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Maine Operation Lifesaver

Quarterly Newsletter

October 2008



With cooperation from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Operation Lifesaver presenters have been visiting hunter safety classes with brief, to-the-point programs. Hundreds of hunters have now heard our No Trespassing message. With snowmobile safety courses later this fall, we'll be reaching sledders as well before they hit the trails.

Maine was represented at Operation Lifesaver's international symposium held in Covington, Kentucky (across the river from Cincinnati). Fred Hirsch commented that a session for state coordinators on various legal matters was most beneficial. Various workshops and speakers also highlighted the event and the networking with colleagues from across the country was invaluable. Pictured with Fred is Mike Grizkewitsch (on left), another Mainer, who is on assignment in Washington, DC this year leading the Federal Railroad Administration's efforts on railroad trespass prevention.



Briefly...

- It was another safe American Folk Festival in Bangor this summer where an estimated 150,000 attendees had to be aware of an active rail line bisecting the grounds. In this picture, in cooperation with Maine Operation Lifesaver, Pan Am Railways police officer Tim Falvey passes on tips about rail safety before one of the three area TV stations covering our news event.
- The Region 1 Operation Lifesaver conference has been scheduled for September 9-11, 2009 in North Conway, New Hampshire. Volunteers from Maine, the rest of New England, New York and New Jersey are encouraged to attend.
- Schools are responding to our latest mailing to those located within a quarter mile of active tracks. Some of the schools which have thus far expressed interest in presentations include those located in Presque Isle, Clinton, Winslow, Van Buren, Hodgdon, Rockland and Frenchville.
- Our thanks to volunteers at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport during their recent Pumpkin Patch Trolley event and members of the 470 Railroad Club at the Cumberland Fair for handing out Operation Lifesaver material to children.



Three advocates of railroad safety in Maine have taken new positions out of state or retired.

Jonathan Shute, formerly general manager of the Maine Eastern Railroad, has joined the New England Central Railroad in Vermont. Jon was an Operation Lifesaver presenter who strengthened safety awareness along the Maine coast.



Jon Shute with a plaque recognizing his service.

Maine Department of Transportation's George Jackman, who oversaw maintenance of state-owned rail lines for many years and assisted Maine Operation Lifesaver with various projects and issues, recently retired.



Volunteer Darryl Nile (right) presents George Jackman with an Operation Lifesaver shirt.

David Willauer, who headed transportation planning for the Greater Portland Council of Governments, has joined IEM, an emergency management firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. David is a former presenter who spearheaded safety efforts when Amtrak service was introduced in Maine six years ago.



David Willauer models a similar shirt in appreciation of his help.

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

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| Cumberland School Bus Drivers | Bert's Driving School, Belfast |
| Southern Maine Medical Center, Biddeford | Northeast Technical Institute, Hermon |
| Maine Safety/Health Conference, Augusta | Bucksport Bay Festival |
| Greene Fire Department | Pace Driving School, S. Portland |
| Hampden Children's Day | Brunswick Naval Air Show |
| Elm Street School, Mechanic Falls | Fairfield School Bus Drivers |
| Enfield Station School | American Folk Festival, Bangor |
| <u>Hunter Safety Courses</u> in Windham, Scarborough, Guilford, Dover-Foxcroft, Poland, Lisbon Falls, N. Berwick, Old Town, Hermon and Brunswick | |
| Penobscot Community Health Care Fair, Bangor | |
| Maine Association of Pupil Transportation, Carrabasset Valley | |