

To: FRRS Board of Directors
From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster
Re: Museum Web Page
Date: May 25, 2016

A new online tool to allow users to update their membership information (address, phone(s) and email(s)) went online on May 17th. The [Change of Address](#) tool has a link on the [Membership](#) page and the [Contact Us](#) web pages. This month I added a much more detailed description about the membership levels on the membership page. (The membership level descriptions are each in a separate file such that all web pages with this information are updated if the descriptions change. We are developing a set of tools to support joining and renewing memberships online. These web pages, plus the associated emails, all use the same membership level description files. Using this approach if something changes or is updated, the change is only made in one place and all the web pages and emails are automatically updated.)

Eugene Vicknair requested a special membership promotion page be created for a half-price Plumas County resident membership drive. The [page](#) was created and links put on the [webcam](#), [desktop](#) and [mobile](#) home pages on May 16th. It will be removed on July 1st.

Frank Brehm sent me all the *Train Sheet* issues (as PDF files) that were missing from the [Train Sheet Archive](#). The Train Sheet Archive is now complete, up-to-date and online! It contains all the issues that are over one year old. The archive has all of the issues from #1 to #167 in it. Since a few issues were combined, there are 163 PDF files in the archive.

In addition to the Archive, there is a [Train Sheet Master Index](#) web page. The Master Index is like the index in the back of a non-fiction book. There is a column of topics, a column of article titles/descriptions, a column of the issues and then the page numbers. The article title/description and issue entries are links to the articles inside the PDF files. Depending on how the user's web browser is configured, clicking on an article reference will either take them to the PDF for *The Train Sheet* or directly to the page of the article inside the PDF file. As of May 20th, there are 1,057 index topics with 5,553 references. In addition to the *Train Sheet* newsletters, a few special items are also included in the index.

As new *Train Sheet* issues reach the anniversary of their publication, they will be added to the archive and index.

With the Train Sheet Archive now created, we can enhance other pages on the web site by linking to the related issues/articles. For example I created a new web page, [Train Sheet Articles about the WP 165](#) Stream locomotive and put a link to it on the [Steam](#) page. Users can now easily read the story of the WP 165 as told by the *Train Sheet* articles. As new articles are written about the WP 165, they will automatically appear on the web page when the Master Index is updated.

In creating this archive and index, I learned a great deal about the history of the society and museum, I hope others find it informative and useful.

Eugene posted an article about the recent convention on the [FRRS News Blog](#) and I added a note about it in the "*Latest Museum News Update*" that appears on several of our web pages.

Kerry Cochran emailed me several crew members' "Mug Shots" and I used them to update our [Operating Department Roster](#) web page. We have photos now for almost all of our members. He also provided a couple photos to allow me to update the [Staff](#) page.

I updated the [Bulletin web page](#) by posting the 02-16 bulletin from Kerry Cochran.

The menus and web page banners for the [Historical/Archive](#) web pages were updated from “Archives” to “Historical/Archive Department” per an email from Kerry.

On Saturday May 21st, I learned that Kirk Baer had resigned from the Board of Directors. I removed him from the [Staff](#) web page. I changed his title from “incumbent” to “candidate” on the [Membership](#) web page election information section.

Two special [Crew Calls](#) were added for the Operating Department’s Crew Signup and Extra Board web pages this month. One is for Tuesday, May 31st for a school visit and another is for Thursday July 14th.

On Wednesday May 25th I received a set of still photos and a short video of WP 197 getting started from Ethan Doty. I made a gallery of the stills and a link to the video on the [WPRM Gallery Page](#). I put a note in the *Latest Museum News* box and a link to the page.

Ethan also shared with me that Steve Habeck reported that the dates for RR Days changed to be August 26-28. I contacted Eugene who sent me a new [FRRS Calendar](#) so I updated the Calendar, put a notice in the latest new box and updated the Crew and Museum Volunteer tools. I updated the Train Crew Sign Up tool, the Museum Event Volunteer Sign Up tool, the Extra Board and the signups for Museum events page. All web pages should now have the correct RR Days information on it. I also sent email to all the people who had either marked up as train crew or signed up for Museum Event Volunteer for the old RR Days event to let them know the dates changed.

The last week of May saw a flurry of emails with new ideas for fundraising, promoting items from the gift shop and enabling people to help stock our supply cabinets. I will report more about these topics next month.