

This is the official newsletter of **Operation Lifesaver Utah (OL Utah)**, a highway-rail grade crossing safety program and a railroad trespass prevention program. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact Vern Keeslar at olut@digis.net or call 801-310-1035.

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State Coordinator's Message – Union Pacific Employee Clubs and Operation Lifesaver

The Union Pacific Employee Clubs began in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1924. From the humble beginning in 1924, they have grown to 57 Clubs system wide. Each month every club holds some type of function. The Union Pacific Employee Clubs are very family oriented and they participate in community service, charity activities, Operation Lifesaver and their Friend to Friend Network in communities across the country.

Each year, the Union Pacific Employee Clubs hold their annual convention. This three-day Union Pacific Employee Clubs Convention is held in an exciting Union Pacific Railroad on-line city each year. Hundreds of "rails" (both active and retired), "rail" spouses and the presidents of the 57 local clubs converge for this memorable event. The convention agenda includes business meetings conducted by the local club presidents and their executive committee officers. They present awards to local clubs for their community and charitable service, workshops on improving local club activities; fine food; speakers; entertainment; tours; dancing; and - of course - camaraderie!

In August 2015, the Union Pacific Employee Clubs held their 91st annual convention in Overland Park, Kansas. Each year they recognize those Clubs and individuals who participate with Operation Lifesaver. This year, Club 12 of Salt Lake City won 1st place and Walt Webster won 3rd place for presenter of the year.



Pictured above (left) is Beverly Thrall, President of the Union Pacific Employee Club 12, receiving the 1st Place Award. Photo above (right) is the 3rd Place Certificate for Walt Webster. Special thanks to Salt Lake City Club 12 and Walt Webster for the great work you do for OL Utah!

OL Utah Booth Update

Thanks for all those who participate in the booths sharing the Operation Lifesaver safety messages. Operation Lifesaver Utah attended the following events during the fourth quarter of 2015.

- Farmington Safety Fair on October 7, 2015.
- Clearfield Safety Fair on October 7, 2015.
- Wasatch Rails Model Train Show on November 6, 7, and 8, 2015.
- Utah Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Layton on November 19, 2015.

Operation Lifesaver Releases Video PSA to Stop Train Track Photography

WASHINGTON, DC, December 1, 2015 – Alarmed by an increase in deadly incidents involving photography and railroad tracks, the national nonprofit rail safety education group Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI) is releasing a new animated video public service announcement (VPSA) to raise awareness among professional photographers of the dangers of this trend. The VPSA is the first in a new series drawing attention to the illegal and dangerous activity of train track photos.

“Operation Lifesaver shares a growing concern about this deadly trend with our partners at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), who funded the video,” said OLI President and CEO Joyce Rose. “Five deaths have been attributed to photography and filming on U.S. railroad tracks to date this year, with 13 deaths and four injuries from these activities since 2011. With more train track photos being posted online each day, we fear that these preventable incidents will continue. This VPSA is part of our effort to engage with the photography community,” she stated.

Rose said the VPSA is available on the OLI website, via social media and on the website for Operation Lifesaver’s ongoing “See Tracks? Think Train!” campaign.

“Capturing what are supposed to be joyful moments and happy life events are too often becoming painful, heartbreaking tales for families and communities,” says Jamie Rennert, FRA’s highway-rail grade crossing safety task force lead. “Anyone considering a railroad track as a backdrop for any activity, especially photography, should think twice. No photo is worth the risk. Trespassing is always illegal and often fatal. When you see tracks, always assume there is a train.”

Professional Photographers of America (PPA) also will make the video available to its members, Rose said. In October, Operation Lifesaver partnered with PPA on a webinar, “Safety First: Photography Near Tracks and Trains.” OLI has also blogged about the issue and released sharable social graphics aimed at photographers, selfie-takers and friends.

Operation Lifesaver launched the “See Tracks? Think Train!” campaign in 2014. Preliminary 2014 statistics from the FRA cite an increase of 4.4 percent in overall trespass casualties and 13 percent in trespass deaths; trespass injuries fell 3.9 percent. Early indications are that trespass incidents continue to rise in 2015.

“Our outreach to the photography community is an urgent step in curbing these incidents,” Rose said, “but we want to reach everyone with a smart phone or a camera. Talk to your friends and family about the dangers of photographing on or near tracks and share our video. Let’s stop this terrifying trend.” To view the video, click on the following link: <http://www.seetracksthinktrain.org/see-our-ads/>

