

From the President



What We Are

The AMA Remains Committed to Amateur Racing and the Motorcycling Lifestyle

by Rob Dingman

You've heard a lot about the sale of certain AMA Pro Racing properties in recent months, and how this significant change frees your Association to focus on our core mission: protecting and promoting the motorcycling lifestyle. As we prepare to move into our 85th year and a new era of advocacy, I wanted to take a moment to look at the AMA's ongoing—and considerable—presence in motorcycle racing, and talk about what the AMA is, and will be, going forward.

First, we are the world's largest motorsports sanctioning body. The AMA sanctions more than 2,800 racing activities every year, for nearly 2 million competitors participating in 46 different amateur and Pro-Am activities, along with professional AMA Supercross racing. We estimate that one-third to one-half of the AMA's 300,000-strong membership competes in amateur racing at any given time. Without a doubt, this presence makes the AMA the premier amateur racing body in the U.S. It also means that AMA amateur racing represents a key stepping stone—in fact, the direct line—from the amateur ranks to Pro-Am and professional racing.

Second, the AMA represents the highest level of competition for off-road racing in America. Our recent announcement that we will sanction

the World Off-Road Championship Series (WORCS) for 2009 augments the Association's considerable presence in the best off-road racing series, including the AMA FMF Racing National Enduro Series, the AMA FMF Racing National Hare & Hound Series, the Can-Am AMA Grand National Cross Country Series, the AMA/MAXXIS National Endurocross Series, the AMA/NATC National Observed Trials Series and the AMA Eastern and Western Hare Scrambles Series.

Third, the AMA is the responsible voice of motorcycle competition in the U.S. Recognizing our role in the larger community, and the fact that excessive sound impedes our ability to advocate for our interests, we announced in July that the 2009 Monster Energy AMA Supercross, an FIM World Championship, and the 2009 AMA Motocross Championship will adopt the FIM's 94 dB(a) sound standard—a significant step forward for our sport. Then in October at the 41st annual AMA Congress, we adopted the same standard for all amateur and pro-am motocross and off-road competition, effective in 2011. (The new standard will not apply to land-speed racing, speed trials or drag-racing events.) While this was the most notable of Congress's actions, no fewer than 83 rule proposals were considered, 47 of which

were passed or amended for possible ratification by the AMA Board of Directors.

Recently, in speaking to members of the AMA Congress, the rules-making body for amateur and Pro-Am competition sanctioned by the AMA, I reaffirmed our commitment to AMA racing.

As I told representatives from AMA districts and promoting organizations, we will be in amateur racing in perpetuity. Amateur racing is a significant part of our heritage, and we are going to be involved in it for a long time to come.

You can find video of my address, along with others, at www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com/congress/.

Of course, outside of the racing arena, we remain the country's premier advocate for motorcyclists' rights, and we are increasing our efforts to preserve and protect the motorcycling lifestyle. We intend to expand recreational riding opportunities for our growing membership, both on and off the road. We are working with everyone involved in motorcycling to elevate the sport and this way-of-life that we all love.

Most importantly, as we prepare to celebrate our 85th anniversary year, we remain focused on you.

Rob Dingman is president and CEO of the American Motorcyclist Association.