Would YOU like to work on the Railroad?
Join our Operating Department!
Paul Finnegan – Crew Caller

The museum operates trains every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We also run our Pumpkin Express in October, Santa Trains in December and special event trains. If you have always wanted to have a taste of "working on the railroad," such as connecting air hoses, giving hand signals to the engineer and pulling pins on couplers, then this is your opportunity!

FRRS members (active and above) who would like to participate in the museum's train operating crews are required first to take a rules examination, sign a liability release and then to be instructed in safe operating procedures.

Two crew-training classes are scheduled for 2018. They are scheduled for Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 27th, starting at 10 am at the museum in Portola. You need only attend one day of training. Please use the "Join our Operating Department" link on the museum's home web page to register for the class day of your choice.

mobile devices; which demonstrates the importance of our website supporting mobile devices. In 2016 we had 732 pageviews with 53% being from mobile devices. Therefore, in 2017 we had 28% more views and more of them were from mobile devices compared to 2016.

Kerry Cochran and I continue to work on museum documents, policies and forms. We have added a large number of new and revised materials to the website.

I have updated the website for the 2018 season. The sign-up tools, forms and calendars are all in place to support 2018 operations.

Peter Arnold and I are continuing to make progress on the Western Pacific Headlight Master Index on the Historical/Archive Department web page under the Museum pull-down menu. We now have issues 4 to 49 indexed with 488 topics and 2,144 index entries.

I am always looking for feedback, content and new ideas. If you have some, please don't hesitate to contact me at webmaster@wplives.org.

Museum Web Page Update – Feb 2018
—Paul Finnegan, Webmaster

Kerry Cochran and I continue to work on museum documents, policies and forms. We have added a large number of new and revised materials to the website. Additionally, we have been creating, revising, and posting position descriptions for many of the volunteer and staff roles at the museum. You can see them by using the "About Us" pull-down menu and choosing the "FRRS Org Chart" item. There is a "Jump to" link to the "Position Descriptions" in the top left corner of the page.

Working with General Superintendent Kerry Cochran and Superintendent of Operations Loren Ross, I have added new and updated material for the spring 2018 Crew Training. The classes are scheduled to be help on Saturday May 5th and Sunday May 27th.

Over the past two months, I have posted several items about the 2017 Santa Trains event, the 2018 Western Pacific Historic Convention that will be held In Salt Lake City on April 19-22, 2018 and the 2018 Election. I encourage everyone to regularly check the website for the latest museum news.

Robots attempting to penetrate sites for various malicious purposes regularly attack the society website, like all others on the internet. My strategy to defend our website was to build layers of protection so an attack would have to get past several obstacles. The most visible to the user is the Google reCAPTCHA tool on our sign-up pages. This had worked perfectly until last month. We had an attack from either Romania or Russia (the IP trace is inconclusive) that managed to get past the "I am not a robot" tool. It had attempted to penetrate the 2018 Crew Training sign-up page. Fortunately, since to actually "sign up", the user must provide a valid email address, open the confirmation email and click the enclosed "Confirm Sign Up for Crew Training" button. I saw the bogus sign up before the attacker clicked the confirmation button and deactivated that sign up. (I get a daily security log email from our website.)

The second layer of protection in my system is it can be configured to immediately discard any request from specific IP addresses. I added the attacker's IP address to my blacklist file. The next day, the same IP address attacked again and was automatically repulsed.

For background information, I put the blacklist feature on line on December 18, 2015. Since that time, the site has been attacked 1,735 times. The reCAPTCHA tool went on line on January 23, 2016. Since the reCAPTCHA tool went on line, the only (partially) successful attack I am aware of it the one described above. I currently have 164 IP addresses blacklisted from attacks since I started as webmaster two years ago.

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