

# Maine Operation Lifesaver

## Quarterly Newsletter

### January 2007

Additional Information  
is available at  
[www.maineol.org](http://www.maineol.org)  
[www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)  
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**Seventeen Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteers**, their spouses, and friends braved a rainy, blustery October day to attend Maine Operation Lifesaver's annual recognition lunch at Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston. Besides the good food and company, hundreds of dollars in prizes including an Amtrak round trip to Boston, clothing, gift certificates, and railroad memorabilia were handed out. Presenter trainer Mike Grizkewitsch led the training portion of the event. Before returning to the elements outside, everyone gathered for a group picture.

**Four new presenters were added to Maine O/L's roster** in December following a day-long training program held at the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway offices in Hermon. They include from left: Barry Knowles, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway; Gary Johnson, Maine Central Railroad (retired); OL Chair Norma Griffiths; Bill Goldthwait, security specialist (retired); Dan Stewart, Hampden Police; and Presenter/Trainer Bob Davids. The four bring to more than three dozen certified presenters throughout the state.



**Thirty-four requests for educational material or presentations** were requested at November's two-day New England Traffic and Safety Educators Association conference in South Portland. The program brought together more than 200 attendees including driver education school operators and highway safety officials. The event was chaired by Maine O/L volunteer Venus Nappi of Portland, who owns Pace Driving School. Other volunteers staffed our display including Len Mulligan of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority seen in the picture speaking with Nadine Molloy-Tingley of the Safety and Health Council of Northern New England.



**A new digital video camera and tripod** have been accepted by Maine O/L from Operation Lifesaver, Inc. The camera replaces a much older VHS camera which had been out of service for several years. The new camera will primarily be used to record new presenters as part of their training so they can take home a recording for critique purposes. The unit will also be used for various other Operation Lifesaver activities such as safety awareness trips.

#### Briefly...

-Welcome Operation Lifesaver, Inc.'s new president Helen Sramek, who took over CEO duties in Alexandria, Virginia on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Helen, who most recently was the American Automobile Association's Director of Federal Relations, takes over the reins from Gerri Hall, who has been President since 1995.

-Volunteer Bill Comeau has retired from the Amtrak Police Department after a long career in railroad law enforcement. Bill, who promises to continue his work with Maine O/L, was most recently assigned to Amtrak's Downeaster between Portland and Boston.

-The Maine Eastern Railroad's recent Halloween and Christmas trains were full of children who were treated to Maine O/L coloring books during the trips.

-As part of Operation Lifesaver presentations, selected Maine driver education students recently filled out surveys about railroad crossing safety. The questionnaires will be used along with comments from several other states' driver ed students in developing a new rail safety video to be rolled out in 2007.

**Though the Maine Operation Lifesaver caboose** is now hibernating through the winter, its last appearance took on a festive mood. The caboose was pulled through Rockland's Festival of Lights Parade in early December. Thanks to the people at the Maine Eastern Railroad, the unit was adorned with strings of lights to fit the parade theme.



**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

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|---|------------------------------------|
| • Auburn Mall Fair                                | • Bath Fire Department Open House  |
| • Martel School, Lewiston                         | • Maine DOT Safety Day, Farmington |
| • Children's Museum, Bangor                       | • Fort Kent, Madawaska Police      |
| • Mactec Engineering, Portland                    | • Wal-Mart, Waterville             |
| • Scarborough Fire Dept.                          | • Waterville Junior High School    |
| • Brunswick Fire Dept. Open House                 | • Topsham Police                   |
| • Great Falls Model RR Show, Auburn               | • Sappi Paper, Hincley             |
| • Maine Health/Safety Conf., Augusta              | • Penquis Valley MS Milo           |
| • Hannaford Bros. Health Fair, Bangor             |                                    |
| • Eastern ME Model RR Show, Brewer                |                                    |
| • Common Ground Fair Shuttle Train, Unity         |                                    |
| • NE Traffic/Safety Educators Assn., S. Portland  |                                    |
| • WCSH-TV Teen Driving Challenge, S. Portland     |                                    |
| • Maine Eastern RR Halloween Train, Rockland      |                                    |
| • Maine Transportation Safety Coalition, Portland |                                    |