

# Maine Operation Lifesaver

## Quarterly Newsletter

April 2007

Additional Information

is available at

[www.MaineOL.org](http://www.MaineOL.org)

[www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)

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**OPERATION  
LIFESAVER**



Twenty Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteers attended a three-hour refresher course on March 29<sup>th</sup> in Portland. Of prime importance was updating presenters and associates on the basics of presentations including the do's (starting a presentation with a statement which grabs the audience) and don'ts (specifying a particular incident in a presentation). The program was led by presenter trainers Bob Davids and Mike Grizkewitsch. A similar refresher for those in central and northern Maine will be held at a place and date to be announced.



"...Maine Operation Lifesaver has come up with one of the best ideas I've seen to get safety tips into kids' hands," writes *Trains* magazine's Kathi Kube in the May 2007 issue, referring to our railroad trading cards. That's high praise from the publication with 250,000 subscribers. In the quarter page recognition, Maine O/L's website and mailing address are also given to order a 12-card set for small shipping and handling fee. Ms. Kube adds, "It's a great idea, brilliant in its simplicity and reach."

It doesn't look any different, but Maine Operation Lifesaver's caboose education unit will roll its way to numerous 2007 events with new axles and tires. The repairs were recommended after a bent axle was noticed late last year. The new axles will sustain the caboose's weight better, making it safer to move from one event to another. The project was financed through grants from Operation Lifesaver, Inc. and the Verizon Foundation.

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\* Recognizing law enforcement for its contribution to rail-  
\* road safety was the reason behind surprising recently-  
\* retired Knox County Sheriff Daniel Davey with a plaque  
\* from Maine Operation Life-  
\* saver. Davey's deputies have  
\* been proactive over the years  
\* working with the Maine East-  
\* ern Railroad and Operation  
\* Lifesaver enforcing rail tres-  
\* pass and crossing regulations.  
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\* Pictured Sheriff Daniel Davey  
\* holding plaque, Fred Hirsch Maine OL State Coordinator and  
\* Jon Shute Maine Eastern Railroad.  
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There was a significant Maine Operation Lifesaver presence earlier this year at the Amherst Railway Society's giant train show in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Among those attending were Jamie and Margo Robinson, Mike Grizkewitsch, Fred Hirsch, and Don McKay. Maine O/L helped staff the Operation Lifesaver booth, supplied railroad trading cards as giveaways and displayed one of its operating model train sets. Among those also helping out behind the table were (pictured) Jonathan Robinson (r) and Kyle Grizkewitsch (l).



Determining that monthly meetings require substantial travel time, it's been agreed that conference calls be held in between in-person quarterly meetings. All volunteers will be notified of dates, times and a phone number to maximize participation on agenda items.

### Here's where we've been recently.

We stand ready to deliver the railroad safety message statewide.

E-mail: [info@maineol.org](mailto:info@maineol.org) or call 207-827-7367

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Auburn Recreation Department                    | Hermon Middle School        |
| Auburn Mall Spring Fair                         | Lisbon Falls Baptist Church |
| Driving Forces, Portland                        | Milford Snowmobile Club     |
| Central Maine Power, Skowhegan                  | Fairview Elementary, Auburn |
| Maine State Museum Trains Exhibit, Augusta      |                             |
| Woolwich, Wiscasset, W. Bath fire departments   |                             |
| Western Maine Truck Driving School, South Paris |                             |
| Center Drive Elementary School, Orrington       |                             |
| Lucas Tree Experts/Central Maine Power, Augusta |                             |
| Whitefield Lions Train Show, Augusta            |                             |
| McLaughlin Foundation Trains/Trees, South Paris |                             |

### Briefly...

- Look for Maine O/L this year at rail-themed venues including narrow gauge railroads and museums, coinciding with special events happening at those sites.
- Those interested in becoming a certified presenter in the southern half of Maine can attend a presenter training course to be held Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Pease International Tradeport in nearby Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Contact Maine Operation Lifesaver for details.
- It's been agreed to spend a \$1500 grant from Operation Lifesaver, Inc. to help defray costs to those wishing to attend the Region 1 conference on July 8-11 in Burlington, Vermont. If interested in attending, contact Maine Operation Lifesaver.