

Maine Operation Lifesaver

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2007

Additional Information

is available at

www.MaineOL.org

www.oli.org

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**OPERATION
LIFESAVER**



Bangor area media took the matter of rail safety seriously again this year as the American Folk Festival approached. An estimated 160,000 people flocked to the three-day event which is bisected by a railroad mainline. The *Bangor Daily News* gave ink to rail safety during the festival as did WLBZ-TV, WCSH-TV, WABI-TV, Cumulus, Clear Channel and Zone radio stations. The media, working with Maine Operation Lifesaver and the folk festival organizers, produced another incident-free extravaganza.

Several certified Maine Operation Lifesaver presenters attended a two-hour refresher course recently – the second one held this year to keep presenters up to date on delivering the proper rail safety message. Presenter trainers Mike Grizkewitsch and Bob Davids touched upon many issues including protocol when arriving at a school and reminding presenters to now include a trespass prevention message even if the primary presentation deals with crossing safety. Based upon Maine's lead in offering the refresher to presenters who may have fallen behind in required annual programs, the Operation Lifesaver national office is giving consideration to recommending a similar course in every state.

Sixteen Maine O/L volunteers and their guests attended the third annual recognition luncheon recently at Governor's Restaurant in Waterville. All were given smart-looking vests with the O/L logo along with many other gifts.



Maine school nurses are often the ones who recommend safety fairs and programs at their respective schools. Maine Operation Lifesaver recently took the initiative to secure a presence at the Maine School Nurses Association conference in South Portland. Presenters Venus Nappi, Len Mulligan, Mike Grizkewitsch and Bill Comeau staffed a table with handouts and constant-running rail safety videos. As a result, a number of nurses have asked for OL to contact them about possible future programs.

Maine O/L's caboose education unit will have new life blown through its doors during the winter months. Because of some structural deterioration after 11 years, tens of thousands of visitors and thousands of road miles, consideration was being given to putting the popular rail safety tool out of commission. An informal poll of Maine O/L members, however, agreed on the caboose's popularity at major community events. Enter OL associate Joe Landry, who was instrumental in the caboose's initial construction and who has hosted annual maintenance sessions at his Lewiston home. Joe, who is a master plumber, master electrician and darn good carpenter, is taking the caboose under his wing and will have it ready next summer and beyond for more statewide appearances.



Volunteer Skip Pratt at the 2007 Brunswick Air Show

Here's where we've been recently.

We stand ready to deliver the railroad safety message statewide.

E-mail: info@maineol.org or call 207-827-7367

Readfield School Bus Drivers
Sirois Driving School, Farmington
Seashore Trolley Museum, Kennebunk
New Gloucester Community Fair
W. Maine Truck Driving School, S. Paris
Penquis CAP Day Care Providers, Bangor
Boothbay Village Railway Museum
Brunswick Fire Department Open House
Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Convention
Brunswick Naval Air Station Air Show
Penquis CAP Back to School Event, Brewer
Maine Health and Safety Conference
Autumn Gold Days, Ellsworth
W. Bath Fire Department Open House
Fairfield Adult Education Driver Training

Hermon Cub Scouts
WW&F Railway Museum, Alna
Hamnden Children's Day

Waterboro School Bus Drivers
Pace Driving School, S. Portland
Brownville Day
Orono Cub Scouts
Richmond Day
Driving Forces Driver Ed, Portland
Orrington Cub Scouts
American Folk Festival, Bangor
Carmel Cub Scouts
Danforth Area School Bus Drivers
Falmouth School Bus Drivers

Briefly...

- Maine O/L presenter Mike Grizkewitsch is trading in his Federal Railroad Administration regional safety position for a similar job focusing on rail trespass issues nationwide. His new work with the FRA will be based in Washington, DC, but he'll keep his roots in Maine.
- Now featured on the www.MaineOL.org website is a homepage link to emotional comments from Sean Fowler, a Canadian teen, who lost one arm and one leg in a rail trespass incident. Permission to use the four-minute segment was given by Canada Operation Lifesaver.
- Any day now Maine Operation Lifesaver will take delivery of its new batch of 26,000 railroad trading cards. The cards feature Maine locomotives and a safety message and will be distributed to youngsters statewide.
- A day-long course to become certified Operation Lifesaver presenters will likely be held in January 2008 in Auburn. Contact Maine O/L if you have an interest.