



Maine

Volume 7, issue 4

Quarterly Newsletter October 2011

www.MaineOL.org

www.OLL.org

A powerful 30-second TV public service announcement aimed at hunters has been distributed to commercial stations in the Portland, Bangor, and Presque Isle markets. The PSA, originally produced for North Carolina Operation Lifesaver, warns hunters to stay clear of railroad tracks as pathways into and out of the woods. Go to www.maineol.org and the homepage to view the PSA.

Several new volunteers have joined the ranks of Maine Operation Lifesaver. They include:

- Wayne Lunn of Mars Hill, a Bangor & Aroostook Railroad retiree who becomes an associate helping at various school and community events.
- Jacqueline Goodine of Presque Isle adds Operation Lifesaver presenter to other volunteer duties she holds down in Aroostook County.
- Ed Baker, a former conductor aboard Amtrak's Downeaster, lives in Wells and becomes a new presenter in southern Maine.
- John Perkins, Jr., formerly of Caribou and a Bangor & Aroostook Railroad retiree, unfortunately for us has moved recently to Colorado where he will

educate the public in the Rocky Mountain state.

We are saddened to report that Operation Lifesaver presenter Harry Pellett died unexpectedly in September. Harry, a retired helicopter pilot, mechanic, and air controller who served a tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Vietnam and was a 25-year member of the Army National Guard, was one of our more active members.



Harry Pellett (right) with Fred Hirsch in Skowhegan in June

Recently, he had led several driver ed presentations, helped staff several community events for Maine O/L, and attended the organization's most recent monthly meeting only days before he passed away. He had registered to attend the recent O/L regional conference in Saco and his name badge hung from an empty chair during the event.

Twenty Maine Operation Lifesaver volunteers and several of their spouses were among the 85 who attended the Operation Lifesaver Region 1 conference and workshop held in Maine at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Saco. Among the speakers were Amtrak Police Department's head of Northeast operations and the Association of American Railroad's director of security; what to say and not to say

during presentations; the latest in trespass prevention technology; and an update on nearby Canada's Operation Lifesaver activities.



(Above) Maine O/L's Mike Grizkewitsch led a presentation and was a technical advisor at the event and Norma Griffiths handled finances as the conference treasurer. Photos courtesy of Jack McCabe.)

The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority and Maine Operation Lifesaver are working more closely in their partnership as the extension of Amtrak service to Brunswick is now a year



away. Earlier this year, volunteer Paul Lodge (see picture) rode the train to Boston with a group of invited Maine teachers to let them

know we're available to speak at their schools about railroad safety.

Briefly:

-Armand LeBlanc took second place and won \$50 in the best prop contest held during the recent regional O/L conference. Armand's prop was – himself. When Armand talks to children about rail safety, he can tell how when as a boy he lost a leg as he tried to jump a moving train and fell underneath.
-Wedding bells are ringing. Maine DOT track inspector Jeff Pitcher was wed in August. State Coordinator Fred Hirsch will tie the knot in late November.
-Thanks to Nate Moulton at Maine Department of Transportation. With his help, Maine O/L will again receive financial assistance during the next year to help train new presenters, reimburse volunteers' travel; and purchase educational material for distribution.
-More Maine law enforcement received training in grade crossing crash investigation through a course held over the line in Andover, Massachusetts and sponsored by the Federal Railroad Administration, Pan Am Railways, and Operation Lifesaver. Those attending included officers and deputies from Saco, N. Berwick, and the York County Sheriff's Office.

Where we've been lately

(June 11-October 6, 2011)

-Rush's Driving School, Guilford
-Pace Driving School, Yarmouth
-Ellsworth Elementary
-Richmond Recreation
-Oakfield Railfan Day
-Aroostook Community Action, Presque Isle bus drivers
-Oxford Hills Truck Driving School, S. Paris
-Cave Hill Elementary, Ellsworth
-Bair's Driving School, Bangor (4x), Bar Harbor, Blue Hill, Hermon
-Lewiston YWCA
-UMaine Transportation Institute, Hermon
-Dexter driver ed
-TGFTIB Driving School, Brewer
-Mechanic Falls Snowmobile Club
-Brunswick Fire Department
-United Methodist Bible School, Bangor
-United New Auburn Association, Auburn (2x)
-Amtrak anniversary train, Freeport
-On-board Downeaster (teachers)
-Save the Depot, Greenville
-SAD 49 bus drivers, Oakland
-Old Orchard Beach Police
-Wentworth School, Scarborough
-Curtis Driving School, S. Paris
-Penobscot Job Corps, Bangor
-Maine DOT, Augusta and Brunswick
-American Folk Festival, Bangor
-Biddeford schools transportation
-Oakleaf Community Center, Freeport
-Oxford Fair, Norway
-Poland Snowmobile Club
Lowe's Safety Day, Bangor and Brewer
Seashore Trolley Museum, Kennebunk
P&M Driving School, China (4x)
Bert's Driving School, Pittsfield
UMaine Volunteer Fair, Orono
Central Maine Power, Farmington
Safe Schools/Healthy Students, Lewiston
Hunter safety, Old Town
Ron Fox Driving School, Fairfield
Proper Turn Driving School, Westbrook (5x)

Contact us:

(207) 945-6878

MaineOL@Roadrunner.com