

Museum Web Page Update
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The summer 2017 Season is upon us and things at the museum have been hopping. A major focus of my work on the web site is to promote the museum and our society for the visiting public and our members. This spring, to keep everyone up-to-date on several special events, such as the convention in Reno and the annual members' meeting, many new items came and went on the "*Latest Museum News Update*:" column on the home page and on dedicated event news pages.

The web site's "FRRS/WPRM News Archive" (under the News pull-down menu) and "WPRM Photo & Video Gallery" (under the About Us pull-down menu) pages were frequently updated to reflect the latest events. One of the more entertaining items is a short video created by ABC10 of Sacramento promoting our Run-a-Locomotive program. The video and a look behind the scenes while the video was being made are on the "WPRM Photo & Video Gallery" page.

Over Memorial Day weekend, we rolled out a new web-based Conductor Report for the Operating Department. At the end of any train operation, the crew should fill out a conductor report. Last year, at the end of the season, it was discovered that a few reports were either lost or had never been written. I created a new custom reporting system on our web site. Using the new system, an electronic copy of the report is permanently kept on-line and is mailed at the end of the day to the Operating Department mail alias. Additionally, individual crew service records are automatically updated with each report. If there was a scheduled train for which no conductor report was created, an automatic email is sent to the Operating Department mail alias at the end of the day advising a report is missing. This will allow for immediate follow-up to ensure we have our paperwork in proper order. The new system seems to be working well with the crews.

Two Train Crew members asked that we set up a reminder email two days before their sign-up date (web ticket 20170-0053.) An automated email system was set-up, tested and put on-line June 10, 2017. An additional request was made to display all recent conductor reports to aid in creating work reports, this feature was also added.

A new web page was created under the Members pull-down menu, "Minutes & Reports." This page has the minutes from Board and Members' meetings along with the written reports submitted. There is currently some missing information, which we hope to find and post. The plan for the future is to post the preliminary minutes as soon as they become available after a meeting. The reports will be added as they become available and then the preliminary minutes will be replaced with the approved minutes after the next meeting. This is meant to significantly improve communication within the society.

A long desired feature was added to the web site in early June. A Google Custom Search Engine widget was added to the home page, just under the menus. (On the mobile home page it is about in the middle of the page.) This powerful search engine is meant to help you easily find things that are somewhere on our web site. Give it a spin and let me know what you think.

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.