



**OPERATION
LIFESAVER®**

Look, Listen & Live

Maine Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 3

November 2013

More than 200 Aroostook County officials from law enforcement, emergency management and services, and the medical community participated over the summer in Operation Lifesaver's Rail Safety for Emergency Responders course. The overwhelming response meant five courses were scheduled over four days in Caribou, Island Falls, Houlton, Van Buren, and Presque Isle. The RSER curriculum was led by Dick Towle, who has



Attendees in Presque Isle at one of the five RSER courses held over the summer in Aroostook County.

brought the course to many other venues in Maine and elsewhere in New England. Organization of the RSER forums was made by Norma Griffiths and Lorrie Johnston, both employees of the Maine Northern Railway, and who are both Operation Lifesaver volunteers.

**Maine Operation Lifesaver Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 9, 10am, 144 Mill St., Auburn**



Once again this year, the Maine Operation Lifesaver delegation was the largest of eight states attending the biennial Region 1 workshop held in Mystic, Connecticut. Eleven volunteers and five spouses took part in the two-day event. Maine's turnout exceeded the number of volunteers hailing from much more populous states including New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. Sessions were held on rail trespassing, new grade crossing technology, instruction on becoming facilitators with groups, and several addresses including one on the future of Operation Lifesaver from President Joyce Rose.

Ironically, perhaps, when train-vehicle or train-trespasser incidents occur in Maine, Operation Lifesaver finds opportunities to remind the public of the dangers on the tracks and at crossings. Case in point: Two recent crashes in the Bangor area took place less than two weeks apart. A subsequent O/L news release precipitated one radio and two television interviews. More recently, a third trespass incident this year in the Portland area, each resulting in serious injury or death, gave Maine Operation Lifesaver the opportunity to point out that faster, more frequent, and quieter trains along with "No Train Horn" crossings during the past year were likely to have contributed at least in part to these tragedies. One TV station responded with an interview and at least two area newspapers quoted from our news release. On a related note, two TV reporters received friendly reminders from Maine O/L suggesting that when reporting on rail incidents to not do their "stand-up" reports as they did from the railhead.

For many years, Maine Operation Lifesaver coloring books, pencils, trading cards, and bookmarks among other items have been distributed to thousands of children at the Cumberland County Fair. Thanks go to



Some of the hundreds of schoolchildren taking home railroad safety material at the Cumberland County Fair. members of the Portland-based 470 Railroad Club which staffs a former Yarmouth Junction section crew building and hand car display at the fair. Children learn about local rail history and this year about 1,000 youngsters went home with rail safety material to share with their families.

As noted in our previous newsletter, the latest educational tool, a sticker puzzle is now being distributed. It includes 12 rail trespass-related questions which when answered correctly has a sticker placed over the question. When all questions are answered, the stickers form a glossy picture of Amtrak's Downeaster. E-mail maineol@roadrunner.com for samples.

Briefly...

- Thanks to Pan Am Railways for including an Operation Lifesaver page including a video on the safety page of their newly-designed website.
- Bangor Savings Bank responded quickly and positively when alerted that the background on one of its website pages showed a railroad track which was obviously taken from an angle where the photographer was trespassing.
- Congratulations to the Downeast Scenic Railroad. The Ellsworth-based tourist line is recipient of the 2013 Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce Business Sustaining Member of the Year Award.

Where we've been July 2–October 21, 2013

- American Driver and Traffic Safety Association conference, Portland
- UMaine transportation engineering camp, Orono
- Bair's Driving School, Bangor (7X), Hermon (2X), Bar Harbor
- Proper Turn Driving School, Westbrook (4X)
- Vacationland Driving School, Falmouth (2X)
- Great Falls Model RR Club Balloon Fest, Auburn
- Auburn Driving School (5X)
- Maine Fish/Wildlife hunter safety: Turner, Poland, Dover-Foxcroft, LaGrange, Glenburn



Jay Calnan interacts with youngsters at the Operation Lifesaver activity table during one of the recent events at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn.

- Brunswick High School driver ed
- Fort Kent school bus drivers
- Augusta school bus drivers
- American Folk Festival, Bangor
- Topsham school bus drivers
- KMD Driving School, Oakland (6X)
- Governor's Restaurant, Lewiston (2X)
- Lowe's, Thomaston
- NTI (truck driver ed), Bangor
- Maine Emergency Management, Augusta
- Topsham driver ed
- Bert's Driving School, Pittsfield
- Maine Health/Safety Conference, Bangor
- Maine Driver Ed Association conference, Waldo
- SAD 49 (Fairfield) school bus drivers
- Bangor Fire Department open house
- Houlton Junior High School

