

# Maine Operation Lifesaver Quarterly Newsletter January 2006

Additional Information  
is available at  
[www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)

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**Thirty people, including 17 Maine Operation Lifesaver presenters**, associates, and their spouses, enjoyed an afternoon of good food, good company, and a little education during the organization's first recognition and training event. Presenter trainer Mike Grizkewitsch reviewed some of the more important points when speaking as an O/L representative. Over \$600 in prizes were handed out including an Amtrak Downeaster round trip to Boston courtesy of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority and won by Paul Lodge. State Coordinator Fred Hirsch quizzed participants on Operation Lifesaver and railroad facts with everyone a winner. Prizes included Operation Lifesaver shirts, lunch bags, a carry-on bag, and a fleece blanket among other things. Everyone also picked up Operation Lifesaver coffee or travel mugs, mouse pads, post-it notepads, and whistles. It appears the affair, held at the China Rose in Brunswick, will become an annual event.



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- **Seventeen members of law enforcement** in the Bangor region completed the Grade Crossing Collision Investigation course last fall, sponsored by Maine Operation Lifesaver. With instruction by O/L volunteers Norma Giffiths, Ken Strout, Mike Grizkewitsch, and Don McKay, officers and deputies learned not only about crash investigation, but the seriousness of railroad trespassing and vandalism and familiarity with railroad equipment. The 16-hour course is Maine Criminal Justice Academy approved, and counts towards officers' annual required training. Thanks to the Montreal, Maine, & Atlantic Railway for providing equipment used as part of the training.

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**Maine Operation Lifesaver has received a grant** from its national office along with contributions from the Boston & Maine Railroad Police and the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to print 24,000 railroad trading cards. The cards feature 12 different railroad scenes representing all of Maine's railroads and Amtrak's Downeaster. On the back of each card is a different rail trespass prevention message, a description of the railroad depicted on the front, and information about how to contact Maine Operation Lifesaver to arrange for a presentation, additional material, or to display our caboose or model railroad layout at a future event. The cards will be distributed at schools and at other Operation Lifesaver appearances, and by Downeaster hosts to youngsters aboard Amtrak trains.

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**Watch for frequent updates** on Maine Operation Lifesaver's new website ([www.maineol.org](http://www.maineol.org)) as we learn to add and modify information. Besides presenting this quarterly newsletter on the web, we plan to post pictures of our caboose and one of our two model railroad layouts.



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Meanwhile, also take a look at Operation Lifesaver, Inc.'s newly-designed website ([www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)) which features a more colorful homepage, is easier to navigate, and provides much more information.

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**Hundreds of school children have already been reached** through safety presentations and more will be shortly as part of Maine Operation Lifesaver's efforts along two long-dormant rail lines now being readied for trains again. Branches between Brunswick and Lisbon Falls, and another between Madison and North Anson have not been used for nearly a generation. Also being targeted are snowmobile clubs, emergency responders, school bus drivers, public works employees, and law enforcement.

**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](mailto:info@maineol.org) or call 207-827-7367

Auburn Parks and Recreation  
Lisbon Community School  
Driving Forces, Portland  
Maine State Museum, Augusta  
Pace Driving School, So. Portland  
Millinocket Christmas Parade/Festivities  
Carrebec Community School, No. Anson  
Madison Junior High School  
McLaughlin Foundation Trees and Trains, So. Paris

Wal-Mart - Brewer, Waterville, Skowhegan  
Central Me. Model RR Club Show, Brewer  
Oxford Hills Rotary Club  
Phillip Sugg Middle School, Lisbon Falls  
Millinocket Public Works and EMS  
Cumberland County Sheriff's Department  
ATV Maine, Palermo Oxford Valley Regional Tech  
Great Falls Model RR Club Show, Auburn  
Muskie Center Senior Spectrum, Waterville

Waterworks Project, Bangor  
Garret Schenck School, Anson  
Topsham Snowmobile Club  
Lawrence High School, Fairfield  
New Gloucester Days  
Trout School, Mattawamkeag