Maine Operation Lifesaver Quarterly Newsletter November 2005

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Additional Information is available at www.oli.org

Maine Operation Lifesaver's website is now on the Internet. The site tells about Maine Operation Lifesaver's purpose, a history of Operation Lifesaver nationally, includes our quarterly newsletters, key safety tips around the rails, a calendar of events, links to other State's O/L sites, a pitch for volunteers, and how to schedule a presentation. More information will gradually be added to the site. The site was designed by Natalya Harkins of Portland. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Oh, yeah, the address is: www.maineol.org

O/L volunteer Mike Grizkewitsch was recently honored as Maine Operation Lifesaver Volunteer of the Year. Presented by State Coordinator Fred Hirsch at the O/L Regional Conference before over 100 onlookers from New England, New York, and New Jersey, Mike was noted as instrumental to Maine's accomplishments towards rail safety, participating in 17 O/L events over the past year. He also has organized two Grade Crossing Crash Investigation courses, trained new volunteers, helped develop the new website, is assisting in organizing the organization's first recognition and training event, and is currently working on our railroad trading card project.

Five new presenters were recently trained to spread the message of safety around railroad property and at crossings. As you can tell, they represent diverse interests. Among the new certified presenters as pictured from left to right: Darry Nile, State of Maine; Julie Poland, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office; John Pikiell, Federal Railroad Administration; Skip Pratt, Guilford Rail System; and Venus Nappi, Pace Driving School.

Maine was well-represented in September at Operation Lifesaver's biannual regional conference held in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Law enforcement, school bus safety, a preview of new projects being developed by the national organization, trespass issues, and an update on Canada's O/L program were some of the highlights of the event.

Pictured from left to right are OLI President Gerri Hall, Mike Grizkewitsch, Julie Poland, Darry Nile, and Fred Hirsch. Missing from the photo is Victor Salemme, Amtrak Downeaster, who also attended the conference.

Seventeen members of law enforcement were among those who joined the Maine Eastern Railroad and Maine Operation Lifesaver on an awareness trip October 21st. They represented five police departments, three county sheriff's departments, the Maine State Police, and the Maine Warden Service. Also attending were reporters and photographers representing two newspapers and two TV stations. Besides hosting, O/L volunteers briefed passengers on the dangers inherent on railroad property. Thanks to the Maine Eastern for putting together a great trip, including lunch, from Wiscasset to Rockland and return.

Here's where we've been over the past few months. Maine Operation Lifesaver is ready to respond to requests statewide and deliver our rail safety message.

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

The Driving School, Yarmouth
Williams Elementary, Oakland
Roosevelt Scout Camp, Dedham
Great American Air Show, Brunswick
Boothbay Village Railway Camp
American Folk Festival, Bangor
Oxford Valley Regional Tech, S. Paris
Paris Hills Bible Church Vacation School
School Bus Driver Conference, Winslow
Hancock County EMS, Mariaville
Bangor Breakfast Kiwanis
United Methodist Church Bible School, Bangor
Fairfield Adult Education
Wal-Mart - Palmyra
Brownville Elementary
Atwell Elementary, Oakland
Milo Elementary
Northern New England Safety/Health Conference, Portland
Auburn Mall
Wal-Mart - Bangor
Egg Festival, Pittsfield
Wal-Mart - Biddeford
Glenburn Fire Department