
Volume 2, Issue 9

September 2021

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The FEBT track crew installs new rail joint bolts along the main line south of Colgate Grove on July 31, 2021. – Evard DeMott photo

2021 FALL REUNION ONLY FIVE WEEKS AWAY

The annual Friends of the East Broad Top Fall Reunion is fast approaching. After a virtual gathering in 2020, an in-person event is planned for this year. This event will cover three days, Friday, October 8th thru Sunday, October 10th. The registration fee is \$25. Please register online at <https://store.febt.org> ahead of time so that the anticipated crowd can be understood by the committee orchestrating this event. You may also register in person beginning at 1:00 PM on Friday at the Robertsdale VFD, or beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday at Rockhill ES. The itinerary is as follows:

Friday, October 8th: Robertsdale, PA only

FEBT Museum open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Handcar Rides
View the efforts made in Robertsdale
Walking tours at 11:00, 1:00, 3:00 (3:00 tour with Ron Pearson and Rick Case as guest hosts)
Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum open 2:00 to 5:00 PM
Annual business meeting at Robertsdale VFD at 7:00 PM
Pizza available for donations prior to meeting
Linn Moedinger to present his father's slides of common carrier EBT activities

Saturday, October 9th: Rockhill Furnace, PA only

FEBT Company Store set up at Rockhill ES
Rockhill Shop tours
Speeder rides around the Rockhill yard
Modeling clinics
Food vendors (in lieu of the typical banquet due to Covid-19 concerns)
FEBT-only train ride – Ticket included in cost of registration
Fundraising Auction – Donations to the auction accepted up until the start time
Ride East Broad Top Railroad trains at 11:00, 1:00, 3:00
Ride Rockhill Trolley Museum trolleys from 11:15 AM to 4:15 PM

Sunday, October 10th: Events in both Robertsdale and Rockhill Furnace

FEBT Museum open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Handcar Rides
View the efforts made in Robertsdale
Walking tours at 11:00, 1:00, 3:00
(11:00 guest hosts Ron Pearson & Rick Case, 1:00 guest host Vagel Keller)
Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum open 1:00 to 4:00 PM
Rockhill Shop tours
Ride East Broad Top Railroad trains at 11:00, 1:00, 3:00
Ride Rockhill Trolley Museum trolleys from 11:15 AM to 4:15 PM

Please be sure to check the insert that was placed in the most recent *Timber Transfer* for more information, and for details on the Model and Photo Contest. Any updates to the event information will be published to the FEBT website, <https://febt.org/>. The 2020 virtual reunion event can be viewed on the FEBT YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/FriendsoftheEastBroadTop>. – Randy Lehrian and Doug Davenport

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1579

UPCOMING EVENTS

| Date | Host | Event |
|------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| September 4, 5 | FEBT | Rockhill Work Session |
| September 4, 5 | RTM | Picnic Weekend 2021 |
| September 10, 11, 12 | EBT | Orbisonia Antique Power Show |
| September 18 | FEBT | FEBT Museum Free Museum Day |
| September 18, 19 | RTM | PCC Car Day 2021 |
| September 20-24 | FEBT | Rockhill Work Week |
| September 25 | EBT | Ragtime in Rockhill |
| October 8, 9, 10 | FEBT | Annual Fall Reunion |
| October 9 | EBT | Fall Reunion |
| October 9 | RTM | Fall Spectacular 2021 |
| 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

FEBT MUSEUM DAYS OF OPERATION

September: 11, 18, 25

October: 8 (Friday), 10 (Sunday), 23

Museum Hours: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Walking Tours at 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM



EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD EXCURSION DATES

September: 10, 11, 12, 24, 25, 26

October: 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24



The M-1 will have a new roof, thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust, which was awarded back in April. The EBT Foundation began the work of removing the old roof on August 1st inside Carbn 1 in Rockhill. – Joel Salomon photo

AUGUST FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Friends of the East Broad Top enjoyed its smallest fundraising month of the 2021 Fundraising Campaign in August. Eight donors contributed just shy of \$500 towards FEBT efforts over the past month. While the August donation total is a low number, the overall campaign progress continues to close in on double the target amount, with one more month to go in the campaign. The FEBT is extremely appreciative of the 554 donations received to date during the 2021 Fundraising Campaign. Please keep checking back to this newsletter for further information on how your donations are being spent to preserve the history of the EBT.

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

August Donations:

\$485.00

Campaign Progress:

\$150,773.31 – 193.3%

August Donors*:

Alexander Bowser
Clifford L. Howell

Thomas Carlson
Victor V. Kidd

Steven Dickey
Garret McCabe

Douglas E. Fink
Edward L. Rosenberg

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

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

PHOTOS WANTED

Frank Kyper is writing another EBT book – and needs photographs of combine No. 18 and baggage car No. 29 – derelict at Fort Lupton, interior and exterior shots of the cars being cleaned out for shipment, loading, on the road, and arrival and unloading at Rockhill. Photos should be scanned at 1,000 d.p.i. .jpg or .tif and sent to frank@frankkyper.com, accompanied by written permission to use them for publication. All photos used will be credited. – *Frank Kyper*

FEBT TRACK CREW IS COMING IN HOT!



What did I do for my summer vacation? I left my air-conditioned living room to go out into the sweltering 90-degree weather to lay track along the EBT! That's what exactly Gene Tucker and his army of volunteers did on July 21st. It literally was a dog day of summer as a local canine from a nearby farm buoyed the crews' spirits while setting spikes in the cut just north of the Runk Road bridge. However, once the air compressor was fired up, the dog took it on the lamb and left the crew behind to enjoy the hot work on the curve. About 165 feet of track was secured to the new ties. Those involved included Gene Tucker, Larry Fuchs, Tom Perman, John Schrufer, Matt Stark, Gordon Ley and Todd Johnson. Summer is not over yet, and plans for more track work opportunities are in development. Consider joining Gene Tucker's crew. – *Todd Johnson*

Above: The FEBT track crew spikes in the rails through the S-curve just north of the Runk Road bridge in July 2021. – Todd Johnson photo
Right: Old track bolts are cut off to allow for new bolts to be installed on the straightaway south of Colgate Grove on July 31, 2021. – Evard DeMott photo

Gene Tucker's army of volunteers were again providing support for the professional EBTF track crew as they continued to attack Colgate Grove. Throughout the month they faced sweltering heat, heavy rains, yellow jackets, and dense vegetation. In spite of these confrontations, the track crews were able to conquer the grove and begin driving south toward Runk Road in preparation for re-ballasting of the line and for the arrival of the railroad's tamper. Reinforcements were aplenty, especially on July 31st when some 11 FEBT volunteers battled the elements alongside two EBTF full-time employees. Work involved spiking some 150 feet of track, bolt work on rail joints, the removal of fouled ballast, and the collection of tie plates and scrap steel. EBTF Track Forman Bryan Birch and EBTF Director of Engineering James Roslund offered their deepest thanks to the volunteers that make up Gene Tucker's Army. – *Todd Johnson*



WATER MITIGATION: A CRITICAL ASPECT OF TRACK WORK

As I write this in late August, tie work on the main line has reached a point about three hundred feet or so north of the Runk Road bridge. Full-time railroad personnel, assisted by FEBT volunteers, have been working their way south from Colgate Grove (where tie work is now complete) to reach this point. Tie work was completed to the south side of that bridge earlier this summer, and trains have been making use of that track since then. So, that means that the end of this initial phase of the rebuilding process of the track is within sight. As much attention as the process of renewing the ties that hold the rails together garners, there's another less noticeable aspect to the track work that is equally important that has to do with mitigating the presence of water in the track structure. Making sure that the track can be as dry as possible takes a number of forms.

One of those steps is to ensure that the drainage structures for the track are in good condition. To that end, full-time personnel have spent a good amount of time installing new culverts under the track, digging out ditches, and cleaning out cuts where years of accumulated dirt have made their way around the ties.



This July 2021 view of main line trackage restoration shows the efforts undertaken to clear the eroded slag and remove the canopy inhibiting evaporation. Ballast will be applied and then tamped to maintain drainage and level the track. – Todd Johnson

Another of those steps has to do with removing the canopy of trees and vegetation which prevents the sun's light from being able to dry out the track structure. As charming as it might be to envision a train running down the track through a tunnel of trees and leaves, such a concept doesn't assist the ties to live out a full life cycle of usefulness. So full-time personnel have taken steps to remove some of the canopy.

Yet another step involves the support in and around the ties themselves. Over the years, says the railroad's General Manager Brad Esposito, the railroad made extensive use of slag from the nearby Rockhill Furnace as ballast material for the track. Use of slag made good sense in those days, because there was plenty of it, and it was readily available. But over

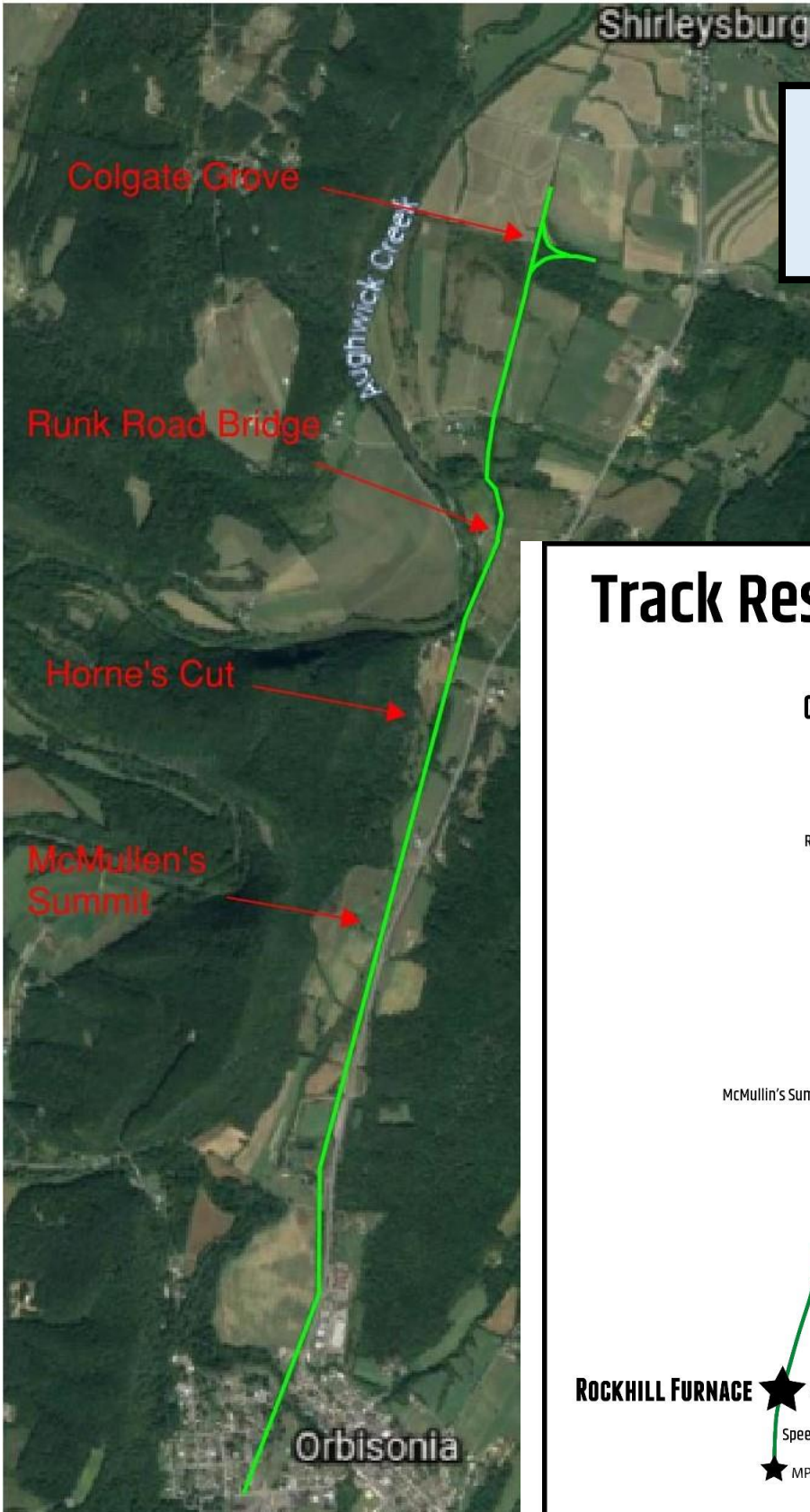
time, Brad says, the slag breaks down, allowing the ties to sink into the dirt. (A note from trackside: Those of us who've been working on the track often use the word "schmutz", a German word meaning "dirt"... there's plenty of "schmutz" to be found trackside currently.) To correct this situation, fresh ballast stone is applied to the track structure. The ballast stone supports the track, allowing it to maintain a good surface, but it also allows water to drain out of the track and away from the ties. Coming steps for completion of the work on this initial phase of track rebuilding will involve the process of tamping stone under the track, raising it up out of the "schmutz" and improving the running surface of the track.

Water is a curious thing: It is necessary to life, including the life of the trees from which the ties came, but under the wrong circumstances, it hastens the demise of things, including ties. Next time you have an opportunity to ride the train north to Colgate Grove, take a few minutes to admire the work of those who've improved the drainage along the track, who removed much of the canopy, and who not only installed the new ties, but also guaranteed a full life cycle for those new ties by tamping up the track to raise it up out of the "schmutz" that retains water. There's an often-unnoticed story in all of these things, one to be admired. – *Gene Tucker*



The July 31, 2021 FEBT track crew poses with the M-6, with Colgate Grove in the background. – Todd Johnson photo

TRACKWORK PROGRESS MAP

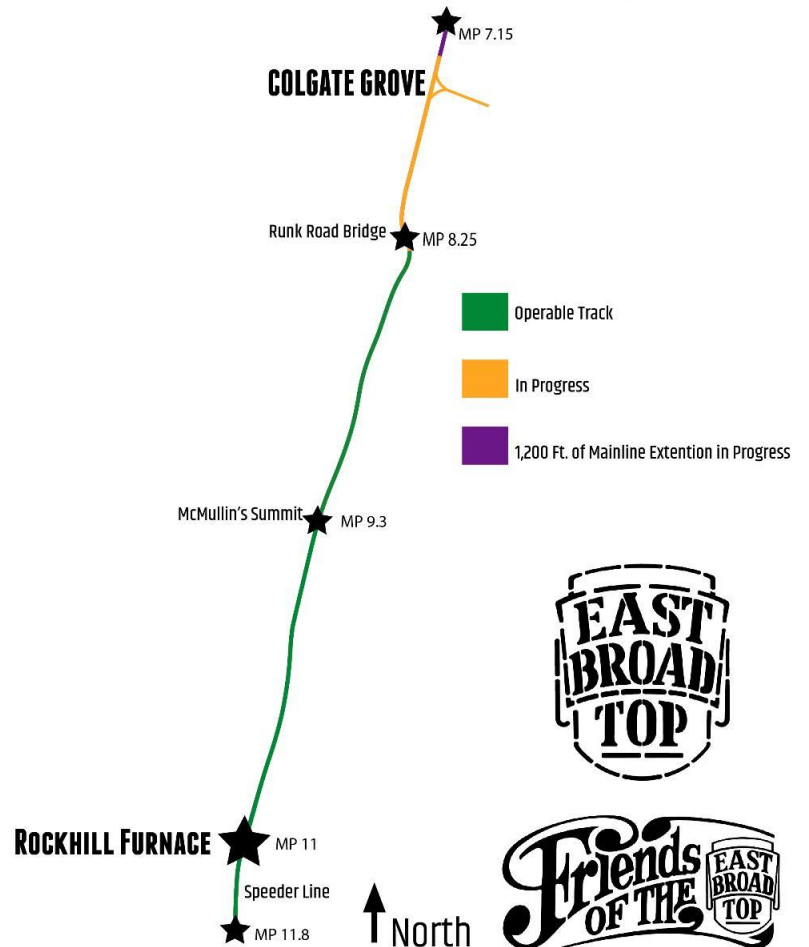


TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

North of Rockhill, track restoration work is now complete to just north of the Runk Road Bridge, 2.8 miles from the Orbisonia depot.

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

Track Restoration Progress



COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

Broad Top Mountain Models
East Broad Top Carpentry Shop
A Friends of the East Broad Top Exclusive Carpentry Shop Restoration Fundraiser Kit

BROAD TOP MOUNTAIN MODELS

EBT Carpentry Shop
at Rockhill Furnace PA

all laser cut wood, easy to build, excellent fit!!!
true to prototype....
13" x 8"
a 3 or 4 evening project....

banta modelworks

designed and
manufactured by
banta modelworks

HO Scale
BTM-4

Price: \$120 FEBT Member Price: \$102

AUGUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTES

The Board of FEBT met on August 17, 2021 and reviewed quarterly reports from the Company Store, Membership, Archives, and several other committees. The Board also moved to open the aperture on a grant to the EBT Foundation for work on the Carpenter Shop floor. The concrete floor came well below budget leaving a surplus of \$3000 which the Board has now authorized to be used to support heating, electrical, lighting, and other upgrades to the Carpenter Shop. Lastly, the Board continued to explore projects to target as part of our 2022 Fundraising Campaign. After the roaring success of our 2021 campaign we are excited to launch our 2022 campaign at the Fall Reunion on October 8th. – *Andy Van Scyoc*



Battens are being installed on the Carpentry Shop during the August 2021 work weekend. – Eric Knepp photo

ROBERTSDALE DEPOT FASCIA WORK CONTINUES

I'm all excited about our plans for the Reunion, but you've gotten info about that already in the flyer that was sent with the current issue of *Timber Transfer*. Hope to see you and your family then!

The next open days for the museum are Saturday, September 11 and Saturday, September 25. Those who visit those days may be among the first to see the new roof on the station. In the meantime, Bill and crew continue to work on the fascia.

– Pete Clarke



This August 22nd, 2021 view from the southeast shows that the fascia boards on the Robertsedale station structure are now installed and painted. Roof replacement will begin soon. – Bill Reynolds photo

ROCKHILL EFFORTS MAKE GAINS IN AUGUST

Trackwork progress has been well documented this summer, but the rails are not the only thing being restored. Progress continues on a variety of projects around the Rockhill Shops Complex. A variety of FEBT projects have moved forward alongside the steps taken by the East Broad Top Foundation's efforts to return the railroad to operation.

As was pictured above on Page 9, the Carpentry Shop has had siding and battens installed. Work has continued on restoring the interior walls as well, which had also had the lower portions rotted away prior to the work to stabilize the building earlier in the year. A new concrete floor inside the structure has now seen wood working tools placed on it, and the window crew has been using the tools for their work. The glazing team also continued with repair and replacement of various windows around the Shops Complex from their new home.

The Storehouse saw a large amount of attention. This building is fresh off a stabilization project, which was funded by the FEBT 2021 Fundraising Campaign. The bottom floor area was prepped for a concrete slab floor to be poured, in a similar fashion as to what was done in the Carpentry Shop previously this year. The slab was poured August 27th, and the concrete will be cured to allow items to be returned to the Storehouse at the next FEBT work session on September 4th and 5th. The tin sheets of roofing were also resecured to the building now that the building is properly self-supporting again.



Left: The bins of the Storehouse sit much straighter now that the building has been raised and stabilized. The floor awaits a new concrete slab on August 21, 2021. – Eric Knepp photo

Below: FEBT President Andy Van Scyoc works on bolster installation on Combine 14. – Eric Knepp photo

Boxcar No. 174 saw some attention, as frame work continued on the car by the steel crew. Combine 14 had the coach end bolster reinstalled, and new subflooring was installed. Window frames for the car received a coat of paint.

On August 19th, the EBT Foundation had a PRR X29 boxcar delivered to the Rockhill yard. This display item now sits on the dual gauge trackage portion of Track 7, adjacent to the Freight Depot. This area of track was restored back in May by the FEBT track crew to support the acquisition of a standard gauge piece of rolling stock.





The recently acquired PRR X29 boxcar sits on the dual gauge portion of Track 7 in the Rockhill yard. – Eric Knepp 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 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.