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The nearly-completed framing of the Carpentry Shop lean-to stands behind Mark Reese and Craig Confair at the end of the day on April 3, 2022. – Dave Bulman photo

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Five Questions for... Steve Jackson

Steve Jackson is a retired Mount Union Area High School teacher who is a frequent FEBT volunteer and a regular Robertsdale museum host and tour guide. He lives northeast of Huntingdon — not far as the crow flies, but driving to Robertsdale means going over two mountains, and takes him between 45 minutes and an hour.

How did you get interested in the EBT?

I've been interested in the EBT for as long as I can remember. My father's first teaching position was in Patton, in northern Cambria County, in 1952, and we would often return to Huntingdon through Altoona. This was when the PRR was converting to diesel power and a favorite game for my brother and I was to count the different types of locomotives. One of us would count diesels and the other steam, and whoever got the most engines won. But when we traveled through Huntingdon, and sometimes to Mount Union, we couldn't play, because the Huntingdon and Broad Top and the EBT didn't have any diesels.



Over the years I remained interested in the EBT, but with a family to raise I didn't have much spare time. I joined the FEBT in the early 2000s, but didn't really get involved until Pete Clarke sent out a call for volunteer hosts at Robertsdale. I'm now starting my second year as a host and am excited about the improvements that have occurred in the past year. If you haven't been to Robertsdale, you should add it to your list.

What have you learned while volunteering that you never imagined yourself learning?

The most surprising thing I've been introduced to is the POS — Point of Sale — system in the gift shop. I don't know how to operate it yet, but I think I have it worried a little. This year for sure!

Is there a project that you're particularly proud of being a part of?

Through the efforts of the volunteers, we've improved the Robertsdale walking-tour trail so that this summer the guests will not have to fight brush and downed logs to see the company square and mines. Also, the museum's display cases have been improved and artifacts have been added to enhance visitors' experience.

Is there a particular FEBT volunteer you admire?

The two volunteers that top my list are Pete and Jane Clarke. Not only is Pete FEBT's membership guy and Jane the editor of the *Timber Transfer*, but they're also the driving force behind the Robertsdale efforts of the FEBT. Their willingness to give of themselves is remarkable and inspiring. The others that I truly admire are those who travel great distances to help with the various projects. It's one thing for me to jump in my truck, drive 30 minutes to Rockhill, and help for an afternoon. It is quite another to drive 10-12 hours to scrape paint for two days, and to do this every month.

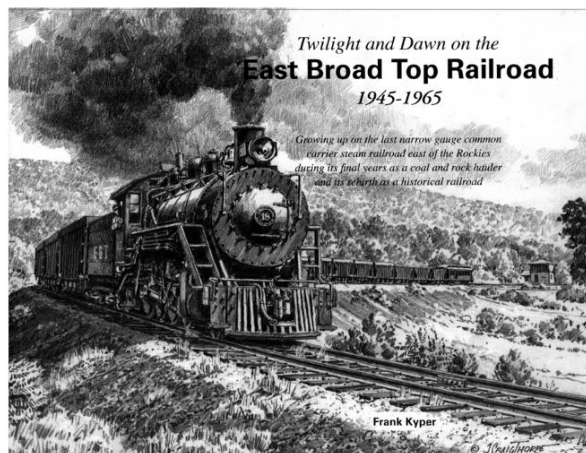
Is there an aspect of the EBT that you especially look forward to seeing restored?

Each task that is accomplished in the area of preservation and restoration of the EBT is a major victory for future generations. I am grateful that I can be a very small part of the process. But the thing that I look forward to most is watching the first trainload of fans arrive at the Robertsdale station and turn on the wye.

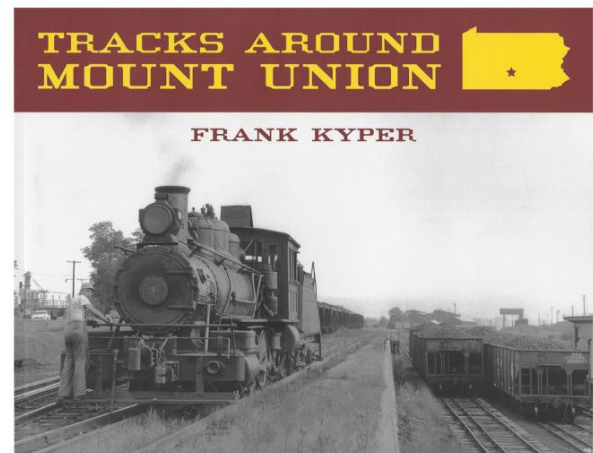
— Lawrence Biemiller

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

Back in Stock! Two EBT Classics by Frank Kyper



Paperback, 112 pages



Paperback, 134 pages

\$50 each. (FEBT members get a 15% discount on books.) Shipping for 1 book \$7.50, for both books \$11.25.

The most convenient way to order is through the FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org. We accept PayPal and credit cards. You can also make donations and pay your annual membership dues through the Company Store website. You may also contact the store by paper mail at FEBT Company Store, 121 Chester Drive. #215, Pine Grove Mills, PA USA 16868-0215.

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1688

FEBT'S TRACK DEPARTMENT HAD A BUSY MONTH

Since the last report, your colleagues in FEBT who are part of the track gang have been quite busy. Three projects have occupied our time and efforts: 1. A week-long effort to assist the Rockhill Trolley Museum (RTM) with the rebuilding of three of their switches and some adjacent track work; 2. Assisting the EBT's full-time crew with surfacing and tamping; and 3. Getting the track in downtown Three Springs ready for a Memorial Day weekend event.

Nineteen (19) personnel assisted in the weeklong work week (April 2 – 8) at RTM. They included: Mike Dauner, Tom Perman, Kevin Conklin, Tom Jordan, Dave Hart, Damion Geist, Ed Kompare, Matt Stark, John Quinn, Larry Fuchs, Phil Coyle, Chris Wenger, Joel Myers, Mark Reese, Daniel Lane, Craig Confair, Victor Booth, Eric Knepp, Justin Santichen, and yours truly.



Track crew members Kevin Conklin, John Quinn, Larry Fuchs, and Justin Santichen work on switch repairs on the dual gauge Rockhill Trolley Museum trackage that is part of the east leg of the Rockhill wye. Car C-64 is RTM's work car, built in 1905. – Eric Knepp photo.

A good deal of ballasting, tamping and surfacing of track in and around the Rockhill yard took place during the month of April. FEBT personnel assisted the EBT's full-time personnel in the work, which concentrated on the Ladder Track (opposite the station, leading from the main through to the north leg of the wye); Track One (leading into the Car Shop); and the Escape Track (leading from the Paint Shop down through the triple stub switch at the south end of the yard).

On Sunday of the April Work Weekend, personnel addressed bolt work on Track Three in the Rockhill yard. They were led in this effort by Larry Fuchs.

Back in March (if memory serves me correctly), Brad Esposito, General Manager of the railroad, asked the FEBT to assist with getting the track in downtown Three Springs ready for a Memorial Day weekend event, at which the railroad will offer track car rides. (This is an excellent opportunity for the railroad to establish stronger ties with one of the communities along its line.) At mid-month, a large group assisted in the installation of steel ties in the track in order to pull it back into gauge where needed, in unearthing the rail head, and in getting a switch to be put back into useable condition. Personnel who assisted in this effort included: Larry Fuchs, Daniel Lane, Dave Hart, Victor Booth, Tom Jordan, Tom Perman, Joel Myers, Mike Huhn, Jim Somerville, Stephen Campbell and Jon Rudman. We were ably assisted and guided by Henry Long, Jr, who is a full-time EBT track department staff member.

In the personnel area, we are delighted to welcome new members Jon Rudman, Stephen Campbell and Carl Salomon. Omitted from our earlier personnel roster was Jackson Ganser (apologies, Jackson!).



The FEBT Track Crew begins the process of uncovering the main line in Three Springs, which is buried by over a half century of overgrowth. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo

It's worth noting and saying that the track department's personnel often come a great distance to assist in our work, devoting time and effort, as well as expense, to be present trackside. (Of course, the same is true of others who advance the FEBT's efforts in other areas.) To each one, I say "Thanks!". Without that sort of dedication, very little work would be accomplished.

In the efforts described above, three entities (the railroad, RTM and FEBT) have worked together for the betterment of all and the advancement of our efforts at historic preservation. To paraphrase what Brad Esposito said to me trackside earlier this month, "We need to be helping each other." – Gene Tucker

PETE CLARKE'S FEBT EMAIL HACKED ON 4/21

Sorry folks. After 20 years of email use, the FEBT email account finally got "Hacked".

Some of you may have gotten an email (probably on Thursday 4/21 or Friday 4/22) that claimed to be from me (febt@aol.com). It asked you to click on link to website that offered a ".pdf" file. If you just read the email but did not click on any of the links, you are safe.

If you did attempt to open the supposed .pdf file, then those of you who are AOL users should go to – options, mail settings, filter settings – and unless you know what they are and set some up, delete them all. You should change your AOL password as well. I have taken those steps and believe the problem is fixed. Those of you who are not AOL users

probably have similar settings that you should check. I had an IT specialist check my PC. This particular hack did not seem to put a virus in my PC. But you want to remove this attack, to deny this person access to your email account.

I learned of this attack on Friday 4/22 and immediately sent out email warnings to all FEBT members. You should have gotten a notice from me that day. FEBT has policies and procedures in place to protect your information. In this case the only information that got out was your email address. No other information was obtained in this “hack.”

I’ll remind you that my name is Pete Clarke, the hacker left the “e” off of my last name, and that the only emails I send are: renewal reminders and renewal acknowledgements. If your membership type includes a donation (sustaining, associate types or if you just sent a check with extra), then when you renew my email also has your IRS tax letter directly attached, not a link to click on.

Sorry,

Pete Clarke
FEBT Membership Guy

– *Pete Clarke*



*A large group of volunteers poses for a picture by the Paint Shop at the early April 2022 Work Session.
– Jonathan Smith photo*

APRIL 2nd & 3rd ROCKHILL WORK WEEKEND REPORT

We had a strong turnout for the early April work weekend, with approximately 40 volunteers attending on Saturday and about 20 on Sunday. Lots of progress was made on all ongoing projects, plus we had some nice special volunteer activities.



The FEBT carpentry crew continues working on the lean-to at the south end of the Carpentry Shop in the Rockhill Shops Complex. FEBT volunteers have put in a lot of effort since January 2021 to restore this structure. – Dave Bulman photo

Track work was a joint effort with the Rockhill Trolley Museum and focused on switches on trolley museum trackage. The carpenter shop lean-to siding, roofing, and windows were installed, bringing that project nearly to completion. Window installation was also completed on the east wall of the carpenter shop. Combine 14 continued to make progress including window reassembly and paint prep. Storehouse work focused on rebuilding the heavy duty shelving in the engineer's cubby.

Volunteers were treated to a trolley ride at the end of the day on Saturday, hosted by Henry Long of the Rockhill Trolley Museum. Sunday afternoon we were given a behind the scenes tour in roundhouse stall 8 on the progress of locomotive 16, hosted by Brad Esposito and Dave Domitrovich. – *Dave Bulman*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
May 12, 13, 14	FEBT	Robertsdale Trackwork Session
May 14, 15	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 21, 22	EBT	EBT Goes to War!
May 23-27	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
June 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 11, 12	RTM	Johnstown Car Weekend
June 25, 26	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 25	BTACMHS	Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum Grand Reopening
July 16, 17	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 16	RTM	Trolleys and Ice Cream!
August 13, 14	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 13, 14	RTM	First Day Celebration
August 17, 18, 19, 20	EBT/RTM	Orbisonia/Rockhill Homecoming
September 3, 4	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9, 10, 11	EBT	Orbisonia Antique Power Show
September 10	RTM	Car Cruise-In and Movies!
September 17	EBT	First Responder Day
September 17	RTM	Searching for Sasquatch
September 19-23	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
October 7, 8, 9	FEBT	FEBT Fall Reunion
October 8	RTM	Fall Spectacular
October 8, 9	BTACMHS	Robertsdale Community Days/Coal Miner Heritage Days
October 15, 16, 22, 23	EBT/RTM	Pumpkin Festival
October 22	RTM	Phantom Trolley
November 5, 6	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 25, 26, 27	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 2-4, 9-11, 16-18	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country

<u>Hosts:</u>	FEBT	Friends of the East Broad Top	www.febt.org
	EBT	East Broad Top Railroad	www.eastbroadtop.com
	RTM	Rockhill Trolley Museum	www.rockhilltrolley.org
	BTACMHS	Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society	broadtopminersmuseum.com

UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday May 14th and 15th. The first 2022 volunteer work week will take place Monday May 23 to Friday May 27.

If you are interested in participating in the Rockhill Furnace volunteer sessions including track work, and are not on the current signup distribution, please contact Charlie Wootton the Rockhill Furnace volunteer coordinator at rhrestoration@febt.org. – *Dave Bulman*

UPCOMING ROBERTSDALE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

Gene Tucker (Friar Tuck) and Steve Jackson will lead a three day track work session in Robertsdale to extend the handcar track south. Scheduled days are Thursday May 12, Friday May 13, and Saturday May 14. Please contact Friar Tuck friartuck3@yahoo.com or Steve Jackson sejack@verizon.net to learn more or to sign up for this crew. – *Pete Clarke*

APRIL FUNDRAISING UPDATE

A handful of donors contributed nearly \$1000 in April. The 2022 Fundraising Campaign has received 736 donations, which total almost \$220,000. Further details of how these funds will be spent will be released in future issues of this newsletter. The FEBT is appreciative of each and every donation to help accomplish the many goals of the organization.

2022 Fundraising Goal:

\$100,000

April Donations:

\$945.00

Campaign Total:

\$219,491.83 – 219.5%

April donors*:

Alexander Bowser
Douglas E. Fink
William Urban

David Bulman
Edmund Fox

Daniel Cobb
Dave Johnson

Bradley Dobbins
Victor V. Kidd

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

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

FEBT BOARD CONTINUES PRESSING FORWARD

The Board of Directors met on the 6th of April covering myriad topics but two items are noteworthy.

- The Board accepted the slate of candidates for our 2022 election as presented by the Nominating Committee chaired by Curt Miller. The slate includes 3 incumbents; Lee Rainey, Lawrence Biemiller, and Ray Davidowski. Two new candidates have stepped forward as well; Doug Davenport and Gene Tucker. Ballots should be in your mailbox around Mother's Day.

- The Board approved \$40,000 to replace the roof of the Old Post Office with a standing seam steel roof matching the station as well as the new roof the Foundation is currently putting on the Company office building. The Old Post Office roof has been a concern for some time and pending materials should be complete sometime this Spring. Robertsdale is rapidly evolving so keep an eye out for more photos and announcements!

– Andy Van Scyoc

LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are what allows us to make progress on the many important FEBT projects and activities. Please consider if you can help with the preservation and rebirth of the EBT by volunteering at any of the activities in Robertsdale or Rockhill Furnace, or by helping with other FEBT functions. A great place to start is by visiting the Volunteer page on our FEBT website: <https://febt.org/volunteer/>. This page describes the FEBT volunteer experience, includes the latest work session schedules, and has contact info for the Rockhill and Robertsdale Restoration Coordinators.

Please note that no particular skills are needed to contribute, just an interest in restoring the EBT. You can apply the skills you have and learn new ones from experienced volunteers.

If you would like to help with any FEBT project, have questions about volunteering, or have suggestions for our volunteer recruiting efforts, please email me at dbulman115@gmail.com. – Dave Bulman

APRIL ROBERTSDALE REPORT

Let's see, what has changed in the last month...

Park Security has installed a modern security system that covers both the old Post Office and Station. I suppose the less said, the better, but "smile, you're on Candid Camera" and we can even hear what you say – so keep it clean. We've come a long way from the days when a bungee cord and some wire were part of our "security system".

The Foundation has started replacing the roof on the office building (current post office). It will have a standing seam type that matches the one we just put on the station.

The old Post Office roof has seen better days. Soon the building will see a better roof. The FEBT board has approved, and we are making plans to have the roof replaced. It will match the other two, red, standing seam. Three buildings with matching roofs, it might even look like someone's thinking, making plans, organized!

Planning for the walking tour trail continues and small improvements have already been made. Lots of sticker bushes have been removed, you'll not have to climb over downed trees, and you'll be able to see some things that were hidden behind bushes in the past.

Jane, with help from Scarlett Wirt, has replaced the informative (but crappy-looking) map of the EBT system. It's part of our "EBT 101" lesson. Perhaps it's time you came to summer school?

I bet you wish that FEBT offered something other than T-shirts. Is that a hint that you should visit? They look great!



The Rockhill Coal & Iron Company office building in Robertsdale's Company Square sees a roof renovation project in progress. This structure is owned by the EBT Foundation, while the other two remaining buildings are owned by FEBT. – Jane Clarke photo





Host training took place on 4/27 and 4/30. Does that mean you've missed your chance to be a host? I bet not. Just ask, I'm easy to reach – email me – febt@aol.com.

Did you visit last year? Things have changed since then. Did you visit through the winter? Things have changed since then.

Robertsdale, it's a happening place, it's worth a visit. More than one, actually. – *Pete Clarke*

Steve Jackson, Pete Clarke, Hans Plugge, Bill Mosteller, and Rickie Rourke enjoy a lively conversation during FEBT Museum host training. – Jane Clarke photo

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 Robertsdale 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.