

## HIPS Webmaster Report 2017

The website continues to be a resource for both HIPS members and the general public. Although I do not keep stats on the number of visits, I know from the email I receive addressed “to the webmaster” that many folks are using our site for both enjoyment and research. We have had some small Forum enhancements: One can “search” old forums for something that you remember from years ago. You can also “instant message” anyone who leaves a forum post. This also is useful since you might not know their email and want to send someone a private message.

Another improvement is that now we are a “secure” site, meaning we have switched to “https” instead of “http” protocol. Several people had complained we were not secure so hesitated to visit or purchase from the site. Some would get warnings from their browser that our site is “not safe” and recommended they don’t use it. As of approximately December 2017, we have our security certificate and our data is encrypted so this is no longer a concern.

I have also continued to add to new iris our Gallery, including a special set of new historic photos from the “class of 1988”. I have also added additional pictures to our existing gallery iris, when I get exceptional photos from our members. While there are some historic photos in the gallery where good photos just don’t exist, my emphasis has been “quality over quantity” when it comes to selecting pictures to post. Fortunately we have some excellent photographers who share their pictures with us.

We do plan for some Website upgrades this year. The main goal would be a much-improved membership database, second would be a speedier Gallery search. Fortunately our website has been quite stable thanks to our hosting service, Dreamhost, and I do not recall any downtime in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laetitia Munro, Webmaster