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High Gas Prices this Memorial Day Attract Motorcyclists

DES MOINES, Iowa – May 23, 2006 – High gas prices will not discourage a record number of Americans from traveling this Memorial Day weekend, according to AAA. An estimated 37.6 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home this holiday, nearly a one percent increase from last year. While travelers are not giving up on their getaway plans, many will combat the high cost of fuel by traveling on motorcycles.

“Motorcyclists everywhere will be taking advantage of the long weekend to kick off their riding season,” says Steve Rector, ABATE of Iowa State Coordinator. “Sky-high gas prices make motorcycles an attractive alternative for travel, and you can be sure they’ll be more visible this holiday.”

Holiday travelers will find gas prices nationwide currently averaging \$2.88 for a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline—up more than 75 cents from this time last year.

With the increase in traffic, ABATE of Iowa urges all motorists and motorcyclists to remain alert and to take all necessary safety precautions when traveling this weekend. According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, motorists often don’t think to look for motorcycles, occasionally resulting in a collision. The majority of accidents occur because motorists fail to yield for motorcyclists, often because they are distracted.

“Vacationers are generally worried about a million other things beyond the road, which turns into a dangerous situation for riders,” says Rector. “If riders and drivers keep their focus away from distractions and remember to share the road, travel will be a much safer endeavor for everyone.”

For more information on ABATE’s education and safety efforts, visit www.abateiowa.org or call 641-858-5001.

ABATE (A Brotherhood Aimed Toward Education) of Iowa is a not-for-profit motorcycle rights organization for motorcycle enthusiasts throughout the state of Iowa. Its thousands of Iowa members comprise 23 districts around the state. ABATE promotes safe riding habits, encourages favorable legislation for motorcyclists and keeps its members, motorcyclists and the public informed of important motorcycle and safety issues. For more information on ABATE visit www.abateiowa.org.

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