
Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2021

In This Issue: EBT Announces Excursion Schedule for 2021	2
April Board of Directors Meeting Notes	2
Come Join Us for Dumpster Day in Robertsdale!	3
Track Crew Rebuilds Roundhouse Leads	4
Trackwork Progress Map	5
Company Store Item of the Month	6
Upcoming Events	7
April Fundraising Progress	8
Somber Progress in Robertsdale	9



A scenic spring view of the Aughwick Valley on April 28, 2021 shows the views soon to be visible from EBT trains again, as the EBT Foundation track crew, augmented by FEBT volunteers, rebuilds trackage atop the long fill between Orbisonia and Shirleysburg. – Dave Camisa photo

EBT ANNOUNCES EXCURSION SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Last week the East Broad Top Railroad announced its first excursion schedule since 2011. The East Broad Top Foundation will operate trains over restored trackage on 12 selected days over the summer, beginning in June. Diesel-powered trains will depart Orbisonia Station at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM; a timetable that was typical during the Kovalchick era of tourist operations. Diesel motive power is expected to be used until the restoration of Engine Nos. 14 and 16 is completed, but no timetable has been released on the effort.

In addition to the excursion dates, several special events have been added to the operating schedule. This announcement adds 32 days of train rides, and will bring the total operational days in 2021 to a total of 37, when the already passed Winter Spectacular and Easter on the Rails events, and the upcoming EBT Goes To War!! event are taken into consideration. The Foundation ran trains for the public on seven different days in 2020. The EBT Foundation is heavily grateful to the assistance of the Friends of the East Broad Top for their contributions to restoring the equipment and track, which has contributed greatly to these excursions being possible. – *Doug Davenport*



**SUMMER AT THE
EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD**

DIESEL EXCURSION TRAINS

JUNE
11TH, 12TH, 13TH, 25TH, 26TH, 27TH

JULY
9TH, 10TH, 11TH, 23RD, 24TH, 25TH

DEPARTING AT
11:00 AM 1:00 PM 3:00 PM

SHOP TOURS AVAILABLE EVERY DAY TRAINS OPERATE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

1ST RESPONDER'S DAY JUNE 26 TH		FALL REUNION OCTOBER 9 TH
HOMECOMING CELEBRATION* AUGUST 12 TH - 15 TH		PUMPKIN FESTIVAL OCTOBER 16 TH - 17 TH 23 RD - 24 TH
ANTIQUE TRACTION SHOW SEPTEMBER 11 TH - 12 TH		CHRISTMAS TREE TRAIN DECEMBER 4 TH
CHRISTMAS IN COAL COUNTRY* NOVEMBER 26 TH , 27 TH , 28 TH , DECEMBER 3 RD , 4 TH , 5 TH , 10 TH , 11 TH , 12 TH		
<small>*COMBINATION EVENT WITH THE ROCKHILL TROLLEY MUSEUM</small>		

**VISIT EastBroadTop.com
FOR TICKETS AND INFO!**

– *EBT Foundation graphic*

APRIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

In 2021, your FEBT Board of Directors is meeting monthly to conduct the business of the organization and develop and provide strategic direction. Highlights of the April 7th meeting of the Board:

- Authorized the expenditure of up to \$12,000 as a grant to the EBT Foundation for pouring a concrete floor in the Carpenter Shop. This is one of several projects that we can do by exceeding our 2021 Fundraising Campaign goal.
- Authorized \$10,000 for initial phase of developing a joint archive with the EBT Foundation. This is also made possible by exceeding the 2021 Fundraising Campaign goal.
- Authorized \$5400 for 2nd quarter Rockhill Restoration work materials.
- Reviewed 2021 Board nominees and election procedures. Ballots should be in the mail sometime in April.
- Preliminary discussion on 2022 Fundraising Campaign strategy and goals.

– *Andy Van Scyoc*

COME JOIN US FOR DUMPSTER DAY IN ROBERTSDALE!

Do you like to work outside? Do you like projects with a definite end goal? Do you like to throw stuff away? Then FEBT needs you to help empty the storage container behind the Old Post Office in Robertsdale on May 15, 2021 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Come for the day or just a few hours. Lunch will be provided.

For nearly thirty years, this storage container has lurked behind the Old Post Office (OPO). It was rented to hold historic artifacts as they were found during renovation of the OPO and the Depot. Mostly it just holds junk. We will have one of FEBT's founding fathers on hand to judge which items might be worth saving; you will not have to decide what to save. Those things can be stored in the limited space in the Depot. Anything else goes in the large, roll-off dumpster. If you find something you "need" you may take it, but don't ask us to store it. For example, if you think you can get a couple of bucks for some old iron radiators, take 'em. We don't care where stuff goes, as long as it just goes away!

The dumpster will on site from May 14-28. So, if we need a second day for this project, we can schedule it. Of course, if we fill the dumpster in the first two hours, we'll rent another!

Note: We will require physical distancing and masking. Even if you have been fully vaccinated, you will want to wear a mask for this dirty, dusty, musty work.

A crew call will be issued on SignUpGenius, but you can RSVP to Jane Clarke directly at timbertransfereditor@aol.com.

– Jane Clarke



The storage container sits on the south side of the FEBT Museum building, and across the tracks from the Robertsdale Depot – Jane Clarke photo

TRACK CREW REBUILDS ROUNDHOUSE LEADS

April showers may bring May flowers. It also brought out FEBT volunteers on Saturday, April 10th for a work session in the Orbisonia yard. Friar Tuck (aka: Gene Tucker) gathered another track gang again to spike down some 90 ties on four of the roundhouse leads. Two full-time employees, Bud and Brandon, helped tremendously in preparing the site for the Saturday work crew. One of those members on the track crew was Dan Horting, a 20+ year member of the FEBT. When not elevating ties to the rails for spiking, Dan can be found working on his Pennsylvania K4s live steamer that he is building in his own locomotive shop in Lancaster. This was Dan's first time back as part of the track gang since pre-Covid days. He is already reviewing his schedule to balance his work on his K4s with future FEBT work sessions. The day ended with stone being dumped on the track with one of the four roundhouse leads being tamped down. More work is available for those looking to get outside and enjoy the Spring weather. – *Todd Johnson*

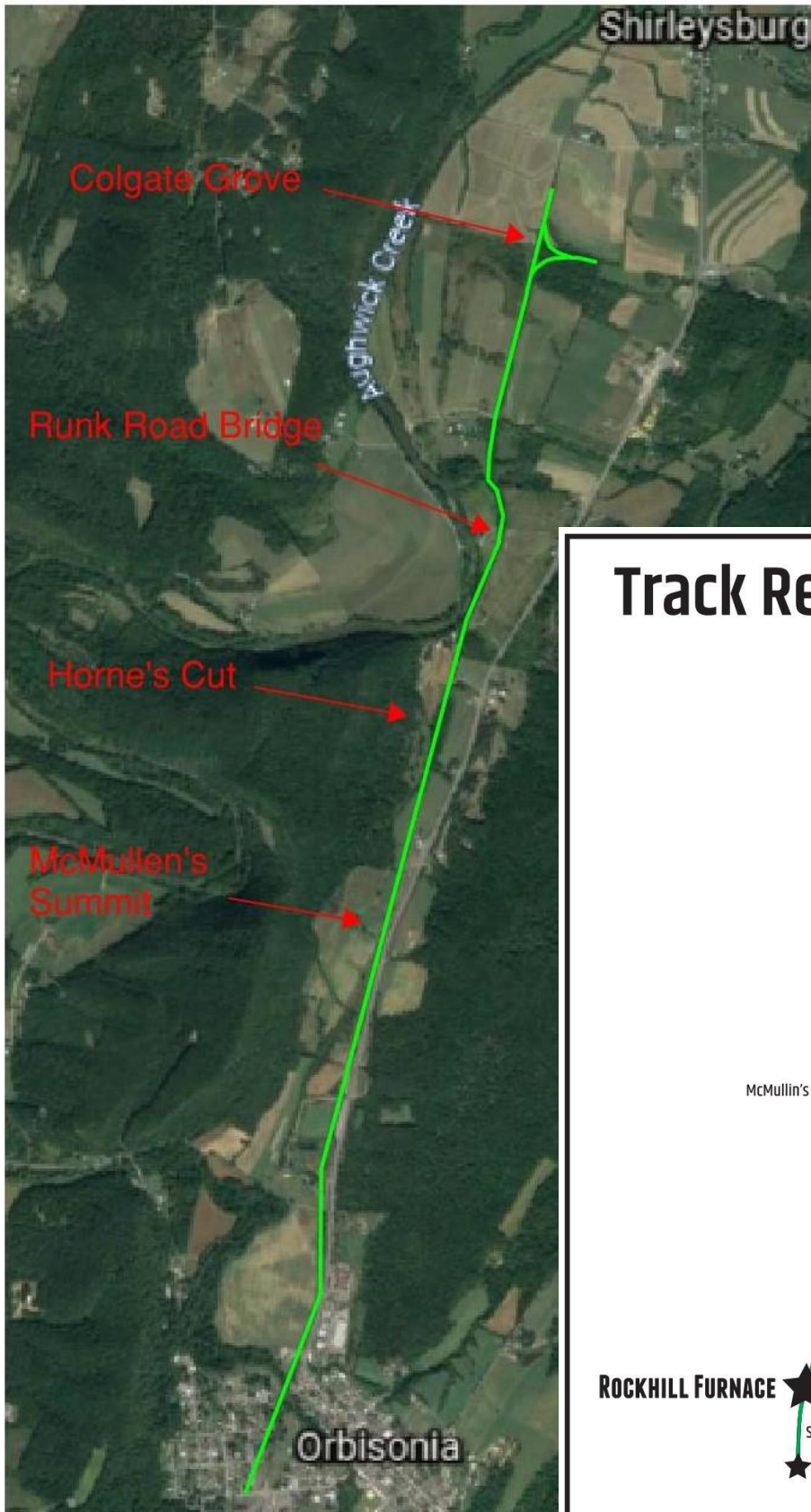


FEBT Track Crew rebuilds the roundhouse leads to the eastern half of the stalls during the April work session – Todd Johnson photo

TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

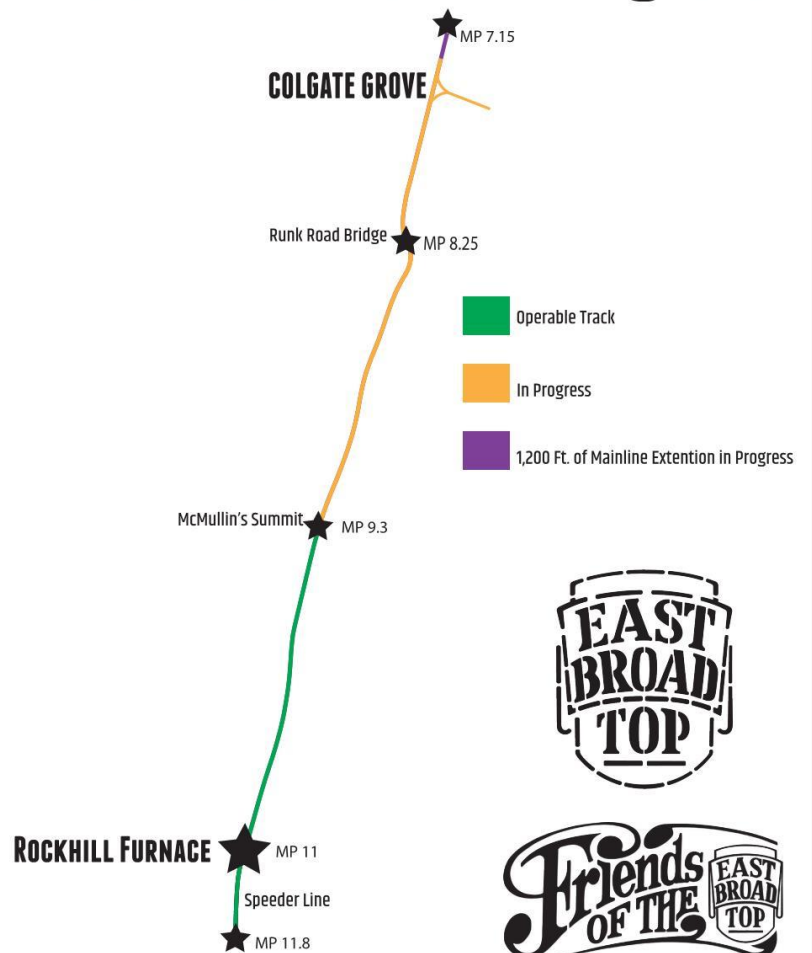
North of Rockhill, track restoration work is now complete to the long fill prior to Runk Road Bridge, 2.6 miles from the Orbisonia depot.

TRACKWORK PROGRESS MAP



Left: Map overlay by Doug Davenport
Below: Graphic by Jonathan Smith

Track Restoration Progress



COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

Sale on “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

Tee shirts are \$12.95 each for S,M,L XL; \$14.95 for XXL. Sorry; there are no member discounts at this low, low price. Shipping is \$5.00 for one plus \$3.00 for each additional shirt.

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. 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.

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1559

The “Membership Guy” has been very busy sending out new member packets over the last 15 months. – Pete Clarke photo



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
May 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 15	RTM	Members Day
May 15	FEBT	Robertsdale 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
June 26	EBT	First Responders' Day
July 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 31, August 1	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 12-15	EBT/RTM	Homecoming Celebration
August 21, 22	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 11, 12	EBT	Antique Traction Show
September 20-24	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week
October 8, 9, 10	FEBT	Annual Reunion
October 9	EBT	Fall Reunion
October 16, 17, 23, 24	EBT/RTM	Pumpkin Festival
November 6, 7	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 26, 27, 28	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 3-5, 10-12	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 4	EBT	Christmas Tree Train

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



The FEBT Track Crew poses for a picture after ballasting the roundhouse lead trackage they finished rebuilding during the April work session. – Todd Johnson photo

APRIL FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

We start this report off with a correction. Donations which had been made as additional payments with membership dues had not previously been noted, as they were sent to the Membership Guy in Damascus, MD while the Fundraising Treasurer lives in Sarver, PA. This issue has been caught and addressed by the volunteers who handle these items. The FEBT would like to apologize to anyone who donated in this fashion and has not previously been recognized for your donation, and your contributions are noted in this report. The April reporting period shows 41 donations, totaling \$5092.00, which captures several membership-related donations. For the 2021 campaign, \$131,498.67 has been collected from 443 separate donations. As you read above, some of the monies received have been allocated to campaign projects, as well as some additional projects which were not originally intended for 2021. Your gracious donations have allowed for these new projects to be funded ahead of schedule.

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

April Donations:

\$5092.00

Campaign Progress:

\$131,498.67 – 168.6%

April Donors*:

John Acken	Richard Anderson	Raymond Bruttomesso	Doug Davenport
Marlin Diehl	Thomas Dix III	John Faulkner	Douglas E. Fink
Louis E. Fisher	William George	Philip Grabowski	A. Gutsell Jr.
Gary Hart	Harvey E. Heiges	Robert Holmes	Terence Kasabian
Victor V. Kidd	Michael A. Kopach	Daniel Kruger	Larry Learn
John LePrince	Bennett Levin	Byron Locke	David Martin
Garret McCabe	Robert J. Meckes	William Melville	Paul Mensing
Wes Mylin	Douglas Patterson	Peter Reisiger	Christopher B. Ritchie
Al Rizzo	Richard & Jane Rutledge	Carl Salomon	Daniel E. Schmidt
Eric Schmincke Jr.	Charles Sullivan	David A. Watts	Elly Wefel

In Memory of Charles Rogers:
Delleis Family
Gordon & Sue Wightman

* - All donors listed represent donations received between March 22, 2021 and April 21, 2021, as well as donations sent to the Membership Department between January 1, 2021 and April 21, 2021. Donations received after April 21 will be reported in the May 2021 issue due to press time constraints.

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

SOMBER PROGRESS IN ROBERTSDALE

Sometimes it's good to look back. I've just been looking back at what I've written in past issues of this newsletter. In the April issue I told of troubles with the door closers. Bill has figured the issue out. Yes, fixing it involves taking a lot of wood down, adjusting it, then repainting it. But the job is getting done, if slowly. That same issue told of a crew going up to work on the big display panels. Scarlett followed that trip by going back up again to finish up one more panel.

April also brought sad news. I hope you'll remember the story I told in the December issue of how strong Jerry Skeim was that day. How he lifted boxes that completely defeated me. I'm very sorry to pass on the news that Jerry has passed away on April 8th of Covid-19-related issues. Additionally, some of you might be lucky enough to have one of the HOn3 brass models of an EBT caboose produced by Peach Creek Shops. John Glaab was Peach Creek Shops. I'm sorry to report that he passed away this past summer, also of Covid issues.

A crew has done more brush clearing along the track. They've cleared well past Mine #5. They are not just clearing the width of one track; they are clearing all the tracks. So, it's quite wide. Oh, it is so tempting! Please note as this is important: This is private property, not owned by FEBT. The railroad has given us permission to give tours, but other than as part of a tour with a certified leader (which we will offer once the FEBT Museum opens), walking along these tracks is not allowed and is trespassing. Don't do it.

Frank Benenati has put together a set of bookcases for the reading room. In another article you'll read of the crew call to help clear out the ugly and expensive storage container. Please join us that day (May 15th).

Dave Phillips has been working overtime building the point-of-sale system that we'll use in the museum gift shop. It's not ready for prime time yet, but we were in Robertsdale and tested it – and it worked. Oh, did you catch that? We tested a sales system that requires a PC that's connected to the internet. It requires a cell phone that can make a call. It requires a credit card reader. And we did that test in Robertsdale! We now have internet access in the Old Post Office. Emails have been sent; cell phone calls have been made!

We currently have 9 folks who have offered to help as museum hosts. I thank them all. Think that means I don't want you to volunteer? You just don't know how greedy I am. Right now, I'm confident we'll be able to open for the greatly reduced schedule I've planned (1st & 3rd Saturday of the month). If you join the crew, perhaps we could open every Saturday, or maybe add Sundays.

Our first official open date is Saturday, June 12th. We'll also be open Saturday, June 26th. The museum hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We are working on setting up some special events to give you even more reason to come to Robertsdale. Trains aren't running to Robertsdale (yet), but there is lots of information and lots of things you can learn about the EBT.
– Pete Clarke

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 Newsletter@febt.org. 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.