

RIDE HARD RIDE SAFE

Enjoy the Ride and Be Responsible

Steve Grover

Ride Hard Ride Safe: Enjoy the Ride and Be Responsible

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INTRODUCTION

I'm a lawyer who enjoys riding motorcycles. But whether I'm in a hushed courtroom or roaring down the highway on my MV Agusta 800 RR Dragster, I encounter others who think people like me shouldn't be on the road. They have negative preconceptions about motorcycles and their place on the landscape.

Some people I've talked to think motorcyclists are dangerous. They even see them as enemies. It strikes me as odd that such divisive feelings are engendered by an activity with so much potential for unifying people from very different walks of life.

But then I remember how my parents felt.

My mother was worried when I said I wanted to start riding, and my dad, who was a doctor in Calgary, flat-out told me not to do it. Though he himself had been a biker—in the 1970s he bought a Yamaha 250cc—he gave up riding when he started a family. Working in a hospital, he saw first-hand what could happen to someone who

doesn't ride responsibly or simply becomes embroiled in an accident caused by someone else.

So for a while, I didn't ride. I satisfied my need for speed by skiing. Growing up in Calgary, which remains my home today, I was an hour and a half from some of the best ski resorts in the world. As a teenager, I skied every weekend. I still ski. I've always enjoyed the mountains.

As I grew older, however, I wanted something I could do in the summertime, an activity that, like skiing, would enable me to responsibly enjoy speed but that wouldn't require a covering of snow. So I looked into motorcycling. I thought bikes were cool. They looked really fast. I saw a lot of riders on the road, saw them enjoying life, socializing, meeting at cafes or shops. And I had clients who enjoyed riding even though they had been injured in motorcycling accidents. So I started asking around and decided to go for it. I got my Class 6 motorcycle license and never looked back.

In these pages, I hope to educate not only motorcyclists but also those who drive cars, buses or tractor-trailers. Motorcyclists, too, are human beings, and they have a right to the road; that's the message I want to convey to other motorists. But this book isn't a blanket apology for motorcyclists. It's an appeal to their better natures. For not only do they have rights, they have responsibilities. And *that's* the message I want to convey to *them*.

With this book, I hope to promote responsible motorcycling. But more than that, I hope to make the road safe—for everyone—because we all share it. And despite what some may think, that’s not a bad thing. On the contrary: The road can bring us together. It can bridge gaps and forge human connections even as each of us is coming from and going completely different places. We just have to be aware of our surroundings, drive responsibly and respect one another. If we do that, we can enjoy, collectively as well individually, the vast and exhilarating human pageant we call the open road.