

# NO EXCUSE NEEDED

Just Get On Your Bike And Ride **by Rob Dingman**

Riding season is finally upon us! I have been envious all winter of those of you who live in states where you can ride all year long. Most years, I have been able to sneak a day or two of riding in during the winter when it warms up enough so there is no ice on the road. But I haven't had that kind of luck this year. When it has been warm enough, there has been too much salt on the road. For those of you in the South, there is nothing that promotes rust on your bike like road salt.

I have really been looking forward to this riding season. I don't know if it was a longer-than-usual layoff from riding this winter or the fact that the year before last I sold my touring bike and replaced it with an adventure bike.

Although I really enjoyed the sewing-machine smoothness of my Goldwing, these days, I look forward more to riding my Triumph Tiger. It is so much more versatile. While nothing eats up highway miles like the Goldwing, the Tiger is the go-anywhere Swiss Army knife of motorcycles. The Tiger was even quite comfortable on the long trip to Americade last year, and I hope to make the trip again this year.

I also can't wait to get out on the trail on my Husaberg. The trail system in the Wayne National Forest in Ohio closes for the winter, and I usually try to get there with some colleagues from the AMA on opening day every April 15.

For the past several years, the AMA has celebrated the riding season by designating the month of April as AMA Go Ride! Month. Now, most of us don't need an excuse to go ride, but riding with a purpose can help us achieve the AMA's mission of promoting the motorcycle lifestyle and protecting the future of motorcycling. To that end, there is a theme for each week in the month of April. This year's weekly themes are as follows:

- **April 4-10: Go Ride with the Next Generation:** Celebrate what it means to pass our love of riding motorcycles to the next generation.
- **April 11-17: Go Ride the Unknown:** Take your motorcycles—and yourself—on roads and trails less traveled.
- **April 18-24: Go Ride Together:** Experience motorcycling the best way: with others. Connect with clubs and go on group rides.
- **April 25-30: Go Ride for a Cause:** Use your motorcycle for good. Help raise money and awareness for those in need.

There are also opportunities to win some cool prizes from companies that support the AMA. Those who participate will have the chance to win by sharing photos on social media, engaging with the AMA in various ways or simply entering a drawing. Details will be announced each week in a press release and shared at both [www.facebook.com/americanmotorcyclist](https://www.facebook.com/americanmotorcyclist) and on Twitter @ama\_riding.

For their part, members of the AMA Board of Directors will be riding together during the week of April 18-24 as part of their board retreat in Ohio. Current plans include both street and off-road rides.

We're going to take full advantage of the spring weather, the clear roads and the fresh trails during April and the rest of the riding season. And we hope all of you will do the same. Join us! And Go Ride!

*Rob Dingman is AMA president and CEO.*

