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LIFESAVER®**

Look, Listen & Live

Maine Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 2

May 2012

www.MaineOL.org www.OLL.org

Our N-scale model train layout based in Bangor is now interactive, thanks to volunteer Dick Clark. Youngsters who now eye the layout, but are asked not to touch the trains can instead press buttons (red and black buttons in picture) which light up at various locations on the trainset where people are doing such things as playing on a rail car, riding an ATV on the tracks, standing on a railroad bridge, and a car stopped too close to the tracks.



Additionally, another button appears to be the most popular to push: the train horn. The layout, originally built by volunteer Bill Soule, is a child and adult pleaser at every event where it appears.

The call for more volunteers to help educate the public between Portland and Brunswick (where Amtrak service will operate later this year) produced several new rail

safety presenters in February led by trainers Bob Davids and Mike Grizkewitsch. Hosted by the Falmouth Police Department, they include: Sergeant Kevin Conger and Lieutenant John Kilbride of the Falmouth Police; Patricia Quinn and Jim Russell of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority; Diana Forsyth of the Maine Eastern Railroad; and from Massachusetts, Transportation Security Administration's Candace Thornton.

So, what constitutes railroad trespassing? Visitors to Maine Operation Lifesaver's website may not be aware of or realize the extent of this illegal and dangerous activity. Now, from the homepage, a click on "Trespass Incidents" will open a series of photos subtitled, "Gambling With Their Lives." From ATV tracks on the roadbed to walking past warning



signs, unfortunately rail trespassing is an ongoing problem.

2012 goals were discussed at a recent Maine O/L meeting. Among them:

- Completing education efforts between Portland and Brunswick before Amtrak service begins this fall.
- Gaining more education presence along Aroostook County's 250 miles of rail lines.
- Training presenters to adapt personal laptops to TV sets at presentation sites.
- Distributing DVDs containing TV public service announcements which can be played at presentations and exhibits.

Thanks to volunteers at the Brunswick visitors center, several thousand Operation Lifesaver coloring books now include Maine O/L's website, e-mail address, and phone contact number. When purchased, coloring books with only the national organization's address. Maine O/L volunteer Diana Forsyth suggested a way to locally address the books so parents of children bringing them home have a direct way to obtain more rail safety information.



Above, Paula Adam (left) and Joanne Wright-Laughlin stamp info into coloring books.

Briefly:

-A railroad request resulted in rail safety information being sent to Aroostook County scalehouses where trucks pull through when leaving the woods or a mill. Packages of warning posters, brochures, and key chains for drivers were sent to Maine Woods/Seven Islands, Irving Woodlands, and the Fraser mill – all in the Ashland area.

-Many emergency responders can now receive continuing education hour credits for attending Maine Operation Lifesaver presentations. They are also eligible for credits if they attend Maine O/L Rail Safety for Emergency Responder (RSER) training.

Where we've been January 1 – April 15, 2012

- Falmouth Rotary
 - Yarmouth Rotary
 - Harrison Middle School, Yarmouth
 - Sagadahoc County LEPC, Brunswick
 - Clover Manor, Auburn
 - Yarmouth Elementary
 - Can-Do Driving School, Brunswick
 - Readfield Fire Department
 - Mid-Maine Technical Center, Waterville
- (continued in next column)*

- Rockland Fire Department
- Can-Do Driving School, Brunswick
- Bert's Driving School, Pittsfield (2X); Newport
- Lisbon Falls Baptist Church
- Indie Driving School, Falmouth
- P&M Driving School, S. China (2X)
- Ron Fox Driving School, Fairfield
- Maine DOT, Augusta
- Hampden Driving School
- Proper Turn Driving School, Westbrook (3X)
- Whitefield Lions train show, Augusta
- Rockland Kiwanis
- Freeport Rotary
- Western Maine Driving Academy, S. Paris (3X); Buckfield
- Bair's Driving School, Bangor (6X); Bar Harbor (3X); Hermon (2X)
- Penobscot Job Corps, Bangor
- Merrymeeting Adult Ed Driving, Topsham
- Cumberland Lions Club
- Ocean Ave. School, Portland
- Vacationland Driving School, Falmouth
- Brewer High School health fair
- Cumberland Fire Department
- Riverton School, Portland
- Rockland Police

-Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston is the Official Restaurant of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and the Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteers who are also members of the club keep the eatery stocked with O/L coloring books and engineer hats for youngsters. *Below, volunteer Paul Lodge poses with restaurant manager Carlene Barnies.*



Always expect a train!