



# Never too old

Veteran Scharfe just keeps on rolling

By Peter McLeod

**W**hen is enough? Enough of riding and racing motorcycles that is.

Ask yourself at what age you might give up riding, or if you already have, how old you were when you stopped. Ask this same question of Steve Scharfe and you might get a perplexed look behind a grin followed with laughter and Scharfe saying something like, “when both feet are in the grave...maybe!”

Scharfe is 57 years old, or young, however you want to look at it, and still winning races. He started riding “just a few years back” at the age of 16, on his family farm. A friend showed up one weekend with a Hodaka Ace 90 and asked Scharfe if he thought he could ride it. Steve replied “sure,” not knowing a thing about it. After a crash course in how-to-ride he took off leisurely down the road. On the way back he was on the gas, power shifting past the friend.

Scharfe started riding motocross when the rear suspension was two shocks, the seat was flat, the gas tank was steel and bikes were equipped with trusty cable operated drum brakes. During the seventies and eighties his family farm in Gatineau, QC had one of the leading motocross tracks in

the country and this was where he learned his skill in motocross. When winter set in he turned his attention to ice racing, where he excelled by winning races and holding titles. He still races on the ice each season.

The realities of family obligations, building a career and addressing life complexities in general meant racing was set aside until a few years ago, when Scharfe and his brother Hal were at an event watching ice racing. Steve said to Hal, “I could still do that” and the racing bug returned.

In 2005 Steve restarted racing in Supermoto at the age of 52, converting an older YZ250 two-stroke he used for ice racing with stock wheels, called a ‘sportsman’ set up. He went out and won races against younger riders with newer equipment and the preferred 17-inch wheel set up we regularly see today, taking the Lightweight title. He fol-

lowed that up in 2006 with a second in Semi-Pro on the same bike and set up.

Supermoto is one of those sports that will allow a competitor to get in, have fun and be competitive using their ‘old’ skills to maybe school a few younger riders.

After upgrading his equipment, Steve went faster. In 2007 he placed third in Semi-Pro 250, following that up in 2008 with a first in Semi-Pro 250 as the Canadian National champion and second in Vet 35.



Scharfe is in no hurry to slow down his Supermoto career.



Steve Scharfe (75) resurrected his racing career in 2005 at the age of 52.

PHOTOS BY HAL SCHARFE

His Vet win was hard fought against Fred Vegter, who earned the Rookie of the Year award. Vegter, by the way, is only a few years shy of Steve in age.

When the eight-race Supermoto series kicked off on April 25 on the Nelson circuit at Shannonville Motorsport Park, (which was also the first round of the Can-Am Series) Scharfe entered three different classes – SM2 250, Vet 35 and Open Amateur – on two different bikes. He usually runs a CRF250 but it was not ready in time so he had to settle for his back-up KTM 250 and his monster KTM 560SMR. An unfortunate mechanical issue had the 560 on the trailer after Saturday practice. But it had been brutally fast during practice!

Scharfe used the KTM250 for the day in all three classes, riding against mostly 450cc bikes. He took the win in SM2 250, nudging both converted road racers Colin Trevor and Broady Gavigan out of the top spot.

Scharfe didn’t fare as well against the 450s in Open Amateur and Vet 35.

So how long does Scharfe plan to stay racing?

“As long as I can,” he says, before referring to his racing number, 75. “Seventy-five, still alive and racing Supermoto.”

Scharfe is a veteran rider with fantastic skill and commitment to the sport. He is definitely competitive on the track and one of the most helpful and talkative guys off it, showing up for every event rain or shine.

### SMP SUPERMOTO SERIES / CAN-AM CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 1

Shannonville Motorsport Park  
Shannonville, ON  
Apr. 25, 2010

#### SMX Pro Open

1. Jesse Morgan; 2. Erik McAdam, Mississauga, ON; 3. Jason Hine

#### SMX Pro 450

1. Aaron McDonald, Codrington, ON (YAM); 2. Erik McAdam, Mississauga, ON; 3. Paul J. Rouillard, Baie-De-Febvre, QC (YAM)

#### SM1 Semi-Pro Open

1. Erik McAdam, Mississauga, ON (YAM)

#### SM1 AM Open

1. Andy Cule, Hamilton, ON (YAM); 2. Bart Bidzinski, Mississauga, ON (HON); 3. Kevin Kiddle, Stirling, ON (YAM); 4. Coeymans Fredezic

#### SM2 AM 250

1. Steve Scharfe, Wakefield, QC (KTM); 2. Colin Trevor, London, ON; 3. Broady Gavigan, London, ON (YAM); 4. Alex Scott, Thorold, ON (HON)

#### Open Amateur

1. Andy Cule, Hamilton, ON (YAM); 2. Chris Barendregt, Woodstock, ON (YAM); 3. Kevin Kiddle, Stirling, ON (YAM); 4. Patrick Earley; 5. Cameron Sutherland, Kitchener, ON (HON); 6. Mason Walton, Toronto, ON (YAM); 7. Bart Bidzinski, Mississauga, ON (YAM); 8. Sam Harris, Markham, ON (KTM); 9. Krys Nowakowski, Mississauga, ON (HON); 10. Jerrett Bellamy, Kitchener, ON (KTM); 11. Jason McDonald, Campbellford, ON (YAM); 12. Alex Scott, Thorold, ON (HON); 13. Steve Scharfe, Wakefield, QC (KTM); 14. Casey Kozlowski; 15. Fred Vegter, Utopia, ON

#### Veteran +35

1. Chris Barendregt, Woodstock, ON (YAM); 2. Tony Haines, Trenton, ON (HON); 3. Fred Vegter, Utopia, ON; 4. Steve Scharfe, Wakefield, QC (KTM)

#### Beginner

1. Krys Nowakowski, Mississauga, ON (HON); 2. Sam Harris, Markham, ON (KTM); 3. Tony Haines, Trenton, ON (HON); 4. Colin Trevor, London, ON; 5. Broady Gavigan, London, ON (HON); 6. Jeff Waddell, Mississauga, ON (HON); 7. Danielle Hine

#### Pro/Am Quad

1. Mathieu Robitaille