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No. 16 is inspected prior to being placed in service for the day during the Sunday morning hostling tour at the 2023 Winter Spectacular. – Zachary Leitzel photo+

PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

The third annual FEBT Newsletter Winter Spectacular Photo Contest has now closed. Thank you to the 36 photographers who submitted a record 115 photos for this year's contest. The high turnout caused for a judging panel to be created this year in order to be able to fairly decide which works of art were most deserving of publication. No. 16 was photographed all along the line, in the roundhouse, and around the yard from a wide variety of angles, lightings, and backdrops. The photos noted with a + at the end of the caption are the winning submissions. There were a great number of tough decisions in the judging due to the high quality of photography the EBT-loving crowd produced. Thanks again to all those who sent in your pictures, and please enjoy the 10 best choices of those as you read through this month's issue. –
Doug Davenport



A Sunday morning passenger train heads northbound across Blacklog Creek. – Teresa Guzman+

MARCH ROBERTSDALE NOTES

Yes, we still want more folks to volunteer to host in Robertsdale. You will enjoy it. Contact me to learn more, or ask one of the many current hosts. My email is easy to remember, febt@aol.com

It's been too cold on the mountain to get any outside work done.

We spent most of this winter working with Julie on planning how we'd assist with the Archives room at the Winter Spectacular. Steve Jackson took the lead on this project. We took several items down from the museum and Julie brought down cool items and guests were welcome to have coffee, apple cider, custom No. 16 cookies, and donuts. Kids and the young-at-heart particularly enjoyed using the (now restored and mostly functional, the year dial still refuses to move)



The FEBT Museum and Archives volunteers pose in the baggage room of Orbisonia Station during the 2023 Winter Spectacular. Pete Clarke, Hans Plugge, Curtis Rockwell, Doug Linebaugh, Sammy Bellin, Steve Jackson, Delta Pelgrim, and Jane Clarke assisted with refreshments, as well as acting as museum and archival display docents. – Chris Coleman photo

Coles station stamp from the museum and the 1872 Rockhill Iron & Coal Company embossing tool from the archives. We picked up six new members onsite and hope more join after the fact. We hope we generated many more visits to the museum in Robertsdale, new restoration crew members and interest in FEBT and the EBT. Brian, Curtis, Delta, Doug, Hans, Jane, Julie, Roy, Sammy, Steve and I had a wonderful time.



Jane was standing near a photograph of the M-3 in Robertsdale when a woman exclaimed that when she was young her aunt hit the M-3 with her car and knocked it over!

We were particularly pleased at the number of college age folks and families with young children who came in.

As I'm also membership guy, I constantly hear folks say that they can't get to work sessions or can't do that kind of physical labor anymore. Well, how about making some EBT-themed item that we could sell at the museum? Make a bird house from old wood from some EBT related building (or put an EBT or FEBT mark on it). Print a photo from the

This EBT Archives & Special Collections Program display was in the baggage room of Orbisonia Station during the Winter Spectacular. – Julie Rockwell photo

archives, mount it or put it in a frame. Make some display using old spikes, photos, train orders from the archives. Paint a necktie. Knit an FEBT "onesie." Got some great photos? Mount them on foam board and let us sell them. Don't limit your thoughts to what I can think of! I'd love to have unique items we could sell to raise money for FEBT. Can you help? Contact me at febt@aol.com.

At the Winter Spectacular a member approached me and voiced an interest in being the librarian for the museum. I didn't catch his name or email. I'm hoping you still want to and will contact me – at febt@aol.com. – Pete Clarke



No. 16 pauses just outside the roundhouse under the sunrise on February 18, 2023. – Shawn Kinkead photo+

FEBT PERSONNEL UPDATES AND APPRECIATION

I often write about the demands of running a successful organization like FEBT and the unending need for volunteers to take on many behind-the-scenes roles. I am very pleased to highlight two roles, both exceptionally critical to our success, that are transitioning to volunteers who have stepped forward.

First, I hope you have all filled out volunteer skills inventories and provided those to Lee Rainey for inclusion in our database. From now on these inventories will be sent to Dave Bulman and his Volunteer Recruitment Committee- (dbulman115@gmail.com). Dave and the committee have done some great things to make volunteers feel more welcome and appreciated. They also have some ideas on how to improve the volunteer skills inventory process to make it easier for you to complete but also have greater utility to the Friends where we need new volunteers most. Thank you, Dave and team, for stepping forward. An even bigger thank you to Lee who created and has managed the skills inventory for the past few years among so many other tasks for FEBT!

We now have a new Fundraising Treasurer, Karen Bulman. Karen has graciously stepped forward to take over the role from Ray Davidowski. Karen brings lots of management experience and new ideas to this essential role. She can be reached via the same email address that Ray used, febtfundraisingtreasurer@gmail.com, but the mailing address for donations will change to:

P.O. Box 43063
Cincinnati Ohio 45243

Ray deserves a huge round of applause and appreciation. In the four years he has been the Fundraising Treasurer he has handled more than \$650,000 in donations! When Ray signed on to undertake the job, our fundraising could be described as modest -- but things changed a bit three years ago! Ray stuck through it when the job became far more than what he was asked to do in 2019. Ray is stepping down so he can focus on some other life demands but he assures me he will be back, maybe in a different role, but back none the less. We will be excited to have him back and I am sure seeing #16 in steam during Winter Spectacular may help accelerate that!

Please don't think we have filled all our needs with these two transitions. There is plenty more work to be done! Let me know if you want to jump in. – *Andy Van Scyoc*

*Top: Dave and Karen Bulman enjoy a ride in the new coaches. – Dave Bulman photo
Right: Ray Davidowski poses with a speeder in the Rockhill Yard. – Lawrence Biemiller photo*



NEW, BACK IN STOCK, AND COMING SOON TO THE FEBT COMPANY STORE

New in the Company Store:

Robertsdale Freight House Kit from Southern Heritage Models
(HO Scale)

From Ric Case's 3-D Printed Models:

"Brownie" Miners Passenger Car Body (HO and O Scale)

3-Bay Hopper Car Body (HO, S and O Scales)

Billmeyer & Smalls Wooden Coal Car Body (3 Styles) (HO,
S, and O Scales)

Back in Stock:

From Ric Case's 3-D Printed Models:

Ex-Hancock & Calumet 2-Bay Hopper Car Body (HO Scale)

2-Bay Side Dump Hopper Car Body (HO, S and O Scales)

Coming Soon:

Three Springs Depot Kit from Southern Heritage Models (HO
and O Scales)

Robertsdale Freight House Kit from Southern Heritage Models (O Scale)

Rockhill Electrical Shop from Banta Modelworks (HO Scale)

Drawings of Billmeyer & Smalls Wooden Coal Cars by Greg Vaughn



Robertsdale Freight Depot kit
from Southern Heritage Models

On Sale Now:

Half Price - 2023 EBT Calendar

Go to the Company Store at <https://store.feht.org/> for more information and to order.

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

EBT Foundry and Pattern Shop in HO Scale



Conceived by
Broad Top
Mountain Models



Designed and
manufactured by
banta modelworks



The footprint is 18 1/4" long by 6 1/2" wide. All laser cut wood plus one 3D printed brick wall. Features precut battens and fencing, trolley in the overhead, timbering in the scrap pile, and appropriate chimneys. The kit follows our usual assembly process of an inner structure covered with siding.

\$168 regular price. Member discount applies. Shipping \$10.

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

BOD NOMINATIONS DUE THIS MONTH

The deadline for nominations for Board of Directors candidates is March 31st. If you believe someone would be a quality director, or are thinking of stepping forward yourself, please inform the 2023 Nominations Committee chair. The chairperson rotates each year, and this year it falls to Lawrence Biemiller. Please contact him with your nomination recommendations at biemiller@mac.com. Four BOD seats are to be voted on in 2023. – Doug Davenport



No. 16 creates an impressive plume of smoke as she departs Rockhill with a string of hopper cars in tow on Sunday, February 19th. – Darryl Rule photo+

FEBRUARY ROCKHILL RESTORATION SESSION NOTES



We had a cold but productive winter work session in Rockhill the weekend of February 4th and 5th. We had 19 hardy souls attend on Saturday and 18 on Sunday. The carpentry crew continued work on the south end of the Car Shop. By the end of the weekend new siding was installed on all six new shop doors. Another crew worked on Combine 14 in the Paint Shop. Progress included siding installation on the south end of the car, installation of the coal stove, and sanding of the ceiling to prep for paint. We also had a good-sized crew working on the Storehouse. The last of the material for the first floor was moved from the storage container back to the Storehouse. We then spent most of the weekend sorting hardware that had become mixed up over the years and had been temporarily placed in the engineer's cubby. This will allow all hardware to be returned to the correct historic bin locations. – *Dave Bulman*

Tom Perman and Craig Confair prepare siding boards for installation on the Car Shop doors during the February Works Session. – Dave Bulman photo



No. 16 steams south through the Rockhill Yard en route to collect her cars for the first EBT revenue steam-powered train since 2011. – Jimmy Braum photo+

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
March 3	FEBT	Rockhill Trackwork Session
March 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
April 1, 2	RTM	Easter EGGspress Trolley
April 1, 2, 8	EBT	Easter on the Rails
May 6	BTACMHS	2023 Season Opening Day
May 13	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
May 20	RTM	Members Day
May 20, 21	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 22-26	FEBT	Rockhill Spring Work Week
June 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 10	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
July 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 8	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
July 29, 30	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 12	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
August 19, 20	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9, 10	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
September 18-22	FEBT	Rockhill Fall Work Week
October 6	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
November 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session

<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, March 4th and 5th. Dates for the remainder of the work sessions for 2023 are posted on our website. Please consider coming out for one or more of the sessions to help us continue to preserve and restore the East Broad Top. Visit our website at <https://febt.org/volunteer/> for more information on projects and how you can participate. 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

Future work sessions in Robertsdale are not yet scheduled. If you'd like to be added to the crew, please contact Pete Clarke at febt@aol.com to get added to the crew call list. – *Pete Clarke*



TRACK CREW BENEFITS FROM MILD WINTER WEATHER

“Make hay while the sun shines”, I think the saying goes. We might amend that to describe the FEBT’s track crew’s activity for the past month so it would read, “Make tracks while the weather is (mostly) mild”.

The mostly mild winter we’ve been experiencing in Rockhill has enabled a good deal of work to get done in the yard. We’ve installed ties just south of the yard; we’ve installed new headblock ties in the Coach Track switch in the south part of the yard; we’ve leveled, lifted (about one inch), ballasted, and tamped the switch for the main (Track 2) and the south leg of the wye; and we’ve attended to some initial work on the switch leading to Tracks 4 and 5. And then, on Tuesday, February 21st, we began a round of tie installation on the main just north of the station, where twenty-nine ties were installed. All of this has been possible because the ballast wasn’t frozen.

Along the way, we also did a good bit of general cleaning up and tidying up in the yard.



EBT Master Mechanic Dave Domitrovich stops No. 16 to watch the FEBT Track Crew of Gordon Ley, Daniel Lane, Henry Long, Chris Wenger, Ryan Rimshaw, and Gene Tucker install new ties in Tracks 4 and 5 at the south end of the Rockhill Yard on February 10th. Additional opportunities to see steam engines in action is one of the benefits of volunteering. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo



The weather did catch up with us for the February Work Weekend, when temperatures were in the 20s (with a hefty breeze to match). The ballast was frozen on that occasion, so our work for the weekend was cancelled.

We did, however, work the previous day (Friday, February 3rd) inside the Car Shop (ten people joined in that work!), working to gauge and fasten down the two-foot gauge tramway tracks inside the shop to the newly-installed floor joists. (The rails for this tramway – which was used to ferry wood from the Lumber Shed outside the Car Shop into the shop for freight car construction - are the EBT’s original rail, # 45 lb. rail, rolled in 1874!) Though it was cold on that Friday, at least we were inside, out of the wind which howled outside. Going inside was an excellent call on the part of the railroad’s full-time track foreman, Henry Long.

With the Winter Spectacular complete and five weeks until a scheduled operating day, the FEBT Track Crew turns to replacing ties on the main line in front of the station. Daniel Lane, John Quinn, and Joel Myers join a weekday work session. – Gene Tucker photo



The engine crew poses on the roudhouse lead track during the night photo shoot. – Christopher Pollock photo+

In my days in the Army, we used to remind each other that “It’s awfully hard to soar like an eagle if one hangs around with turkeys”. In keeping with that wisdom, I can safely say it’s a great honor to hang around with the top-notch volunteers who make up the FEBT’s track gang. (There are now 71 names on the roster of this august group.) This month’s able contributors to the work that’s been accomplished were: Steve Jackson, Dave Johnson, John Quinn, Daniel Lane, Victor Booth, Rick Rourke, Ryan Rimshaw,

Gordon Ley, Ed Kompare, Joel Myers, Jack Fornadly (new – welcome!), Phil Coyle, Chris Wenger, Larry Fuchs, Justin Santichen, Wayne Wanzor, and Alex Cook. Some of those on this list were able to devote more than one day’s work to the accomplishments of the past month. We value the efforts and the time given to the work at hand, large or small. “It’s all good,” as I’m fond of saying.

Finally, we members of the track gang think we have more fun than anybody else on the railroad. (OK, truth be told, we don’t really know how much fun the rest of the railroad’s staff and the FEBT’s personnel have, but we value our illusions.) Do come and join us in our work...there’s great satisfaction in seeing the work we do in tangible results for the railroad’s wellbeing and future. – Gene Tucker



An afternoon passenger train traverses the long fill near Runk Road, as a winterized Jack’s Mountain looms in the distance. – Justin Santichen photo+



A northbound morning freight clears the Rockhill Yard limit. – Wayne Wanzor photo+

FEBRUARY FUNDRAISING UPDATE

FEBT received just shy of \$5000 in the February reporting period. This month's 33 donors have the organization on the doorstep of meeting its fundraising goal for 2023. As you've read above, a number of things are happening, and these accomplishments are made possible by your contributions. Thank you for donating as you can to help restoration progress.

2023 Fundraising Goal:
\$180,000

February Donations:
\$4,945.00

Campaign Total:
\$178,699.80 – 99.3%

February donors*:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alan Bachy | Ronald Baile | Alexander Bowser | Kennard Britton |
| David Capp | Laurence Carbonetti | Wayne Carr | Carson Culp |
| Ruth & Thomas Dix | Larry Endler | Axel Feltenberger | Douglas Fink |
| Tyler Gardner | Tim Himmelberger | Michael Huhn | Victor & Vicki Kidd |
| Lionel Lavoie | Edgar Lecuyer | Byron Locke | Mary Beth and David Redding |
| Sean McCaffery | Selwyn Parks | Craig Piper | David Rose |
| Randy Smith | Ann Sparrough | Lawrence Wills | Jeffrey Wolfe |

In Memory of Raymond D. Potts:
Bonita Potts-Leisher

* - All donors listed represent donations received between January 22, 2023 and February 21, 2023. Donations received after February 21 will be reported in the April 2023 issue due to press time constraints.

- *Ray Davidowski, Karen Bulman, and Doug Davenport*



No. 16, with passenger consist, makes her way northbound through the S-curve. – John Quinn photo+

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT NOTES

Want to know the meaning of life? I can't help you.

Want to know if your bubble gum loses its flavor on the bedpost overnight? (Google that, kids.) I can't help you.

Wonder what our mailbox looks like on Tuesday after the Winter Spectacular? That I can help you with.

Membership reported in the February newsletter, 1810.

Membership now? 1864.

On a more serious note: This winter the membership office experienced significant delays in getting renewal reminder postcards to the members. We regret that and believe we have the issue resolved. Those late postcards caused some to renew twice in quick succession. Their memberships are simply paid up for another year. – *Pete Clarke*



The Membership Office mailbox, stuffed full of outgoing new member packets. – Pete Clarke photo

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1864

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 1,800 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.



No. 16 pauses by the Sandhouse during the night photo session of the 2023 Winter Spectacular. – Sam Painter 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.