



**OPERATION  
LIFESAVER®**

**Look, Listen & Live**

## Maine Quarterly Newsletter

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[www.MaineOL.org](http://www.MaineOL.org)    [www.OLL.org](http://www.OLL.org)

**Three railroad professionals and a model railroader** are the newest Maine Operation Lifesaver presenters. Jason Worcester and Tim DeRoche work for the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad; Glenn MacNeil is with Pan Am Railways; and Travis Johnson is active with the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. They join nearly three



*From left: Mike Grizkewitsch, trainer; Travis Johnson; Norma Griffiths, trainer; Tim DeRoche; Glenn MacNeil; Jason Worcester.*

dozen other rail safety presenters statewide.

**Maine O/L now has its own Facebook page.** Pictures, comments, news, and the state coordinator's occasional blog are featured. As much as some of our older volunteers are new to this social media, it is very much the present and future of communication, especially with younger adults.

**The massive effort to reach adults and young people** along the new Amtrak extension between Portland and Brunswick is still underway, even now that the service began November 2. Several schools have been contacted over and over again, but have yet to invite rail safety presenters through their doors, but are still on our radar screens. The Portland and Bath-



*Darry Nile and Diana Forsyth staff a rail safety display recently at The College Store in Brunswick.*

Brunswick newspapers have recently published articles on the inherent dangers at rail crossings and along right of way. The City of Portland also distributed a news release emphasizing rail safety and there was considerable print, TV, and radio coverage on the median dividers being installed a Portland crossings to prevent impatient motorists from driving around other vehicles waiting for a train.

**The U.S. Attorney's Office has donated** three 17-inch computer screens, no longer used by the agency, to Maine Operation Lifesaver. The screens will be used at rail safety displays at community events.

**Mystic, Connecticut is the location** for Operation Lifesaver's 2013 Region 1 conference on September 16-18. Maine Operation Lifesaver's attendance has always been the envy of most of the other seven states and we won't disappoint. Because Amtrak offers free coach to such conferences, the plan is to travel together. An anticipated grant from the national office will again cover registration and at least one night's stay. More details forthcoming.

**New rail trespass warning posters** are being distributed and posted on signal boxes at active

lights, bells) railroad crossings in Maine. The 22"x31" posters have a vinyl coating so they will not fade. On the back side, there's a peel-off adhesive. The 250 printed notices were funded with a grant from our national office



combined with funds from the Maine Department of Transportation. The poster was created by Operation Lifesaver, Inc. and features two identical scenes – one with an individual walking the tracks with the words, “Here today,” and the second picture with no person depicted with “Gone tomorrow,” then “Stay away from the tracks. Stay off! Stay Away! Stay Alive!” At the top of the poster in large letters, it reads, “It’s Maine Law!”

**A new president and CEO has been named at** Operation Lifesaver, Inc. in Alexandria, Virginia. Joyce Rose is currently staff director for the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Rose, who has more than 20 years of experience in transportation policy, takes over for Helen Sramek, who has been at the organization’s helm since 2007. She will assume her new position on December 3. Much of the financial support for the national office, some of which trickles down to Maine O/L, comes from federal agencies, thus the importance of hiring a new president with familiarity on Capitol Hill.

**Briefly...**

-More individuals have received rail safety presentations as of November 1, 2012 than in all of last year, according to preliminary figures. The numbers will be the highest since at least 2006.  
 -Congratulations to O/L volunteer Jeff Pitcher, recently promoted to Transportation Operations Manager for the

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**Where we were July 1-November 15, 2012**

- Old Orchard Beach Police
- Brunswick Coastal Rotary
- Bangor Mall
- Great Falls Model RR Club exhibit, Auburn (2x)
- Save the Depot, Greenville
- American Folk Festival, Bangor
- United New Auburn Assn.
- Portland, Falmouth, Brunswick Yarmouth, Freeport, Gorham, Cumberland school bus drivers
- NTI, Bangor
- Yarmouth, Cumberland, Brunswick, Freeport, Portland public works
- Morse St. School, Freeport
- Touch-A-Truck event, Bangor
- Freeport Middle School
- P&M Driving School, S. China (2x)
- Eastern Maine Model RR Club show, Brewer
- Maine Health/Safety conference, Augusta
- Indie Driving School, Falmouth
- Portland Lions
- Bradford area fire departments
- Brownville Junction area law enforcement
- Mid-Maine Technical Center firefighters, Waterville
- Wiscasset High School driver ed
- Fairfield Adult Ed bus drivers
- Brunswick Fire Department
- Proper Turn Driving School, Westbrook (3x)
- Portland Shriners
- Oxford Hills Truck Driving School, S. Paris
- Vacationland Driving School, Falmouth
- Bair’s Driving School, Bangor
- Law enforcement train, Wiscasset
- Maine DOT, Augusta (4x)
- College Bookstore, Brunswick;
- Longfellow School, Portland
- Bair’s Driving School, Blue Hill, Bangor (6x), Hermon
- Reiche School, Portland

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