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Datum skickat: 10/08-12 06:50
Till: peter@payback.name
ämne: **your inquiry to the AMA**
Bifogade filer: Ameerican Motorcycling_8-1947.pdf (2 MB)

Hello Peter,

Thanks for your inquiry to the American Motorcyclist Association regarding the origin of the term "one-percenter."

From the earliest years of the AMA, the association has acknowledged the general sentiment -- shared by many groups and organizations -- that the negative actions of a few can reflect poorly on the many. For example, in an editorial accompaniment to the 1923 competition rulebook, the Competition Committee of the Motorcycle & Allied Trades Association, which became the AMA the following year, stated: "Because a small proportion of motorcycle riders violate the traffic regulations is no reason for considering them, as a class, fair game for persecution by officials."

However, while this and similar statements have been made on record over the years, the AMA has no documented evidence that the term "one-percenter" was made by the AMA or an AMA representative in reference to outlaw motorcyclists participating in what has become known as the 1947 Hollister rally, or that a reference to "99 percenters" was made regarding law-abiding motorcyclists who did not participate in the 1947 Hollister rally.

Although there is no record of the AMA coining the phrase(s) in question, the AMA certainly came out with both barrels blazing against what it called the "Hollister holocaust," writing "...the rank and file of motorcycle riders did not approve of the actions of a small minority." The AMA also blamed local "toughies" for being the root of the problem, rather than out-of-town motorcyclists who came for the hillclimbs and dirt track competition. (See the attached scan from the July 1947 issue.)

I hope this helps, please let me know if you have other questions.

Regards,

Pete terHorst