



**OPERATION
LIFESAVER®**

Look, Listen & Live

Maine Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 1

March 2015

Events highlight a safe rail ed start in 2015

It's still early in the year, but Maine Operation Lifesaver has already participated in several events with exhibits and activities. Among them was the Whitefield Lions train show and the 3-Railers train show, both in Augusta on different days and locations; the Sea Road School in



In February, Paula Adam and Diana Forsyth staff the first of many displays in 2015.

Kennebunk; and monthly family nights at Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston. Maine O/L logs two dozen or more similar events annually throughout the state.

How about attending the Region 1 conference?

The Operation Lifesaver Region 1 conference is Monday, October 5 – Wednesday, October 7 at the Tropicana in Atlantic City. The Maine delegation – including you – will likely get full or partial free passage on Amtrak. Registration cost will be waived as will at least one night's stay, maybe more depending on how many attend. More to come.

Early 2015 rail safety media coverage

A train-vehicle crash in March precipitated a call from a Portland TV station for comment. Volunteer Maurice Fortin spoke for Maine O/L (see our Facebook page for the WMTW-TV report). Meanwhile, a common line included in many reports on crashes is "There were no gates at the crossing," the implication, perhaps, that the incident may have been prevented if gates were part of the crossing. Such a line was included in a recent *Portland Press Herald* story and Maine O/L responded with a published letter to the editor clarifying. Also, Maine O/L has written an article for *Ride Maine*, the premier motorcycle riding magazine, which will be published soon.

New look for OLI homepage

Operation Lifesaver, Inc. has a fresh look at www.oli.org.

OPERATION LIFESAVER
Rail Safety Education

ABOUT US · NEWS, EVENTS, STATISTICS · EDUCATION RESOURCES · PUBLIC AWARENESS · TRAINING & VOLUNTEERS · BLOG

About every 3 hours, a person or vehicle is hit by a train.

Operation Lifesaver is working to change people's behavior around railroad tracks and crossings with the national public awareness campaign, **See Tracks? Think Train!**

RAIL CROSSING SAFETY · PEDESTRIAN SAFETY · PASSENGER RAIL / TRANSIT SAFETY

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Why We're Here

Our mission is to end collisions, deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade crossing and on rail property through a nationwide network of volunteers who work to educate people about rail safety.

News
Jan 6, 2014
[Operation Lifesaver Programs Convene for Biennial Workshop](#)
Jan 6, 2014
[Operation Lifesaver, Inc. 2013 Annual Report Details Programs and Partnerships](#)
[See All News](#)

We Need Your Help
Become a Volunteer
We're spreading the message about train safety and need your help.
Follow Us
on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram

Quicklinks
Here are links to some of our most popular pages.
 > Safety Tips > Videos
 > View Stats > Real Stories
 > Info for Kids > OL Store
 > See Tracks? Think Train! > School Bus Driver e-Learning

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Briefly...

-Thanks to Pan Am's Gordon Riordon, who authored an article on Maine Operation Lifesaver in the railroad's most recent *Pan Am Clipper* magazine.
-Congratulations to long time volunteer Norma Griffiths, who has landed the position of regional trespass/crossing safety manager for the Federal Railroad Administration. Covering all of New England, she must live outside Maine, but promises to help out when possible.
-Gary Briggs of the Downeast Scenic Railroad has been elected as a Maine Operation Lifesaver director. Jeff Pitcher of Maine DOT has been reelected as director and Fred Hirsch is reelected as state coordinator.

Behind the scenes: Dick Clark

When a DVD needs distribution to fellow volunteers to play at presentations or exhibits, Maine O/L looks to Dick Clark in Greene. Dozens of "Imagine" driver ed DVDs have been given away at driver education



Dick Clark at work making DVD copies
conferences, thanks to Dick. Some work is done at home, but with multiple copies, Dick is given permission to use the facilities at WGLT TV7, which covers the towns of Wales, Greene, Leeds, and Turner.

See more public service announcements and ads along with other information when visiting www.SeeTracksThinkTrain.org.

Two long-time volunteers resign

Bob Davids and Armand LeBlanc are familiar names to Maine Operation Lifesaver and have decided to move on. Bob, a former FRA track inspector, has posted decades with O/L and has retired making more time for his involvement with the Lions Club, Mayo Regional Hospital, partnering in a maple sugaring operation, and his antique tractor hobby. Armand retired from Maine DOT some years back and now works at an L.L. Bean call center in Lewiston. Armand, who as a child was a victim of a rail trespass incident, became a living example to audiences why trains and people don't mix.

Two Maine O/L charter members are remembered

Maine Operation Lifesaver was inaugurated in 1983 with much fanfare as a passenger special rolled from northern Aroostook County to southern Maine. Aboard was the Maine Central's Emmons Lancaster who became a railroad bridge engineer and was our state coordinator for many years. Also on the train was Dick Sprague, a Bangor and Aroostook vice-president and editor of the railroad's *Maineline* magazine. Long since resigned from Operation Lifesaver activities, they passed away in 2014 and are remembered as pioneers of rail safety education in Maine.

Sobering 2014 U.S. statistics (FRA preliminary)

Train-vehicle collisions: 2,280
Train-vehicle collision deaths: 267
Train-vehicle collision injuries: 832

Trespass deaths: 526
Trespass injuries: 419

See the entire Operation Lifesaver, Inc. news release including comparison figures to the prior year by reading the top story on the Maine Operation Lifesaver homepage at www.maineol.org.

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