

To: FRRS Board of Directors
From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster
Re: Museum Web Page
Date: March 5, 2017

Peter Arnold and I are continuing to make progress on the [Western Pacific Headlight Master Index](#) web page. Peter sent me another update February 27th. We now have issues 12 to 49 indexed with 301 topics and 1,438 index entries.

I updated the staff web page and appropriate email accounts and forwarders to reflect the recent board resignations. While doing this update I discovered several other email forwarder issues that have all been resolved. I also added a new feature to the weekly automatic audit/report tool that reports the status of the email forwarders and alerts the webmaster via email if they recently changed.

I utilized the new artwork created by Big Fish Creations to change the top of the home page. I created several sample pages and asked my focus group for opinions. After reviewing the feedback and making a few minor tweaks, the new homepage went on-line on Sunday February 26th. The new banner is a link to a larger page ad. After the summer season, I plan to replace it. Perhaps we should start to think of this area of the home page as a billboard and have items highlighting upcoming events like the Pumpkin Express or Santa Trains.

I updated the election information on the [Membership page](#) per an email from David Epling March 5th. As reported last month, I am exploiting the off-season to work behind the curtain on improving the documentation for the website and the automated audit tool. I added a significant amount of information to the web site audit report this month. Much of it will not really impact the user, but is aimed at helping the webmaster maintain the web site. The tool checks web pages for 46 possible errors, 7 possible warnings and 12 possible items that are classified as notes. Errors are things that are broken that impact the audit itself or a user. For example a broken link is an error. An example of a warning is finding a phone number in a webpage that is not listed on the "known good" phone number list. Maybe it is correct, maybe it is a typo. The phone number needs to be added to the list or corrected in the web page. An example of a note is "The email forwarders recently changed." This would alert the webmaster to go read the full email forwarder report and make sure the changes are understood, consistent and correct. People besides the webmaster can modify the email forwarders at Hostmonster but the webmaster needs to know if they are changed.

Robbie Campbell, one of my web site focus group reviewers, pointed out a spelling error in the "*Latest News box*" on the home page. The spelling error had been on the home page since mid-November. This clearly demonstrated that the method I had been using for spell checking was not sufficient. I added a new feature to the automated audit tool that I have been developing that now performs a spell check on every public page on the website every time the audit is run. It utilizes a custom WPRM dictionary so we can add unusual words or terms that the UNIX "*aspell*" utility does not know about by default. It found a surprising number of spelling errors on the website. Some had been there for more than five years. The vast majority of the issues were inside the comments and revision history sections (which were not checked by the previous method I was using) but some were visible to the public. All of the issues have now been resolved.

After getting the spell checker working and all the issues resolved, I extended the concept to finding all the email addresses and phone numbers on the web site. I created a list of known good email addresses and phone numbers, any items found not on the list are flagged as suspect. After getting this working I discovered we had an obsolete phone number on the RAL web page. After exchanging email with Rick Gruninger, Eugene Vicknair and Kerry Cochran I changed it to the Gift Shop phone number.

I continue to update the website as notified of things like cancelled board meetings, new information about the election, the convention, etc.