
Volume 3, Issue 6

June 2022

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The Carpentery Shop has come a long way over the last year and a half of FEBT restoration efforts. The lean-to is now complete structurally. – Dave Bulman photo

ROCKHILL LATE APRIL WORK SESSION NOTES

The second work session in April was held on the 23rd and 24th of the month. Four ongoing projects were the weekend focus. The track crew gave their attention to readying trackage in Three Springs for handcar usage over Memorial Day weekend, and continued bolt work on Track 3 in the Rockhill yard (see separate article on Page 9). The roofing and southeast side of the Carpentry Shop lean-to was completed with only the southwest side remaining to be finished in May. Window repair for various shop buildings continued within the workspace now available in the Carpentry Shop. EBT Combine 14 received the rest of the attention over the weekend. Work on the car included completion of passenger seat back disassembly and the start of assessment of needed work and materials for reassembly and reupholstering, completion of window sash fitting, the start of window hardware installation, installation of the last clerestory windows, continued restoration on the first of the four baggage doors, and some attention to the coal stove. – *Dave Bulman and Eric Knepp*



Mark Reese and Dave Dietz sculpt a batten strip for the southeast Carpentry Shop lean-to door. – Eric Knepp photo.



Above: The disassembled components of the passenger seats for EBT Combine 14. The seats have been carefully documented during disassembly and samples of the upholstery materials will help inform the selection of currently available materials for reupholstering. – Eric Knepp photo.



Left: Cleaned and polished window hardware has been freshly installed in the EBT Combine 14 passenger section. – Eric Knepp photo.

MAY PROGRESS IN ROBERTSDALE

Well, let's see. The security system was installed a month ago. In that time, we have had the monitoring center call us once and the State Police call once. Only once each. Both times were false alarms that we caused by not being careful as we got used to the system. So, it seems to me that we are doing pretty well! It's amazing how many deer walk down Main Street.

FEBT member Frank Benenati has completed his work in restoring the Mine 5 model that Ron Pearson made years ago. Not only did Frank restore the modeling, he also built a support stand for it and put a protective plexiglass cover on it. It's in the museum and well lighted. Several folks have already commented that it really helps them understand the remains that we see on our walking tour.

You'll see a picture of our new polo shirt in this issue of the newsletter. It's a winner; looks great, feels great. Folks, this is only available at the museum. You cannot order them through the company store. The museum does not offer mail order sales. So come visit the museum and get yours!



Ron Pearson poses with the model of Rockhill Iron & Coal Co. Mine #5 on May 14, 2022 at the FEBT Museum. Ron had previously built the model, and it was recently restored by Frank Benenati. – Jane Clarke photo

On June 11, Julie Rockwell (EBTF archivist, and volunteer museum host) along with Juniata College summer 2022 intern Brian Standfest will bring some of the cool materials discovered as part of the archives project. They intend to bring some maps and drawings of the Robertsdale area and other items of interest from the EBT Common Carrier Era (1856-1960). These will be on display at the museum for this one day only in June. Julie hopes to have an "Archives Day" once per month at the museum. As of right now the dates planned are, 6/11, 7/16, 8/6, and 9/10. (She'll bring different items each time.) We'll confirm each of those dates in that month's newsletter. Always wanted to see some of the EBT archival materials that have never been seen by the public? Here's your chance to see some of it long before the archives facility gets set up.

On May 12-14 (and they are working again as I write this on May 20), Friar Tuck and Steve Jackson lead the track work crew to Robertsdale. Massive progress has been made. We can now run the handcar all the way out to (and a little bit beyond) the site of the Mine 5 tippie and the water tank. That's about a half mile that's now available, usable track. If you never have been able to understand how the EBT could have just rolled hoppers from the tipples to the track scale, come work the handcar up to Mine 5. It looks flat, but it's not. Note how much the host has to use the brakes to prevent it from coming screaming back down to the Company Square.



Last I heard the Miners Museum still plans to re-open (back in the Reality Theater location) this summer. Come spend a Saturday this summer and visit both museums in Robertsdale!

Robertsdale: it's worth your time to visit. There's lots to see and do, so be sure to allow plenty of time for your visit.

— Pete Clarke



Left: The new FEBT Museum polo shirts are available for purchase at the museum. — Pete Clarke photo

Below: The FEBT Track Crew makes progress on the nearly half mile of EBT main line they have made possible for hand car rides, working south from the Company Square. — Eric Knepp photo



MAY FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Friends of the East Broad Top had a rather successful month of May in terms of donations. 22 donors contributed nearly \$8000 over the course of the month. Each donation helps support ongoing FEBT projects, commitments, and initiatives. The organization is grateful for each gift, and appreciates each person doing so.

2022 Fundraising Goal:

\$100,000

May Donations:

\$7868.85

Campaign Total:

\$227,360.88 – 227.4%

May donors*:

Robert W. & Danna W. Bowden

Frederick Breimyer

Michael Hurlburt

Thomas Leister

Tom & Sharon Sharratt

David H. Capp

Steve Jackson

Michael M. Lynes

Donald Stark

Alexander Bowser

Douglas E. Fink

Bernard Kinlein

Al Rizzo

James Vaitkuna

David K. Brautigam

Nathan Hileman

Keith Kreider

Jennifer Rygel

Victor Velelli

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

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

EBT Lineside Building Kits from Southern Heritage Models



Give your flagstop passengers and your section crews an authentic way to shelter from summer thunderstorms!

The EBT Handcar Shed kit is based on the drawings from the Winter 1997-98 *Timber Transfer*. The EBT Passenger Shelter kit is from the drawings in the Fall 1996 *Timber Transfer*. The kits are available in both HO and O scale.



Both kits are primarily made from laser cut basswood and birch plywood. The battens are individually cut using the included template. Correct roof material is included with each kit. The shed doors and windows can be made open or closed. There is even a bench for the inside of the shelter, as well as six signs. The floors of the sheds are marked for HOn3 or for On3 and On30 rail.

Shelters are \$17.95 each for HO scale and \$33.95 for O scale. Handcar sheds are \$24.95 for HO and \$45.95 for O. 15% member discount applies. Shipping cost for each HO kit is \$5.00, or \$7.50 for two or more. For O, shipping cost is \$7.50 each or \$10 for two or more.

Order through FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org (PayPal, credit cards accepted.) Mail orders must enclose check payable to FEBT Company Store (no money orders.) PA residents must include 6% sales tax. Send mail orders to FEBT Company Store, 121 Chester Drive. #215, Pine Grove Mills, PA USA 16868-0215.

MAY WORK SESSION IN ROCKHILL SETS UP WORK WEEK

The focus of the weekend was to tie up loose ends, progress on some small projects, and prepare for the May Work Week. The work weekend was held on May 14th and 15th, and about 15 people participated each day.



A group of Rockhill volunteers pose with the EBT's hi-rail truck during the May Work Session. – Eric Knepp photo

The Carpentry Shop lean-to was completed and is ready for window installation by the often-unsung window crew. Work on the Carpentry Shop shifted to the north wall to complete siding repair on the building. EBT Combine 14 benefited from several small accomplishments including reassembly of the coal stove, some final paint scraping of the ceiling, caulking work on the clerestory, review of initial upholstery material samples for the passenger seats, and applying a coat of primer paint to one of the four baggage section doors. Additionally, new tongue and groove was cut to install where needed in the car.

Preparation of buildings for painting commenced with scraping and wire brushing on the Boiler Shop and Sand House. Structural repairs continued with Boxcar 174. Volunteers also successfully tested FEBT's new mag drill.
– Dave Bulman



The completed Carpentry Shop lean-to and its reflection following a mid-Sunday afternoon thunderstorm. Eric Knepp photo.

SPRING WORK WEEK MOVES RESTORATION NEEDLE

The May work week got off to a good start with approximately 16 volunteers each day and nice working weather. Good progress was being made on multiple projects, with the exterior painting having the most visible impact. We enjoyed several new volunteer activities planned for the week.



Exterior painting completed included the Carpentry Shop and the Storehouse, with the Sand House and west wall of the Machine and Boiler Shop underway with prep work completed. The painting effort was facilitated by the rental of a large bucket lift giving access to the upper areas of the buildings. A team completed new siding batten installation on the Carpentry Shop and Storehouse. Interior Storehouse efforts continued with reassembly of the engineer's cubby shelving. Window restorations continued in the new Carpentry Shop workspace, and progress on Combine 14 continued with interior details and seat restoration. Work will continue Thursday and Friday, including the track crew in Robertsedale on Thursday to continue opening more track south for handcar rides.

Lots of activity inside and outside the Storehouse. Dave Dillow and Dave Syiek install batten strips while Don Bayer works on interior shelf assembly. – Dave Bulman photo.

Volunteer activities included a visit to the Bricktown Model Railroaders Museum Tuesday evening in Mt. Union. On Wednesday afternoon we enjoyed a special FEBT volunteer train ride to the local ice cream stand, with the trip continuing to Colgate Grove and return (thanks EBTF!). Following the train ride we had a cook-out dinner for all the volunteers, held at the Rockhill Trolley Museum pavilion. After dinner, we watched the live Preservation Pennsylvania webinar on the East Broad Top featuring EBTF Board members Linn Moedinger and Jane Sheffield. It was pretty neat listening to Linn and Jane thanking the FEBT for the many accomplishments to help save the EBT while being on-site with the FEBT volunteer crew. We also organized lunch for all volunteers each day, also in the RTM pavilion. We will have a team dinner Thursday at a local restaurant. – Dave Bulman



FEBT Spring Work Week participants enjoy a train ride to Colgate Grove and back, with a stop for ice cream at The Little Ice Creamer along the way. – Dave Bulman photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
June 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 4	FEBT	Robertsdale Trackwork Session
June 11, 12	RTM	Johnstown Car Weekend
June 25, 26	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
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 13, 14	BTACMHS	Robertsdale Community Days/Coal Miner Heritage Days
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 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

June has two work weekends scheduled. The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer sessions will take place Saturday and Sunday June 4th and 5th, and Saturday and Sunday June 25th and 26th.

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

The next trackwork session is scheduled for June 4th, so keep an eye out for word from Gene Tucker about those details. The FEBT Museum is open every Saturday thru October. Contact Pete Clarke if you are interested in serving as a host at the museum. Pete can be reached at febt@aol.com. – Doug Davenport

AN ACTIVE MONTH OF MAY FOR FEBT'S TRACK CREW

During the month of May, FEBT track personnel concentrated on getting track ready for track car and handcar use. The venue for these efforts was the town of Three Springs (located about six miles southwest of Rockhill) and Robertsdale.



FEBT Track Crew members install temporary ties in the main line along the park in Three Springs. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo

Early in the month, the railroad charged us with getting about 1,000 feet of track ready for track car and handcar use for a festival that will take place in Three Springs over Memorial Day weekend. The opportunity to take part in this community event significantly enhances the railroad's visibility and its efforts at community relations.

In our work in Three Springs, we encountered track that was badly out-of-gauge (ranging from 30 inches to 43 inches), and we also encountered track that had been buried under sod and dirt (in some cases, over three inches above the railhead). Gauge correction was needed, which we did by installing steel ties, and also wooden ones (6 X 6 pressure-treated). The railroad graciously supplied a mini excavator to assist with the work, ably operated by Nicholas Brightbill.

An excellent crew was on hand for the work in Three Springs. Thanks are due to Gordon Ley, Justin Santichen, Bill Reynolds, John Quinn, Daniel Lane, Chris Wenger, Philip Coyle, Craig Confair, Victor Booth and Eric Knepp. Much of this work was arduous!

Then, at mid-month, we applied our efforts to making more of the track in Robertsdale available for handcar use (the handcar in Robertsdale is an EBT original!). As was the case in Three Springs, gauge correction was needed, as was the need to uncover some of the rail (mostly in the area of Mine # 1). We were greatly aided by Steve Jackson, who brought along his Bobcat. Steve's machine made digging cribs for tie installation so much easier. Gauge correction in Robertsdale followed the same pattern as that in Three Springs, with the installation of a goodly number of wood ties, some steel ones, and some hook bars. In addition, attention to a broken rail and a set of points which was missing a set of joint bars was required. Three switches required the resetting of the points to the closed position for the main track.



Charlie Wootton oversees handcar rides over FEBT-restored trackage during the Three Springs Carnival, held Memorial Day weekend. – Susan Wall photo



A north-facing view of the extended handcar track in Robertsdale. The retaining wall for coal cleaning facility, just south of Mine #5 tipple, still stands next to the loading track, and the main line is to the right. – Matt Wall photo.

As a result of this work, the usable track now extends to Mine # 5, about 1,400 feet south of the station and museum.

Deepest thanks are due to those who assisted in this arduous (there's that word again!) work, including: Steve Jackson, Daniel Lane, Bill Reynolds, Phil Coyle, Victor Booth, Gordon Ley, John Quinn, Mike Hoover (new - welcome!), Mark Reese, Eric Knepp, Tom Perman, Ed Kompare, Rick Rourke (new - welcome!), Todd Johnson, and Wayne Wanzor.

Many of those on our track crew personnel list (now numbering over fifty persons!) make significant sacrifices in terms of time and/or distance travelled to support our efforts. We can't say "thank you" enough for those gifts. – Gene Tucker

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1677

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.