



**OPERATION
LIFESAVER®**

Look, Listen & Live

Maine Quarterly Newsletter

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The Maine Transportation Safety Coalition recently awarded Maine Operation Lifesaver one of its Transportation Safety Champion Awards recognizing our group for its education efforts along the Portland-Brunswick rail corridor. Though the award notes it goes to O/L State Coordinator Fred Hirsch, most of the three dozen Operation Lifesaver volunteers had a hand in speaking with thousands of adults and children about



safely crossing railroad tracks and bringing awareness to the dangers of rail trespassing. The 18-month effort was in anticipation Amtrak's extension to Brunswick. Even today, several driver education schools continue to invite our presenters to speak with their students.

Operation Lifesaver Regional Work-Shop: Mystic, Ct. – September 16-18

Nearly two dozen members of law enforcement and related agencies boarded a Maine Northern Railway train for a refresher on the dangers at rail crossings and trespassing on railroad right of way.



Maine Northern Railway safety officials and Operation Lifesaver volunteers Lorrie Johnston (left) and Norma Griffiths discuss rail safety with a Caribou police officer during a recent Officer on the Train excursion.

Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteer Norma Griffiths and her Canada O/L and New Brunswick Southern Railway counterpart Lorrie Johnston hosted the late May trip between Presque Isle and Squa Pan. The trip was the first such Officer on the Train event in Aroostook County in more than a decade when the former Bangor & Aroostook Railroad hosted a similar Operation Lifesaver ride for the media and law enforcement.

With driver ed classes being one of the most important presentations, Maine O/L continues to add driving schools visited regularly. Among the more recent schools educating students on rail crossing safety include Auburn Driving School, NTI-Scarborough (truck driving), Mullen's Driving School in Windham, and KMD Driving School in Oakland.

Briefly...

-Congratulations to presenter Jason Worcester. He has taken a new position as Assistant General Chairman of the United General Committee of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen.

-Once again this summer, volunteer Tom Coulombe was off to Virginia to attend the National Boy Scout Jamboree. He helps in counseling Scouts toward earning their railroad merit badge.

Maine is one of twelve states receiving an Operation Lifesaver grant from the Federal Railroad Administration in its latest round of rail safety awards. Our approved grant is to produce 25,000 copies of a sticker puzzle. When 12 questions about railroad trespassing are answered correctly, 12 pieces of a puzzle are in place to produce a color picture of Amtrak's Downeaster. The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, operator of the Downeaster, partnered in obtaining the \$5,000 grant as did Operation Lifesaver in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The puzzles, now at the printer, should be available for distribution in August.

Maine Operation Lifesaver assisted in educating 60 eighth-grade students participating in "Aroostook Survivor." Sponsored by The Aroostook Medical Center in Presque Isle, the students spent a week learning about all facets of medicine. At the end of the week, they were divided into several teams and dispatched to a train-vehicle "collision" with numerous injuries where they



Students are tested on their emergency response skills during a mock incident after a week of study through The Aroostook County Medical Center in Presque Isle.

performed first responder and triage duties. Maine Operation Lifesaver provided educational material about safety measures which need to be taken at railroad crossings.

Visit Maine Operation Lifesaver's Facebook page.

71 "likes"...and counting!

Where we've been April 26-July 1, 2013

- Maine Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association conference, Portland
- Ron Fox Driving School, Fairfield
- Arnie's Driving School, Portland
- National Train Day, Brunswick, Portland, Bangor
- Real School, Falmouth



At the Maine Dairy Council-sponsored School Wellness Conference, Dick Clark trekked northwest to the Sugarloaf resort and made contacts with many school officials.

- Scarborough Middle School
- Officer on the Train, Presque Isle
- Brunswick High School driver ed (2x)
- Eagle Lake Elementary
- Vacationland Driving School, Falmouth (2x)
- Can-Do Driving School, Brunswick
- Bert's Driving School, Pittsfield
- Proper Turn Driving School, Westbrook (2x)
- KMD Driving School, Oakland
- Easton Elementary
- Bangor Mall
- Winslow Boy Scouts
- Saco/Biddeford first responders
- Bair's Driving School, Hermon, Bangor (2x)
- Indie Driving School, Falmouth
- NTI, Bangor (2x)
- Hobo Holiday, Auburn
- Deazy Driving School, Boothbay Harbor
- Auburn Driving School
- Greenville Fire Department

