

CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?

Brothers and Sisters,

Since the NAMS Report (National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety) was published in the year 2000, the Federal Government uncovered something that we in the riding community have always known, namely that the primary cause of death for responsible motorcycle riders is “vehicles turning left into the path of the motorcycle, while failing to yield the ultimate right of way”. All of us deal with this issue on a daily basis, and many of us have had to attend unnecessary funerals to bury our Brothers and Sisters because automobile drivers keep breaking the law. It has become an accepted excuse for vehicular homicide, for automobile drivers to say “I didn’t see him/her”. To the point that when a pickup truck driver turned into the last of a group of seven bikes in January, the driver of the truck was allowed to go home and finish watching the Super Bowl, while the EMT’s scraped Gene’s body off the roadway. In my small county alone we have lost three riders in a ninety day period, all to the same scenario, “vehicles turning left into the path of the motorcycle, while failing to yield the ultimate right of way”. In all three of these cases, the drivers were not charged, some not even cited.

I have had enough of the excuses, and I am tired of burying my Brothers and Sisters, while automobile drivers are permitted to kill motorcycle riders, with no consequences. More importantly, little or nothing is being done to curb or stop “vehicles turning left into the path of the motorcycle, while failing to yield the ultimate right of way”. I have an idea, and I am looking for support from everyone in the motorcycle riding community. What I propose is that on July 31st, we make a statement across the entire State of Florida. Every newspaper, radio station, television station, at every dealership, every clubhouse and every accessory shop, to let the automobile drivers, law enforcement and the Legislature know that we want 3 things:

1. Pass legislation that clearly states that if you drive an automobile and “turn left into the path of the motorcycle, while failing to yield the ultimate right of way”, you will go to jail. Additionally you will have to perform 100-150 hours of community service “promoting motorcycle safety and awareness”.
2. Enact a law that requires all new drivers to successfully complete the classroom portion of our State approved motorcycle safety course.
3. Enact a law that adds the classroom portion of our State approved motorcycle safety course, to the curriculum of all court ordered defensive driving classes, and DUI classes, required for license suspension or revocation.

Please call me at 904-259-8600 or email me at hawgrider@nefcom.net , if you can and will support our project. We have many needs, and need many to make this venture successful.

Ride Safely,
Dennis Schmitz
904-259-8600