
Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2020

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The Rockhill coal tipple sits awaiting restoration as part of the FEBT workload for 2021. The trackage in front of it was cleared as part of an FEBT project earlier in the year. - Lawrence Biemiller photo

FRIENDS ANNOUNCE GRANT TO EBT FOUNDATION

The Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. have announced an \$86,000 grant to the EBT Foundation, Inc. for the stabilization and restoration of the East Broad Top Railroad's Carpenter Shop. The announcement was made at the FEBT's annual business meeting on Oct. 10, 2020.



The carpenter shop sits in need of repair behind restored trackage in October 2020. – Lawrence Biemiller photo

Over 100 years old, the Carpenter Shop served as the base for the railroad's bridge and building crew. It is a prominent component of the multi-building EBT shop complex in Rockhill, PA, considered by many to be the best-preserved 1900-era industrial site anywhere in the U.S.

The wooden, post-and-beam Carpenter Shop has been endangered by the rotting of its posts, sills and lower walls, causing it to list badly. The railroad's long-time practice of leaning stacks of steel driver tires against the east wall further weakened the structure.

The FEBT grant will pay for professional straightening and repair of the Carpenter Shop by Woodford Bros., the historic building restoration experts who previously righted the EBT Blacksmith and Machine Shops. Their work is expected to be done this winter.

In addition, FEBT has adopted the Carpenters Shop stabilization as a top project for its own volunteers, who hold monthly work weekends at the railroad. The FEBT volunteers will complete the restoration with repairs to the siding, windows,

and doors.

Once renovated, the building will offer additional workshop space for FEBT volunteers and railroad employees alike. Visit febt.org and eastbroadtop.com for more information. – *Lee Rainey*

ROBERTSDALE NOTES

This month's report is going to be less about what was done in the past, and more about what we'd like for the future.

For our museum to open, we need members to volunteer to serve as hosts. These folks will open the building(s), welcome guests, handle sales and donations (and the paperwork involved), lead walking tours (and perhaps handcar tours), answer questions from guests, close up the buildings, send email reports of the days' activities. We need at least two people for each day the museum is open.

Two? Yup, one person needs to be in the museum even while the walking tours are happening. Meaning, that of the two, one does not have to be all that mobile.

Prior to asking anyone to do this, we will have training sessions. So, any reasonable person can do it. Yes, there's paperwork for tracking sales and donations, yes you need to be comfortable using a computer. But we'll have it all well-defined. Dare I say it will be so easy even a caveman could do it? Worried about leading a tour? Relax, we'll have a training tour and we hope to record it so that you can watch it as often as you like to get yourself up to speed. Don't feel you know enough? On the second floor is the FEBT museum reading room that has a copy of Rainey & Kyper (and other EBT books). So, spend your time reading and learning about the EBT while you are there. Not so mobile? Partner up with someone who is and let them lead the tours while you handle the museum.



Bill Reynolds starts work on the last door to be repaired at the FEBT Museum – Jane Clarke photo

We hope to open each Saturday the railroad is open. So, I'm hoping to get at least four groups of two people. That way no one is asked to do it more than once per month.

Want to help but can't get out? It would be nice to have someone to coordinate the volunteers' schedule. Someone the volunteers could contact when they realize they can't cover the week that they are scheduled for. This person would then send emails out to the other crews and find a crew to replace them for that week.



Pete Clarke gets wet while power washing the gutters of the old post office building in Robertsdale – Jane Clarke photo

Now for our obligatory COVID-19 moment. Until things change, we will require masks be worn, and social distancing be practiced by all people in the museum. If you feel it needed, we'll require masks on the tours as well. An important side note here is that if you are among the early volunteers, you can help set our standards and procedures (for COVID, and for all things). Want to volunteer, but don't think you can do it until there is (and you have had) a vaccine shot? Contact me, tell me that. Here again, your action helps me to know what our standards and procedures should be.

Thinking of that 2nd floor reading and research room, we need folks to donate some items for it. If you've not been there, allow me to mention that the stairs to the 2nd floor are steep and the treads are narrow. It's a difficult climb. So, anything that's going there needs to be on the small and lightweight side. When I ask for chairs, don't think of your Lazy Boy. We are looking for: chairs, bookcases, floor lamps, tables, table lamps. We'd also welcome donations of any of the books that have been written about the EBT as well as magazines that contain articles about the EBT.

In all cases, do not just show up in Robertsdale with items you wish to donate. Start by contacting me to see if we still need that item. For furniture items, getting a picture of it would be nice.

Reaching me is easy; I'm the membership guy so you already know the email address – FEBT@AOL.COM

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you all at your Robertsdale museum in 2021.

Some work did happen in October. Bill Reynolds started work on the last of the doors to the Old Post Office. As per EBT standards, the original doorframe was crooked and hardly anchored to the wall. I tried my hand at power-washing the gutters and knocking down a bees' nest. It's not laying track, but it is still a tough job! (See photos by Jane Clarke.) – *Pete Clarke*

ANNUAL FEBT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Announced at the Fall Virtual Reunion on October 3rd, the FEBT 2021 Fundraising Campaign has kicked off, effective October 1, 2020. This year's donation goal is \$78,000, which is to support four major new projects. These projects are replacing the roof on the Robertsdale station, installing a security system in the new FEBT Museum building in Robertsdale, stabilizing the storehouse in Rockhill, and Phase 2 of the Rockhill coal tippie rehabilitation project.

There are several ways to donate. Donations can be made online at <https://febt.org/donate/> using the Company Store portion of the website, which accepts credit cards and PayPal payment methods to contribute. Donations may also be made by mailing a check to:

FEBT Fundraising Treasurer
C/O Ray Davidowski
P.O Box 81
Sarver, PA 16055

2021 Fundraising Goal:

\$78,000

October Donations:

\$6,411

Campaign Progress:

\$6,411 – 8.22%

October Donors list*:

Keith Allen	David Bulman	Tony Buman	Leighton Carlson
Dennis Dalla-Vicenza	Norman Delucchi	Larry Fuchs	Norman P. Gentieu
Thomas Haag	Carroll Hanson	Nathan Holmes	Douglas Langdon
William Larduskey	Dwight Leabhart	Michael Lynes	Garret McCabe
William Menefee	John Mowrer	Joe Phillips	Lee Rainey
Robert J. Savino	Robert Savino	Michael Shank	Terry Sprague
Charles W. Wikert	Brian Wolfe	Matthew Zollers	

* - All donors listed represent donations received between October 1 and October 21, 2020. Donations received after October 21 will be reported in the December issue due to press time constraints.

- *Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport*

ANONYMOUS DONOR WILL MATCH \$10K

Up to \$10,000 in total donations made to the FEBT's 2021 Annual Fund Campaign between November 1 and December 25, 2020 will be matched – dollar for dollar – by a generous grant from a long-time FEBT member. Acting now doubles the impact of a donation!

The FEBT's 2021 Annual Campaign, launched at this year's Virtual Reunion, is seeking to raise \$78,000 to complement the work of the EBT Foundation in Rockhill and to support the on-going Robertsdale revival.

After consultation with the EBT Foundation, we are asking you to support two key projects in Rockhill.



It is time for the next phase of work on the iconic, concrete Coaling Tipple. An FEBT crew has already done stabilization work and begun the repair of the delivery chutes. We are seeking \$10,000 to complete the repair of the chutes and to reopen the dump-truck road to the top of the tipple, so that it can be used for coaling engines. Future years are expected to see the replacement by FEBT crews of the corrugated-iron building that once stood atop the tipple.

A seriously endangered Rockhill building is the Storehouse adjacent to the Stone House. Long a top priority for our Rockhill crew, work had to be postponed during the seasons when we did emergency repairs on the endangered Freight Office. Now the time has come to enlist Woodford Bros. in the rescue of the Storehouse. Their quoted fee is just under \$46,000. FEBT crews will empty the building before the Woodford work and then handle the wall and sash repairs after the professionals have lifted the Storehouse.



You've read by now of the track repairs at Robertsdale and the delivery there of several hopper cars for display. Meanwhile, we have begun moving the exhibits for our FEBT Museum and the Museum Store to their permanent home in the renovated, FEBT-owned Old Post Office. That building has been wired for a fire and break-in security system. We are ready now to install the motion detectors, sensors, and master control. This work will cost approximately \$12,000.



The emptying of the Robertsdale Depot, also owned by the FEBT, creates the opportunity to do a long-needed replacement of its metal standing-seam roof, without risking damage to the displays and artifacts that were previously stored inside. The new roof will prepare the building for interior redecoration, with the intent to create a museum showcasing its freight-era appearance. The cost of the roof repairs will be \$10,000.

These are not the only things that FEBT crews will work on in 2021. They are, however, the urgent projects that are not yet funded.

Our total need is \$78,000. May we count on your prompt help to take advantage of the matching challenge opportunity?

You may donate online (credit card and PayPal accepted) at febt.org/donate or at the FEBT Company Store, store.febt.org. If you prefer to send a check or money order payable to FEBT, address it to Ray Davidowski, FEBT Fundraising Treasurer, P.O. Box 81, Sarver, PA 16055. FEBT is a designated 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible in the U.S.

The 2021 Annual Campaign runs until the 2021 Fall Reunion. We look forward to acknowledging all donors in our new e-newsletter!

Thank you for your support.

- Lee Rainey

2020 FALL REUNION RECAP

As with everything in 2020, COVID-19 has impacted how the Friends have handled some things this year. In order to help keep everyone healthy, this year's reunion was changed to be a virtual event. This Zoom call took place on Saturday, October 10, and started at 1:00 PM EDT. While this was scheduled to be a four hour event, participant enthusiasm made the event exceed that time budget. Randy Lehrian and Chris Coleman presented a host of good things, including three guest speakers. East Broad Top Foundation Chairman Henry Posner, East Broad Top Railroad Chief Mechanical Officer David Domitrovich, and historian Ron Pearson each gave a presentation. Of the remarks, Mr. Posner's vision for the future of tourist operations on the railroad was the most discussed topic since the reunion. If you were not able to attend, Chris Coleman has uploaded the videos in two parts to the Friends of the East Broad Top YouTube channel. Part 1 includes the guest speakers, and Part 2 covers the annual business meeting. You can find them via the FEBT website at <https://febt.org/2020/10/15/febt-virtual-reunion-video-available/>. – Doug Davenport

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top is up to
1353
active members

HOPPERS IN ROBERTSDALE

Last month this newsletter showed the progress made on restoring the scale track in Robertsdale. One might ask, “Why would they do that if trains aren’t going there yet?” On October 1st and 2nd, three hopper cars were transported by truck from the Rockhill yard and unloaded at Robertsdale. These three hoppers were placed on their trucks on the restored trackage to serve as a display for the FEBT Museum. Hoppers 911, 1033, and a mystery number now reside on the scale track, adjacent to the station building. 911 was built in the EBT shops in 1916, and 1033 is also a product of the shops from 1919. The third car is a 3-bay hopper similar to 911. – *Doug Davenport*



Two of the three hoppers delivered to Robertsdale sit on the restored scale track on October 1, 2020 – Larry Fuchs photo

EBT FOUNDATION PROGRESS

The East Broad Top Foundation has continued its restoration efforts. Trackwork has progressed northward through Horne's Valley, and is expected to reach the Runk Road high fill before the end of November. Work has continued on locomotive restoration, and #14 is in the shops. The railroad is using its locomotive shop to drop the wheels of the locomotive. Per David Domitrovich at the Fall Reunion, the cast iron wheels are being replaced with steel wheels due to wear and tear. The steel wheels will provide a more durable base to reduce future maintenance costs. — *Doug Davenport*



East Broad Top employees remove the drive wheels of engine 14 in October 2020 – EBTF photo

TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

North of Rockhill, track restoration work is now complete to Horne's Valley, 2.3 miles from the Orbisonia depot.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2021 events calendar has not yet been released, but there are a few events remaining this year yet. One work weekend is left in Rockhill, November 7-8. More information is available at <https://febt.org/event/rockhill-work-weekend-november/>. – Doug Davenport

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

New: 2021 FEBT Wall Calendar!



Featuring the stunning photography of master lensman Matthew Malkiewicz, this magnificent calendar includes a different, seasonally-appropriate color or black-and-white image for every month.

The stapled wall calendar opens to 11" x 17" and is printed on heavy stock with room to enter appointments.

VIRTUAL REUNION SPECIAL:
Still only \$15* each, and shipping is free since you can't pick one up in person!

**Sorry, no member discount on this item.*

Pennsylvania residents, please add 6% sales tax. The most convenient way to order is through the FEBT Company Store website at the URL store.FEBT.org. We accept PayPal, credit cards, checks, and money orders. You may also contact the store by paper mail at FEBT Company Store, 19 W. Vandevender Street, Mount Union, PA 17066.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the East Broad Top Newsletter is a monthly digital-only periodical. Started in 2020, it is intended to keep members and donors apprised of what the organization has done and will be doing. The FEBT Newsletter is distributed by email to the current list of members and donors, and is a privilege of contributing to the FEBT's cause of preserving, restoring, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad for current and future generations. The editor can be contacted at febtnews@yahoo.com. Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25th of each month. Events occurring after the 25th, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.