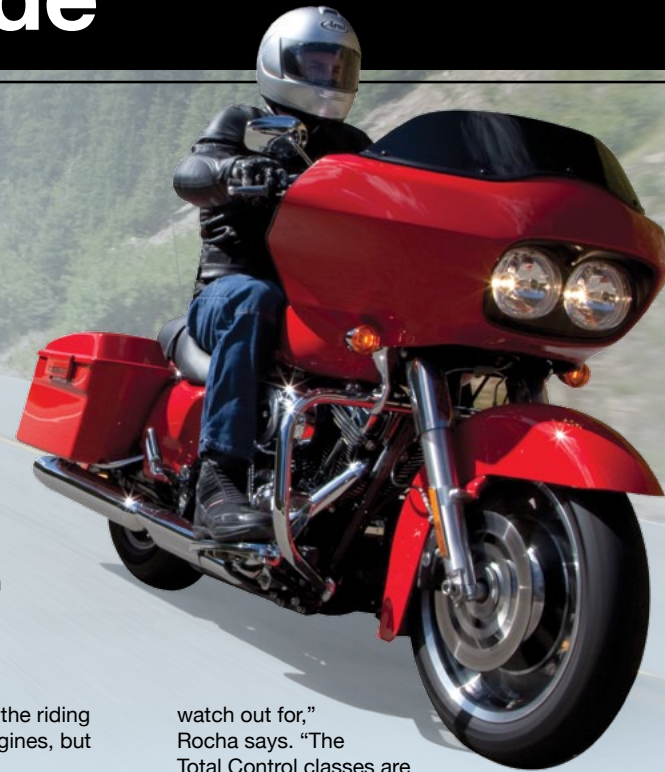


Get Out And Ride

For most of the country, spring is the start of the riding season—when the snow thaws, the road salt washes away and the temperatures remain bearable. AMA Go Ride! Month celebrates the kickoff to the riding season the best way we know how: by highlighting the awesome things you can do on your motorcycle throughout the year.

This year, we remind you of all the fun things to do, but we also take a thorough look at the state of safety training. After all, while you should make sure your bike is good to go for the new riding season, it's even more critical to tune up the most important machine of all: **you!**



75%

Percentage of crashes that involve "experienced" riders (Motorcycle Ohio)

New Rider, Advanced Courses

Sgt. Sean Kelly of the Mesa, Ariz., police department, completed all of the rider courses offered by TEAM Arizona.

Kelly, 47, started riding just three years ago.

"I had never ridden before. It was always, 'Motorcycles are dangerous,' so I stayed away from them," he says. "But I am one of those mid-life-crisis guys who got into motorcycles as an outlet."

Kelly took the beginning rider course through TEAM Arizona, bought a Yamaha V-Star 650 and started riding every day, logging 15,000 miles in his first year.

Since then, Kelly has added a 1976 Yamaha dirt bike and a Yamaha Super Ténéré to his lineup.

As the miles rolled by, Kelly continued training. He now is a member of the police department's motor patrol, riding a Kawasaki Concours on duty.

With an estimated 60,000 motorcycling miles under his belt in just three years of riding, Kelly's next goal is to complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's instructor course and become a RiderCoach.

He says that seemingly simple tactics, such as avoiding dogs while riding, prove helpful during routine daily rides. Attention to properly positioning his motorcycle in traffic and "being an active rider" helps Kelly avoid emergency situations.

"I mentally rehearse scenarios," he says. "The courses taught me to maintain a good safety zone and be attentive."

"It is remarkable how the motorcycle responds when the rider has proper vision. It makes the ride much safer and much more enjoyable."

Crash Dangers

Research shows that rider intoxication, aggressive riding, wet surfaces, improper gear and higher speeds increase the severity of motorcycle crashes.

Rider training can help address all those dangers.

One of the leading causes of multi-vehicle motorcycle crashes is "other vehicle drivers' failure to see or yield to motorcyclists," according to a 2013 survey by the University of Texas at Austin for the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board.

The basic and advanced courses help

controlled environment and highly trained instructors who can assess the mental and physical skills that need improvement.

"Someone who has been riding for, say, 25 years—maybe without incident—is biased, thinking maybe they don't need training," Seltzer says. "But maybe they've just been lucky."

Experienced riders, even those who have completed a basic rider course, can become rusty, both physically and mentally, says Dr. Raymond J. Ochs, director of training systems for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

Ochs, also known as Dr. Ray, says the goal of rider training is to make the physical actions—throttle, clutch and brake control and steering—as automatic as possible.

So the advanced courses provided by the MSF and others include refreshers, such as for cornering, swerving and hard braking, before moving on to provide new information.

The key is to provide each rider with a realistic assessment of his skills.

"Everybody believes they are above average drivers and riders," Ochs says. "We try to help them internalize exactly where they stand."

The key is to know your limits and ride within them.

Colleen Boyle, who operates T3RG Motorcycle Schools in Colorado, says the seasoned rider likely started out "young and fearless," but their years of experience involves "riding the same five roads several times a year."

Then there are those who put their riding aside while raising a family.

"The riders who buy a bike after their kids are grown have more money than skill," Boyle says. "They are very hesitant to take an entry-level course, but they need the refresher to restore their confidence, especially in low-speed maneuvers."

Boyle recommends the MSF Basic Rider Course 2 for people with some experience or a gap in their riding histories.

"They are very different machines," Boyle says. "The guys who pass up the sport bikes and get a cruiser or a bagger end up wobbling at slow speeds. There is no reason to walk your bike into a parking space from 25 feet."

watch out for," Rocha says. "The Total Control classes are really geared more toward the sport tourer bikes and our type of riding, which is a lot faster."

"The training is more performance oriented. It's just short of a track course."

Rocha says his initial nervousness has subsided, largely due to the formal advanced training he received.

"My intention is to do more of that," he says.

Experienced Rider Welcomed

A common perception is that younger riders acting irresponsibly account for the highest number of crashes, injuries and fatalities involving motorcycles.

However, a study by the Ohio Department of Transportation showed that "the highest number of at fault crashes resulting in death and serious injuries involved males between the ages of 41 and 50."

Motorcycle Ohio, a state-supported agency that oversees motorcycle training, says 75 percent of motorcycle crashes involve "experienced" riders.

"Advanced training provides riders and co-riders the opportunity to increase their understanding of safe riding techniques and to practice these techniques on their motorcycles," the agency's website says. Motorcycle safety schools provide a

41 to 50

Age range of males involved in highest number of at-fault crashes that resulted in death or serious injury (Ohio DOT)

A Return To Riding

Don Rocha, a 59-year-old AMA member from Fort Collins, Colo., didn't need much persuasion to take a refresher course at T3RG Motorcycle Schools in Denver.

"I had taken a beginner course when I was in college in Canada in the 1970s, but I didn't do much with it," Rocha says. "Then one of my neighbors showed up with a sport tourer, and I decided to look

into motorcycles again."

In 2006, Rocha bought a 2002 Ducati ST2. Then he got nervous.

"I thought maybe I had gotten in over my head, with the Ducati and all," he says. "So I took a refresher course from a guy in Denver before I even rode it."

Since then, Rocha has added a Triumph XC and a KTM supermoto to his garage. He has continued his training,

with a course for experienced riders, basic and advanced Total Control courses at T3RG Motorcycle Schools and a track course.

"I learned useful things about riding alone and in groups, how to position myself and what to



Safety Programs Supporting The AMA

The AMA Rider Education Support Program (www.americanmotorcyclist.com/Membership/SupportingRidersEd.aspx) provides rider education groups tools to promote membership in the AMA.

The program currently includes more than 35 organizations with 280 coaches who train more than 105,000 riders a year at 265 U.S. locations.

Participating programs expose students to the benefits of AMA membership, including representation of motorcyclists' rights in Washington, D.C. They include:

Arizona

→ T.E.A.M. Arizona
www.motorcycletraining.com

Colorado

→ T3RG Motorcycle Schools
t3rg.ca

→ ABATE of Colorado
www.abateofcolo.org

Florida

→ Motorcycle Training Institute
www.mtii.com

Georgia

→ Georgia Motorcycle Riders
georgiamotorcyclriders.com

Idaho

→ Idaho STAR Motorcycle Program
idahostar.org

Illinois

→ Motorcycle Riding's Cool
www.motorcyclelearning.com

Indiana

→ ABATE of Indiana
www.abateonline.org

Iowa

→ ABATE of Iowa
www.abateiowa.org

Massachusetts

→ Training Wheels
www.trainingwheelsonline.com

Missouri

→ Freedom of Road Riders
www.forr.net

Nevada

→ Cycle School Motorcycle Training
www.cycleschool.com

Continued on next page.

Get Out And Ride

riders "ride like they are invisible" and avoid traffic traps created by unobservant or distracted drivers, Ochs says.

Injury Avoidance

Avoiding crashes is particularly important for the "seasoned" riders, who stand a greater chance of serious injury.

A 2013 study by Tracy L. Jackson at Brown University showed that, "The number of injuries increased in all groups from 2001 to 2008, with the greatest rate of increase occurring in the oldest age group. Older adults had the greatest odds of hospitalization with a threefold increased rate of hospitalization" as a result of a motorcycle crash.

A key is getting more people into the advanced courses.

Boyle says her schools train as many as 3,000 novice riders each year, but an average of only 70 students a year take the "total control" course and just 25 complete the "top gun" course, which offers a civilian version of the police motorcycle training course.

Kelly says that the advanced training he received made a difference. It turned "white knuckle experiences into something enjoyable," he says.

In investigating single-vehicle motorcycle crashes, Kelly's personal experience is that the failure to negotiate a curve is the leading cause.

"Understanding the physics of riding really helps me," Kelly says. "I can take curves significantly faster now, but 10 times safer."

He credits advanced training courses, which provided him with the knowledge he

needs to choose the proper line in a curve.

"I don't know how many years it would have taken me to figure that out on my own," he says.

Strategies For Safety

Ochs says experienced riders tend to neglect defensive riding techniques.

Seltzer says the "most obvious" deficiency demonstrated in experienced riders is "predator vision" that results in "target fixation."

When homing in on prey, target fixation can be a great asset. But in the ever-changing landscape surrounding a motorcyclist, target fixation is a hindrance.

"We try to get riders to expand their vision," Seltzer says. "We work on delayed entry into curves. We work on trying different entry points and selecting a different apex. Then we use the SEE [Search, Evaluate, Execute] method."

Ochs says the MSF website (www.msf-usa.org/riderperception/) includes a perception challenge to help riders test their skills.

The MSF offers a wide range of courses, from smart-phone apps to iTunes University courses to basic and advanced skills training to bike-bonding, Ochs says.

As with all rider training, the goal of the advanced courses is to increase the safety margin, so the motorcyclist can better enjoy the ride.

"We want to encourage people to keep an open mind," Seltzer says. "There are lots of ways for each of us to ride better. If you open yourself up to new possibilities when you come into the course, you can get so much more out of it."

Safety Programs Supporting The AMA

New Jersey

- Rider Education of New Jersey
www.renj.com
- Motorcycle Riding Center
www.theridingcenter.com
- Riding Academy of New Jersey
www.theridingacademyofnj.com
- Fairleigh Dickinson University Cont. Ed/Motorcycle Program
view.fdu.edu/default.aspx?id=93

New York

- Learn 2 Ride, Inc.
www.learn2ride.net

Oregon

- Team Oregon
www.team-oregon.org

Tennessee

- MidTenn Rider Education
www.midtennmotorcycle.com

Texas

- MRH Rider Training
www.motorcyclershouston.com
- Geo Center Motorcycle Training
www.gcmctraining.com
- Texas Motor Sports
www.texasmotorsports.com
- Rider's Edge-Caliente Harley
www.calienteharley.com
- Motorcycle Training Center
www.texasmtc.com
- Gregory's Riding School
www.gregorysdrivingschool.com
- RiderCourse Center, LLC
www.ridercourse.com
- The Motorcycle School of San Antonio
www.themotorcycleschool.com
- Longhorn Harley Davidson
www.longhornhd.com
- Piney Woods Riders Academy (936) 637-7555
- Fastline
www.ridefastline.com

Utah

- Salt Lake Community College Motorcycle Training
view.fdu.edu

Virginia

- Motorcycle Riding Concepts
www.saddleupva.com

Washington

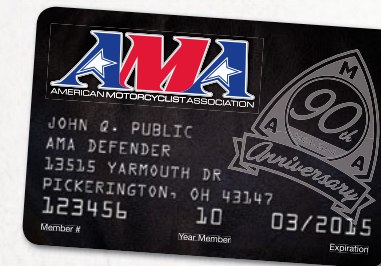
- Evergreen Safety Council
www.evergreenmotorcycletraining.org
- Puget Sound Safety
www.pugetsoundsafety.com

Safety schools interested in participating in the AMA Rider Education Support Program should call (614) 856-1900, ext. 1227, for more information.

Sweepstakes!

JOIN OR RENEW

your AMA membership in 2014 and you could win!



2013 Yamaha Super Ténéré

As the proud sponsor of the AMA Yamaha Super Ténéré National Adventure Touring Series, Yamaha is awarding one lucky member a new 2013 Super Ténéré! Riders participating in the series will also be automatically entered.



Plus!

Every month, everyone who joins or renews a membership in the AMA is automatically entered in a drawing for a **\$100 Gift Card from BikeBandit.com.**

The best part? You're automatically entered when you join or renew between Jan. 1, 2014 and Dec. 31, 2014.

www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com (800) AMA-JOIN

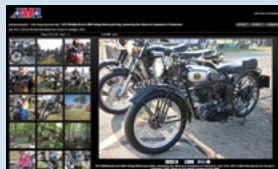
No purchase necessary. For complete rules, terms and conditions visit http://www.americanmotorcyclist.com/Membership/RenewSweeps_Rules.aspx.



Find Rides Online

AMA Great Roads Database Available online for members, the AMA Great Roads database includes routes suggested by AMA members.

To access the AMA Great Roads database, go to www.americanmotorcyclist.com/asp/membersonly/roads/ama_roads_database_home.asp. You will need to log in to the Members Area. If you don't have an account, it's easy to set one up.



Share The Ride Online

AMA Member Gallery Share photos online at the AMA gallery for member-submitted photos.

Located at gallery. americanmotorcyclist.com, the gallery includes tens of thousands of images of member rides and AMA events. What's missing here? It might be you!

Send your best photo, or two or six, to submissions@ama-cycle.org.



Never Ride Alone

AMA Roadside Assistance Carry with you the peace of mind that only comes with AMA Roadside Assistance.

For no additional cost when you set up your membership to auto-renew with a valid credit card, you can ride knowing that free, bike-friendly roadside assistance is only a phone call away. Also covered are your cars, trailers and RVs.

To sign up, call (800) 262-5646.

Just announced! Indian Motorcycle is the 2014 Marquee of the Year!

Indian
MOTORCYCLE

→ AMA Premier Touring Series

The Best Recreational Rides On The Planet Are AMA Sanctioned

AMA National Rallies

AMA National Rallies are AMA-produced and promoted events that include a range of activities, including seminars, bike shows, rides, swap meets, racing, field meets, demo rides, vendor displays and more.

This year's AMA National Rally is AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days, July 11-13, in Lexington, Ohio. The event, the largest annual fund-raiser for the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame, features North America's largest motorcycle swap meet, vintage racing, bike shows, seminars and more. More info: www.amavintagemotorcycledays.com



AMA National Gypsy Tours

One of the oldest touring experiences in all of motorcycling, Gypsy Tours began as one-day events around the country where riders would travel to a specific site to enjoy each others' company at what evolved into large gatherings.

- LAUGHLIN RIVER RUN, Apr. 23-27, Laughlin, Nev. Info: www.laughlinriverrun.com
- REPUBLIC OF TEXAS (R.O.T.) RALLY, June 12-15, Austin, Tex.
- LACONIA MOTORCYCLE WEEK, June 14-22, Laconia, N.H. Info: www.laconiamcweek.com
- THUNDER IN THE VALLEY, June 26-29, Johnstown, Penn. Info: www.visitjohnstownpa.com/thunderinthevalley/
- 37TH ANNUAL NATIONAL BIKERS ROUNDUP, Jul 28-Aug 3, Tulsa, Okla.

AMA National Touring Rallies

AMA National Touring Rallies take the Gypsy Tour concept and mix in more options for riding. Often built around guided local tours and organized riding events, these events are open to riders of all stripes. Below are national-level events.

- ASPENCASH RALLY: May 15-18, Ruidoso, N.M. Info: www.motorcyclerrally.com

AMA National Conventions

AMA National Conventions are the top tier of AMA-sanctioned rides and rallies. Put on by the AMA's promoting clubs and organizers, these rides are the best of the best, where you'll find thousands of like-minded riders in some of the most beautiful places in the country.



- AMERICADE, June 2-7, in Lake George, N.Y. is a laid-back, road-riding touring destination with a family friendly atmosphere. More info: www.americade.com

- THE GOLDEN ASPEN MOTORCYCLE RALLY, Sept. 17-21, in Ruidoso, N.M., is a huge event high in the Rocky Mountains of southeastern New Mexico. More info: www.motorcyclerrally.com



- STAR 2014: June 8-11, Rapid City, S.D. Info: www.ridemsta.com
- 2014 ROADRUNNER MOTORCYCLE TOURING & TRAVEL ANNUAL TOURING WEEKEND: July 17-24, Snowshoe, W.Va. Info: www.roadrunner.travel/events/touring-weekend/
- RALLY IN THE GORGE: Aug. 29-Sept. 1, Hood River, Ore. Info: www.soundrider.com/rally

WELCOME RIDERS!



- STURGIS, Aug. 4-10, Sturgis, S.D.; www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com
- KILLINGTON CLASSIC, Aug 28-31, Killington, Vt. Info: www.killingtonclassic.com

ON JULY 11-13, 2014 WHAT WILL YOU FIND AT NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST SWAP MEET?



AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION

VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE DAYS • 2014

MID-OHIO SPORTS CAR COURSE • LEXINGTON, OHIO

www.AMAVintageMotorcycleDays.com

AMA Members

Call (800) 262-5646 before May 27, 2014, to order advance discounted tickets.



Get Out And Ride

AMA Signature Events

AMA Signature Events offer an experience that's a notch above a typical motorcycle gathering.



- THE NATIONAL RIDE FOR KIDS PROGRAM supports the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Ride for Kids events feature great scenery, wonderful camaraderie and the opportunity to help a good cause. Info: www.rideforkids.org
- MARCH OF DIMES BIKERS FOR BABIES RIDES support a favorite charity of motorcyclists—the March of Dimes—while educating people about the seriousness of premature birth and birth defects. Info: www.bikersforbabies.org

AMA National Grand Tours

On AMA National Grand Tours, you ride at your own pace, taking pictures of yourself at key locations. There are plenty of prizes, including riding gear from apparel sponsor KLIM.

- BIG MONEY RALLY GRAND TOUR (Jan. 1 - May 24). Info: www.bigmoneyrally.com
- TOUR OF HONOR GRAND TOUR (April 1 - Oct. 31). Info: www.tourofhonor.com
- TEAM STRANGE AIRHEADS 30TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORY LANE GRAND TOUR (March 1 - Oct. 31). Info: www.teamstrange.com

For a bigger challenge, the Southern California Motorcycling Association has cooked up two AMA National Extreme Grand Tours. For details, see www.sc-ma.com.

- USA FOUR CORNERS GRAND TOUR (Feb. 2 - Dec. 15)
- SCMA THREE FLAGS CLASSIC GRAND TOUR (TBA)

AMA KLIM Flash Tours

AMA Flash Tours on Facebook challenge you to get on the road. To participate, submit photos that correspond to the active Flash Tour at www.facebook.com/americanmotorcyclist/. At the end of each Flash Tour, selected winners receive cool KLIM gear.



Going Faster Off-Road—Safely

Off-Road Riding And Racing Have Their Own Skills

Hopping onto a dirt bike and kicking up some dust is a fun and rewarding way to launch a lifelong love of motorcycling.

For those who have not reached street-legal age, off-road riding provides an opportunity to learn skills and responsibilities while enjoying outdoor activities with family and friends.

Beginner courses, such as the MSF DirtBike School (www.dirtbikeschool.com), are great for learning the basics, but once you have those down, advanced training can help you take your riding to an entirely new level.

Below are sample programs for varying levels of skill and different applications. Search online to find an off-road school near you. Additional resources are at www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com > Riding > Dirt > Get Started.



BEGINNER/BASIC

Motorcycle Safety Foundation DirtBike School

www.dirtbikeschool.org

DirtBike School is a fun, one-day, hands-on training session available to anyone 6 years old or older. At approved training sites, MSF certified coaches teach basic riding skills and responsible riding, including risk management and environmental awareness.

ADVANCED RIDING/RACING

Rich Lafferty Racing

www.richlaffertyracing.com/riding-schools.html

The Lafferty schools cover off-road techniques for logs, turns, whoops, tight trails and more. Classes are tailored to the group or individual. Lafferty says he has taught riders as young as 7, but students 10 or 11 years old progress much more quickly.

The DirtWise Academy

www.shanewatts.com

The DirtWise Academy has worked with riders of every skill level, fitness level, ability and age. From one-day fundamentals training to a two-day hardcore class, students can learn drifting around flat turns, railing corner ruts, grinding and conquering logs, steep hills and ravines.

SPECIALIZED RACING

Raines Racing

www.rainesracing.com/Schools/NationalEnduroProgram.aspx

Raines Riding University has developed a unique program in correlation with the Rekluse National Enduro Series, allowing participants to race and ride on the same minute as Jason Raines, while using in-helmet communication devices and helmet cameras. Throughout the race, Raines offers instruction and guidance. After each race, riders will review video footage and discuss their progress in a group.

ADVENTURE CLASS RIDING

The World of RawHyde

www.rawhyde-offroad.com

Jim Hyde's RawHyde Rider Training Programs proclaim to provide both an adventure as well as training. The Adventure Camps are designed to not only challenge dual-sport riders' skills but teach students about many of the navigation, GPS, trail repairs and the latest in communication technology.