

Museum Web Page Update
Paul Finnegan
August 20, 2016

On August 8th, a major web site release was made that added mobile friendly versions of almost all of our web pages. As the browser loads a page, it examines the user's device, if it is being viewed 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. A few pages (e.g. the volunteer sign up pages) will need more development and testing before the mobile friendly version can go online.

I have been enhancing the locomotive, cabooses and passenger car collection pages. I am bringing the pages up-to-date, adding more information and photographs. Additionally, mobile friendly pages are being created for each piece of equipment. Every piece of equipment in our collection has a story to tell. If you would like to adopt a segment of our collection, or even just a single piece of equipment, research its history and write its story, I would be happy to include it on the appropriate web page. I would really appreciate the help!

Our museum has web cams again! After a very long and challenging project, the WPRM web cams went live on August 12th. It was a team effort with Kerry Cochran, David Elems, Kenneth Finnegan, Eugene Vicknair and me that took almost a year to execute. Kenneth configured a computer donated by Eugene. Kerry donated the funds to acquire the video capture card. Kenneth and I wrote the software to capture and forward the web cam shots to our web host site. Kerry, David and I installed the cameras at the museum. The new cameras have a much wider angle of view and we snag just a little of the sun shades from the camera weather housings, but the night vision is outstanding compared to the old cameras.

A News Archive web page has been added to the News pull-down menu. This web page will have links to the various press-releases and short-term special announcement web pages. The items posted as of today are:

- New Web Cam Cameras Installed August 12, 2016
- Union Pacific Historical Society Visit July 28, 2016
- Getting Ready for 2016 RR Days at WPRM
- FRRS at Mohawk Valley Independence Day Festival July 3, 2016
- Rod McClure June 11, 2016
- Media Day May 27, 2016
- Santa Trains 2015

Work continues adding material to the Historical/Archive Department web pages under the Museum pull-down menu. Peter Arnold and I are creating an index for the material in the *Headlight* magazines. The objective is to make it easy to do research using the society's journal of WP history. The *Headlight* includes articles of interest for modelers and those wishing to know more of the historical aspects of the Western Pacific and subsidiary roads. Note: The *Headlight* articles are not published online. However, there is a list of back issues available for purchase in the Museum Gift shop on the

web page “List of articles in THE WESTERN PACIFIC Headlight magazines” on the Historical/Archive Department main page.

In support of the society’s fund raising efforts, I have added material for our Sponsorship program to the website. You can find more information on our Sponsors and the Sponsorship program via the Sponsors link on the Visit Us pull-down menu.

Peter Hinckley provided me with a complete rewrite of the SN web page *SN Operation though the Oakland Hills*. I posted the update on August 20, 2016. A large collection of web pages about the Sacramento Northern can be found on the Museum → Sacramento Northern pull-down menu entry.

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.