
Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2021

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The East Broad Top Railroad's Carpentry Shop, as seen on January 27, 2021. This building is being stabilized with the aid of a grant from the Friends of the East Broad Top. – Brad Esposito photo

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The January donation period saw the FEBT surpass its 2021 Fundraising Campaign goal even further. Another 71 donations totaling over \$35,000 were received. Quotes are being put together for the four intended projects to finalize the numbers to allow for roof replacements in Robertsedale, the straightening of the Storehouse in Rockhill, and the next phase of the Rockhill Coal Tipple, so that work can begin once the weather breaks.

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, payable to FEBT, to:

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

2021 Fundraising Goal:

\$78,000

January Donations:

\$35,012.11

Campaign Progress:

\$115,350.47 – 147.9%

January Donors list*:

Artale Properties LLC	Ronald W. Beckman	William Best	Charles H. Bikle
Allan Brown	David Bulman	Alan B. Butler	William Carson
John J. Cipar	Philip Coyle	Albert Guy Daubert	Thomas A. Diehl
Ed Sheats/Sheats & Bailey, PLLC		Robert R. Farquharson	Richard F. & Barbara A. Gauthier
James Gorman	Carroll Hanson	Sheldon E. Hoover	Richard Horn
Iron Rail Bed & Breakfast		Vincent Jakubowski	John T. Keene
Frank Kyper	George P. Lind	Douglas Logan	Robert McKeever
David M. McMahon	Paul A. Mensing	Irvine G. Milheim	Joseph H. Miller
Michael D. Moore	William Mosteller	Joshua Nelson	Russell B. Norris
Richard Onorevole	Arthur F. Peterson	John A. Quinn	Jon Radder
John Rogalski	Frederick Sauerburger	Justin Santichen	Eric Schmincke
John Sharkey	Robert D. Shotsberger	Ray Soderberg	Chris Spina
David R. Stephenson	Charles M. Sullivan	Peter Switalski	Adam Thomas
Alan Thomas	Edward Thornton	Robert Troup	John Van Scyoc
Ted Weidlein	R. James Whipple	Philip K. Wooding	Terrill L. Woolsey
Donald Woshlo	Mark A. Yahner		

* - All donors listed represent donations received between December 22, 2020 and January 21, 2021. Donations received after January 21 will be reported in the March 2021 issue due to press time constraints.

** - Due to abnormal postal service delays, some donations mailed after January 1st may not be accounted for in this reporting. Any donations sent in but not accounted for in this reporting will be noted in the March 2021 issue. Please allow 2-4 weeks for any checks to clear before contacting the Treasurer.

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

JANUARY FEBT WORK SESSION PROGRESS



Marc Reese replaces woodwork on Combine 14. – Joe Goodrich photo

The first FEBT work session of the year began on Friday, January 8th. Brush clearing and trackwork was conducted at Colgate Grove. The EBT Foundation recently had a new access road installed to get to the grove by vehicle, which provided the participants with a way to get to the site until rail service is restored. – *Doug Davenport*

On Saturday January 9th, 2021, I attended my first work session since becoming a member in December of 2020. The day started with a briefing from Charlie Wootton. After the briefing, the groups went to begin work on their assigned projects. The people that were there to work were all very friendly and made me feel welcome as they focused on the job at hand.

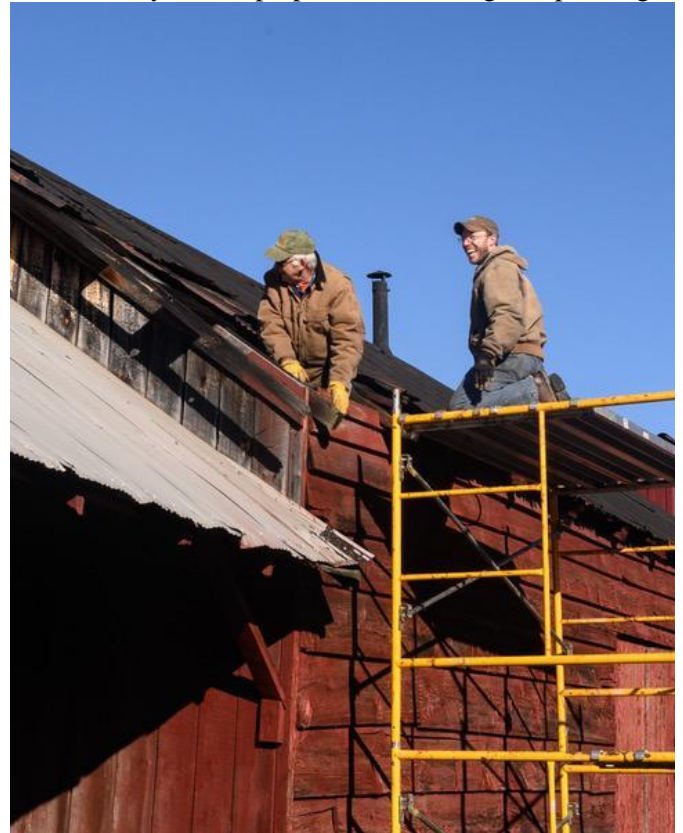
One of the projects going on is the restoration of combine #14. One of the portions of the project was replacing the slats on the car to stabilize and repair the structure of the car. Marc Reese is seen replacing one of the slats in the photo. Looking at the inside of the car, you can see what work has been done to date as the car continues to be restored. Meanwhile, Eric Knepp was busy scraping years of paint off the doors so they can be prepared for sanding and painting.

Another team member, Chris Spina, also working on the combine,

was sealing the support slats that had been added. The work being done on the car is coming along and looks great thanks to the Friends of East Broad Top Volunteers.

The next big project being worked on was the hole in the roof of the freight house. The team working on this project got to work right away by erecting the scaffolding they would use. This group consisted of David Ebright, Dave Deitz, and Brent Doub. Before removing the old roof, the group made sure that the area inside was safe for cutting without a fire hazard. While checking the area inside, it was discovered there were bags of leaves directly under the area where sparks would fall. The team removed the leaves from the area before starting the cutting process. The group then removed the old sheet metal by cutting and prying the old roof area away. The roof was repaired and hopefully more water damage will be prevented.

Another team working at the complex was removing old parts from behind the Carpentry Shop and moving them to the lumber shed for storage. These two men, Andrew Greene and Chase Kindig, made several trips back and forth with carts full of parts. One of the members of the group was like me, a new member, so I say welcome to Andrew Greene. – *Joe Goodrich*



The sheet metal crew makes repairs to the Freight House roof. – Joe Goodrich photo

Wind chill temperatures of 15 degrees didn't stop volunteers from showing up to work on various track projects around the Orbisonia yard on January 23rd. The always lively Gene Tucker commanded another track gang, keeping them busy and warm at the same time. Loose rail joint bolts were cut from the south leg of the wye track, behind the trolley museum, and replaced with newer bolts that were fastened down. Other track work included the inserting of tie plates under rail that had been tacked down Saturday morning and spikes laid out in advance to finish that section of track. The day ended with tie replacements on one of the car shop leads. While the wind and temperatures may have slowed the work, progress was still accomplished. – *Todd Johnson*



Above: Andrew Greene and Chase Kindig bring the cart back for another load of items stored in the Carpentry Shop. – Todd Johnson photo
Left: The sadly deteriorated lean-to between the Stone House and the Storehouse is part of the restoration plan for 2021 – Andrew Greene photo



Another activity that occurred was the photo-documentation of the Storehouse. This was necessary because the Storehouse will soon be undergoing a major repair due to sagging. This work will be performed by Woodford Brothers, who have raised several other buildings on the property. This repair is being financed by FEBT fundraising donations, and is one of the four projects that the 2021 Fundraising Campaign is contributing to. Once Woodford Brothers have completed the Storehouse work, the FEBT will be reconstructing the lean-to. – *Doug Davenport*

TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

North of Rockhill, track restoration work is now complete to Horne's Valley, 2.4 miles from the Orbisonia depot.



The track crew pauses on a frigid day while working on track bolts on the south leg of the Rockhill wye. – Todd Johnson photo

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

Half-Price Sale: 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.

Now only \$7.50* each, and shipping is free in the U.S.

**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.

EBT FOUNDATION HAS BUSY JANUARY

The East Broad Top Foundation has had a very productive first month of 2021. The shops at the Strasburg Railroad are working on rebuilding the safety valves for engines 14 and 16, as well as performing work on the drive wheels for #14. The Foundation has subcontracted Curry Rail Services in Hollidaysburg, PA to make repairs to Engine #16's tender. They are in the process of installing the new water tank within the tender. While the work itself will be new, everything is being rebuilt to the original specifications to preserve the historical authenticity. EBTF unveiled a new access road to Colgate Grove, which FEBT volunteers used during the January work session. A handful of cars were recovered from the Mount Union yard and trucked to Rockhill. Another item recovered was some of the trucks used at the Timber Transfer to put standard gauge cars on to traverse the narrow gauge trackage. The Foundation also vaguely announced plans to revive the Winter Spectacular event on February 20th. More details are expected to be released on the railroad's website on Monday, February 1st, at www.eastbroadtop.com. Several other events have been added to the calendar with future detail releases as well.



Several hoppers and box cars, as well as narrow gauge trucks for standard gauge cars, were recently recovered from Mount Union and brought back to Rockhill for restoration. – EBTF photo

There is one other bit of news that is in a different category. There was some brush clearing done along the line as well. That doesn't sound different? Well, this brush clearing occurred *south* of Rockhill Furnace. A contracted crew performed a large amount of tree and brush removal in the vicinity of the Pogue bridge. The railroad described the work as being done to allow for preventive maintenance. The statement also said that the bridge is in better condition than most people may have thought. – Doug Davenport

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1452



Pogue Bridge sits with cleared banks in January 2021. – Jonathan Smith photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
February 20	EBT/RTM	Winter Spectacular
February 20, 21	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
February 28	FEBT	Board of Director Nominations Deadline
March 13, 14	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
March 27	EBT/RTM	Easter on the Rails
April 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 22, 23	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 22, 23	EBT	The EBT Goes to War!: A Living History Event
May 24-28	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week
June 12, 13	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 31, August 1	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 21, 22	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 20-24	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week
October 8, 9, 10	FEBT	Annual Reunion
November 6, 7	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session

Hosts: FEBT Friends of the East Broad Top
 EBT East Broad Top Railroad
 RTM Rockhill Trolley Museum

www.febt.org

www.eastbroadtop.com

www.rockhilltrolley.org

FEBT BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

The 2021 nominating committee is now accepting nominations for the 2021 Board of Directors election. Randy Lehrian is chairing the committee.

The board establishes policies for the organization and prepares and approves the annual budget. In addition, members may serve on committees that meet in person or by conference call. Members serve two-year terms.

If you are interested in learning more about running for the board yourself, or if you would like to suggest someone to the committee as a possible nominee, please contact Randy Lehrian by February 28, 2021 at randy.lehrian@gmail.com.

CARPENTRY SHOP STABILIZATION BEGINS

Another restoration project has begun in the Rockhill Shops Complex. This time, it is the Carpentry Shop getting attention. Woodford Brothers Inc., of Apulia Station, NY, are once again at work saving a building in Rockhill. Work began on January 27, 2021 with jacking up the east side of the building. The building has sunk quite a bit over the last 100+ years of the building's existence. The contractors raised the east side of the building nearly two feet above where it had been sitting to get it to the height it should be. As was announced in the November 2020 FEBT Newsletter, this project was made possible by a \$86,000 grant from the Friends of the East Broad Top to the East Broad Top Foundation. In case you missed the November newsletter, you can read about the grant and other news on the FEBT website by following this link: <https://febt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FEBT-Newsletter-Nov-2020-V1-I2.pdf>. – Doug Davenport



A view from the southeast corner of the Carpentry Shop as Woodford Brothers begins the stabilization process of the structure in January 2021. – Brad Esposito photo

WHAT 2021 WILL BRING TO ROBERTSDALE

This year we expect that things will start happening on the Robertsdale station. With your generosity we have raised the funds required to replace the station roof. This obviously starts with settling the scope of the work to be done by volunteers and contractors then getting estimates. If a contractor is available, we will hopefully have a new roof to show off this Fall. I expect once the roof is done, we'll repaint the exterior of the building. When it's time for that, you can expect to see a big crew call like we use for Orbisonia/Rockhill Furnace work sessions. Generally, the work we do in Robertsdale only needs a few people and we do it whenever it fits into the schedule of those folks. That's partly why you don't see big crew calls or even a reliable work session schedule for Robertsdale. Add to that that in this time of a pandemic, a small crew just makes sense.

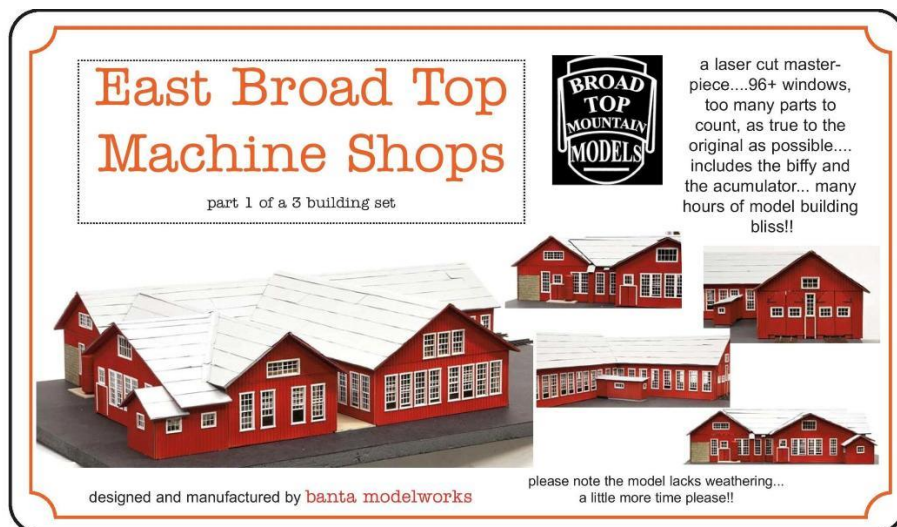
We hope to have the museum open on Saturdays, starting in June. I expect that a major effort in Robertsdale will be setting up displays, establishing the policies and procedures for hosts, and getting the store up and running. You are tired of hearing this, but none of this is possible without you!

We look forward to seeing you visit your museum in Robertsdale this year. – *Pete Clarke*

BROAD TOP MOUNTAIN MODELS: AN INTRODUCTION

My name is Nathan Kline. I own and operate Nate's Light Iron Hobbies, an online model train shop dedicated to selling scale model trains and accessories in all gauges. I have been interested in trains and model railroading all my life, especially narrow gauge and the East Broad Top Railroad. My interest in trains and model railroading, as well as my many years of experience, inspired me to establish Nate's Light Iron Hobbies in August of 2007 to bring a unique business to all fans of narrow gauge and shortline model railroading. At Nate's Light Iron Hobbies, we specialize in narrow gauge and shortline railroading, as well as DCC and sound equipment.

In September of 2017, I created Broad Top Mountain Models, a division of Nate's Light Iron Hobbies, to promote the East Broad Top Railroad. I'm an FEBT member and I'm very passionate preserving history; especially when it comes to trains/railroads and the EBT. It is my hope to reach the next generation of Old Eastie fans and modelers and keep the memory of, and hopefully the future of, the EBT alive for future generations. Starting with HO scale laser kits of the EBT shops complex, and then the yard and other prominent structures along the entire line, we hope to raise enough funds to expand into Blackstone Models-style ready-to-run models of EBT rolling stock and, hopefully, locomotives.



In 2019, after much research and thought, I began my first project; the East Broad Top Machine Shops kit. I was able to do this in conjunction with Bill Banta of Banta Modelworks, a designer and producer of laser-cut structure kits. It was a little over a year until the first kits arrived and were shipped in March 2020 which, as it turned out, was excellent timing since the announcement of the purchase of the railroad by the EBT Foundation on February 14th; one of the happiest days of my life... next to my wedding day, of course! I think I may have actually shed more tears of joy for the EBT, but don't tell my wife! The Machine Shop kit has provisions for adding our next kit in the works; the Boiler House. This is intended to be followed by the Car Shops, and then on to the remaining shops complex structures and other structures in the Rockhill yards. From there, we plan on moving to the Orbisonia Station building, and then other line-side structures, and then the structures in Mount Union. We plan to offer all these kits to modelers through the FEBT Company Store. Pictures and info on the Machine Shop kit, as well as future kits, can be seen at

<http://broadtopmountainmodels.com/east-broad-top-machine-shop.html>

YouTube model builder, narrow gauge fan, and friend Michael McCarville is currently working on a series of build videos of the Machine Shop. His videos can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEtO07-pyBs&list=PLoLLOmV5UuuNxnvTGkiEyqP-S564eYGD5>

The Machine Shop kit is currently available through the FEBT Company Store at https://store.febt.org/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=69_118&products_id=695

- Nathan Kline



The FEBT Track Crew works on the south leg of the Rockhill wye in January 2021 – Todd Johnson photo

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.