



FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO WE'RE MUCH MORE THAN RACING

BY ROB DINGMAN

In celebrating the history of the AMA as it turned 100 years old last year, we talked a lot about how the organization was founded by the motorcycle industry to give people something to do with their motorcycles.

Most folks probably think of AMA-sanctioned *racing* activities when considering the opportunities presented by the AMA for people to enjoy motorcycling, but it's important to remember that the AMA sanctions hundreds of *non-competition* events as well, for both road and off-highway vehicle enthusiasts.

On the on-road side, there are AMA-sanctioned events such as poker runs, field meets, scavenger hunts and charity rides like the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Ride for Kids. The Ride for Kids and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation were founded by AMA Motorcycle Hall of Famers and the late Mike and Dianne Traynor and have raised tens of millions of dollars to be used for childhood brain-tumor research. AMA members are incredibly generous, participating in charity rides and giving to charitable causes.

There are lots of AMA-sanctioned road rides throughout the United States, as well, and there's even a national series called National Gypsy Tours. These tours are usually held in conjunction with a larger rally or event and typically go to locations with historical and/or motorcycling significance. The first AMA-sanctioned Gypsy Tour was held in 1925, making this series one of the oldest and proudest AMA traditions.

Believe it or not, there's also something called a Road Enduro, in which road riders travel a preset course while maintaining a specific time schedule where speed is not

the determining factor. Such rides require strategy as riders pass through a series of checkpoints where the minute of arrival is recorded with the goal of arriving at the precise minute, sometimes requiring slower rather than faster travel.

For more info about AMA-sanctioned road riding opportunities, please visit the AMA website at <https://AmericanMotorcyclist.com/riding/on-road-riding/>. Or just click the QR codes.



There are many opportunities for off-highway and dual-sport enthusiasts as well. Many local AMA clubs regularly organize AMA-sanctioned trail rides throughout the year, offering a great way to learn about new riding areas and meet new riding buddies. In addition to numerous AMA-sanctioned trail rides, there are also some national series in which AMA members can participate.

The Beta AMA National Dual Sport Series has been around for a long time. I have ridden a few of these events and most recently had the opportunity to ride in one last fall when I participated in the LBL200, which takes place in the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in the Dover, Tenn./Golden Pond, Ky., area.

This two-day event is hosted by Thomas Brothers Promotions, formerly known as KT Riders, which was recognized as the 2019 AMA Recreational Riding Organizer of the Year. Jesse Thomas, who started KT Riders, was also posthumously awarded the Dud Perkins Award, the AMA Board of Directors' highest honor, in 2023. This stop on the national dual-sport series had been a bucket list item for me since I heard about it in the 1990s. And when I finally had the chance to

ride it last year, it did not disappoint.

A newer addition to the AMA national recreational series lineup is the Triumph AMA National Adventure Riding Series. I was fortunate enough to participate in this series more recently when I rode my title-sponsor-appropriate Triumph Tiger in the Devil's Creek event, organized by DixieDualSport Inc. in Brooksville, Fla.

The ride was enjoyable, and DixieDualSport President Robert "Swampy" Frey was a great host. This event, like many others in the series, is held in conjunction with a Beta AMA National Dual Sport Series event on the same weekend. I hope to make it back to Devil's Creek to ride the Dual Sport event as well.

For more information about AMA-sanctioned off-highway and dual-sport activities, please visit <https://AmericanMotorcyclist.com/riding/off-road-riding/>.



Another way to find riding opportunities is to join an AMA-chartered club.

For information about finding a chartered club in your area, please visit <https://AmericanMotorcyclist.com/organizers/charter/chartered-organizations-list/>.

These are just a sampling of the things the AMA offers people to do with their motorcycles. The best way to get the most out of motorcycling is by being a member of the AMA — and getting your friends to join as well. Thank you for being a member!

Rob Dingman is the President and CEO of the AMA, and a Charter Life Member.