

To: FRRS Board of Directors
From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster
Re: Museum Web Page
Date: September 6, 2016

Various postings were made (and removed) for Railroad Days, the Summer Raffle and Pumpkin Trains as appropriate over the month. The results of the election of the new officers of the society was posted real time during last month's board meeting to the [membership page](#). The three remaining items from the 2016 election to be posted on the web are:

- 1) The removal of "acting" for Eugene if he accepts the position of secretary.
- 2) The Election Report from the Election Chairman.
- 3) The results of the committee and department head appointments tabled from last month's board meeting.

At the end of June I was contacted by Peter Hinckley with suggestions for assorted corrections on a web page on the SN site, "[SN Operation through the Oakland Hills](#)." Working together we completed a major update of the page which was put on-line on 8/20/16. (web ticket 2016-105)

As verbally reported at last month's Board Meeting, the [web cams](#) are now operational and are on-line. I made some additional improvements to how the web pages are served. I implemented a queuing system for the web cam photos so a user can not try to load an incomplete image that was still being transferred from Portola to our service provider in Utah. Without the queuing system, users occasionally got partial images. I used the staging process to also add a date/time stamp to the bottom of the images.

Since the image on the web cam pages are really served from our service provider in Utah, if the web cams at the museum or the internet link from Portola to Utah go down, the web cam page continues to display the last image captured. I implemented code that will detect if the current image is stale and replaces the last image with a "Web Cams Out-of-Service" message. When the system comes back up it automatically replaces the out-of-service message and resumes normal operation.

Based on material from Greg Elems, Ethan Doty and Steve Habeck, I updated the collection page for the [SP 4706](#) caboose including its restoration project. I put a note in the "*Latest Museum News*" box on the home pages highlighting the project with a link to the page. I also created a new gallery on the [WPRM Photo & Video Gallery](#) web page. I would like more photos of this project, if you have some, please send them to me. I took a couple pictures Labor Day weekend while I was at Portola and will add them.

No progress was made on the [Restoration page](#) as I am waiting for input from people from the May 27th meeting.

I am redesigning the [WPRM Photo & Video Gallery](#) web page. As initially implemented the page has several shortcomings I want to improve. The page is not mobile friendly. Since so many of our web visitors are on mobile devices, this really should be resolved. The second major shortcoming is the long load time of the page. The page loads all the images when the page is first opened, even though most of the images are not displayed because they are in slide shows.

I have created a second implementation of the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery that will solve both of the issues highlighted above. I need to formalize the documentation and then port all the existing videos and slide shows to the new method. I expect to do this over the next two months.

On August 20th I submitted my latest *Train Sheet* web master article for publication. It is posted along with my previous *Train Sheet* articles on the [Notes from the Webmaster](#) web page.

Peter Arnold and I are continuing to make progress on the [Western Pacific Headlight Master Index](#) web page. We now have issues 35 to 49 indexed with 546 index entries.

Train Sheet #168 (one year after publication) was added to the [Train Sheet Master Index](#) (web ticket 2016-0010.) I also created a mobile friendly version of the Train Sheet Master Index web and the [Train Sheet Archive](#) pages.

Several more photos of the WP 841, “Silver Plate”, were added to its [collection page](#).

During my visit to the museum over Labor Day weekend it became clear there was some confusion about the museum hours for the rest of this year. It is my understanding it will be on the September Board of Directors Meeting agenda and will be discussed. Whatever the outcome of this discussion, as soon as I am told, I will update the web pages appropriately.

I would also like everyone to send me whatever pictures they have from RR Days Saturday or Sunday. I have a good selection for Friday from Michael Clawson, but only a couple from RR Days weekend. Next year I would like to do a better job of promoting RR Days on the website if I know ahead of time what is happening. Apparently this year we had speeders and model railroads and guided tours and things. I did not know about any of this in advance. If I don't know about things, I can't promote them for the society and museum!