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Maine Operation Lifesaver

Quarterly Newsletter

April 2008



Five new volunteers have recently completed the Operation Lifesaver presenter certification course held at the offices of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad in Auburn. Conducted by trainers Mike Grizkewitsch and Norma Griffiths, new presenters in the accompanying picture are front row (L to R): Muriel Oakes, State Coordinator Fred Hirsch, Harvey Boatman; second row (L to R): Mike Lee, Gary Briggs, and Jay Calnan.



Visitors to Maine Operation Lifesaver's outdoor displays will be drawn to the rail safety exhibit by our new tent which will also shield guests from the wind, sun, and rain showers. The tent will also serve as cover for our model train sets, giveaways, and portable TV which shows rail safety videos. Plans are to have a mural painted on one side of the tent to attract even more attention.



Ask and... Who knew? There's a Maine Professional Photographers Association as Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteer Mike White found out after his daughter was viewing a photo studio's disturbing high school senior portrait sampling which included graduates standing on railroad tracks. Mike tracked down the MPPA and Executive Director Mark Haskell e-mailed back, "Thank you for your concern. Sometimes when being "creative," photographers do push the limits," promising to include a rail safety message in its next newsletter. In a related matter, Maine Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator Fred Hirsch fired off a letter recently to Bangor Daily News Executive Editor Mark Woodward after a picture of a woman standing in the middle of railroad tracks was published in the paper and appeared on the Bangor Daily News's website homepage. There was no word whether Woodward shared the letter with his photojournalists as was requested.

Congratulations to Maine O/L volunteer Norma Griffiths who in April completed an intensive four-day presenter trainer training course in Portland. Norma, who appears front and center in this group graduation shot, was among nine Operation Lifesaver certified presenters from around the United States who convened in Maine's largest city for the course. She now joins fellow Mainers Bob Davids and Mike Grizkewitsch in being qualified to train new volunteers to become certified presenters.



Maine native and the Federal Railroad Administration's Dick Towle of Foxboro, Massachusetts drove north for a presentation to Scarborough area first responders and took time to pose with Scarborough Fire Department officers following a presentation there recently.



Here's where we've been recently.

We stand ready to deliver the railroad safety message statewide.

E-mail: info@maineol.org or call 207-827-7367

Forest Hills School, Jackman	Waldo County Healthcare Fair, Belfast
Riverton School, S. Portland	United Bikers of Maine, Waterville
Pace Driving School, S. Portland	Orono Public Safety Day
Scarborough Fire & Police	Fish & Wildlife ATV Course, Orland
Readfield Area School Bus Drivers	Sanford Train Show
W. Maine Truck Drivers School, S. Paris	Bethel Fire Department
NewPage Mill Safety Fair, Rumford	Fairfield Adult Education Driving School

Briefly...

- Darry Nile has been elected as treasurer of Maine Operation Lifesaver succeeding Ken Strout; Jon Shute has been elected as a director and Jamie Robinson assumes chairmanship of Maine Operation Lifesaver from Norma Griffiths.
- The Verizon Foundation has awarded its third \$750 grant in as many years to Maine Operation Lifesaver. The grant is made based on Verizon employee and Maine Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator Fred Hirsch's hours of volunteer service.