

To: FRRS Board of Directors  
From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster  
Re: Museum Web Page  
Date: November 10, 2020

## **email Forwarders**

We have used email forwarders since late 2004 to provide a convenient way to provide email service to functional positions or teams that we could control, e.g. info@wplives.org. For a long time we experienced intermittent failures at Hostmonster that we were never able to diagnose or understand. We have now had a few failures since moving off Hostmonster. However, now that we have full access to the mail logs and the logs from the mail servers, Kenneth Finnegan has gained a much better understanding of the underlying problems. From our current understanding, email from some service providers, the one we have investigated is AOL, do not forward correctly because the receiving domain (e.g. gmail) respects the original sender's DMARC\* policy. But the email gmail is receiving is coming from us, not AOL, so gmail thinks it is either spam or a spoofed address and does not deliver it. ~~We do not have a solution at this time.~~ Our forwarders are working with the vast majority of email client providers.

\* - DMARC, which stands for "Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting & Conformance", is an email authentication, policy, and reporting protocol.

## **email Forwarders - Late Update**

Just as I was finishing up this report to send in, I got a new email from Kenneth. We had another failure on the election@wplives.org email forwarder and Kenneth updated us as follows:

*"I think I got it! This was the example I needed.*

*It looks like the issue is that AOL sends badly broken emails that Postfix\*\* "fixes". The email specification is very clear that the maximum line length in the SMTP\*\*\* conversation is 998 characters. Since this was a long email thread, it "References"ed a large number of other message IDs, which AOL incorrectly sent as a single header line running to a little more 3000 characters. Our WPLives email server saw this invalid line, and corrected it by wrapping it every 998 characters, but this then broke the cryptographic signature originally applied by AOL since the "References" header was no longer one 3000 character line, but multiple 998 character lines with new lines inserted!*

*I turned off line length enforcement, and saw that the last email Matt Shuman sent was, errr... "correctly"... forwarded with AOL's headers unmangled and was accepted by all the other mail servers.*

*I think that should put this forwarder issue to bed."*

\*\* - Postfix is a popular open-source Mail Transfer Agent (MTA) that can be used to route and deliver email on a Linux system.

\*\*\* - Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, which describes requirements used to send and receive email.

We would never have resolved this using the email servers at Hostmonster.

## **AT&T email Issue**

As detailed in this month's *Train Sheet* Report, a problem was discovered with the emailing of the *Train Sheet* issue 186 to AT&T customers on 10/5/20. This includes everyone with emails ending in att.net, sbcglobal.net and pacbell.net. For some unknown reason, AT&T had blacklisted our email relay host vesa02.kjssl.com. Kenneth Finnegan and I opened tickets with AT&T to have them remove our relay host from their blacklist. In the meantime, I made our backup mail relay host, vesa01.kjssl.com, our primary

one. It is not blacklisted by AT&T and thus email from wprlives.org is now working fine for all our members to the best of my knowledge.

On 10/16/20, the AT&T Postmaster responded to our tickets and said they would remove vesa02.kjssl.com from their blacklist within 48 hours.

### ***Starting Planning for 2021***

At the end of December each year, the website needs to be configured for the next season. Things like the society calendar, the Museum Days & Hours at-a-glance, crew training and crew markup dates need to be updated. As part of the annual tune-up, this year I plan to discontinue the event signup system. This has never gained traction and has not been used by the society in any kind of meaningful way.

### ***Move off Hostmonster Cost Savings***

Last month I reported I had cancelled the annual renewal of our website hosting, saving the society \$287.76. On 10/8/20, a second product, dedicated IP for one year, came to my attention and it has also been cancelled. This is an additional annual savings of \$71.88.

### ***YouTube Removed one of our Videos***

On Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, YouTube removed one of our videos because it got flagged as violating their [Community Guidelines](#). I suspect the issue was with the name of the video, [WPContainersKeddie](#). Maybe some play on words for container and kids? I filed an appeal with YouTube and the video was very quickly reinstated.

### ***IT Work Session Sunday 10/18/20***

Kenneth Finnegan and I worked for about five hours on 10/18/20 from a list of thirteen topics related to our website system and practices. The most important goal for this work session was to complete the move of wprlives.org off the Hostmonster system. We created a new account at Google Domains to be the DNS Registrar for our domains and we initiated the transfer of our seven domains (sacramentonorthern.org, runalocomotive.us, runalocomotive.info, runalocomotive.net, runalocomotive.org, runalocomotive.com and wprlives.org) to the new account. We already had moved our DNS record management from Hostmonster to Cloudflare. Six of the domain transfers completed on Monday 10/19/20. The remaining one was completed on 10/22/20. Total cost for the Google Domain registrations was \$84. This extended each of the domains for one year at \$12 each. The first six now do not expire until October 2022, and wprlives.org does not expire until December 2024. The Google Domain cost was slightly lower than what we had been paying at Hostmonster and NameSecure which was \$99.90 per year for these domains.

Our annual products at Hostmonster (Plus Hosting \$215.88/yr and Dedicated IP \$71.88/yr) expire on 11/27/20. We can just let them lapse because we no longer use Hostmonster for anything. This will end our relationship with Hostmonster. On 10/29/20 I formally terminated our account at Hostmonster.

### ***General Items***

- 10/6/20 – Released updated [donation page](#) per request from Eugene Vicknair.
- 10/10/20 – Posted material for October Board Meeting on [Minutes & Reports](#) webpage.
- 10/13/20 – Added a photo from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2020 gallery](#).
- 10/14/20 – Posted Preliminary Minutes for October Board Meeting to [Minutes & Reports](#) webpage.
- 10/21/20 – Added a photo from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2020 gallery](#).
- 10/25/20 – Added eight photos from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2020 gallery](#).
- 10/27/20 – Added four photos from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2020 gallery](#).
- 10/27/20 – Created “new” style collection page for [WP 11012](#).

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- 10/29/20 – Formally terminated account at Hostmonster.
- 10/29/20 – Added link to IRS letter and Charity Navigator per request from Eugene Vicknair and Kerry Cochran on [Donation](#) web page and home page.
- 11/1/20 – Added “Western Pacific Symbols 1970's” from Kerry Cochran to the [H/A home page](#).
- 11/4/20 – Added three photos from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2020 gallery](#).
- 11/6/20 – Added a photo from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2020 gallery](#).
- 11/9/20 – Added a photo from Greg Elems to the [WPMW 11012 gondola page](#).
- 11/10/20 – Added link on home and webcam pages to [WP Historic 2021 Calendar pre-order page](#).