

Museum Web Page Update
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Santa Trains 2015 was a huge success. If you were unable to attend and want to see what you missed, or if you were able to attend and want to relive the moment, there is a new “Santa Trains 2015” photo gallery on the wplives.org web site. Use the “About Us” pull down menu to visit the “WPRM Photo and Video Gallery” page. If you have photos or videos of FRRS/WPRM events or activities you would like to share with the rest of us, I invite you to contribute them. Guidelines and the procedure to get your contributions posted are on the gallery web page. Contact me at webmaster@wplives.org to explore seeing your photographs online representing the society and the museum.

There are two new entries under the “News” pull-down menu on the wplives.org web site. The first is titled “Train Sheet Archive” and the other is “Notes from the webmaster...”

With the help of Frank Brehm, Eugene Vicknair, Kerry Cochran and Matt Elems, I have collected almost all the old society member newsletters, *The Train Sheet*, as Adobe PDF files. The collection goes all the way back to issue #1. I created a web page with the files organized by year to make any individual issue easy to find and view. New issues will be posted one year after publication. We are confident we have the missing issues, so after they are scanned and posted, this will become a complete collection.

I am also working on a Master Index for the archived newsletters. There is a link to the Master Index on the Train Sheet Archive web page. Once the index is created it will be relatively easy to maintain; but it is taking significant time and effort to glean the information from the 33 years of issues to populate the index. I joined the museum in 1992 and am amazed at the articles from the early issues about how the museum was created. I recommend taking some time to read about how your society and museum were formed and how your favorite artifacts were acquired.

On the “Notes from the webmaster...” page, I will post news about new features or items of special interest on the web site. I also will use this as a place to share some background and more information about the web site in general.

A new feature recently added to the Operating Department page is a photo directory of the Operating Department members. You can view it from the “Operating Department” web page under the “Museum” pull down menu. If you are in the Operating Department, but not in the photo directory, please send me an appropriate photo of yourself to post.

As reported in my last column, we have four new sign-up tools on the web site. Recently I added a major security enhancement with the addition of Google’s reCAPTCHA anti-robot tool to all of our sign-up tools. If you use one of the tools, be sure to check the “I am not a robot” check box before you submit the form. The reCAPTCHA tool uses a very sophisticated set of algorithms to make sure the user is not a web-bot. If it can’t tell for sure, it presents a set of pictures that the user must select from that match the stated criteria. Since putting it online, no robot has made it past the front door for any of our sign-up web pages.

I continue to make incremental improvements to the collection pages. Recently I have been working on the Boxcars, MOW and Locomotive pages. I created a new tool that inserts links to articles in the *Train Sheet* archive so now some of the locomotive pages have links to the articles about that particular locomotive. I expect this to grow over time.

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.