

To: FRRS Board of Directors
From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster
Re: Museum Web Page
Date: February 7, 2016

As previously reported, on 12/30/2015, Tom Carter sent me an email requesting the new Museum Policy page be taken off-line for review. In less than 28 minutes the page was off-line. Kerry Cochran, Eugene Vicknair and Tom are reviewing what steps, if any, should be taken. I opened web ticket 2015-0115 with Kerry and Tom as requesters and I am awaiting further instructions.

On 1/5/16 Matt Elems reported that the Nomination and Election link on the Membership web page was broken (web ticket 2016-0003.) This was caused by removing all the policies on 12/30/15. I immediately put the Nomination and Election policy back on-line in a temporary location until the global question of policies on the web page is resolved.

On 1/3/16 Greg Elems reported that the Boxcar link off the Freight-cars web page went to the Reefers web page (web ticket 2016-0001.) After investigation, it looks like the Boxcar page was created by copying it from the Reefers page at some time in the past and the project got interrupted. The boxcar page was an exact copy of the reefers page except for the name. Greg shared with me he remembered seeing boxcars on the web site about seven years ago. I used the Internet Archive to look at wplives.org web pages starting in 2002. I found a copy from August of 2007 that indeed has boxcars on it. Now that I had file names for the images (many of the images were broken links on the archive, but I could read the HTML source code and see the filenames), I looked in our web account and found all the images under /mike/uploadXX directories. Using these images, I created a [new box car web page](#). Greg also contributed six photos. I used the captions from 2007, but I think we should review them when we get a chance (web ticket 2016-0004.)

Using the same approach as the Boxcars page, I created the [Caboose page](#).

Working with Frank Brehm, Eugene Vicknair, Kerry Cochran and Matt Elems I created a new [Train Sheet archive web page](#). The page will have all the Train Sheets more than one year old posted. When it goes public it will be listed under the "News" pull-down menu. Not all the issues are posted yet, but we are working on collecting them and getting them posted. I created a look up document based on article titles and table of contents as a link off the Train Sheet Archive page. I also started creation of a [Train Sheet Master Index](#). This will be an index with links to all the Train Sheet issues. If you visit the page, please note the metrics at the bottom of the page. I also expanded its scope to include special event programs such as the [Grand Opening](#) and [Circle the Wagons](#) events.

I created a new web page dedicated to [SPMW 208](#), our rotary snow plow. I also created a new template so creating new web pages for other maintenance-of-way equipment will be of a uniform look and feel. (It will also make them easier to create!)

On Saturday January 16th, Kerry Cochran, Rick Grungier, Kenneth Finnegan and I participated in the Working Group Meeting #2. The meeting focused on preparing for the spring Operating Department Training, summer operations, museum volunteer opportunities and several discussions about how we can improve the web site and make it more useful to the museum and our visitors.

The [Operating Department Extra Board](#) was updated to show running a caboose train for the UP Convention bus tour on Thursday 7/28/16. The [Crew Sign Up tool](#) was also updated.

Mike Mucklin fielded two photo requests from me and dug into the archives and provided me with several excellent photographs for use on the web site. I have used some of them on the [Contact Us](#) and [Reefers](#) (used as page top picture on the Reefers page, previously it was an empty box) pages. I used another as the cover slide for the radio training PowerPoint presentation for spring crew training.

An announcement for the convention in Modesto was added to [home page](#) and the entry on the [calendar page](#) was made into a link to the convention web site based on an email from Eugene (web ticket 2016-0022.)

The link on the home page news box to the election information was made more obvious per a request from Dave Epling (web ticket 2016-0016.) As I got information from David about the election I updated the information on the [membership page](#).

All of our new sign up tools have had to deal with web robots probing the cgi scripts. I put several layers of defense in the code I created to deal with the almost daily attacks. None of the attacks actually succeeded in “signing up”, but some of them required I manually delete a couple pending requests each week. My son Kenneth suggested I investigate a free tool available from Google. On Thursday January 22nd I added the new state of the art tool, [reCAPCHA](#), to all of our cgi forms. This tool uses a very sophisticated set of algorithms to decide if the “user” is a human or a robot. If it can’t decide for sure, it asks a question that a human can easily answer, but a robot will in all likely hood fail. Since putting this on-line, as of February 7th, we have had 32 attacks and zero intrusions.

As an additional defense against abuse of our sign up tools, the tools require the user respond to an email sent to the email address used during sign up. Until the user clicks the confirm button in the email the sign up is not completed and is not posted on the volunteer sign up pages. This is the same validation approach that the I-Volunteer tool used, so our users should be familiar with the process.

All four of the new sign up tools are being used by society members to sign up for crew training, working on the caboose train, volunteering at general museum events and requesting space in the Edenvold. I am not aware of any issues or problems with the tools at this time.

On January 23rd, Kerry Cochran sent out an email stating he had decided to discontinue the use of I-Volunteer at our museum. It will be removed during the next site-wide menu update (web ticket 2016-0025) which is expected to happen when the Train Sheet archive goes on-line.

Kerry Cochran requested we create an Operating Department Crew Member page at the January Working Group meeting. I have created a new [Operating Department Roster](#) web page and added it to the [Operating Department](#) web page on January 31st. I will continue to populate it as we move into the operating season for 2016.