

MARK KRUGER OF SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS BEEN RIDING FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW: MORE THAN 26 years. In that span he has held eight Supersport titles competing with Suzuki Canada sponsorship in various Pacific Northwest club-racing championships. A factory and trades school-trained tech and service manager for multi-line dealer Richmond Motorsports, Kruger is also a lead instructor at Surrey-based Pacific Riding School. Like Muir, Remington and Ms. Hann, he too finds teaching brings a lot of personal satisfaction and appreciates providing a valuable service. Like the time PRS customized a bike to allow a slight woman less than five feet tall to participate. Kruger told her straight out, "If you want it, fight for it and I'll fight along with you." The woman successfully completed the course.

Another student that was exceptionally successful with a bit of additional afterhours coaching, was an 82-year-old man who had lost his wife of 53 years. While it took longer "teaching his muscles to do what they need to do" he was eager to take up scooter riding for enjoyment. Because Kruger did the instructing on his own time he looked forward to hanging out and hearing all the stories this older-than-average student had to share, some of which dated back to World War II.

As seriously as he takes his work Kruger also encourages students to make as many mistakes as they can within the controlled environment of a PRS class. He's confident the student riders are in good hands, and that being "allowed" to make mistakes takes the pressure off being a total novice. It's this measured approach to learning that sets the hook for a lifetime of riding pleasure.

"Their first ride, it builds massive amounts of confidence and we build on that," says Kruger.

IT WAS OVERWHELMINGLY EVIDENT AS I SPOKE WITH INSTRUCTORS ACROSS CANADA THAT THEY SIMPLY LOVE what they do. The enjoyment and pride they take watching their students transition through the stages—from fearful to excited to confident—is rewarding for all for them. During our discussions it was difficult for the instructors to shift gears and talk about themselves, as so much of their focus was on the students and the training programs they deliver. Humbly and with passion for motorcycling, these chief instructors do their best to give their best to each and every student who walks into their class. **B**

For nearly a decade now Canadian Biker has partnered with riding schools across the country to bring entertainment and information to the learning rider. Here's a list of some of our industry colleagues, hopefully located in a centre near you.

Riding schools near you:

Safety Services

Newfoundland
(709) 754-0210

Safety Services

New Brunswick
(506) 444-0176

Safety Services

Nova Scotia
(902) 454-9621

Humber College

M/C Training**
(416) 798-0300

Safety Services

Manitoba
(204) 949-1085

Saskatchewan

Safety Services
(306) 757-3197

Calgary Safety Council

(403) 287-2990

Pacific Riding School

(604) 878-6008

** (Humber is the largest training facility in Canada, with over 3,000 annual rider students and a fleet of 75 + training motorcycles.)

