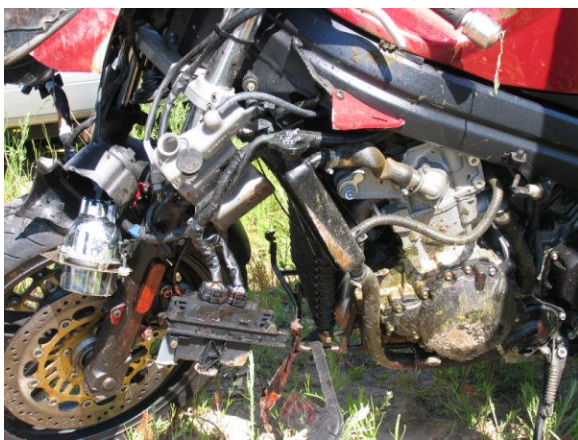


Quality Gear vs. Deer

A Presentation by Randy Klifman to the Michigan Motorcycle Safety Committee

My name is Randy Klifman, and **I AM HAPPY TO BE HERE**. I have been riding motorcycles for almost 40 years. Like many motorcyclists, I was not concerned with the use of safety equipment; but a few years ago, I became involved with the Motorcycle Safety Program with Ferris State University. As the program manager and a RiderCoach, I really bought into the importance of safety equipment.



On June 15, 2009,
I had an early morning
motorcycle/deer accident.

The crash totaled my bike
and broke five ribs, my
shoulder, and punctured
my lung.

The ER doctors were amazed that there were only a few external injuries; but when they saw the shredded $\frac{3}{4}$ length armored coat and the gouged full-face helmet that I was wearing, they said that the safety equipment reduced my hospital stay by several weeks, if not saved my life.

I am an advocate for proper gear (especially helmets). I practice braking and swerving, and I use the SEE method (SEE: search, evaluate, and execute) every time I ride. I had been accident-free for about thirty years, but some things you just cannot prepare for (like a deer running out of the swamp twenty feet in front of you and stopping). I know that I am one of the few who has survived this type of accident.



I would like to thank this board for fighting to keep the helmet law, and I thank the State of Michigan for offering motorcycle safety training classes. The law made it mandatory, and the safety training made it common sense. I would like to say that sometimes doing the unpopular thing is the right thing.

Thank you.