



ROAR

February, 2024

Volume 24, Issue 2

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Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- GENERAL MEETING
- 8 CABIN FEVER
- 11 BOARD MEETING
- 15 TC BANQUET
- 16 FIRST AID CLASS

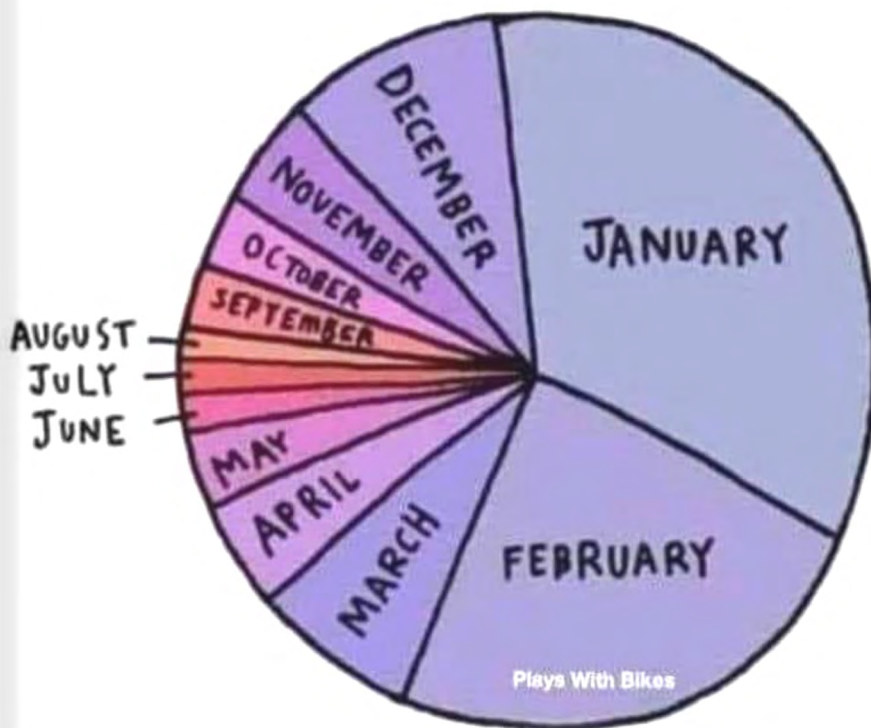
MARCH

- 4 GENERAL MEETING
- 11 BOARD MEETING
- 15 ROAD CAPTAIN MEETING

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



How Time Passes... For Motorcycle Riders



The Official
Publication
Of Top Cats
Illinois





PRESIDENT'S POINT

And Now a Word from your President...



Hello, Top Cats!!

I hope you and your families are doing well.

Is it Spring yet...???

It seems like this year is flying by, but the warm temps can't get here soon enough, so we can get out on the road. Good thing is that we have more events lined up for the time between now and then. Check the Top Cat calendar and keep your eyes open for more info about them.

With the very unpredictable weather this time of year, it's a great time to heed the advice of some recent Kaution Korners and get your bike ready as well as yourself, so once riding time is here, you and your machine will be ready to go. This is also a good time to look for a new bike even if you were only thinking a little about it.... □

Activities from January...

Jan 12) Movie at WSHD - Mary. *The Bike Riders!* We had a great turn out for the movie and Chili Cook Off. And... it was all a winner. Good people, excellent Chili, and even a few visitors! Fun for all and no one went home hungry. Not even the WHD crew!

Activities for February...

Feb 8) WSHD Cabin Fever - Rigsby. This event is open to ALL, so come on out. We will be setting up a table to promote our club and charity event to the motorcycling community as well as enjoying time with people we have gotten to know through the years. Not to mention, you can do a little shopping at WSHD, bring your vest and patches to get updated or repaired. WSHD will have entertainment, food and drink vending, etc...

Feb 15) Awards banquet - Bradbury, Rigsby & Rigsby (sounds like a shady law firm). If you didn't RSVP, do it now... Contact Don and make arrangements with him. Otherwise you are missing out on a great evening celebrating our 2024 season.

Feb 16) First Aid training @ WDHS - Bradbury. Details have been sent out and the class is filling up. One item to note is that the cost has increased to \$85 per person. Seems like a lot, but can you put a price on what could happen when you put this training to work... Priceless.... Lets hope you, or me, get a return on that investment.. I am good with that.

Feb 23) Mama Tried - Rigsby. I am planning to attend this event, which I have never been to. I have heard good things about it so I am going to give it a go. Meet at the main entrance at 9:45a for a 10a entry. This is in Milwaukee at the Eagles Ballroom/The Rave. 2401 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Advance tickets are available on-line at <https://mamatriedshow.com/>. They are \$20 for general admission. Active duty and veterans are free compliments of HD. This is a VIP option as well. Parking is available to purchase in advance as well (\$15 - \$35. Likely based on lot location). There may be other parking options available as well. I would suggest to check "Spot Hero" or another parking app as well.

I am still looking for a day to have the No IMS breakfast, so keep watch for details...

SAVE THE DATE(S) NOW:

6/14 - Ride, Rock, Rumble (Yes...! Our charity event)

7/28 - 8/5 - Sturgis - Boand & Kirkpatrick

8/4 - 8/10 - Front Range Ride - Kirkpatrick (Start date has been moved up to 8/4)

And if all that isn't enough... We will be adding even more events and RIDEs right after the RC meeting in March.... Oh boy!!! **AND... STILL room on the calendar...** Let's get a few more rides or other activities together and let's go! **Don't need to be complex. KISS...** ***See the club's calendar for more details about these and other events...

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

Make sure to send any activity or ride ideas to Greg Smith and I, so they can get it on the calendar and get the word out to the club. Feel free to reach out to me anytime via my email: gene.rigsby@gmail.com, or phone, 847-770-9425.

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



KAUTION KORNER



Are You Game?

Mike 'Motorcycle' Bradbury,
Sr. Road Captain

Do you like challenges and the chance to lead? Do you like motorcycling in groups? Do you like the satisfaction of a project you manage from "birth to death" done well?

Well, then you have some of the qualities to become a Road Captain and lead a safe and exciting ride.

Top Cats is a premier riding club, known for doing safe group rides to interesting and fun destinations using motorcycle friendly routes. The rides can utilize a variety of roads that help riders to continue practicing their group riding skills. The rides are experiences that contribute to our confidence as group riders. To meet this challenge, a Road Captain takes time to make a detailed plan, solve the problems that arise, and recognize the needs of the riders who will be going on the ride. It is a great challenge, a fantastic opportunity AND...a can be extremely satisfying. This position requires the conviction and willingness to put personal riding preferences above the safe riding as a group. So start your engines and start planning a ride now! Research places and routes to take the club and seek out a mentor to support you! We all benefit in many ways from our group riding.



Why, you ask, is this the Kaution Korner article for February? Well, as a novice who took on the challenge, I learned a few

especially important lessons that I would like to pass on to those of you who are planning to do a ride. Here is my advice on how to make sure the ride is safe for all. And to make sure that you have a satisfying experience that will keep you leading rides long into the future!

- ◇ Be sure to lean on and make use of the experience and wisdom that is within the club and seek out a mentor! Our Senior road captains all have experience doing group rides. They all have seen what works and what does not work. Their support is priceless! Talk to a road captain and gather their advice as you work to plan your ride! Then...
- ◇ Know your destination. Choose a place such as a lunch stop, museum, rally, mini-golf course or a strip

club or anything that you feel makes your ride interesting, fun, and special. Commit to doing a pre-ride. There is a big difference between what you can see online vs. the route realities. Pre-riding will allow you to see the less safe portions like crossing four lanes of traffic to go the other direction on the road. Or exiting the gas station in a direction that leaves no room for pulling your group out safely. Or finding your rest stop has only one gas station and your planning did not allow for the time it takes for a large group to use it. All kinds of good planning will not compensate for plain old knowledge gained by doing the pre-ride.

- ◇ Promote your ride. It is more fulfilling to lead a ride with more people than less. But when you are the road captain with a large group, the ride becomes more difficult to manage safely. The rule of thumb I use is when I get fourteen or more riders., I get support from participating road captains. I ask them to stage themselves as near the middle of the group as possible. When the group gets broken up, they can assist by leading the rest of the riders left behind by a traffic light or missed turn and help them rejoin the group as safely as possible.
- ◇ Refer to the Top Cats Group Riding and Safety Seminar presentation. These modules address ways to group ride safely. Learning all of the seminar helps you group riding safely. The presentation consists of the sections:

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

Studying and learning our G.R.A.S.S. information and practicing those principles will assist you to perform safe motorcycling, group riding and leading a group ride safely. Repeated training will eventually make it become part of your riding DNA.

Becoming a Road Captain comes with a lot of responsibility but is very gratifying. Riders expect you to have a planned route with the appropriate rest and food stop(s) as warranted for the route. With the guidance of a mentor, and other road captain support on the day of the ride, you can navigate the challenging route to leading a successfully safe group ride.

And as a road captain, you will be an important part of maintaining the strong SAFE traditions of the Top Cats club!





Remembering... Ric I. Case

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

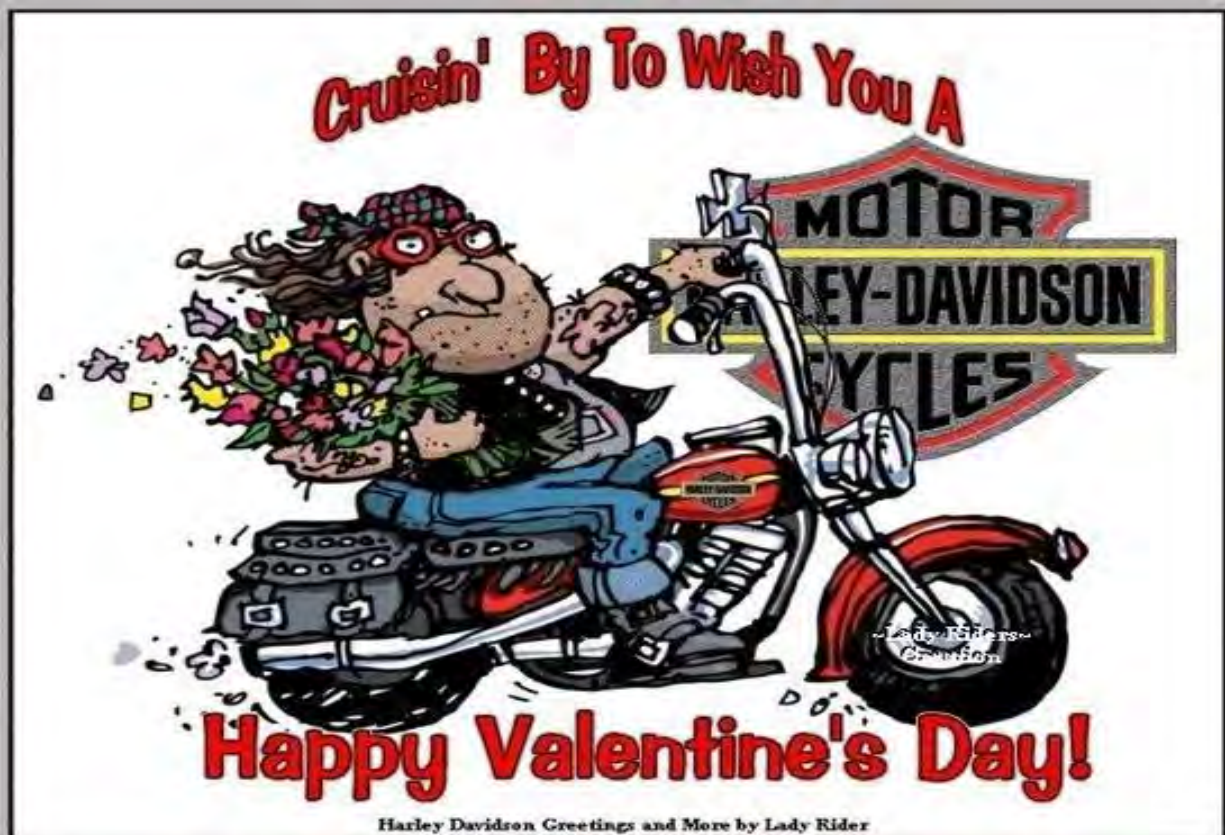


22 October 1946 - 21 January 2024



Hope you are racing the rain, riding the wind and chasing every sunset!

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





A Road Less Traveled Could it apply to Motorcycles too?

Submitted by:

Mike 'Motorcycle' Bradbury

It is always a good time to dream about motorcycle riding with our knees in the breeze, basking in the warm sunshine in beautiful weather and in a big group of fellow brother and sister riders doing a fun, interesting Top Cats ride together. Doing so while it's cold is even better.

Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" is a poem where a narrator describes their solitary walk in the woods, deciding what path to take in the

woods and the difference that choice made.

Instead of walking in the woods imagine a dream about motorcycle riding with your knees in the breeze, basking in the warm sunshine in beautiful weather and in a big group of fellow brother and sister riders doing a fun, interesting Top Cats ride together. Just like the walker, the motorcyclist has many choices in their ride and invariably choosing the road less traveled leads to finding scenic, interesting rides. Now imagine riding the roads less traveled together!

See you on the ride!

Anonymous Top Cat

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference



Oil Spots

By Traveler



KTM's Automatic/Manual Transmission



Honda recently revealed its [E-Clutch system](#) on the 2024 CB650R and CBR650R, allowing riders to choose whether they use the clutch lever. Now, KTM is entering the fray as well, but the company has gone one step further. Its new Automated Manual Transmission (AMT) system provides the best of both worlds by allowing riders to choose between automatic and (clutchless) manual shifting.

The AMT gearbox has roughly the same proportions and weight as a traditional manual gearbox.

Unlike a conventional gearbox with a 1-N-2-3-4-5 shifting order, the AMT features a P-N-1-2-3-4-5-6 gear sequence, more reminiscent of automatic car transmissions. The P(ark) and N(eutral) gears can only be selected with the left handlebar switch cube.



In A Mode, or automatic mode, the transmission starts forward drive as soon as you engage the first gear and raise the engine speed. At that point, the centrifugal clutch takes over, and you're ready to roll.

Should you want to ride with a manual transmission, simply switch it to M Mode and the rider can manually shift the gears like with a conventional gearbox.

You can shift gears either with the heel-toe shifter or by using the controls on the left-side handlebar cluster. There's no need to use the clutch, and it's likely motorcycles equipped with AMT will not have one at all.

The AMT system will be available on certain upcoming 2025 KTM models.

Tips for Riding a Motorcycle as a Passenger

Many couples ride two – up. Those who have ridden that way for years have refined it to the point of making each ride safe and enjoyable for both the rider and co-rider.



However, there are times when you may have to ride two-up in an unplanned situation such as giving another rider a ride somewhere like to a dealer, following a roadside breakdown, etc.

When riding two-up, being casual about safety can be more dangerous than you think—so be vigilant.

If you plan on riding as a co-rider, here are a few basic tips.

Wear Proper Gear

The first thing to do as a co-rider is to assure that you have good-quality riding gear. Co-riders are required to have the same safety gear that is required for the rider, such as eye protection, helmets, etc. But, it's smart to go beyond just what is required and wear such safety gear as; boots, gloves, protective jackets, bright-colored vests, riding pants or a riding suit.

Mount with Care

Next, you'll want to mount the bike carefully and only after ensuring that your rider is ready for it. This means that you'll want to make sure that both the feet of your rider are firmly on the ground and the rider gives you the OK to get on. If you are tall enough for your motorcycle, you can swing one leg over the seat with your other leg still on the ground. On the other hand, if your bike is tall for you, you might need to use footpeg to step up. The most important point is to get the rider's approval for mounting and dismounting before you do it.

Maintain Your Balance

Another tip to follow when riding a motorcycle as a passenger is to be active. This means that you'll want to be aware of your bike's movements and react to them timely and suitably. For example, you should follow your rider and lean into turns just like your rider. Do not try to lean opposite of your rider since it may counteract the rider's ability to negotiate that curve / turn. You need to prepare for stops by squeezing your legs together and holding on to the passenger assistance gear like seat straps, back rests, etc. so as to not slam into the back of your rider when the brake is applied. Know where these items are so you can also use them to maintain your stability on acceleration.

(Continued on page 7)



Oil Spots, continued...

Communicating

You'll want to establish a few signals for communicating with your rider during the ride. Shouting to convey a message can distract the rider and cause an accident. To avoid this, you'll want to use a signal like a single tap on your rider's shoulder to get their attention before you speak. Whatever you set up with the rider must not be a distraction like a slap in the head, but a pre-established signal to communicate.

Hand Signals

Typically, the rider issues hand signals. This is particularly important during group rides. If both the rider and co-rider try to issue hand signals, it confuses the riders behind you. If, for any reason, the rider asks the co-rider to issue hand signals, be sure to notify the riders behind you.

And, as a co-rider, be particularly cautious of using your hands to gesture like trying to point out something along the ride. The riders behind you may be distracted and they may think that it is a hand signal.

There are many more tips to being a proficient co-rider like learning how to read the GPS, being able to distinguish problem – related noises, knowing where things are packed, having a good knowledge of what should be closed and locked, etc. Keep an eye on the other, more experienced, co-riders and, seek their counsel to help you become a safer co-rider and have a more enjoyable ride.

Helmet Safety



Helmet protection standards took a recent step forward in the European Union.

Riding season is coming, eventually.

As our attention shifts towards getting out on the country's roads, highways and tracks, we emerge from the quiet winter to, ideally, some exciting riding adventures.

Often neglected yet an extremely important item of safety is....of course....our helmets.

The harsh reality of the open road is that more than 82,000 motorcyclists are estimated to be injured in traffic crashes each year (as of 2021, according to the NHTSA¹) and are disproportionately overrepresented in research involving traffic crashes and fatalities. Even more concerning, those

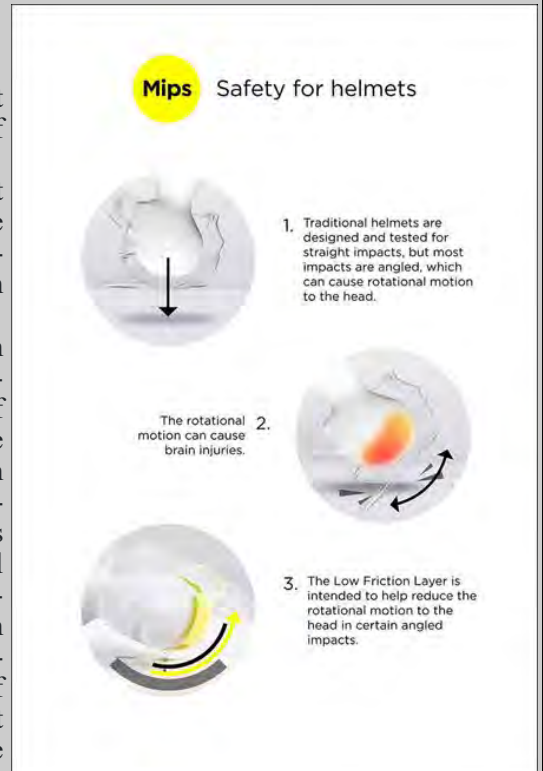
figures continue to grow each year and are bolstered by the fact that only 66.5% of helmets in use (as of 2022, according to the NHTSA) are in compliance with federally regulated testing standards.

This figure encompasses all states, even though only 18 states require all motorcyclists to wear a helmet and an additional 29 have laws based on age. Three states have yet to adopt any sort of helmet law. The numbers do not lie, and while no helmet, nor any other form of protection, can fully prevent injury, a helmet that not only meets the newest testing standards but is also equipped with technology with the intention to surpass those standards could be a difference maker in the event of a crash.

While these technologies, such as the Mips safety system, have been focused on an increase in protection for many years, helmet protection standards on a global scale took a recent step forward with the introduction of ECE 22.06, an updated testing standard for helmets manufactured in the European Union that now also addresses rotational motion.

This is a first for any of the testing standards currently in the marketplace, such as the U.S.-based DOT and Snell standards, and is significant in terms of bringing attention to the rotational motion that serves as the primary cause of traumatic brain injuries, or TBI. Until ECE 22.06, helmets were required only to provide a specific level of protection for linear impacts.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of motorcycle crashes result in oblique impacts, during which rotational motion can place dangerous levels of stress on the brain and can shear the delicate tissues of our vital organ system. This can lead to different types of TBI that many are familiar with, like concussions, or severe TBI, which can be life-threatening.



(Continued on pg. 8)



Oil Spots, continued...

With the implementation of ECE 22.06, helmet manufacturers will be required to offer a baseline level of rotational protection. While ECE-approved models will undoubtedly be available for consumers domestically, the standards of DOT and Snell still provide the foundation for protection in the U.S. As of now, there's no clear sign of an update of this nature to testing standards in the States for the foreseeable future.

And again, while this is a long overdue progression in helmet protection with the aim to benefit the safety of riders worldwide, it is still important to recognize that ECE 22.06 is the bare minimum when it comes to protection. The capacity for increased levels of protection still exists, and it's within this newly established area of opportunity that helmet safety technologies become potentially invaluable.

As the world of motorcycling continues its methodical move towards embracing rotational motion protection, it's essential to know that technology is readily available to any rider looking to get more out of their helmet. You can never be faulted for taking extra steps regarding helmet safety. It can make a significant difference in your comfort on the open road.

Why Don't We?

There are blogs with biker stories... some funny, some informational and all memories about biking adventures. Why don't we begin our own monthly 'blog'? Send me stories that you recall from the Top Cats Adventures! Type them, leave me a voice mail and I'll type them... Read the next pages and get ideas. What stories do you have and that you want to add to our collection?

These stories are taken from a blog: [Funny motorcycle stories](#) | [Two Wheeled Texans](#)

Story #1

Cindy's first public ride of her Seca 550 was a Houston TSBA SMR. We met at the JIB as usual. Nice day and the flower beds had just been recently redone with fresh mulch.

As we get ready to pull out a distant voice yells at Cindy that her side stand is down. As she's moving at about a slow walk she looks down and loses her balance and PLOP.....right over into the freshly done flower bed face first.

I jump off my bike and run over to her about the same time as several others. I'm concerned about the gas leaking out of the tank and getting it uprighted. The others are helping her up out of the flower bed. It sounds like she is yelling in pain. But when we finally get all the fresh cow dung from her face she's yelling to get her helmet off to get rid of the stinky poo

Neither Cindy or the bike were hurt and we all had a good laugh.



Story #2

Years ago about 6 or 8 of us were in the S.H. National Forest fun riding for about the first 30 or 40 min. when we came to an opening in the woods and stopped for a break.

We all sat on our bikes and told lies about the last run we just made.

\(Continued on page 9)



Stories Continued

When it was time to take off again we all noticed a large vine about 3" in dia. running along the ground raising up about 14" right at the trail before the woods and going back down on the other side of the trail, going back in to the woods. It looked like a big upside down horse shoe in the middle of the trail about center tire high.

When everyone got to it they just clutched it and wheeled over it except our friend Jerry. We were the last three and when he got to it he just gave it gas, pushed the vine all the way to the wood line until his motor bogged down, which is when he let off the gas and pulled in the clutch.

That's when he was launched, like from a rubber band in reverse much faster in reverse between both of us, crashing into the woods behind us. My friend and I were laughing so hard that we both fell off our bikes

Story #3

back when I lived in tampa I was a member of the local HOG chapter. Our chapter was going to be the host chapter for the FL state HOG rally. to mark the kickoff, a few of us from the HOG chapter did a ride and dropped off the rally packets in person to every HD dealer in the state. it was a long three day ride. and on some of the longer legs of the ride it was nice to have a little something to snack on. on the rearpart of the seat on the electra glides harley used to put a set of hand holds. they sucked for the passenger, but if without a passenger they were handy to use as a tiedown point, or a cup holder. well one guy on the ride figured a small can of pringles would fit in there just fine, and he figured pringles would make a good snack in the middle of one of the longer legs we were riding that day. so he popped the top and removed the foil cover, put the top back on and stuck the can in that handle part. he figured he could just reach back pop the plastic top off and get him some pringles while he was riding. well when he tried this at highway speeds, the wind caught the pringles and sucked every one of them right out of the can and into the wind . I was a couple bikes behind him and all i saw were flying pringles in the air. they look like butterflies fluttering in the breeze.....i must have laughed about that for the next 5 miles



Story #4

It was wheat harvest time in south west Oklahoma. For those who don't know, when it is time to harvest the wheat... time is of the essence. The work goes from early morning when the wheat straw has dried from the early morning humidity till the straw toughens with the evening humidity, if it does. If it stays dry enough, the cutting can continue all night or until the will of hard men finally gives way to sleep. You harvest the wheat before there is rain. Rain is the enemy during this period. If it rains, you could loose an entire crop. So time is of the essence!

The harvest of the family wheat crop was underway and going well when the combine broke down about mid-morning. A small part was needed ASAP. Ruel was sent into town on his Harley to get the part from a local equipment dealer while everyone else started pulling the machine apart for repair. This seemed a good plan since the Harly was fast and Ruel was a good rider.

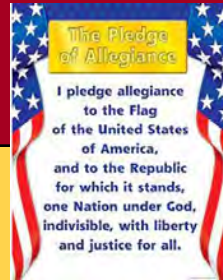
The combine taken apart the crew relaxed under the shady side of the machine. And relaxed.... And relaxed... After about an hour Ruel's dad (my grandfather) sent two of his brothers into town in the pickup to see what was up.

The brothers (my uncles) arrived at the equipment supplier and there was no sight of Ruel or the Harley. Now the equipment dealer was located on the poorer side of town. Not that there was much money anywhere in this small south-west Oklahoma town in the late 1940's. But this was the poorer side.

The brothers did notice something odd. A couple hundred feet down the road under a big shade tree was a line of about 10 or 12 neighborhood boys right at the curb of the road. These guys were about 6 to 8 years old and of all ethnicity, dressed in wore out overalls or blue jeans and t-shirts just standing there in a neat little line

About that time the roar of a monster Harley came by the pickup. Ruel on his Harley! He skidded to a stop in front of the line of boys and yells....next! One that was on back leaps off with a shout of joy while the next clamors on. Then off roars the Harley with with one happy urchin on the back!

Ruel with not a care in the world enjoying life and the smile he could bring to a few less fortunate. In that time, there was not much that would rival the thrill, freedom and joy of a motor bike between your legs and the wind in your face. I guess that still holds true...



General Membership Meeting Minutes January 7th, 2025

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

President's Section: Gene Riggsby

- * Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. – Happy New Year to everyone!
- * Pledge of Allegiance
- * Guests - None

Announcements

- * Birthdays:
- * Jan 1 – Wayne Kirkpatrick
- * Jan 2 – Noelle Riggsby
- * Jan 11 – Jim Wiseman
- * Jan 15 – Jim Chevalier

Vice President: Bozena Haszlakiewicz

- * Welcome to Bozena to her new position.

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

Open Topics

- * Michael reported that Windy City HOG chapter has officially disbanded. They are not allowed to use the HOG name anymore as they are not affiliated with any dealership. They will continue to meet as a group called "Windy City Riders" with about 90 members. Michael will invite them to our upcoming movie/chili cookoff event.

Safety: Mike Bradbury

Accident/Safety Review

- * A video was shown focusing on safety of riding and not fear. Look for solutions – not the problem.
- * Wayne presented the Kaution Korner tip for the month. The winter months are a good time to get ready for the upcoming riding season. Look into taking advanced riding courses, CPR classes, checking on equipment and replacing as needed, checking expired products in your first aid kits, and getting yourself in shape by doing exercises and building up arm and leg muscles and working on balance.

Membership: Ted Makarewicz

- * No new interests.
- * Membership cards for the 2025 season will be passed out next month.

Activities: Greg Smith (absent)

Recent Activities:

- * December 19 – Holiday dinner at Stonewood Ale House, Schaumburg. Nice ending to the year with fellow members.

Future Activities:

- * January 12 – Movie/Chili Cookoff at WSHD (Mary). Will meet at 12-3:00 to enjoy homemade chili while watching the movie "Bikeriders".
- * February 8 – WSHD Cabin Fever (Gene). 11:00-4:00. Come early to help set up the Top Cats table and stay for the party while talking with fellow riders to promote interest in the club and our charity event in June. Live music, food, good company, and all things motorcycles.
- * February 15 – Awards Dinner (Mike/Gene). Will be held at Emmett's in Palatine 5:30-9:00. Cost: \$45/person
- * February 16 – CPR/First Aid Training (Mike). Will be held at WSHD from 9:00-1:00. \$75/person.
- * June 14 – Ride, Rock, Rumble (Mary). Save the date. More details to follow.
- * July 28-August 5 – Sturgis (Bard & Wayne). In planning stages for day rides. Bard will plan stops on way out and back. Will open up invitations to Rolling Thunder (and others) next month.
- * August 5-10 – Front Range Ride (Wayne). Let Wayne know if interested in attending this ride, either from Sturgis or meeting up somewhere else. Will decide where to go after he knows who all is going.

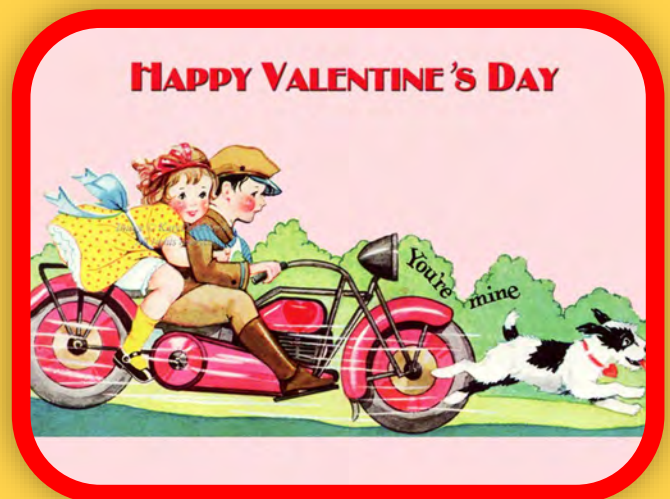
Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- * Will set up a meeting in February to discuss plans. Stay tuned.

Products: Ted Makarewicz

- * Still have various shirts available.
- * 50/50 Raffle: Andy Haszlakiewicz – None

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





BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 14TH, 2025

Respectfully Submitted
by: Jane Smith

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 Bozenna.

Vice President – Bozenna Hasztrakiewicz (absent)

Past President: Wayne Kirkpatrick

- * Open Discussion: There is a new General Manager at WSHD. The current one resigned after he received a better offer somewhere else. Don't know if this will affect our relationship with WSHD regarding using their facility, etc.
- * February 1 will be a Posse meeting.
- * It has been one year already since Ric Case passed. How time flies!

Treasurer: Don DeLardo

Report/Review

- * Don reviewed the current financial report for the General and Charity accounts. There have been no changes since last month.
- * Received J. Rizzo's membership dues and he paid for the Awards banquet also. J. Chevalier has emailed and indicated he is sending his dues also. Don reminded him of the upcoming Awards banquet, and we would like to see him attend.

Activities: Greg Smith

Past Events:

- * Dec. 19 – Holiday Get-together – Several members met for dinner at the Stonewood Ale House in Schaumburg. Great food and time with friends.
- * Jan. 12 – Movie Night (afternoon) – Met at WSHD to watch the movie, "Bikeriders" and enjoyed some homemade chili made by several members. Mary is looking for any pictures that were taken at this event. Please send them her way.

Future Events:

- * Feb. 2 – WSHD Cabin Fever. We will set up a table and Wayne will bring two of his bikes for display.
- * Feb. 15 – Awards Banquet. It will be held at Emmett's Brewing Company in Palatine, 5:30-9:00. Cost is \$45/person. Blast will be sent out soon. Gene is working on the agenda and has asked Bozenna to get some pictures from the website to put together a slide show and help with the awards set up. We need to contact Emmett's by Feb. 5 with the headcount.
- * Feb. 16 – CPR Class at WSHD, 9:00–1:00. Cost is \$75/person. Mike is considering inviting others. He will check with Paul Hebein (Rolling Thunder) if any other things need attention.
- * March 15 - Senior Road Captain meeting. Should be

on the calendar even though it is not a general membership activity.

- * The Kick-Off Ride is usually around the 3rd-4th week of April. Need to plan and get something on the calendar.
- * June 14 – Ride, Rock, Rumble. Mary will host a planning meet at Kirkpatrick's February 9 at 1:00 (Super Bowl Sunday).
- * July 18-August 5 – Sturgis. It is 100% coordinated – just need more people to attend.
- * August 5-10 – Front Range Ride. Just have two riders now.

Other Activities:

- * February 23 – Gene mentioned the Mama Tried show in Milwaukee. Possibly make this a Top Cats event to attend.
- * Safety/RC: Mike Bradbury
- * Mike is looking into different ways to present safety topics at the general meetings.
- * A first aid/CPR class will be held at WSHD (see above). Have 9 people signed up so far.
- * A Road Captain meeting will be held March 15.

Membership/Products: Ted Makarewicz

- * We will have a table with a video at the WSHD Cabin Fever for a membership drive opportunity. Ted will bring membership applications.
- * Ted brought the remaining inventory of TC merchandise to the chili cookoff/movie event. Several shirts left yet. Will look into where we ordered hats from last time.

Charity: Mary Kirkpatrick

- * Mary has scheduled a planning meeting for Feb. 9, 1:00 at their house.
- * A suggestion was made to change the name Ride, Rock, Rumble back to Ride for Dreams. Feel it doesn't reflect what we want the ride to be. Will be discussed at the planning meeting.
- * A motion was made and accepted that we send \$2,500 to NISRA again this year.

Secretary: Jane Smith

- * The updated 2025 membership roster will be emailed to the Board.
- * The Blast emails should be updated to include only those on the new roster.

Meeting adjourned by Gene at 7:40 p.m.

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RIDES & EVENTS

Date	Ride/Event	Location	Destination	Time	Leader
Tuesday, February 4th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Saturday, February 8th	Cabin Fever	Woodstock	Harley –Davidson	8:00 AM	Rigsby
Tuesday, February 11th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00pm	Rigsby
Saturday, February 15th	TC Banquet	Emmet	Palatine	4:30 pm	Smith/DeLordo
Saturday , February 16th	First Aid Class	Woodstock	Harley Davidson	9:00am	Rigsby
Tuesday, March 4th	General Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00 pm	Rigsby
Tuesday March 11th	Board Meeting	Palatine	Alley 64	7:00pm	Rigsby
Saturday, March 15th	Road Captain Meeting	Palatine	Keller Williams	9:00am	Bradbury
IDEAS?	Talk to	Greg or Gene	And get them	On the	Calendar!

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



Barrington Library

Location and Hours

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See the Top Cats Archive

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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.

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