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Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2021

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*The M-1 and Caboose 28 head north across Blacklog Creek during the 2021 Winter Spectacular on February 20, 2021. – Bill Christian photo +*



# UXO DELAYS FEBT-SPONSORED RESTORATION

On February 5, 2021, the East Broad Top Railroad issued a press release which stated that unexploded ordnance (UXO) was found within the Rockhill shops complex. The UXO is believed to be dynamite, dating back more than 100 years. Five such cases of the dynamite were found. A specialty contractor was called in to mitigate the threat, which was deemed to be a very low level threat to the railroad, its employees, or the surrounding community. The stabilization work being performed on the Carpentry Shop, which is primarily funded by an FEBT grant of \$86,000, was affected by the UXO discovery. Woodford Bros. is estimated to have had their work delayed by one week. In spite of the delay, they anticipate still completing the stabilization project in March 2021, according to Jonathan Smith, EBT Director of Sales and Marketing. – Doug Davenport



*Significant visible progress has been made on the Carpentry Shop stabilization as of February 26, 2021 – Brad Esposito photo*

## FEBT LAUNCHES ONLINE SURVEY

Given the recent successes of both FEBT and the East Broad Top Railroad, we wanted to survey FEBT members **and the general public**. Your feedback will help us understand if we are meeting our commitments both to our members and to the railroad. Please help us on our mission by completing this anonymous 15-20 minute survey. Please visit [febt.org/survey](https://febt.org/survey) to participate. Your input is a highly valued asset to the Friends of the East Broad Top.

*The M-3 awaits its first run of the day in the Rockhill yard on February 20, 2021 – Justin Santichen photo +*





*Right: The M-1 departs  
Orbisonia northbound – Hugh  
Sinn photo +  
Below: David Brightbill does  
his best C.R. Wilburn  
impersonation – Dave Camisa  
photo +*



## COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

### New: EBT Rebirth Tee Shirts

High quality, very soft Hanes shirts. FEBT logo on front left side, photo on back celebrating the rebirth of the EBT. Two styles: "Good for the Next 100 Years!" and "Voice of Experience". Two colors (ash and white) for "Good for the Next 100 Years!." "Voice of Experience" comes only in ash color. Sizes from small to XXL. Limited quantities!



"Good" ash back



"Good" white back



"Voice" ash back



Typical front

\$17 per shirt except the XXL which is \$19. Shipping is \$5.00 for one plus \$3.00 for each additional shirt. A discount of 15% from the shirt(s) list price is applied for FEBT members.

Pennsylvania residents, please add 6% sales tax to shipping charge only; no tax on shirts themselves. The most convenient way to order is through the FEBT Company Store website at the URL [store.FEBT.org](http://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.



## ROBERTSDALE UPDATE

Have we mentioned that it gets cold on the top of the Broad Top Mountain? We set the thermostat to a low temperature (to save money) in the winter. So low that we have to put antifreeze into the toilets to ensure they don't freeze and break. That makes it all the more difficult to open the building for any work and close it when we are done. It also limits what can be done – we can't paint because it's too cold. We hope the weather will turn a little milder soon so that we can start working again.

Everyone seems to really be looking forward to having the museum open. This can only happen if more people can volunteer to act as a host. Please contact me by email at [febt@aol.com](mailto:febt@aol.com) to offer to help by hosting, or if you have questions about how you might be able to help. – Pete Clarke



*The hopper display in Robertsdale can be seen here in the snow from the southwest corner of the Robertsdale Depot building on February 20, 2021 – Pete Clarke photo*



*The M-1 works northbound just north of Orbisonia Station – Noah Cupper photo +*

# FEBRUARY DONATIONS PROGRESS

The February donation period saw the FEBT bring in \$3,279.20 from 33 different donations. The total fundraising campaign donations have exceeded \$118,000. Look for movement on this year's projects as the weather breaks in the coming months. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to make these projects possible.

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  
**February Donations:**  
\$3,279.20  
**Campaign Progress:**  
\$118,629.67 – 152.1%

## February Donors list\*:

Keith Allen	John Carl	Bruce H. & Elizabeth Courter
Robert W. Daughenbaugh	Andrew Dick	Bradley Dobbins
Douglas E. Fink	Bennett Frankel	Harry Doolittle
Dan Marquardt	Garret McCabe	Victor V. Kidd
J. Harold & Doris A. Mohler	NextEra Energy	Doug Langdon
Michael Richardson	Zane Smith	Kristopher McClellan
Robert Vaughn		Robert J. McShea Jr.
		Louis Pane
		Potomac Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
		Larry Smith
		Douglas G. Tarr

## In Memory of William L. Grove:

Loretta Baum	Kathryn & Paul Gouldy on behalf of Shirley Grove
George & Freida Kutcher	Kevin & Patricia Melly
Willow Valley Associates, Inc.	George W. Porter

## In Memory of Leighton "Lee" B. Carlson:

Robert Bell	Bruce Edgerton	Eric Edgerton	Christopher France
Stewart MacMillan	Brian Messinger	Thomas Nanos	Mike Ozaruk
David Peters	Brendan Richardson	William Sample	Paul Scarbrough

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

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

**MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE**  
The Friends of the East Broad Top  
membership is up to  
**1502**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
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 15	RTM	Members Day
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](http://www.febt.org)  
[www.eastbroadtop.com](http://www.eastbroadtop.com)  
[www.rockhilltrolley.org](http://www.rockhilltrolley.org)



*Two unique J.G. Brill Company designs pose beside each other at the Meadow St. Platform – Joel Salomon photo +*

## A SPECTACULAR DAY IN FEBRUARY

February 20<sup>th</sup> was an eventful day at the East Broad Top Railroad. As had been on the schedule for several months, that weekend was the FEBT Work Session for February. The interior of Combine 14 was the largest project being undertaken over the weekend. Carpentry work and stripping paint continued in the process of reassembling the car. Seats were taken out of storage in preparation for reinstallation. Despite the mid-week trackwork session having to be cancelled due to weather, the railroad reported that, through the collaborative efforts of the EBT Foundation and the FEBT, every switch in the Rockhill Yard has now received new timbers. With approximately 30 switches in the yard area, this is a major accomplishment in the process of making the line safely operable for steam locomotives again. The FEBT Track Crew did successfully install 35 ties on the main line, south of the coal tipple over the work weekend.

If that wasn't enough excitement for the weekend, there was another event taking place that Saturday as well. The East Broad Top Railroad and Rockhill Trolley Museum held a Winter Spectacular event, the first since 1981. The railroad operated the M-1 with Caboose 28 in tow from Orbisonia Station up to McMullen's Summit and back. The M-3 ran as well, taking passengers on a trip around the yard area. The trolley museum operated five different trolleys throughout the day from Meadow St. Platform the full length of their line to Blacklog Narrows. Lerro Productions organized a photo event for the afternoon and evening, featuring the equipment being operated for the day. – Doug Davenport



*Above: Eric Knepp removes paint from a door of Combine 14 – Wayne Wanzor photo*

*Bottom Left: The M-1 passes the The Little Ice Creamer on its climb to McMullen's Summit - Ron Singer Jr. photo +*

*Bottom Right: The FEBT Track Crew spikes fresh ties on the main just north of Oddfellow's Cemetery Road – Gene Tucker photo*



### TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

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







*The M-1 passes with Johnstown Traction 311 on the Shade Gap branch – Wayne Wanzor photo +*

## CELEBRATING IN PHOTOGRAPHS

A Winter Spectacular with snow on the ground was bound to make for some excellent photography opportunities. As was posted to the Friends of the East Broad Top social media pages, the FEBT Newsletter asked for your photos of the event. The 10 best photos were selected to be published. The newsletter would like to thank the below individuals for their submissions:

Dave Camisa  
Joel Salomon

Bill Christian  
Justin Santichen

Noah Cupper  
Hugh Sinn

Curtis Rockwell  
Wayne Wanzor

The selected photos used from this competition are noted with a plus sign (+) after the photographer's name in the caption. A large number of high quality photos made for quite the selection process. – *Doug Davenport*



*The M-1 and M-3 both await their next trips at the 2021 Winter Spectacular – Joel Salomon photo +*



# MEET THE NEW EBT DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

My name is James Roslund, and I am pleased to announce that I have just joined the Team at the East Broad Top Railroad as the Director of Engineering. Growing up in a family-owned construction company, I acquired the skills needed to contribute towards East Broad Top's rebirth working on building construction and restoration work. I eventually left the building industry to pursue a career on the Railroad. My first experience in this field was with a contractor. I was responsible for building, maintaining, and inspecting tracks for various railroads and industries. This led to a Roadmaster position at the Buffalo and Pittsburgh RR. From there, I worked as the Director of Engineering for Genesee and Wyoming RR, covering 4 railroads in New York State and Pennsylvania. After such a long journey, I am extremely excited to be a part of this team and the restoration of the East Broad Top Railroad. – James Roslund



*A rare view of the M-1 in the dark. This view is alongside the Stone House on the turntable lead – Wayne Wanzor 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](mailto:febtnews@yahoo.com). Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Events occurring after the 25<sup>th</sup>, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.