

BNAPS Webmaster's Report

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I took over as Webmaster last year when Bob Lane stepped down after many years of dedicated work for the society. In many respects the past year has been more of a holding exercise while I learned about the BNAPS web site structure and content.

When I took up the post of Webmaster it was on the understanding that I would need support in the role. I am glad to report that the web team, consisting of Dave Bartlet, Charles Livermore, Gary Steele, and Jeffrey Wallace, have continued to provide exemplary service in keeping the site up-to-date and functioning. I am also very glad that Bob Lane has remained with the team, working hard on the Circuits pages, and in an advisory capacity.

Telus, our Internet Service Provider, continues to work well. The site is clearly being used by members and the public, although I have received very little feedback outside of the hard core who form the committee or are active in the Study Groups. I presume this means that the existing membership get the information that they need. Who uses the site, and how they use it, remains a mystery. Mike Street has agreed to allocate some space for 'Web Site News' in BNA Topics, starting with the fourth quarter 2011 issue, to promote the web site to the membership.

The number of news items posted in the What's New section has fallen this last year to only 40 items to date. This is probably due to the fact that I have not been as pro-active in searching for such items as the previous Webmaster. As such I will spend the coming year getting to know all the Study and Regional Groups better, and actively solicit them for regular news items.

We have had no new philatelic articles posted in the past 12 months. Again this is due entirely to my not seeking items. However, in this case it was deliberate as I felt that there are currently too many articles and displays scattered throughout the web site, in different sections, that need to be pulled together before we continue to expand them. I am in touch with Leopold Beaudet and will be working with the BNAPS Education Committee to formulate a plan for these valuable resources.

The BNAPS on-line presence continues to grow, and the emphasis on the web site work has been turning more to using it as a recruitment tool to gain new members, or to keep existing members in touch with each other, than just as a philatelic resource. The ability to pay membership dues via PayPal continues due to Charles Livermore, and thanks to him we now have a BNAPS FaceBook page and Twitter account.

There is a need to streamline what is already in place. To this end the web team have been working on a new web site design and structure, which will make the site easier to navigate and maintain. The basic web site is nearing release as I write this report, and inclusion of extended material will take place over the coming months. The new web site will include a programmed page counter for every web page, so we will be able to see which sections are being used and which can be discarded or reduced. There will also be a password protected area for use by the Board, to share and access BNAPS documents, and we will resurrect the Discussion Forum for members to share philatelic information. Other facilities are also planned and will appear later in the year.

The coming year looks set to be very active, and the Web Team look forward to working with you to promote BNAPS to philatelists worldwide.