

To: FRRS Board of Directors
From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster
Re: Museum Web Page
Date: August 7, 2017

News Items

Working with Eugene Vicknair, Michael Clawson and Patty Clawson, I created and posted a news item about [Julia Pagan's visit to the museum on July 8th](#). I added a link to it from the *Latest Museum News Update* on the home page. Included were two photographs from Eugene's presentation at the 2013 convention. Paula Proctor, Julia's daughter, sent an email to Patty that Julia was misidentified in one of the photographs. I immediately corrected the caption on both the web page and the PDF file from Eugene's convention presentation. Additionally, Paula asked her mother who the unidentified nurse in the second photograph was and provided the name, so now the news item has the names for all three nurses.

I created a news item about the possible donation of the [Almanor Carrbell snow plow](#) and added a link from the *Latest Museum News Update*.

Based on an email and photo from Greg Elems on July 18th I created a news item "[WPRM Supports Quincey City Parks and Recreation with Tie Donation](#)" and linked it from the Latest Museum News box.

Videos on the Website

Lew Bernard gave me a video for posting of his "[So you want to go to Truckee!!](#)" video documenting the 2002 Truckee RR Days equipment move. I added it to the [WPRM Photo & Video Gallery](#) with links from the home pages. I used this video as the motivation to create a new YouTube channel, FRRS.WPRM. Previously I had been posting our videos to my personal YouTube channel. I will now post all future videos to the new dedicated channel and over time move all the existing videos to it.

We had 22 old WP videos by Larry Goss posted on the [Historical/Archive Dept](#) home page. The issue with them is they were old "Flash Video" (.flv) video files. Many people do not have flv capable viewers installed for this format of video files. I recently learned that YouTube support s flv files so I added them to the new YouTube channel and created a new [WP Videos](#) web page for them (and possibly others in the future.) A side benefit is now YouTube serves these files rather than Hostmonster, so this reduces the load on our server in Utah.

General Issues

Per a request from Kerry Cochran, I added "Prices effective starting July 1st, 2017 and are subject to change." to the Run a Locomotive Rate box on the [RAL web page](#).

I followed up on the Conductor Reports for this season and we now have [Conductor Reports](#) for all scheduled (and many yard movements) trains this year. I was able to get the information for trains run before the new on-line report system went live and retro-actively created the missing reports. Kerry asked for, and I created a computerized Year-To-Date report using the new on-line conductor report system to display all the volunteer crewmembers, positions and hours. The report is emailed directly to Kerry Cochran and Rick Gruninger, via the operating_dept@wplives.org email alias on request.

Peter Arnold and I are continuing to make progress on the [Western Pacific Headlight Master Index](#) web page. Peter sent me another update July 14th. We now have issues 6 to 49 indexed with 452 topics and 1,953 index entries.

Eugene continued to send me minutes from past board meetings to populate the [Minutes & Reports](#) web page. Eugene also sent me a first generation PDF file of the new museum brochure that I added it to the [FRRS History](#) web page.

Working with Kerry Cochran, a draft [BSA RR Merit Badge](#) page was created on July 17th. (It is not released to public yet.) I am waiting for material from David Epling and/or Kerry Cochran for the page.

On July 25th I added second Google Custom Search Engine to the web site. I configured a search engine that searches only the *Train Sheet* archive and put it on the [Train Sheet Archive](#) web page. Now in addition to the Train Sheet Master index, the user can use a search engine to look for information specifically in *Train Sheet* issues that are older than one year. Issue number 170 (Spring/Summer 2016) was also posted to the archive.

On July 26th I removed "Feather River Food Coop Silver" and "Portola Village Pharmacy Silver" sponsorships from the web site, because they had expired. The Cheeseburger Restaurants sponsorship expired on July 28th and was removed on July 30th. Eugene Vicknair has indicated he will follow-up and see if they will renew. If they renew, I will put them back on the web site.

On August 2nd I received an email from Steve Habeck pointing out that the web calendar was indicating that the Friday of RR Days weekend was FREE ADMISSION to the museum. That was not correct, free admission is only for Saturday and Sunday. I clarified the web posting and updated the [2017 FRRS Calendar](#) and emailed it to Eugene Vicknair. After I updated the calendar I got an email from Chris Allan asking me to add Sept 13-16 as the next Steam Department work days. So I updated it a second time on the same day!

On Saturday August 5th, Michael Clawson of Big Fish Productions called and asked that he be added to the events@wplives.org email alias. I added him and he successfully tested it while we were on the phone.

Web site performance at our web site provider, Hostmonster, continues to be acceptable. Apparently they have resolved the issues that they introduced on April 8th that has caused me so much grief.

Hostmonster made an unannounced security change this month that introduced a permission issue that took our web site off-line at least twice. Fortunately I routinely validate the web site after I make an update and detected the issue, so the outages were for only a few minutes. I have enhanced my procedures to now eliminate this issue. (For those who care what really happened: the public_html directory had been "drwxr-xr-x wpliveso wpliveso", Hostmonster changed this to "drwx-r---- wpliveso nobdy". My data uploads would change it back to owner/group wpliveso wplives drwxr xr-x, but Hostmonster would later change the permissions back to drwxr-x---, so the web server could not read or execute the contents of the public_html directory. I understand why they changed the behavior, but I wish they had announced it rather than make me reverse engineer it after I found the home page was returning permission denied messages to users. My data upload tool now keeps the owner/group permissions on public_html unchanged so the problem should not happen again.)