

EAGLE WINGS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION



Chapter Illinois G2

December, 2024

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The highlight of this month's newsletter is our 2025 calendar on the next page. We've added one ice cream ride in per month and a Saturday evening ski show ride. Our trip will be to Colorado with an option to go to Utah for the first two weeks of June. That is followed by the EWMA Ride In to Sault Ste. Marie. In August there is the EWMA Rendezvous to Fort Smith, Ark. with a stop in Branson for some riding around there.



It's time to prepare your motorcycle for winter storage. It's simple. Put a fuel stabilizer, like Stabil, in the gas tank and connect a good battery maintainer to your battery. Some recommend changing the oil as dirty oil contains acids that can etch the metal parts. I have never done that and have never had a problem. That's it.

Due to rising insurance costs, EWMA dues are increasing \$5 effective January 1. So if you haven't renewed your membership yet I recommend you do so for three years.

Let's not forget our holiday party on December 7. It's the final event of the year so I would like to see everyone there. The gift exchange game is a lot of fun. So be sure to bring a gift. Check out the flier on page 8.

And we all send our get well wishes to Tony Valicenti after his recent accident. He is recuperating slowly after brain surgery.

Have a happy holiday season.

Ellary and Holly Kahan

G2 WEB PAGE

www.ilg2.com

Or ewma-world.org/IL-G2

and click the link

G2 PHOTO ALBUM

Under construction



December Birthdays

2 - Barb Harms

17 - Holly Kahan



Got something to say?

This is your newsletter. We accept articles from any member. Send your articles to the editor at ellaryk@gmail.com. MS Word or equivalent format preferred. Text should be in Times New Roman font, single spaced with a one-quarter inch first line indent on all paragraphs except the first. No space between paragraphs. Use .5 in. margins. Any photos should be cropped for publication. All submissions become the property of IL-G2 and may be edited.

Upcoming G2 Events

December

7 - Holiday Party, Randall

2025

January

11 - Dinner, Fitzgerald's, Natenberg

26 - Chapter Meeting

February

8 - Dinner, Donato

23 - Chapter Meeting

March

8 - Dinner, Muhlenfeld

23 - Chapter Meeting

April

5 - Dinner, Thomas

2w7 - Chapter Meeting

May

3 - Brunch Ride

10 - Dinner Ride, Wanke

15 - Ice Cream

16-17 - District Rally

18 - Chapter Meeting

June

1-14 - Colorado Trip

18-23 - EWMA Ride In

22 - Chapter Meeting

July

5 - Brunch Ride

12 - Dinner Ride, Bierman

17 - Ice Cream

27 - Chapter Meeting

August

2 - Brunch Ride

9 - Dinner Ride, Donato

16 - Ski Show

19 - Ice Cream

24 - Chapter Picnic

26-3 - Rendezvous

September

6 - Brunch Ride

13 - Dinner Ride, Cueno

16 - Ice Cream

28 - Chapter Meeting

October

4 - Brunch Ride

11 - Chili Social

18 - Color Ride

26 - Chapter Meeting

November

8 - Dinner, Kahan

23 - Chapter Meeting

December

6 - Holiday Party

EWMA Store

Order from

mysticalmoment.biz
Our shirt color is royal blue.

Our EWMA logo color is 205 yellow with a white eagle.

The right chest is "Chapter Illinois G2" in 205 yellow.

To order name badges contact
Tony Valicenti.

EWMA

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Chapter Meetings are held at the Whistle Stop Cafe, 15 E. Grand Ave, Fox Lake, 9 AM breakfast, 9:30 meeting.

Ride Coordinator

It's hard to believe we have come to the end of the year already. The year went by fast but we accomplished a lot during our riding season.

In May we went back to an awesome family restaurant in Whitewater, Wisconsin. The weather was perfect and we opted to ride another three rustic roads after brunch. Later in May I attended the Illinois District Rally in Vandalia. Next year's Rally will be in a new location. Over Memorial Day weekend I led a trip to the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. This was a new area for us and we had a great time.

June was a busy month as well. Several of our members took a nice trip to West Virginia. They explored some great roads they wanted to visit in addition to sampling some of the roads on this year's Amazing Challenge. On the way back they twisted and turned on some of the roads known as the Windy Nine as they meandered through Athens, Ohio.

July started with a great dinner in Racine hosted by Mark. The food was great and we were treated to amazing views of Lake Michigan as we enjoyed each others company. Then Greg took us to the edge of the Mississippi River later in the month to visit Poopy's in Savannah.

August was another rockin' road trip, this time to the shores of Lake Michigan on the Circle Tour led by Greg. In the middle of the month we enjoyed time back home at the G2 Picnic hosted by the two Gary's. Great job guys! At the end of the month we ventured up to Green Bay for the second annual EWMA Rendezvous. There were some great presentations and things to see at the convention center. Several of us went on Guided Rides and I think we all were able to find some goodies in the EWMA Store as well.

In September, October and November we had a dinner ride to the Village Squire in McHenry, the Chili Social at Ed and Barb's, and dinner at the Gale Street Inn respectively. All the events were great fun and very well attended. That brings us up to the last month of the year.

With the weather starting to get bitterly cold and the bikes beginning to hibernate for the winter we welcome the chance to gather together for the annual Holiday Party at the Continental Restaurant in Buffalo Grove. We'll plan to do the gift exchange again this year. Ellary came up with a new twist on the exchange last year and we look forward to continuing the tradition.

So that's this year in a nutshell. Stay warm and roast some chestnuts over an open fire this holiday season. Take good care and see ya next year.

Tim McGuire



Is All Gas the Same?

I thought so. But then I heard of Top Tier. So I checked it out.

Top Tier is an organization that certifies that a brand of gas has the detergent additives that they consider necessary to keep your engine clean.

How does this work? All refined gasoline is the same, regardless of the oil company that makes it. And all gasoline contains additives that are required by the EPA that is added by the refiners. These additives are designed to reduce emissions and help keep the engine clean. Top Tier detergents are added when the tanker trunk fills up at the depot. So what is the difference between EPA required additives and Top Tier additives?

According to Consumer Reports, to be certified as Top Tier, a gasoline must pass a series of performance tests that demonstrate specified levels of: 1) deposit control on intake valves; 2) deposit control on fuel injectors; 3) deposit control on combustion chambers; 4) prevention of intake-valve sticking.

In 2016, the AAA had an independent testing lab that specializes in fuel analysis conduct a test. They ran engines for 100 hours to simulate 4000 miles of driving. One was run on Top Tier gas while the other was run on non-Top Tier gas. They then tore down the engines and took measurements and photographs. The results showed that, on average, non-Top Tier gasoline had nineteen times the deposits on injectors, intake valves and the combustion chamber as did Top Tier Gas. The photo below shows the difference on the valves.

AAA also found that Top Tier gasoline can have a cleansing effect, reducing intake valve deposits by 45 to 72 percent when used over a 5,000-mile interval. Variation in the results is attributed to the detergents used by different brands.

Most of the major automakers recommend Top Tier gas for their vehicles. A complete list of Top Tier brands can be found here: <https://www.toptiergas.com/gasoline-brands>

Some brands that are not Top Tier use their own recipe of detergents. BP is one with its Invigorate additives in all its gasoline. Murray's and Sam's Club are others. While Mobil is Top Tier Casey's, which bought Mobil, is not and they don't add their own detergents. Woodman's and Thorntons only use EPA required additives.

A study showed that Top Tier gas costs about three cents per gallon more at the pump than basic gas. But most Top Tier brands cost more than that. It costs less than a penny per gallon to add these detergents to gasoline.

So you decide if it's worth it.

Ellary Kahan



The Real Story of the Crash

As told by the motorcycle.

By Eric Trow

Originally published in the September, 2024 issue of *Rider* magazine

A guy recently shared a story about a crash he'd had. As he told it, the crash occurred while he was riding alone in the Appalachians.

Everything was apparently going great on his ride until, well, until it suddenly wasn't. This gentleman went on to explain that something happened that caused his bike to go off the road mid corner and crash hard into a ditch. He was baffled by what could have happened.



I asked him to walk me through the details. He said he'd just ridden through a series of back-to-back curves and everything was wonderful. He was in harmony with the road and enjoying the rhythm of the curves. Then, as he entered the last bend, the rhythm was interrupted when, as he described it, "The bike just straightened up and flew off the road."

In that moment I realized that it sure is a disadvantage to have only the rider's recollection of a single vehicle crash. Surely it would be beneficial to have additional accounts of a crash from others who were at the scene. If it could talk, I'd sure love to hear the motorcycle's point-of-view. Or the curve's perspective. Imagine the value of a crash scene investigation where the police on site could conduct such interviews. It might go something like this ...

Officer Doolittle completed his questioning of the motorcycle operator, who was shaken up but will be okay. From the rider's perspective of the crash, something on the bike clearly failed. That was his only explanation. The rider claimed there was nothing he could do.

In an unexpected move, Officer Doolittle turned to the motorcycle. He gave the damaged bike the once over and started a line of questioning. "So, you and your rider were negotiating that curve back there at the time of the incident, is that right?"

"That's correct, officer," the motorcycle replied. "We'd just been riding through a series of bends and were heading into this one when it happened."

"Go on," Doolittle prompted.

"Well, everything was fine," the bike continued. "We were having fun in the twisties together, but this particular turn was different."

"I see," said the officer.

"Actually," the motorcycle offered, "I think that was part of the problem. This curve was kind of blind, so it was harder to know how sharp it was."

Doolittle licked the tip of his pencil, then scribbled on a small note pad. "Uh huh. So, it surprised you. Threw you off your game a bit?"

"No. I had it nailed," the bike stated confidently. "I had a nice lean angle going, ground clearance to spare, and still had plenty of traction. It wasn't an issue. Not for me anyway."

"Okay," Doolittle grunted. "So, then what happened?"

"Everything was AOK and then, WHAM! My throttle gets chopped and suddenly I'm stood straight up and pointed directly toward the edge of the road."

"The rider claims that something on you broke," the officer offered.

"Look man, er ... officer, if anything broke it was the rider's nerve. My natural inclination is to hold steady in a turn. It's physics. You can ask an engineer. I could have made it through that turn without any additional input from the rider. But when he got spooked I could feel his grip suddenly tighten—almost like his arms were welded solid to my handlebars. I couldn't fight it. No bike could. I'm telling you, there was nothing I could do."

"Yeah, I've heard that line before," Doolittle mumbled. "Look, I may have some more questions so stick around."

“With all due respect, officer, I’m laid up here with a sprained fork leg, a broken foot peg and my headlight is still throbbing. I’m not going anywhere”.

Doolittle chuckled to himself, “And all this time I thought it was a headlight modulator.”

And with that, the officer turned his attention to another eyewitness.

“My name is Officer Doolittle. So, uh, you’re the curve in question?”

“I guess so,” the curve responded. “Maybe. Yeah. Sorry, nobody’s ever asked me anything before.”

“Can you describe what you saw?” Doolittle urges.

“Well, I was just sitting here, like always,” the curve begins. “I noticed the rider was carrying a good bit of speed. He seemed to be doing fine until he suddenly wasn’t. Maybe it was the gravel.”

“The gravel?” Doolittle asked.

“Yeah, there was a smattering of gravel on one of my lanes. You can see it there. A few bits of stone were tossed onto the lane from my shoulder earlier in the day when a truck dropped a tire in the dirt. There was still plenty of grippy pavement. It was a non-issue.”

“Maybe not for the rider,” Doolittle opined.

“Well, come to think of it, that’s about the time he suddenly straightened and rode directly off into the ditch. It must have surprised him.”

Doolittle continued, “It’s been suggested that you are a blind curve. Is that an accurate assessment?”

“I’m not sure that I like that label,” the curve responded. “But I suppose you could say that. Now that all the trees here have matured it is harder to see very far ahead—especially at speed. Anyway, it’s like the rider saw the little bit of gravel and it freaked him out. I’d like to say I’d never seen anything like it, but it’s happened before. Just ask that tree over there.”

“Thanks for your time.” Doolittle walked over to a large tree across the road and just a few feet from where the rider went down in the ditch. “You see any of this?”

“You bet I did!” yells the tree. The dude on the bike entered the turn, all heeled over, and then suddenly looked me square in the trunk and then rode right at me. It really spooked me since this has happened before. Just look at the scars on my bark and all the pieces of plastic around my roots. I can’t exactly jump out of the way y’know.”

“So he crashed in the ditch before he could hit you,” Doolittle concluded.

“Lucky for him,” the tree confirmed.

With the insight from these unusual witnesses, Doolittle was able to conclude that the rider, carrying speed, had been surprised to find the curve was tighter than he first believed. He became more concerned when he saw loose gravel in his lane. By instinct, he tightened his grip and looked directly at the tree-- where he feared he might go if his bike lost traction. He gave up trusting the bike to carry him through to the safe exit and the bike simply went where he directed it. Lucky for him, the ditch stopped him before he struck the tree.

Clearly, there’s more to every incident than the rider’s own perspective and recollection. I’m no Doolittle, but I do like to imagine what observations our motorcycles, the curves we ride, and even the birds flying overhead might be able to share about our riding if they could talk. That’s when I think we’d get the real story--and discover that there is almost always something we could have done to avoid a crash.

Eric Trow is a life-long motorcyclist and recognized motorcycling proficiency expert. He has been a monthly columnist for *Rider* magazine since 2008 and developed the modern Stayin’ Safe method of advanced on-road rider training. He can be contacted at etrow@stayinsafe.com

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November 24 Meeting Minutes

Ellary called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM. It was attended by Gary Wanke, Mark Muhlenfeld, David Bierman, Steve Donato, Dan Meyer, Mike Zyskowski, Greg Natenberg, Tim McGuire, Warren and Kathy Randall, Andy Toth, Glenn Hansen, and Guy Newell.

David Bierman gave us an update on Tony Valicenti's condition. As of this writing, 11/26, he is recovering slowly after surgery to remedy a brain bleed.

EWMA dues are going up next year due to increase insurance costs so Ellary recommended that everyone renew now for a three-year period.

We then discussed the 2025 calendar. You can see the calendar on page 2. We added a couple of ice cream runs and an evening at the water ski show. We also discussed the several trips that are planned.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON January 26, 2025.



Respectfully
Submitted,

Ellary Kahan



Good friends and good cheer,
It's that time of year!
Please join us for IL G2's

Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 7th

The Continental Restaurant
788 S. Buffalo Grove Rd.
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m.
Provided by G2

Cash Bar

Dinner to be ordered off the Menu and paid for by the Attendees

RSVP by Saturday, November 23rd
Kathy Randall
randall8157@aol.com
or
text 847-322-8157

Holiday Gift Exchange

This is optional

But those that wish to participate should bring a
\$15.00 to \$20.00 holiday gift wrapped, without tags for the exchange.
Fun will be had by all who participate!



The Good Book Guide

Ice Cold by Tess Gerritsen opens with a chilling premise: Maura Isles is on a skiing trip in the mountains with a group of friends, but a freak accident leaves them stranded in a remote cabin in the village of Kingdom Come during a snowstorm. Things quickly take a darker turn when one of the group members goes missing, and the search for the missing person leads the group to uncover a terrifying secret hidden within the mountainside. As the tension escalates, Maura finds herself caught up in a terrifying situation where trust among her friends starts to unravel, and the survival instincts of each person come into play.

Back in Boston, Detective Jane Rizzoli is working on a separate case when she receives the grim news that Maura's charred body has been found in a mountain ravine. Shocked and grieving, Jane is determined to learn what happened to her friend. The investigation plunges Jane into the twisted history of Kingdom Come, where a gruesome discovery lies buried beneath the snow. As horrifying revelations come to light, Jane closes in on an enemy both powerful and merciless—and the chilling truth about Maura's fate.

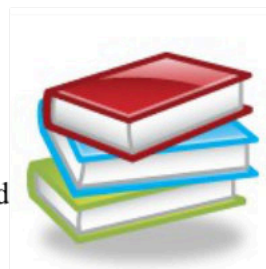
Tess Gerritsen's writing is taut and fast-paced, making *Ice Cold* a page-turner. The atmospheric tension of being trapped in the snow with dwindling resources is palpable, and Gerritsen plays with the theme of isolation—both physical and emotional. The narrative is rich with suspense, creating a sense of dread as Maura's group uncovers more secrets, and as Rizzoli digs into the case from her end. Gerritsen also explores the darker sides of human nature, particularly when survival becomes a matter of life or death.

Both Rizzoli and Isles continue to evolve throughout the novel. Maura is tested in extreme ways, with the trauma of being in such an isolated, high-stakes situation affecting her emotional state. Rizzoli, ever the determined and tough detective, grapples with the fear of losing her close friend. The two women's friendship, while always central to the series, is given extra depth here as both characters must confront their own vulnerabilities.

I found the emotions conveyed by the story to be palpable. And the suspense made this novel a real page turner.

The Silent Girl from Tess Gerritsen's web site: "In the murky shadows of an alley lies a female's severed hand. On the tenement rooftop above is the corpse belonging to that hand, a red-haired woman dressed all in black, the body nearly decapitated. Two strands of silver hair — not human — cling to her body. They are Rizzoli's only clues, but they're enough for her and medical examiner Maura Isles to make a startling discovery: This violent death had a chilling prequel. Nineteen years earlier, a horrifying murder-suicide in a

Chinatown restaurant left five people dead. One woman connected to that massacre is still alive: a mysterious martial arts master who knows a secret she dares not tell, a secret that lives and breathes in the shadows of Chinatown. A secret that may not even be human. Now she's the target of someone, or something, deeply and relentlessly evil. Cracking a crime resonating with bone-chilling echoes of an ancient Chinese legend, Rizzoli and Isles must outwit an unseen enemy with centuries of cunning — and a swift, avenging blade."



One of the standout features of *The Silent Girl* is the atmospheric and richly detailed depiction of Chinatown. The atmosphere is thick with tension, especially as Rizzoli and Isles venture into the more dangerous parts of the city. The relationship between Rizzoli and Isles continues to evolve. The writing keeps the reader hooked with the backstory tied to the Chinese immigrant experience and the murder mystery adding a unique and thought-provoking dimension to the crime genre. And the forensic medical details are again woven seamlessly into the plot. All these make this an enjoyable read.

In Tess Gerritsen's ***Last to Die***, the mystery begins with a series of shocking murders. Three children, each from different families, have survived brutal killings that left their parents and siblings dead. Each child is left with a traumatic past, and their connection seems to be the only clue linking these otherwise unrelated murders. As Rizzoli and Isles investigate, they find themselves confronted by a twisted murderer who seems to have a personal vendetta against these children.

The case leads to a secretive and complex world where the detectives must unravel the connection between the families and the enigmatic killer. Alongside their investigation, the emotional journey of the children, particularly one of the survivors, becomes a central aspect of the story. As the investigation deepens, Rizzoli and Isles must work against time to stop the killer before he strikes again.

The novel explores deep themes of grief, trauma, and survival, particularly through the eyes of the children affected by the murders. This adds a layer of emotional resonance that elevates the story beyond a typical crime thriller. The suspense is typical of Gerritsen's novels as is the depth of the forensic medical details. And the relationship between Rizzoli and Isles continues to develop. While the killer's motives may seem predictable to fans of this genre it doesn't detract from the story.

Ellary Kahan.