

Exponent®
Engineering & Scientific Consulting

Steve Garets

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Professional Profile

Stephen Garets is an expert in motorcycle safety, motorcycle operator standard of care, and motorcycle operator education, training, and licensing. Mr. Garets has been riding motorcycles since 1965 and has logged well over a half million motorcycling miles. He routinely evaluates actions taken, and not taken, by a crash-involved motorcyclist to analyze behavior leading up to a crash to determine whether and how it was timely, informed, and appropriate. He also identifies and evaluates other potentially contributing behavioral, environmental, or vehicular factors that may have affected the outcome. By thorough review of pertinent information, such as accident reports, witness statements, site inspection data, and motorcycle testing data, Mr. Garets assists his clients in understanding complex contextual factors surrounding motorcycling incidents. Mr. Garets is a seasoned testifier who develops opinions and effectively expresses them via detailed reports and clear testimony.

Mr. Garets performs motorcycle testing to determine vehicle performance capabilities and characteristics and routinely performs ride-throughs of crash scenes on exemplar motorcycles to assess the operator point of view and motorcycle performance. These ride-throughs are often instrumented and filmed to be later used to illustrate what the motorcycle operator would have seen, or would have been able to see and detect, to include the time and distance available for response. Respecting that vehicle and roadway features can contribute to motorcycle crashes, Mr. Garets analyzes and understands motorcycle performance characteristics and operator response skills. He can apply this knowledge to evaluate allegations of vehicle or roadway defects. Prior to joining Exponent, Mr. Garets engaged in motorcycle operator safety and standard of care consulting for his own consultancy, serving clients nationwide from 2011 to 2024. Mr. Garets directed the TEAM OREGON Motorcycle Safety Program from 1984 to 2016, serving the training and education needs of thousands of motorcyclists.

Academic Credentials & Professional Honors

SMSA Outstanding Contribution Award and the Ron Shepard Safety Recognition Award, Motorcycle Riders Foundation, September 2016

OSU Outreach and Engagement Award, August 2015

Champions Award, TEAM OREGON Motorcycle Safety Program, Nov. 2014

Featured on cover of American Motorcyclist Magazine – Aug. 2014
http://issuu.com/americanmotorcyclist/docs/0814_street_web_preview/1?e=0

OSU Excellence in Outreach Award, Jun. 2006

TEAM OREGON ranks first in best practices -Promising Practices in Motorcycle Rider Education and Licensing, NHTSA, Aug.2005 • Chairperson's Award, SMSA Conference, Aug. 2004

MSF Outstanding State Program Award, TEAM OREGON, 2000

Recipient, MSF Award of Excellence, 2000

MSF State Program Award of Merit, TEAM OREGON,1999

MSF Outstanding State Program Award, TEAM OREGON, 1996

Lifetime Achievement Award, TEAM OREGON, Nov.1996

FIM Certificate of Commendation May 1996

SMSA Certificate of Commendation, Aug.1994

MSF Outstanding State Program Award, TEAM OREGON, 1994

SMSA -Member, Executive Committee, 1984–1991; Chairperson 1986 –1988

John E. Harley Memorial Award, MSF, 1990

Prior Experience

GARETS CONSULTING LLC - May 2011–January 2024

Consultancy focusing on litigation matters, specializing in motorcycle safety standard of care, crash analysis and motorcycle/rider dynamics.

DIRECTOR, TEAM OREGON Motorcycle Safety Program at Oregon State University - May 1984 – 2016

TEAM OREGON is Oregon's statewide motorcycle safety program, administered by Oregon State University (OSU) under contract to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The enterprise consists of a network of 24 training locations with more than 200active instructors. Approximately 11,000 students annually complete one of TEAM OREGON's courses to learn safe and responsible motorcycling. Training programs available to the public are courses for beginning, intermediate, experienced, and advanced motorcyclists. TEAM OREGON also offers courses for advanced police motorcycle operation and safety. Duties included:

• Administering statewide motorcycle safety programs:

• Developing and/or approving rider training curricula for statewide use

• Administering sponsor and instructor recognition systems

• Administering instructor training and in-service training programs

• Developing and administering quality control systems

• Analyzing motorcycle accident and fatal data and identify causal factors

• Administering program budget and inventory

• Managing public affairs activities

• Developing and administering research activities

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY CONSULTANT July 1982 – January 2024.

Professional Affiliations

Member, NHTSA State Motorcycle Program Assessment, Texas, Feb. 2014

Communicator Award; Educational Package, OSU, 4-H, Feb. 2012

Member, System Users Group Executive Board, TRB, 2010-2012

Member, Expert Panel on Program Standards for Beginning Motorcycle Rider Training; Windwalker Corp. for NHTSA; Washington D.C., Sept. 2008

Member, NHTSA State Motorcycle Program Assessment, Indiana, Jun. 2008

Member, Expert Panel on Approaches to the Assessment of Initial Entry Motorcycle Training; Windwalker Corp. for NHTSA; Washington D.C., Apr. 2008

Member, Expert Panel, Strategic Plan -An Outlook for the Future; Cambridge Systematics for NHTSA Office of Behavioral Safety Research; D.C., Apr. 2008

Member, NHTSA State Motorcycle Program Assessment, Ohio, Oct. 2007

Chairperson, NHTSA State Program Assessment, Maryland, Dec. 2006

Chairman, TRB Motorcycle and Moped Committee (ANF30), 2006-2009; Member August 1988 - 2011

Co-Emphasis area manager -National Cooperative Highway Research Program, Motorcycle Safety Guide (NCHRP), TRB, 2004-2006

Chairperson, Driver Education Task Force –Administration; ODOT, 2000

Member, Oregon Governor's Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee,1987-1991

Member, Technical Working Group, National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety, Sept.1998 –Mar. 2001

Chairperson, MSF/SMSA Curriculum Advisory Committee, 1997 - 1998

Training Staff, North American Motor Officers Association, Apr. 1987 - 2002

Publications

Coelho, C.J., Bui, Y., Garets, S., & Krauss, D. (2026). Motorcycles. In Krauss, D. (Ed.), Forensic Aspects of Driver Perception and Response (pp. 143-154). 5th Edition. Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company.

Garets, S.B., Reichenberg, R., TEAM OREGON Advanced Braking Clinic, Aug. 2018

Garets, S.B., Hahn, P, eRider™ Basic and Intermediate Rider Training

Smith, T., Garets, S., & Cicchino, J., The Effect of Sight Distance Training on the Visual Scanning of Motorcycle Riders: A Preliminary Look, NHTSA Feb. 2013

Garets, S.B., Hahn, P, ATV Safety Education Program, OSU publication revision for OPRD, Mar. 2012

White, D., Garets, S.B., Oregon ATV Safety, Youth Rider Endorsement Program, OSU, 4-H Youth Development

Garets, S.B., Smith, T.A.,Research –The Effects of Sight Distance Training on Motorcycle Skills, NHTSA, Sept.2008-Jun.2010

Garets, S.B., Reichenberg, R., ATV Safety Education Program, OSU publication for OPRD, Dec.2008

Garets, S.B., Maintaining Safety in Numbers, Dirt and Street Magazine, Spring 2007

Garets, S.B., Maintaining Safety in Numbers, Eugene Register Guard, Jul.2006

Garets, S.B., Reichenberg, R., OHV Safety Statewide Assessment, OSU for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, May 2006

Garets, S.B., Rider Skills Practice Pocket Guide, Instructor Range Guide, OSU, Mar.2006

Garets, S.B., The Motorcycling Journey, Eugene Register Guard, Jul.2005

Garets, S.B., Pierce, R., Axmaker, S., Reichenberg, R.; Basic Rider Training(BRT) Range Guide, OSU for ODOT, Oct.2004

Garets, S.B., The Last Ride, Sport Rider Magazine, Dec.2004

Garets, S.B., The Last Ride, Motorcycle Cruiser Magazine, Apr. 2004

Garets, S.B., Pierce, R., Axmaker, S., Reichenberg, R.; Basic Rider Training(BRT) Rider's Guide; Instructor Guide, OSU for ODOT, Jan.2004

Garets, S.B., Basic Motor Officer Training, OSU for DPSST, Jan.2003

Garets, S.B., Pierce, R., Axmaker, S.; Forecasting the Future: A Manager's Guide to Program Health and Sustainability, SMSA, Aug.2002

Garets, S.B., School of Cool, Motorcycle Industry Magazine, Feb.1999

Garets, S.B., Arizona Motorcycle Safety Program Needs Assessment, Jun.1997

Garets, S.B., Advanced Rider Training curriculum, OSU, Mar.1996

Garets, S.B., High Speed Training for Motor Officers, Aug.1995

Garets, S.B., Columnist Forgets Lessons Learned from Rider Training, Corvallis Gazette-Times Guest Editorial, Jun.12, 1994

Garets, S.B., But Officer, I Didn't See the Motorcyclist, AAA Oregon Motorist, Mar.1994

Garets, S.B., The Future of Motorcycle Safety, MSF Safe Cycling, Winter 1991

Garets, S.B., TEAM OREGON Policies and Procedures Manual, OSU, Jan.1986, Revised 1/98, 1/01 6/04, 3/06, 3/07, 3/10, 4/11, 1/12, 1/13, 2/14.

Garets, S.B., Rauth, S.,The Oregon Motorcycle Safety Program: Alternative Strategies for Administration and Implementation, MSF, Mar.1984

Presentations

Coelho, C.J., Garets, S.B., Bailey, J.D., Frank, T.A., Cades, D.M., Human Factors Issues of Advanced Rider Assistance Systems (ARAS), International Conference of Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics, San Francisco, CA, Jun. 2023

Garets, S.B., Keynote Address, Chief Joseph Rally, BMW Riders of Oregon Jun. 2017

Garets, S.B., A Motorcycling Journey; Living Life in Balance, SMSA National Motorcycle Safety Symposium; Future Motorcycling, Portland, OR, Oct. 2016

Garets, S.B., Future of Rider Education, Instructor Support and Retention: Using a Distributed Leadership Matrix; SMSA National Motorcycle Safety Symposium, Baltimore, MD, Oct. 2015

Garets, S.B., Being Data Driven; Building Stable and Sustainable Programs; Investing in Rider Education Ranges, SMSA National Motorcycle Safety Symposium, Baltimore, MD, Sept. 2014

Garets, S.B., Eye Tracking Research, Lifesavers 2014, Nashville, TN, Apr. 2014

Garets, S.B., Eye Tracking Research, SMSA Summit, Kansas City, MO, Aug. 2013

Garets, S.B., A Motorcycling Journey; Living Life in Balance, OSU Journey into Leadership Program, Corvallis, OR, 2012-2020

Garets, S.B., ABS and the Urban Myths of Braking, SMSA Conference, Billings, MT, Aug.2008

Garets, S.B., Impaired Motorcycling, The Next Big Issue; GHSA Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, Sept.2007

Garets, S.B., Training and Licensing, National Transportation Safety Board Public Forum on Motorcycle Safety, Washington D.C., Sept.2006

Garets, S.B., Motorcycle Safety, an Oxymoron With an Attitude, Portland State University, Transportation Safety Center, Portland, OR, Apr.2006

Garets, S.B., Motorcycle Rider Training Research and Curriculum Development, Washington Governor's Task Force on Motorcycle Safety, Olympia, Apr.2006

Garets, S.B., Facilitating Understanding Through Guided Discussion, Idaho Department of Education, Motorcycle Safety Conference, Boise, Dec.2005

Garets, S.B., Motorcycle Rider Training Research and Curriculum Development, Washington Department of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycle Safety Conference, Shelton, WA. Feb. 2005 and Moses Lake, WA Mar.2005

Garets, S.B., Motorcycle Rider Training Research and Curriculum Development, Idaho Department of Education, Motorcycle Safety Conference, Boise, Dec. 2004

Garets, S.B., Motorcycle Rider Training and Licensing; National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety, NHTSA Regional Motorcycle Safety Conference, Lake George, NY, Dec.2004

Garets, S.B., The Future of Rider Education, Meeting of the Minds Conference, St. Louis, MO, Sept. 2004

Garets, S.B., Route to Safer Motorcycling, Oregon Judicial Education Conference, Hood River, OR, Apr.2004

Garets, S.B., Forecasting the Future: A Manager's Guide to Program Health and Sustainability, Lifesavers

2004, San Diego, CA, Mar.2004.

Garets, S.B., National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety, Wisconsin Motorcycle Safety Conference, Madison, WI, Mar.2004

Garets, S.B., Forecasting the Future: A Manager's Guide to Program Health and Sustainability, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Washington, D.C., Jan.2003

Garets, S.B., Pierce, R., Axmaker, S., Forecasting the Future: A Manager's Guide to Program Health and Sustainability, Professional Development Workshop, SMSA Conference, Boise, ID, Aug.2002

Garets, S.B., Keynote Address -The Evolution of Motor Officer Training, NAMOA Conference, Keizer, OR, May 2002

Garets, S.B., National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety, Oregon Transportation Safety Conference, Bend, OR, Oct.2001

Garets, S.B., National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety, SMSA Conference, Reno, NV, Aug.2001

Garets, S.B., Quality Assurance, What It Is and How To Get it; Advanced Rider Training, Intermediate Rider Training, International Motorcycle Safety Conference, Orlando, FL, Mar.2001

Garets, S.B., Facilitating Understanding Through Guided Discussion, Boston, MA, Feb.2001

Garets, S.B., National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety, TRB, Washington, D.C., Jan.2001

Garets, S.B., Facilitating Understanding Through Guided Discussion, MD Motorcycle Safety Instructor Training, Baltimore, MD, Mar.2000

Garets, S.B., National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety, Lifesavers 17, Seattle, WA, Mar.1999

Garets, S.B., State and National Issues in Motorcycle Safety, TRB, Washington D.C., Jan.1998

Garets, S.B., Improving Motorcycle Safety Through Education and Enforcement, Oregon Department of Transportation Safety Conference, Springfield, Oct.1997

Garets, S.B., Experienced Rider Training in the United States, Fédération Internationale Motocycliste Symposium on Experienced Rider Training, Luxembourg, May 1996.

Garets, S.B., Systematic Training and Evaluation of Motor Officers; Skills and Strategies for Riding Safely at High Speed, NAMOAAnnual Conference, Springfield, OR, Apr.1996

Garets, S.B., Quality Control Systems for Rider Training Programs, SMSA Conference, Portland, OR, Aug.1994

Garets, S.B., The Problems of Drinking and Riding in the United States, National Commission Against Drunk Driving Young Driver -Legal Drinker Hearing, Portland, OR, May 1994

Garets, S.B., Motorcycle Rider Training Schemes in United States, People to People International Transportation Safety and Driver Education Delegation, Ministry of Education, Moscow, Russia, Sept.1993

Garets, S.B., Tact, Diplomacy and Discrimination in Rider Training Programs, SMSA Conference, San Diego, CA, Aug.1993

Garets, S.B., Designing Comprehensive Motorcycle Safety Programs, Lifesavers 9 National Conference

on Highway Safety Priorities, Charlotte, NC, May 1991

Garets, S.B., Motorcycle Safety Issues in Highway Engineering, Construction and Maintenance, OSU Engineering Short Course, Corvallis, OR, Feb.1991

Project Experience

Mr. Garets' project experience includes motorcycle rider education and training; instructor selection, training and supervision; motorcycle safety program administration; motorcycle operator licensing improvement and examiner training; motorcycle training curriculum development; motorcycle crash analysis; motorcycle safety expert witnessing; and motorcycle research and evaluation.