

Maine Operation Lifesaver

Quarterly Newsletter

July & August 2007

Additional Information

is available at

www.MaineOL.org

www.oli.org

Volume 3, Issue 3



Maine railroad safety certified presenters were among the 100 attendees in July at a conference hosted by Operation Lifesaver in Burlington, Vermont. At the conference, workshops included how to reach teenagers, aging baby boomers and elderly drivers about the dangers inherent at highway-rail crossings; grade crossing crash investigation for law enforcement; educating school bus drivers; working with a community after a serious rail-highway crossing incident; reaching those in the military; and engaging an audience during a presentation. Featured speakers at the conference included Vermont Governor James Douglas and Federal Railroad Administration Deputy Commissioner Clifford Eby. Paul Lodge of Minot was honored by Maine Operation Lifesaver as Volunteer of the Year. Paul regularly speaks to driver education students seeking their commercial driver's licenses and other groups. He also spreads the rail safety message at numerous events in central Maine, and produces the television program *Train Time* which often incorporates a rail safety message and is distributed to over 20 Maine cable TV outlets and reaching almost 200 communities.



Paul (right) accepts the plaque from State Coordinator Fred Hirsch

Volunteer Doug Clark is going the extra mile to prevent tragedy along the Maine Eastern Railroad which, thanks to a busier excursion schedule over the past several years, has seen a correlated increase in trespassing incidents. With the Maine Eastern's blessing and a bucket of paint courtesy of the railroad, Doug has set out to stencil railroad ties, the insides of railroad iron, and railroad bridges where trespassers tend to visit. As seen in the picture, Doug appropriately chose a bright orange paint – and undoubtedly a paint which won't wash away easily. There are just so many signs a railroad can post, and the Maine Eastern has posted its share of them in addition to other deterrents such as huge cement jersey barriers at locations where recreational vehicles have entered railroad property. Besides hanging



Operation Lifesaver-approved trespass warnings at coastal town offices and performing presentations, Doug has gone one better with his innovative personal project.



In conjunction with the Maine Bureau of Public Safety, 50,000 bookmarks with a Maine Operation Lifesaver safety message were distributed statewide recently. Maine O/L was asked to be part of the month-to-month year long campaign funded through a federal grant. Bookmarks were mailed out to local, county, and state law enforcement agencies with officers being asked to pass them on during traffic checks and similar duties. In addition, during one day in June, toll collectors along the Maine Turnpike handed out bookmarks.

You Hold The Key!

Think About It!

Seat Belts
Wearing your seat belt may not be the most exciting thing about your trip, but it is the most important. It can decrease your chance of fatal injury in a crash by as much as 50%.



Help keep you and your family safe.

Buckle Up.
No Excuses!

© 2007 Operation Lifesaver
Maine Chapter, 2007
Maine Chapter, 2007
Maine Chapter, 2007
207-827-7367

Share the Road with Trains
Operation Lifesaver's top safety tips are:
Don't try to beat a train. The locomotive size and distance from the crossing create an optical illusion, which appears to allow the train approaching slower than it actually is.
When stopped at a railroad crossing, stay back at least 15 feet from the tracks.
Always expect a train – at any time on any day from any direction.
Look, Listen, and Live!



Congratulations to Pan Am Railways' Gordon Riordon who has become Maine Operation Lifesaver's latest certified presenter. Gordon is the new head of the railway's safety efforts in Maine and has already attended several O/L meetings, he met employees at Sappi paper mill and the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad's 140th anniversary event, and performed his first presentations at a Levant school.



Even when we can't be there, we're there. Recently, organizers of Friendship, Maine's 200th birthday celebration asked if Maine Operation Lifesaver's caboose, spotted at other events in the area, could be part of the weekend celebration. Unfortunately, the caboose was booked elsewhere. Still, a package of coloring books, student safety guides, pencils, whistles, wrist bands, and more were sent to Friendship where items were handed out as part of contest winner gift bags and at a table with other celebratory giveaways.

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

- Waterworks Housing, Bangor
- Sappi Paper, Hinckley
- Maine Forest Service, Old Town
- ATV Driver Safety Class, Waldoboro
- Fairfield School Bus Drivers Class
- Kids Day America, Scarborough
- Southern Maine EMS exposition, Portland
- Rockland Kiwanis Show, Owls Head
- Little Dolphin Pre-School, Westbrook
- Waldo General Hospital Safety/Health Fair, Belfast
- NE Transportation Conference, So. Portland
- University of Maine Fort Kent Health/Safety Fair
- Western Maine Truck Driving School, South Paris
- Belfast & Moosehead Lake RR celebration
- Penquis Cap Childcare Leadership, Bangor
- Maine DOT Conferences: Portland, Presque Isle, Farmington, Bangor
- Maine Driver Education Association Conference, Augusta
- Fairfield CDL Drivers Class
- Sanford Train Show
- First Student Bus Drivers, Bangor
- Longley School, Lewiston
- Bath Police Safety Day
- Auburn Social Club Train Show
- Old Home Days, West Paris
- Smith School, Levant
- Falmouth Cub Scouts
- Topsham Train Show
- Sidney Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts, Bangor
- Warren Day

Briefly...

- In the works and scheduled for this September in the Portland area is a two-day Grade Crossing Collision Investigation course. Upwards of 30 law enforcement officers from numerous departments will take the course led by Operation Lifesaver volunteers.
- Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteer, presenter trainer, and retired FRA track inspector Bob Davids was focus of a June 23rd Bangor Daily News full page feature on one of his passions – antique Allis-Chalmers tractors.
- State Coordinator Fred Hirsch spent three days with state coordinators from 31 other states and Operation Lifesaver staff for a summit in Providence, Rhode Island, where programs were introduced and reviewed, and ideas were exchanged.
- The 2007 Maine Operation Lifesaver railroad trading cards, at least 26,000 of them, with all new shots of Maine railroad scenes will be ready for distribution late this summer.