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Motorcyclists of All Ages Need a Safety Education Course ***ABATE of Iowa Offers Driving Tips for Beginner and Comeback Riders***

DES MOINES, IOWA – July 17, 2006 – Riders planning to hit the road for the first time this summer, or the first time in 20 years, are a risk to themselves, other riders and drivers if they don't first participate in a motorcycle rider-training course. While beginners need the course to practice and develop fundamental riding tips, comeback riders should utilize the safety course as an essential review.

Riders who ignore the need for safety training and rely on family members, friends or riding skills they learned 20 years ago are at a higher risk for accidents. Research shows that over 90 percent of motorcycle riders involved in accidents were self-taught or learned from family or friends.

To aid in decreasing the number of untrained riders on the road, ABATE of Iowa recommends all riders take a safety course like the ABATE-sponsored Basic Rider Course. Through this course, riders will develop and expand on basic turning and swerving techniques as well as mental skills, such as developing street riding strategies.

ABATE of Iowa also encourages riders at all levels of experience to abide by the following safety guidelines.

Safe Driving Tips

- Practice. Develop your riding techniques before going into heavy traffic. Feel comfortable riding in a variety of conditions – carrying cargo, inclement weather, slick roads and uneven surfaces.
- Read your owner's manual. It tells you how to operate, maintain and diagnose problems with your motorcycle. Also, carry the owner's manual and recommended tools and spare parts on your motorcycle.
- Give yourself space and time to respond to other motorists' actions and give other motorists time and space to respond to you.
- Young and inexperienced riders should avoid carrying passengers.

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.