas. Wet or dry, riding through stacks of leaves can reduce traction, making it difficult to stop. Avoid them if possible or adjust speed and trajectory.

(Continued on pg 3)



KK continued...

ROAD SURFACE: Be aware of frost on the roadway in the early morning hours. Be sure to pay particular attention for frost on bridge decks or other higher surfaces, railroad crossings, and in shady areas where the morning sun may not have melted the frost yet. Adjust your riding speed for the conditions

SUN GLARE: The sun is lower in the sky at this time of year and its glare can be an issue for much of the day, depending on the direction you're riding (Plan your Journey). Along with this, as trees become barren of leaves, the patterns of light and shade can be like riding in a strobe light. This can be distracting and confusing. Good sunglasses or a tinted visor work best. Be sure not to forget your clear visor so you can switch for the ride home when it the sun is setting or down.

SPACE CUSHIONS: Give yourself enough following distance and space cushioning. It's not only difficult for you to see the road this time of year, but equally challenging for other drivers to see you. Allow extra time to react both in front and behind you. Slow down, look further ahead and increase your following distance.

DEER AND MOOSE: Autumn is the time of year deer and moose mate, meaning – they'll be more active. These animals are huge hazards for motorcyclists. Try to plan your ride during daylight hours only. The best defense is to stay aware, particularly while riding in rural areas. Scan the roadway ahead and just off the shoulders and watch for deer crossings. Typically, deer movement will peak at dusk and dawn. Areas where crops or timber are relatively close to the road will present the greatest challenge as these are ideal places for deer to cross. Unfortunately, it's these zones which provide you the shortest reaction time. Slow and prepare for the risk.

WIND: This time of year, is usually accented by gusty strong winds. These can unsettle your bike and blow you a little of course within your lane. To manage this, look for signs. For example, try looking ahead at the trees and bushes, and note the behavior of other vehicles to see how the wind is affecting them. Strong winds are not constant, they are usually gusty. So, ensure you hold the handlebar handgrip firmly. Go slow enough to cope with the gusts.

With good planning you'll be able to enjoy one of the most pleasurable and spectacular riding seasons!

Edited excerpt from: 13 Things For A Great Ride suggested by <https://motoress.com>



Oil Spots

By Traveler

Sturgis Stats 2024

While there are many ways to rate the annual Black Hills Motorcycle Rally, some statistics enhance an understanding of the rally from law enforcement's view. Hence:

Final Rally Tally Of Year

The South Dakota Highway Patrol on Sunday released its final Rally Tally Statistics

- **2024 Total Vehicles entered:** 470,987.
- **Previous 5-year Average:** 488,720
- The patrol reported no fatal crashes in the area Saturday, The final **number of deaths** on the year remain at 3.
- There were two **injury crashes** investigated by the patrol on Saturday, sending the yearly total to 35. That is below last year's 64. As for **non-injury crashes**, the patrol reported 54, which was down from last year's 58.
- As for **drug arrests**, the patrol listed 281 misdemeanor drug arrests and 163 felony drug arrests. Those numbers are up from last year's 246 and 155 respectively.
- **D.U.I. arrests** totaled 155 this year, up from last year's 120.
- **Cash seized** by the patrol was well ahead of last year. The patrol reported over \$71,500 seized this year. Last year, the patrol only reported just over \$2,000 was seized.
- In Sturgis, police ended Saturday with 146 **parking citations:** 17 ahead of last year's 129.
- Sturgis Police also reported another 5 **citations for underage consumption** or possession of alcohol. That sends the total number through Saturday to 20.
- Police also report a total of 43 **fights and domestic disturbance** calls this year.
- In all, Sturgis Police listed 231 **non-traffic arrests** and 263 traffic arrests. The number of people **booked into the Meade County Jail** was 172 – ahead of last year's 131 on this date.

(Continued on pg 5)



Oil spots continued...

Surviving Intersections

Intersections are very dangerous places to be. The reason drivers collide with motorcycles is because cars either don't see us or they misjudge our approach speed or distance. Here are some tips to help you become more visible at intersections.

1. **Don't Hide.** Select lane positions that put you in open view to be seen. This means not tailgating the car in front and riding in the left or right portion of your lane to make sure drivers waiting to turn into or across your lane can clearly see you.

♦ **Move within your lane.** Don't assume drivers see you. People see what they expect to see and a motorcycle may not register in their consciousness, even if they are looking at you. Realize that you appear stationary if you approach a driver straight on. Even if drivers see you they may not be able to accurately judge closing speed and approach distance because of your relatively narrow frontal area. One tip is to move across your lane as you approach drivers at intersections to visually "present" the broader side area of your bike.

♦ **Proceed Thru an intersection with "Help".** Entering an intersection adjacent to another vehicle enhances the chances that you will be seen. Even though the vehicle next to you is the one that they see.

♦ **Be Bright.** Wear brightly colored riding gear that gets attention and separates you from the busy background. This includes wearing a light-colored helmet and jacket or vest, as well as putting reflective material on your bike and riding gear for being seen in low light situations.

♦ **Don't rely on noise.** While loud pipes get attention, sound is not reliable for telling drivers exactly *where* you are. Loud pipes direct most of the exhaust noise rearward rather than forward where the majority of dangers materialize. Selective use of an aftermarket horn is as effective and a lot less annoying to others.

♦ **Be ready.** Even after using these measures you will likely encounter drivers who invade your right of way. Being mentally ready makes you more likely to approach cautiously and respond skillfully when someone cuts you off. Being ready means actively looking for trouble, slowing down and covering your brakes before approaching intersections even when everything looks to be in order.

The best riders predict that a driver might cut them off and are already prepared by covering their brakes and positioning themselves to give maximum time and space to respond.

All the best practices in the world sometimes cannot prevent some crashes. You can't change the behavior of careless drivers. All you can do is minimize the risk. And wear good protection in case the unavoidable happens.

Motorcycle Myths

Non riders and, much of the general public hold unfounded views of motorcycles, motorcyclists and, in general, our sport.

Some of the most common myths:

♦ **Motorcycles Are More Dangerous Than Cars**

While bikes present higher risks due to lack of enclosure and visibility, the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that motorcycling can be relatively safe with proper safety measures. For users who wear helmets, the risk of head injury is decreased by 69% and the risk of death by 37%. Additionally, defensive riding courses and advanced rider training can significantly reduce the likelihood of accidents.

♦ **Motorcyclists Are Arrogant, Obnoxious and Reckless**

The stereotype of the reckless biker comes from movies and TV shows, which don't reflect reality. Responsible riding is a core value among most motorcyclists, who understand the importance of protective gear and adherence to traffic laws. According to a study by the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC), most motorcyclists prioritize safety, with 74% of riders wearing helmets and 66% taking courses.

♦ **Only Men Ride Motorcycles**

The MIC's 2018 survey revealed that women represent nearly 19% of motorcycle owners in the United States, up from 10% in 2009. Numerous female riding clubs and organizations, such as the Women's International Motorcycle Association (WIMA), support this increase. Women riders are also making their mark in professional racing and adventure motorcycling, challenging the outdated notion that motorcycling is a male-dominated activity.

♦ **Motorcycles Are for the Young**

This is sooo untrue. Data from the MIC shows that the average age of motorcycle owners in the U.S. has risen to 50 years. The records indicate many older users find motorcycling rewarding and enjoyable. Manufacturers like Harley-Davidson and BMW have recognized this trend, offering bikes with features tailored to older bikers, such as lower seat heights, advanced ergonomics, and easier handling.

♦ **Loud Pipes Save Lives**

Most crashes occur because car drivers don't see the motorcycle, not because they don't hear it. Adequate measures include wearing bright, reflective clothing, using proper lighting, and practicing defensive riding.

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Oil Spots, continued...

Organizations like the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) emphasize these proven strategies of over-reliance on loud exhaust systems. Also, the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) and safety studies have shown that loud pipes are ineffective at preventing accidents.

◆ You Don't Need Special Gear

The importance of wearing specialized motorcycle gear cannot be overstated. The NHTSA reports that helmets are 37% effective in preventing fatal injuries for bikers and 41% for passengers. Additionally, armored jackets, pants, gloves, and boots significantly reduce the risk of severe injuries. For example, padded jackets can prevent abrasions and impact injuries, while motorcycle boots protect feet and ankles in a crash.

◆ Motorcycles Are Not Really Fuel-Efficient

Bikes generally offer superior fuel efficiency compared to cars. A good example is the Honda CB300R, which achieves around 70 MPG, while many cars average between 20 and 30 MPG. According to the MIC, even larger bikes like the Harley-Davidson Road Glide can reach 45+ MPG. We can conclude that motorcycles are economical for commuting and long-distance travel, especially in fuel-conscious markets.

◆ All Bikes Are Too Fast To Be Safe

There is a wide variety of motorcycles designed for different purposes. While superbikes like the Ducati Panigal are built for speed, models like the Honda Rebel 300 and the Vespa GTS 300 are designed for efficiency, comfort, and ease of use. These models offer lower power outputs and are ideal for new riders or those seeking practical, everyday transportation.

◆ Motorcycles Are Bad for the Environment

While motorcycles do emit pollutants, they typically have a smaller environmental footprint than cars. Motorcycles consume less fuel, and manufacturers increasingly produce models with lower emissions. Many electric bikes, such as the Zero SR/F and the Harley-Davidson LiveWire, offer zero emissions and are becoming more popular. Such advancements highlight the industry's efforts to reduce motorcycles' environmental impact.

◆ Motorcyclists Have a Death Wish

This misconception stems from the perception of motorcycling as an inherently dangerous activity. However, most motorcyclists are passionate about riding for the sense of freedom, adventure, and community it provides. They value their protection and ride for the enjoyment and practical benefits it offers. Several bikers take advanced riding classes and wear appropriate protective gear. An MSF survey showed that responsible riders are concerned about their safety and take steps to mitigate risks.



Riding on Gravel

Riding on gravel can be challenging and requires following a few techniques.

◆ Avoid Becoming Tense

It's important to keep your arms and legs loose while riding on gravel to ensure you have proper traction and don't slip around on the small rocks and pebbles on the ground. You also want to avoid making sudden movements which can lead to losing control of the motorcycle.

◆ Watch Your Speed

Closely monitor your speed while driving on gravel to ensure you have enough time to put your feet down on the ground to avoid tipping over. This will help you to have more reaction time to ensure you can respond to any issues if you start to lose control. You also want to stay on the correct side of the road to avoid oncoming traffic.

◆ Look Out for Large Rocks

Large rocks on gravel roads are always a threat. Check for obstructions or hazards far ahead to ensure you have enough time to ride around them.

◆ Lean Your Body Away From the Motorcycle

Avoid a lack of distributed weight on the motorcycle. Get into the habit of leaning in the opposite direction of the turn. This will prevent the back wheel from kicking away and will help all of your weight be distributed in the middle of the motorcycle.

◆ Inspect the Motorcycle

Perform a thorough inspection of your motorcycle to ensure everything is working correctly after riding in gravel to look for rocks that may be stuck in the brakes, tires, etc. Look for leaks in the tires and check your springs and shocks on your suspension system to determine if they need attention or repairs.

CAUTION: School is Now in Session



School season and riding season overlap. Treat school kids just like deer. Be watchful for them at certain times of day and, where there's one...there's more. Remember, it is illegal to hit a kid!

(Continued on pg 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

European Answer to Decibel Laws

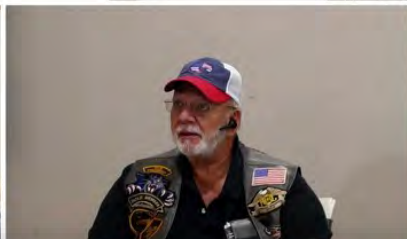
Some of you who rode on Adler 24 this year may have seen some bikes with butterflies in the exhaust pipes. This reflects an ingenious way to get around yet abide by European decibel limits motorcycles. EU import laws require bikes to meet a certain decibel limit at specific RPM. So, the motor company designed system where the butterfly in the picture would close to quiet the bike at those specified RPM limits. At other RPM, like wide open throttle, the butterfly remains wide open.



in-
on
a

Memorial Ride ~ Remembering Ric Case

*Ric Case Memorial Ride
and Last Rev*



Friends from Top Cats and Chicago Hog came together to remember our Good friend, Ric Case! A beautiful Day, Ric! We know you rode with us!



General Membership

Meeting Minutes

September 5th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted
by: Mary Kirkpatrick

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Pledge of Allegiance
- ◆ Guests
- ◆ Mitch Hicks – rides a BMW; psychologist; pilot; he and wife bought Porky's at Woodstock Harley.

Announcements

Birthdays:

- ◆ Andy Haszlkiewicz – Sept. 9
- ◆ Mary Kirkpatrick – Sept. 11
- ◆ George Rabb – Sept. 22

Anniversaries:

- ◆ Mary & Wayne (#10) – Sept. 4

Pitch in:

- ◆ Greg and David Ramirez will train on the new system we will be using for our blasts.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- ◆ What has made this club last for 30 years? Morale is high, we have friendly people, and rides are adventurous. No other club offers a tried-and-true trip to Sturgis like we do. We also offer safety classes. But we don't publicize this enough. We need to get this out to the public to let others know about the benefits of our club.

Safety: Mike Bradbury

Accident/Safety Review

- ◆ A short video was viewed discussing the physics of curves and turns.
- ◆ The Kaution Korner tip was presented by Don. He offered an age-old tip of rubbing the inside of your helmet with a dryer sheet or putting the sheet in your helmet liner to keep bugs and bees away. Insects don't like the scent. Was suggested we address this in GRASS class.
- ◆ Gene will discuss preparation for winter storage and location ideas for next month's Kaution Korner.
- ◆ Membership: Ted Makarewicz
- ◆ Mitch Hicks (see above) is interested in joining and was given an application.

Activities: Greg Smith

Recent Activities:

- ◆ July 29-August 6 - Sturgis Adventure (Bard). Seems the trip has lost its luster over the last 30 years. Same routes every year. Need to change it up. Bard won't be leading anymore but will help with reservations, etc. The ride will be revamped with new road captains to lead portions of the ride. Let's get more people in-

olved.

- ◆ August 6-12 – Front Range Ride (Wayne). Small group but enjoyable ride to usual locations.
- ◆ August 23-25 – Trempealeau (Mike). Great time and weather. The hotel was updated and dinner at Sullivan's Supper Club was enjoyable. Long distance rides give us a chance to get to know each other.

Future Activities:

- ◆ Sept. 7 – Memorial Ride (Gene). Teaming up with Hog chapter. Meeting at 443 E. Liberty Street in Wauconda at 9:00 am. Hog chapter will do "last rev" for Ric Case. We will ride to Harpoon Willy's in Williams Bay for lunch.
- ◆ Sept 8 – Big Boy Ride (Greg) – Riding to Rochelle to see the legendary world's largest Big Boy #4014 steam locomotive. Meeting at BP gas station, 1400 IL-62 (Algonquin Road), Palatine at 9:00.
- ◆ October 12 – Ride for Screams (Gene). Will be riding to scary places (???) and end up at Rigby's for a campfire and food. Details will follow.
- ◆ Still have time for more rides before the riding season is over. Let's get more rides on the calendar.
- ◆ Other Activities:
- ◆ September 14 – Rolling Thunder, Chapter 1 Big Thunder Run. Annual fundraiser Poker Run. Starts and ends at Batavia VFW Post 1197. Registration 7:30-10:00 am. First bike out at 9:30; last bike in at 2:30 pm. Food, raffles and 50/50. Cost is \$25/hand. Bikes or cars are welcome.
- ◆ September 22 – Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2 Thunder Run. Annual fundraiser police escorted ride from James A. Lovell Heath Care Center in North Chicago to Woodstock Harley Davidson. Registration 9:00 am. KSU at 11:00 am. There will be a raffle and food. Cost is \$25/bike. Bikes or cars are welcome.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

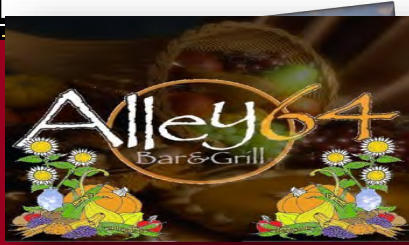
- ◆ Looking at a possible Saturday date – June 14 or 21 – for next year.

Products: Ted Makarewicz

- ◆ Trying to dispose of products on hand so we can start ordering through the Lands End website. Everything is on sale tonight!!

50/50 Raffle: Andy Haszlkiewicz - No Raffle Tonight

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 7:57 p.m.



Board Meeting Minutes September 5th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted
by: Mary Kirkpatrick

President's Section: Gene Rigsby

- ◆ The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom. All Board members were present except for Ted.
- ◆ **Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick**
- ◆ Wayne expressed his delight at the reception the club showed in welcoming the potential new member, Mitch Hicks, at the General Meeting. It says a lot about our group. Everyone was friendly and chatted with him after the meeting. He felt very welcome. Hope to get Mitch out on a ride soon.

Treasurer: Don DeLordo

Report/Review

- ◆ Essentially the same report as last month – no debits or credits in either account this month.

Activities: Greg Smith

Review Past/Future Events:

- ◆ Aug 16-18 – Trempealeau Ride (Bradbury). Good riding with lots of camaraderie.
- ◆ Sept 7 – Memorial Ride (Rigsby). Had a good showing of bikes. There was one incident with a member of the HOG Chapter that went down in a traffic circle and had to be transported to the hospital. Understand he had surgery to repair his leg. The consensus of riders indicates this accident was due to rider error and not a group riding error. He was just going too fast for conditions in the traffic circle.
- ◆ Sept 8 – Big Boy Ride (Smith). Unfortunately, because of the amount of people there to see the locomotive the line to the location was miles long. After waiting 1-1/2 hours in traffic and still not near the entrance, the group opted to just go on to the lunch stop at the local airport and was treated to a show of skydiving with our lunch. It was a beautiful day, despite not getting to see Big Boy.
- ◆ Oct 13 – Ride for Screams!! (Rigsby). Gene is putting together his annual “scary” ride with campfire and picnic after at the Rigsby’s house. More details will be coming.
- ◆ Riding season is not over yet so hope to see some more fall rides on the calendar.
- ◆ Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury
- ◆ A GRASS class is scheduled for October 27 at Keller Williams in Barrington. Mike indicated he should have enough cards and patches yet. Another class will be scheduled sometime next Spring.

Safety: Mike Bradury

- ◆ Mike will look into showing more riding/safety videos at the General Meetings. Had a good response and discussion after the last one.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz (Absent)

- ◆ Suggestion was made that Ted should reach out to Mitch (email) as a follow-up to his attending the General Meeting and encourage him to come ride with the group.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- ◆ Looking to change the Ride to a Saturday instead of the usual Sunday. Suggest date of June 21 (Saturday) or 22 (Sunday). Will check with Woodstock Harley to see if either date will work for them.
- ◆ Also need to start thinking about new ideas or options for the event next year. Should there be a specific committee? In November we can get together to brainstorm some ideas. Remind members to think about getting raffle items throughout the year for next year’s event.

Secretary: Jane Smith

- ◆ Nothing to report

Miscellaneous

- ◆ Greg and David Ramirez will meet with Gene via Zoom on Thursday at 7:00 (9/12) to review HubSpot, the program that will be used for the blasts.

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 7:31 p.m.





Top Cat's Elections!
By: Traveler

Remember, we will hold our annual elections at our 5 December 2025 general meeting.

To be eligible to vote, you must be a Member in Good Standing. That requires that you meet the following requirements by November

30th of each calendar year. (pro-rated the first less than 12 month period following probationary status)

- ▶ Attend a minimum of 5, official Top Cats events per year (meetings and, or, events).
- ▶ Attend the Group Riding and Safety Seminar within your first year then once every three years of membership.
- ▶ All dues or any other financial obligations have been met.

Come to our 6 December meeting prepared to vote and congratulate our new Board for 2024.





Ride Safe and Vote, Vote, Vote!

The most important thing we do in Top Cats is safe riding. The second most important thing we do is smart voting. Our riding season has been a safe one and now it's time to vote in our annual Club elections.

For the 2024 - 2025 term, consistent with our By Laws, we have the following five position vacancies and current qualified incumbents or nominees:

I. Vice President (2025-2026):

Requirements for Vice President

1. Be a Full Member in good standing for 3 consecutive years prior to the date of the election.
2. Have served as a committee chairperson for one year or have served a minimum of one year in any Board position.
3. Have no history of disciplinary action.

II. Secretary (2025-2026):

Requirements for Secretary

1. Have been a Full Member in good standing for 1 year prior to the date of the election.
2. Have no history of disciplinary action.

III. Treasurer (2025-2026):

Requirements for Treasurer

1. Have been a Full Member in good standing for 1 year prior to the date of the election.
2. Have no history of disciplinary action.

IV. Two Directors (2025- 2026):

Requirements for Director

1. Be a Full member in good standing for 12 months prior to the date of election.
2. Have served as a committee member for one year or have served a minimum of one year in any Board position.
3. Have no history of disciplinary action.

Nominations for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors will be accepted up to 1 November via email to wkirkpa177@aol.com, or in person. When you find yourself faced with a nomination decision, simply look at your choices and determine who has the best interest of the Club at heart, who has a proven record of dedication to the Club, who has the experience for that particular position and, if all else is a tie, ask yourself who you see at every ride, every meeting, every committee activity, every Club event, and every charity ride. That should help you decide.

Nominees will be vetted for eligibility and the slate will be reviewed and approved by our Board in November. Voting will take place at our 5 December general meeting and our new Board will take office on 1 January 2024. Our ballot - voting procedures will be explained in the November and December issues of ROAR.

Remember, to be eligible to vote, you must be a Member in Good Standing. That requires you to meet the following requirements by November 30th of each calendar year. (New members will become eligible to vote following their 12 month probationary status.)

- ▶ Attend a minimum of 5, official Top Cats events per year.
- ▶ Attend the Group Riding and Safety Seminar within your first year then once every three years of membership.
- ▶ All dues or any other financial obligations have been met.
- ▶ Have no history of disciplinary action.



BIG BOY RIDE!



Some brave Top Cats took off to see the BIG BOY! But with all the crowds, it was hard to get close.... Those in attendance enjoyed each other's company! Nice Weather too!



October Birthdays and Anniversaries!

- 1 Juergen Lutz
- 2 Tom Malia
- 11 Bozenna Haszlakiewicz
- 22 Rick Agrimonti
- 22 Ric Case - Remembering YOU!
- 30 Gene Rigby

Happy Days to our Top Cats Celebrities for October!

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



18 Andy and Bozenna Haszlakiewicz

*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

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REALTY

KELLERWILLIAMS.

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e: marykirkpatrick@kw.com

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600 Hart Road, Suite 105
Barrington Illinois 60010



Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated

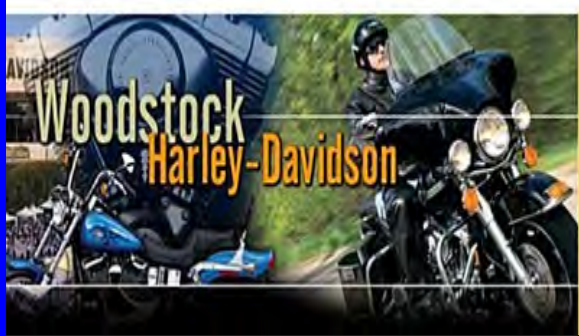


*Network with your fellow
Riders here...*

And Be Thankful!



Support the TOP CATS Patrons



Woodstock HD and Staff Support

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 with you to buy or sell your home!

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

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, October 1rd	General Meting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Tuesday, October 8th	Board Meting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Saturday, October 12th	Ride for Screams!	A Variety of Gooly Stops...	Rigsby Home for a campfire	TBD	Rigsby
Sunday, October 27th	GRASS	Palatine	Keller-Williams	8AM	Bradbury
Tuesday, November 5th	General Meting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Tuesday, November 12th	Board Meting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 PM	Rigsby
Ideas?	Get Them	On	The	Calendar	Now!

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



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

847-382-1300
 balibrary.org

See the Top Cats Archive

**FREE ADVERTISING in ROAR for
TOP CATS Business Owners**

Attention all Top Cats business owners!

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

We will run the ad for 3 months after which you will need to resubmit it.
 This offer is for Top Cats business owners only. We are not accepting advertising for other businesses at this time.

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



ROAR



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

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