

To: FRRS Board of Directors
From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster
Re: Museum Web Page
Date: October 6, 2020

COVID-19 Update

The website has been kept up to date with all the new museum information regarding the COVID-19 health emergency. The home page, the Latest Museum News column, the calendars, etc. have been updated to show the museum is closed for the remainder of 2020.

Improved email Service

On Tuesday September 8, 2020, I registered the wplives.org domain with Google Postmaster Tools. We send emails from wplives.org as reminders for train crew, crew training and other society events. wplives.org also sends email when members join/renew online or use other cgi tools. I plan to start sending the email version of the *Train Sheet* directly from our new email servers discussed last month.

Some of the reasons for us to be registered with Google Postmaster tools are:

- When we send emails to Gmail users, we can use Postmaster Tools to see:
 - o If users are marking our emails as spam
 - o Whether we are following Gmail's best practices
 - o Why our emails might not be delivered
 - o If our emails are being sent securely
- It MIGHT also help to keep our mail of the users' Junk/Spam mailboxes.

FRRS DNS Domains Updated

As decided at the September FRRS Board Meeting, Eugene Vicknair removed auto-renew from the following 5 domains: sacramentonorthern.info, sacramentonorthern.net, wpmuseum.com, wpmuseum.info and wpmuseum.net on September 15th.

This leaves the FRRS with the following domains: wplives.org, runalocomotive.com, runalocomotive.info, runalocomotive.org, runalocomotive.net, runalocomotive.us and sacramentonorthern.org.

Web Hosting Move

As decided at the September FRRS Board Meeting, we have moved the web hosting service from Hostmonster to systems fully under our control. Kenneth Finnegan and I did a considerable amount of work over the past several months to establish a proof-of-concept system that we demonstrated to select members of the FRRS Board. Before the complete migration, the webcam service and the wplives.org email service was migrated to the new system.

On Saturday, September 26th, Kenneth and I completed the move from Hostmonster to our new server on Kenneth's PhirePhly Design network located at Hurricane Electric's FMT2 data center in Fremont, California. The website, the wplives.org email system, and our sub-domains are now fully under our control.

PhirePhly Design is hosting the virtual machine gratis, thus saving the society the cost of web hosting every month. We plan to move the DNS hosting from Hostmonster and NameSecure to Google Domains and Cloudflare in the near future, providing additional cost savings due to their lower cost. The end user of the website should not notice anything different, except improved performance and reliability.

Over the next month or two, we will also move our DNS services off Hostmonster and then close the FRRS account at Hostmonster. This change was motivated by reoccurring service disruptions at Hostmonster and intolerable customer service and support. Additionally this change will save the FRRS

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money with a higher performance, lower cost web hosting infrastructure. I will detail the cost advantages in future reports when I have actual expense information.

Since the site move, I have received no reports of problems or issues.

Hostmonster Account Auto-Renew Disabled

On Sunday, October 4th 2020, I disabled all the auto-renew authorizations on our account at Hostmonster. The annual renewal was coming up for \$287.76. **Since our website is now served gratis by PhirePhly Design, we do not need to pay this annual fee anymore.**

SN Lives!

On September 28th, I posted a really nice new first person story on the SN webpage on the society's website. SACRAMENTO NORTHERN'S SOUTH-END FINALE: A BOY'S RETROSPECTIVE OF AN INCREDIBLE SUMMER by Darrol J. Stanley. It is in the "Personal Stories" section.

General Items

- 9/11/20 – Posted material for the September Board Meeting to the [Minute & Reports](#) webpage.
- 9/12/20 – Posted additional material for the September Board Meeting to the [Minute & Reports](#) webpage.
- 9/13/20 – Added link to "FRRS/WPRM Updated Equipment Roster September 2020" created by Steve Habeck to the [Collections page](#).
- 9/17/20 – Added two photos from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2020 Gallery](#).
- 9/20/20 – Added email contact information for mail order of *Headlights* on [WP History Headlights](#) page.
- 9/20/20 – Added a photo from Greg Elems of the fueling of WP 1503 to the [Around the Museum 2020 Gallery](#).
- 9/27/20 – Added a photo from Greg Elems of 805 and 501 to the [Around the Museum 2020 Gallery](#).
- 10/1/20 – Added two new photos from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2020 Gallery](#).
- 10/1/20 – Updated from the archives note in Latest Museum News to "WP Infrastructure"
- 10/1/20 – Posted *Train Sheet* issue 182 (July/Aug/Sep 2019) to Train Sheets and Train Sheet Master Index. There are now 1,210 topics and 6,137 entries in the Train Sheet Master Index.
- 10/5/20 – Updated Donation page for fundraiser per request from Eugene Vicknair, only for internal review, not released to public yet.
- 10/6/20 – Posted October Preliminary Board Meeting Agenda on the [Minute & Reports](#) webpage.