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Maine Operation Lifesaver Quarterly Newsletter November 2010



Congratulations goes out to nine new members to the Maine Operation Lifesaver family. A certified presenter training course was held in Auburn on September 18th at the facilities of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Certified trainers Norma Griffiths of the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway and Mike Grizkewitsch of the Federal Railroad Administration led the day-long class -- the largest such class in recent memory.



New presenters include Thomas Coulombe and David Gilchrist of Lewiston; Barbara Wilbur of Orrington; Stephen Martelli of Auburn; Dick Clark of Greene;



Maurice Fortin of Portland; Philip Clough of Bridgton; and Ed and Brenda Leslie of South Casco.

Norma Griffiths represented Maine during State Coordinators Day and throughout the Operation Lifesaver symposium held in Baltimore late this summer.

She shared some highlights with Maine O/L members upon her return:

- A new Operation Lifesaver national website will be rolled out in November which will be more user friendly and geared more towards younger viewers with links to Twitter and Facebook.

- Presenters are now reminded that two adults including the presenter must be in a room with children, handicapped or seniors during a presentation.

- Emergency responders, who have been trained in person by the hundreds this year, will soon be able to take the Rail Safety for Emergency Responders program as an online course.



Norma Griffiths in Baltimore with new friend and Florida O/L State Coordinator Annette Lapkowski



There it is, in Virginia no less.

One of Maine Operation Lifesaver's two 8x6 foot murals made its way to this summer's national Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Bowling Green, Virginia. Tom Coulombe, one of our newest presenters, hoisted the mural as part of Operation Lifesaver's exhibit there. Thousands of Scouts from around the nation got to view the giant locomotive painting.

Twenty Maine O/L presenters, including seven recent graduates of the certified presenter course, and some joined by their spouses, partook in the annual October volunteer appreciation event at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn. Club members put on a delicious, varied spread of pot luck cuisine following a brief meeting and training. Trainers Mike Grizkewitsch and Norma Griffiths put up 50 different slides and presenters explained how they best engage their audiences with each picture. There was also a review of the Operation Lifesaver website and how to properly report presentations and attendance at exhibits. The afternoon concluded with a Q&A session with everyone winning prizes including coolers, apparel and gift cards among other giveaways.



Some of those attending the volunteer appreciation event.



Briefly...

- A Panama Canal safety official found our offer for free truck driving and driver ed DVDs on the Maine Operation Lifesaver website and we obliged. He explained 8,000 workers now widening the canal cross parallel railroad tracks daily and would benefit from watching the videos.
- Hundreds of new Maine hunters have been briefed by our presenters on the illegality of trespassing on railroad tracks, thanks to Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for inviting us for a brief talk. Snowmobile safety courses are coming up.
- A third edition of Maine railroad trading cards will debut shortly, thanks to a grant from Operation Lifesaver, Inc. and generous sponsorship by the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, operator of Amtrak's Downeaster. Fourteen new pictures of rail scenes with rail safety information on the backsides will be featured on 30,000 cards with emphasis on distribution between Portland and Brunswick.
- State Coordinator Fred Hirsch was presented with a certificate from Operation Lifesaver's national office for his years of work in the O/L community.



We stand ready to deliver the railroad safety message statewide.

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



Here's where we've been lately through October 27, 2010:

Bert's Driving School, Belfast, Pittsfield	P&M Driving School, S. China	Cyr Bus, Bangor	Daisy Day Care, Freeport
SAD 44 Bus Drivers, Bethel	Old Orchard Beach Police	Brownville Day	Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Auburn
American Folk Festival, Bangor	Windham Schools Bus Drivers	Pine Tree Academy, Freeport	Oxford Fair, Norway
Department of Health/Human Services, Saco	Dunn School, Greenbush	Lowe's safety day, Brewer	Maine Health/Safety Conference, Augusta
Bair's Driving School, Hermon, Bangor	Wiscasset High School Driver Ed	Cathedral School, Portland	Seashore Trolley Museum, Kennebunk
First Student Bus Drivers, Augusta	Pace Driving School, S. Portland	Cricket Hunt School, Freeport	Brunswick Fire Department Open House
Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, Portland	Pownal Elementary	Freeport Fire Rescue open house	Dawn Richmond Driving School, Brewer
Somerset County Communications, Skowhegan	Senior Safety Fair, Bangor	UMaine Volunteer Fair, Orono	New Gloucester Community Fair
Hunter Safety, Dover-Foxcroft, Hermon, Gardiner, Guilford, Old Town, Harmony, Orono, Gorham, Newport, E. Corinth			