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Maine Operation Lifesaver Quarterly Newsletter

July 2011



Thirty-eight members of law enforcement and emergency dispatchers from the Topsham-Brunswick area participated recently in a day-long Grade Crossing Crash Investigation course. Among those leading the course were the Federal Railroad Administration's Dick Towle and Mike Grizkewitsch, Amtrak detec-

tive Mike Lee, and Maine Operation Lifesaver's Norma Griffiths. Sonia Moeller of the Brunswick Police and another O/L volunteer assisted in recruiting class attendees. Besides classroom learning, the Maine Eastern Railroad provided equipment in Bath so participants could get a close look at workings of a locomotive and rolling stock.



Maine Eastern Railroad's Adam Lombardo describes important parts of a locomotive as part of the GCCI course.

After a near-incident along a Maine rail line, a request by the Maine Department of Conservation to reach out to fifteen snowmobile and ATV clubs in western Maine has been made. Letters were sent by Maine Operation Lifesaver suggesting our presenters are available for a free program on staying off and away from private railroad property.

Maine's biggest county, Aroostook, with 240 miles of active rail lines, has been a tough nut to crack in terms of having Operation Lifesaver presence. Recently, newspapers, radio, and TV have announced our intention to better serve Aroostook with new volunteers. We've had some success and soon will be holding a presenter training session for prospective new presenters. Stay tuned for how successful our efforts are.

So why would two Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteers drive nearly two and one half hours to do a presentation at a school with only 16 students? For one thing, the school is in Vanceboro where Eastern Maine Railway trains regularly stop for a customs check before or after they cross the international border. Secondly, it was to meet with Lorrie Johnston and Carl Hickey who are both Operation Lifesaver presenters and employees of the Eastern Maine and New Brunswick Southern railways. After visiting Vanceboro, Norma Griffiths and Fred Hirsch crossed the border and joined Lorrie, Carl, and NB O/L director Robb Francis for a traffic blitz at Milltown, NB.



from left: New Brunswick Operation Lifesaver's Lorrie Johnston, Maine O/L's Norma Griffiths and Fred Hirsch, and Carl Hickey also representing NB O/L.



Volunteer Bill Soule and family participating in the Bangor July 4th parade.

Maine Operation Lifesaver visuals grace each side of the caboose.



Taking hold of a money-making opportunity, Maine Operation Lifesaver has been invited to fill a passenger coach on each of two Maine Eastern Railroad excursion trains. Maine O/L will retain all fares on the first run Sunday, September 25 and half the receipts on Saturday, October 1. Seats are available at fares 30 percent off regular prices. Contact Maine O/L to book your seats.

In Briefly...

- Volunteer Andrew Eckman has been away from home, but not on vacation. Andrew works at the Topsham office of the American Red Cross and has been helping tornado victims in Joplin, Missouri.
- Registration is on for the 2011 Operation Lifesaver Region 1 Workshop being held September 21-23 in Saco. The \$75 fee is waived for Maine O/L volunteers and spouses as is one night's overnight stay. Send in your registration form or call 945-6878 for more information.
- Maine's newest railroad, the Maine Northern, has taken over 240 miles of track primarily in Aroostook County. Maine Northern is a sister railroad to Eastern Maine Railway, both owned by New Brunswick Southern.



We stand ready to deliver the railroad safety message statewide.

E-mail: info@maineol.org or Call 207-945-6878



Where We've Been -- April 17-June 10

Curtis Driving School, Rumford
 P&M Driving School, S. China (2x)
 Saco Middle School
 Wiscasset High School Driver Ed.
 Vanceboro School
 Grade Crossing Crash Investigation course, Topsham
 Meroby School, Mexico

Maine Emergency Management Conference, Augusta
 470 Railroad Club, Westbrook
 Maine Driver Education Association Conference, Bangor
 Brunswick Boy Scouts
 Roadside Blitz, Saint Stephen, New Brunswick
 American Public Works Assn. Conference, Skowhegan
 Scarborough Middle School Safety Fair

Glenburn School Safety Fair
 Topsham Train Show
 National Train Day, Bath and Bangor
 Mildred Day School, Arundel
 Orrington Fire Department
 Auburn Library
 Rumford Elementary