
Volume 2, Issue 12

December 2021

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The FEBT Track Crew poses in the afternoon sun after inspecting and replacing track bolts through the Rockhill Yard on Tracks 2 and 3. – Dave Hart photo

FEBT MUSEUM OPEN SATURDAYS DURING CICC

FEBT Robertsdale Museum open on Saturdays, 10 AM to 4 PM, during Christmas in Coal Country at the EBT!



Lee Rainey collection

Learn more about the EBT and the rich coal field that it served!

The Friends of the East Broad Top Museum in the Robertsdale, PA National Historic District includes the original EBT station, plus fascinating exhibits, historical artifacts, and a gift shop in our newly-opened museum building. We will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM on November 27, December 4, and December 11, 2021.

Guided walking tours of the coal mining area will be offered at 11 AM, 1 PM, and 3 PM weather permitting.

Address: 570 South Main Street, Robertsdale PA 16674

Driving Directions from the EBT station in Orbisonia PA:

Turn right on Meadow St, left on Valley St (Route 994 West)

Left on Church St in Three Springs to remain on Route 994 West

Right on Waterfall Rd (Route 655), then a quick left on Old Plank Rd (Route 994 West)

Left on Cooks Rd (Route 3013), left on Main St in Robertsdale. The museum will be on the right.



2022 FEBT ANNUAL CAMPAIGN NEARS GOAL

Thanks to 322 generous donations, the 2022 Annual Fund Campaign now stands at \$86,675 raised towards our \$100,000 goal. Donations since our last report totaled \$67,840, easily securing the full \$10,000 matching challenge offered by an anonymous donor.

The Friends of the East Broad Top are also pleased to announce a recent \$10,000 donation from The Candelaria Fund, the grantmaking foundation of Richard and Caroline Tower in Littleriver, CA. Members will recognize Candelaria as also a significant contributor to the Nashville Steam Preservation Society and other rail preservation efforts.

Now it is time to sprint for the finish line. Because we fulfilled our first matching challenge in just a few weeks, FEBT member Dan Schmidt is offering another to sustain our great momentum. Effective December 1, Dan will match the next \$10,000 in donations, dollar for dollar. That's just the push we need to take our train over the summit!

As a reminder, the funds we are seeking to raise will support four key projects undertaken in cooperation with the EBT Foundation:

- Complete the structural repairs to the iconic, concrete Rockhill Coaling Tipple. This will allow it to be used not just for coaling engines but as a place to house the pumps that are a key component of the fire suppression system planned for the historic Rockhill shops – a project we would all agree is a top priority! Goal: \$30,000.
- Prepare for the extension of operations to Saltillo through a series of community input, planning, engineering, architectural, and permitting tasks. The intent of this FEBT project is to recreate functional representations of the EBT depot and water tank that once stood in Saltillo. Goal: \$25,000.
- Enhance the outdoor visitor experience at Robertsdale through cosmetic restoration of the hopper cars and the development of outdoor interpretive signage, displays, and trails, in coordination with adjacent landowners, the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum, and the EBTF. Goal: \$10,000.
- Continue the work to conserve the huge volume of EBT records, and make appropriate documents and FEBT photo collections available online for research. Your donation will buy archival storage materials, cataloging and uploading software, and continued professional archival staff. Goal: \$35,000.

We welcome your support, and extend our thanks again to the many who have already contributed.



New steel beams are on hand in the Rockhill Yard, awaiting installation at the coal tipple, to support the portion of the ramp track which crosses over the top of the dock to allow loaded hopper cars to be able to dump their loads into the coal reservoir. – Brad Esposito photo

NOVEMBER FUNDRAISING UPDATE

November was an extremely busy month for the Fundraising Treasurer, as he was presented with bountiful donations to record. Through the generosity of your 292 donations during the November reporting period, FEBT has set a single-month fundraising record with over \$57,000 worth of contributions received. This, combined with the \$10,000 matching donation announced last month having been met, has the 2022 Fundraising Campaign at more than 85% of its goal already. Look for upcoming news about how your contributions are spent in future issues of this newsletter.

There are several ways to donate. Donations can be made online at <https://febt.org/fundraiser/> 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

2022 Fundraising Goal:
\$100,000
November Donations:
\$67,840.00
Campaign Total:
\$86,675.00 – 86.7%

November donors*:

John M. Acken	Joan L. Adams	Larry Altoff	Harry Anderson
Richard E. Anderson	John J. Atherton	Herbert E. Baer	William Mark Bailey
Joseph & Bente Baio	David R. Bales	John E. & Kathryn C. Bates	
Donald Bayer	Owen F. Beeder	Chuck Bender	James C. Benko
Jerry Bertoldo	Michael Bezilla	Ben Bilott	Ralph R. Bitzer
Douglas O. Blount	Patrick S. Boab	Daniel E. Schmidt & Bobbi D. Fischer	
David A. Bohn	Bank of America in Honor of David Bohn	Eric F. Booher	
George Botic	James Botsko	Alexander Bowser	Joseph R. Brabec
Joseph O. Brashear	Fred Breimyer	Kenneth H. Brink	Allan Brown
Peter Brown	E. B. Brucker	David Bulman	Richard L. Burkholder
Alan B. Butler	Ernest Buyok	James C. Campbell	Elisa Campbell
David H. Capp	Thomas Carlson	Paul Carpenito	William R. Carson
Ric Case	Wayne P. Cass	Matthew V. Cesare	Steven M. Chorkawy
Hal Clawson	Gerald Clearwater	Christopher Coleman	Roger P. Cook
W. George Cook	Richard C. Cordts	Frank Couch	Robert C. Courneya
Bruce H. & Elizabeth Courter		Carson W. Culp	Patty Cupillari-Humphreys
Wallace Czekalski	Steven F. Daum	Alton P. Davis	Jerry Deily
Evard Demott	Al DiCenso	Thomas A. Diehl	Marlin Diehl
Edward Dietrich	Jim & Ginger Dietz	Jim Dimond	Bradley Dobbins
George Dolan	Harry E. Doolittle	Harry Downey	Bruce Duncan
Frank R. Dziama	Bruce Edgerton	Clifford Egel	Thomas & Lyn Emory
Linda G. Erdman	Karl Erickson	Steve Esposito	James D. Ewing
Pat Fahey	Bernd H. Fanghanel	John D. Faulkner	Donald E. Fenstermacher
Doug Fink	Louis E. Fisher	Allan C. Fisher	J. Raymond Fitzpatrick
Mark C. Frickmann	Larry Fuchs	Allan Gartner	Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Geletzke
Eugene A. Graber	Philip & Sandy Grabowski	Paul Gramlich	Richard Grandzol
William E. Grant	John S. Griffith	William Grow	Donald C. Guckian
Michael A. Guida	Suzanne & Jeff Gumpert	Richard Hafer	Tom Hargis
Frank J. Harker	Daniel B. Harnish	Robert L. Harris	David B. Hart
Herbert C. Hays	Joseph R. Heffron	Harvey E. Heiges	John W. Heitmann
John M. Helduser	James E. Helmbold	Chris Hickey	LeRoy Hogan
Melissa K. Holden	John Hooper	Dennis R. Hornberger	S. Gerald Hummel

Victor E. Humphreys	Robert E. Jackson	Huston Jacobs	Vincent Jakubowski
H. T. Jensen	Wayne E. Johnson	Dave Johnson	Dennis J. Johnson
Todd Johnson	Tom Jordan	Brett A. Karns	James B. Kauffman
Robert L. Kaufman	Steve Kelly	Robert H. Kessler	Victor V. Kidd
Greg Kifer	Chris Kingsley	James Kinkoph	Bernard Kinlein
Allan Kirkpatrick	George R. Klair	Michael E. Klein	Sonja G. Koons
Mitchell Krausman	Keith Kreider	Michael J. Kulczak	Craig S. Kumler
Wayne Laepple	William Larduskey	Robert E. Law	Sharon & Lloyd Liskey
Lane Littrell	Byron L. Locke	Douglas R. Logan	James C. Long
Robert W. Lykens	Doug Mahrer	Michael C. Marmer	Larry E. Maynard
Chris McChesney	John F. McCullagh	James McGarvey	David M. McMahon
Tom McMaster	Robert J. Meckes	William P. Meriwether	Laurence Miller
James H. Millhouse	Ted Miskell	Lee W. Mistrik	John D. Mitchell
Linn Moedinger	J. Harold & Doris A. Mohler	Andy Monich	James D. Montgomery
Jeanne Morse	Hugh Mose	William S. Mosteller	
Edmonds Family c/o Dean Edmonds		Ronald J. Muldowney	W. R. Newton
Peter Nicholas	Mark Nieting	Thomas P. O'Leary	Charles F. Ober
Ted Ostrander	James Overholser	Kenneth Pace	Philip J. Padgett
David A. Padula	Louis Pane	Thomas Parker	John Paternoster
Don Pattison	Pennsylvania Firebacks Inc. c/o	Del Conner	Anthony & Penny Perman
James Perry	John J. Perry	Lewis Peterman	David Phillips
James W. Pifer	Richard Poletto	Brian K. Poole	Michael J. Ray
David Redding	David Reichert	John C. Reynolds	Charles Stewart Rhine
Michael Richardson	Richard Roberts	Julie Rockwell	Ruth N. Rode
John Rogalski	Ronald G. Rolph	Walter H. Rothaug	Mike & Robin Rotz
Rickie L. Rourke	Ross Rowland	Robert D. Rule	Norman R. Runk
Richard G. Rutledge	Thomas & Jeannie Sadd	Anthony Sallo	Bruce G. Saylor
Linda & Bill Schafer	Michael Scholl	Robert Sembach	Jerry L. Severson
James W. Seville	Robert Sher	David L. Shields	Laurence Shiplett
Alan Siegwarth	Christophe Simone	Alan Sinclair	Richard Sisson
Robert Smith	David J. Steinberger	David R. Stephenson	Gilbert L. Sterner
Jon Surprise	Douglas G. Tarr	James Taylor	Patrick Tentarelli
Keith Thompson	J. Craig Thorpe	Timothy & Janet Tigue	Gene Tucker
Richard Ullery	Jeff Umberger	Joe Vargo	Norman A. Wagner
Jeff Wakefield	Kevin L. Walsh	William T. Ward	David A. Watts
Walter Weart	Carl Weber	George Wells	John F. Wheeler
William T. Wheeler	Dennis Whisman	Howard C. White	Alan Wilber
Norman C. Wilcox	Sam W. Wilder	Lawrence Williams	Paula R. Williamson
Lawrence B. Wills	Richard E. Wiswesser	Brian Wolfe	David F. Wood
David Work	Mark A. Yahner	Patrick J. Yough	Donald S. Young
Zilch Picture Framing	Alfred Zollers		

In Memory of Richard Kilday:
Richard Kilday Estate c/o Mrs. Caitlin Lhommedieu

In Memory of Don Oberding:
Barbara Oberding

* - All donors listed represent donations received between October 22, 2021 and November 21, 2021. Donations received after November 21 will be reported in the January 2022 issue due to press time constraints.

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

NOVEMBER ROCKHILL WORK SESSION PROGRESS

Sparks were again flying in the Rockhill yard on November 6th and 7th, as Gene's Army of track crew volunteers were again attacking rail joints. Having completed their campaign to reach Colgate Grove, attention turned to searching out weak or loose bolts and replacing them. The FEBT Work Weekend track crew of November 6th started at the station and worked north on the main line to the Blacklog Creek Bridge. Each rail joint was inspected. If a bolt was found lacking, it was cut out and replaced with a new bolt, often requiring some additional



persuasion with a hammer and wrench to make sure the bolts were tight. Once the Blacklog Creek Bridge was reached, the track crew did an about-face, and began working south down the line of Track #3 to the south end of the yard, where tourist trains complete their turn on the wye. The crew consisted of Andrew Greene, Tom Perman, Gordy Ley, Todd Johnson, Jackson Ganser, Wayne Cass, and Tom Jordan. Dave Hart commanded this expedition, allowing Gene Tucker and his wife Deb some R&R (Rest and Railroading) in Cass, West Virginia. Opportunities for more track work in 2022 are in the planning stages. Keep a watchful eye out for announcements. – Todd Johnson

Above: The track crew replaces bolts on Track 2 just north of the Car Shop in the Rockhill Yard during the November 2021 FEBT Work Session. – Todd Johnson photo

Below: A view of the frame repair work being done on Boxcar 174. – Dave Bulman photo



There was a good turnout, with work progressing on multiple projects including track, store house, carpenter shop, windows, box car, and combine. The Storehouse crew built and installed new double doors for the engineer's cubby, continued re-installation of first floor bins, and closed up remaining door and window openings for the winter. The Carpentry Shop crew continued reconstruction of the lean-to, including construction of floor framing and start of floorboard installation. The Boxcar 174 crew continued steel repairs to car frame. – Dave Bulman



The Carpentry Shop Lean-To is under reconstruction in November 2021. It had been removed to allow for the base structure to be stabilized earlier in the year. – Dave Bulman photo

ROBERTSDALE NOTES FROM NOVEMBER

Remember way back in the November issue when I reported that the Museum was now closed for the rest of the year? Well, put that on hold. We held a cookout for our volunteer hosts and they told me I was a wimp, and that we should be open on the weekends when the railroad runs its “Christmas in Coal Country” events. Those weekends include the following Saturdays: 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11. We will close one hour earlier than normal, so look for us from 10:00 AM through 4:00 PM. Weather-dependent! Robertsdale is on the top of the Broad Top Mountain, which actually is a mountain. Driving can be dangerous. So, if the weather is good and the roads are not icy, you’ve got 3 more chances to come visit. Most of the leaves are down, so we should be able to see even more on our walking tours (also weather-dependent).

I write this just a couple days prior to Thanksgiving. I’m so thankful for years that the Kovalchick family cared for the railroad, for the EBT Foundation, for all the long-time members of FEBT and for all the new members, for all the folks who have come to work in Robertsdale whether that work is restoring buildings, track work, cleaning out a container, or being a host. As work will ramp up next year, I look forward to meeting more of you as you become part of our work crew and/or host crew. Did you catch the part about the cookout? We really do have fun! – *Pete Clarke*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
December 3-5, 10-12	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 4	EBT	Christmas Tree Train
January 8, 9	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
February 5, 6	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
March 5, 6	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 2, 3	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 23, 24	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 14, 15	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 23-27	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
June 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 25, 26	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 16, 17	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 13, 14	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 3, 4	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 19-23	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
November 5, 6	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 MUSEUM OPERATING DAYS

December 4, December 11 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Walking tours at 11:00 AM, 1:00PM, 3:00 PM

*All December days and hours are weather permitting



The M-1 gas-electric unit sits on the Car Shop lead track between runs during the 2021 FEBT Fall Reunion – Jimmy Braum photo

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

Help Needed at FEBT Company Store

The FEBT Company Store is a unique source for modeling supplies and literature for our members and others who are interested in the East Broad Top Railroad. It is also a key fundraiser for the FEBT.

The Company Store is in need of someone to replace Wade Woodcock as the Fulfillment Manager for the FEBT Company Store. The Fulfillment Manager is in charge of shipping merchandise when orders are received by the Company Store. This job is essential to operating the store.

Wade has handled the job for the last 5 years and has to step down for health reasons.

The job involves receiving new merchandise, storing the merchandise, and shipping the merchandise when orders are received. The current manager devotes an extra bedroom for storage space, although, if an interested candidate does not have space in his home for storage, the FEBT would pay for outside storage. Home storage is preferred however.

The job does not require order confirmation or managing payments as this is done by software. However it does require having a computer and internet access. It also does not require using personal funds to purchase supplies or pay for merchandise nor does it require going to the post office for mailing as access to Stamps.com is available.

If you are interested or have questions contact Andy Van Scyoc, FEBT President at vanscyoc@gmail.com, or Dick Ullery, Manager, FEBT Store at dickullery38@gmail.com.

Right: The parlor car Orbisonia is decorated with a light-up wreath lanterns for the second annual Christmas in Coal Country event. – Jane Clarke photo

Below: The Christmas display at Altoff Siding along the line of the Rockhill Trolley Museum during the opening night of Christmas in Coal Country. – Matt Wall photo



NOVEMBER BOD MEETING NOTES

Your FEBT Board met on November 17th via Zoom. Running an organization like FEBT requires a significant amount of administrative work. One of the more daunting items relates to taxes and the Board recognized Bill Adams and his completion of the herculean task of completing and submitting our 990 by the November 15th deadline. Thank you Bill!

There is much more to running FEBT than just tax filings though. A cadre of appointed staff is required to keep things on track.

The Archives efforts are progressing well and the FEBT Board continues to support it. The Board adopted the Archives and Special Collections Program – Mission, Purpose, Vision, Values, and Goals as presented which is the first in several steps to define and develop the archives efforts and is required to support targeted grant applications.

Perhaps one challenge facing your FEBT leadership is recruiting more volunteers. Director Dave Bulman will be spearheading some volunteer recruitment efforts. You can expect to see more volunteer news here in the Newsletter. Dave's primary focus is to get more "boots on deck" at work sessions in Rockhill and Robertsedale but we know we also need more and new volunteers helping out offsite with the Company Store, finances, research and writing, and countless other tasks. If you would like to assist with any project, please reach out to Dave Bulman at dbulman115@gmail.com.

The FEBT Board wishes all of our members and their families a safe and joyous holiday season! We look forward to a fantastic 2022! – *Andy Van Scyoc*

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1610

ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION

Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. (FEBT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, historical, and educational society dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the East Broad Top Railroad National Historic Landmark in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. It was organized in 1983 and now boasts over 1,600 members. FEBT publishes an award-winning magazine, *Timber Transfer*, and a monthly e-newsletter, and operates a museum in Robertsedale PA, the EBT's southern terminus. See febt.org/ for more information.

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.