

To: FRRS Board of Directors  
 From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster  
 Re: Museum Web Page  
 Date: August 9, 2016

While Kenneth Finnegan and I were at the museum on July 9<sup>th</sup> we installed the refurbished computer that is intended to replace the dead web cam server. The O/S, video capture card, custom S/W Kenneth and I created and the networking to Hostmonster in Utah, our web site provider, worked as expected. The [newly created webcam webpage](#) (not released to the public yet) also worked as intended. However, between the server room and the top of the power pole where the cameras reside there is a problem. The east facing camera produces an image, but with severe distortion. The other camera is dead. I directly connected a spare camera to the back of the refurbished server and both video channels worked. Kerry Cochran has now assumed the project and will replace/rewire the cameras under the scope of IT Manager. Kerry and I plan to work on it on our next visit to the museum on Friday August 12<sup>th</sup>.

A new gallery from the Celebration of Life for Rod McClure on July 9<sup>th</sup> was posted to the [WPRM Photo & Video Gallery](#) on Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>. A video was added on July 13<sup>th</sup> and updated on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

I want to share following information from the Google Analytics used on the web site during the period May 7<sup>th</sup> (Opening Day) ~ July 12<sup>th</sup>:

Web Sessions by Device

| Device Category | Sessions by Device Category |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Desktop         | 68.38%                      |
| Mobile          | 22.41%                      |
| Tablet          | 9.20%                       |

Top Four Web Pages by Pageviews May 7<sup>th</sup> ~ July 12<sup>th</sup>

| Page       | Pageviews | Is there a mobile friendly version?                                       |
|------------|-----------|---|
| Home Page  | 21.11%    | Yes   |
| RAL        | 5.77%     | Yes   |
| Webcam     | 4.08%     | Yes (but not released yet – will go live when webcams return to service.) |
| Collection | 3.66%     | No  |

We can see that almost a third of our web site visitors are using mobile or tablet devices. The collection pages are the fourth most popular area of the web site and were not mobile friendly.

Motivated by the information above, I have created mobile friendly web pages for the Locomotive, Caboose and Passenger car collection pages. During the work on developing easy to maintain collection mobile web pages, I developed an approach and methodology that will work with almost all our existing web pages.

A major web site release was done on Monday August 8, 2016. It contains 237 new or updated web pages. I used the methodology developed for the collection pages to make mobile friendly versions of almost all the existing page. This release moved all the mobile friendly web pages out of debug and into the public arena. Almost all of the top level public pages are now mobile friendly. As the server loads a page, it examines the device and if it is on a mobile device, it automatically redirects the user to a mobile friendly version of the web page. If the mobile user really wants to see the full desktop page, there is a link on the mobile friendly page to the full desktop page that does not redirect.

As is true for the other “duplicated” web pages, the actual web page contents is only in one file. The revision control system inserts the shared code into the multiple flavors (default, mobile and desktop) of each web page when the page is made.

The pages that remain mobile un-friendly are some of the collection pages (which all need to be re-done like the locomotive pages), the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery page and the cgi-script sign up pages. The sign up pages will need extensive re-design and testing before they can go live. I suspect we will finish this season with the current versions and do a major re-work in January.

Additionally to help the mobile device user, a new mobile friendly version of the entire web site menu system is now available on the mobile pages.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> the museum hosted visitors from the Union Pacific Historical society. Steven Parry recorded a video, took photographs and created a written summary of the day’s events. Greg Elems also provided photos from the day. I used this material to create a new [news item](#) and posted it on the home page to show what was happening at the museum.

We have now collected half a dozen news items or press releases since I became webmaster last fall. I decided this was enough critical mass to create the [News Archive](#) page I had been planning for the news pull down menu. This was released 8/8/16.

*Train Sheet* issue number 170 arrived at my house on July 25<sup>th</sup>. I was shocked and dismayed to discover none of the four webmaster articles I had submitted over the last seven months were included. The articles are available on the [Notes from the Webmaster](#) web page on the News pull down menu. They were posted the same day I submitted them to the *Train Sheet*.

Eugen has now sent me Sponsor information for three new FRRS Silver Level sponsors. These were all posted the same day I received the information on our website on the [Visit WPRM](#) and [Sponsors](#) web pages.

Work continues on the [Headlight Master Index](#) page. Peter Arnold is creating the list of entries and I am updating the web page as they become available. There are currently 401 article and photograph references of issues 38 to 49. Additionally this month Frank Brehm and Kerry Cochran were able to supply the remaining Headlights that had not been scanned. These have now been scanned, so now we have a complete set of PDF files for all Headlights from #1 to #49.

No meaningful process was made on the [Restoration page](#) as I am waiting for input from the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. I did clean up the format of the page a little bit and made a mobile friendly version of the page.

I have been approached by Kurt Olsen who is a member of the New Mexico Steam Locomotive & Railroad Historical Society. He is interested in using some of our web site’s design and content on a new web site they are creating. They are restoring Santa Fe 2926, a 4-8-4, and sister to SF 3751 in San Bernardino. I am open to sharing, but would like some guidance from the Board before I proceed.

I have also been contacted by Peter Hinckley with suggested corrections to one of the SN web pages, [SN OPERATING RULES THROUGH THE OAKLAND HILLS](#) (web ticket 2016-0105.) We are working together to update the page.