



www.febt.org

# NEWSLETTER

Preservation Restoration Interpretation

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Volume 4, Issue 6

June 2023

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*The FEBT March to Saltillo is in progress, as track crew members Gene Tucker, Sam Painter, Chris Letcher, Todd Johnson, Tom Perman, and Don Bayer spike up new ties in the main line to the south of the coal dock during the FEBT Spring Work Week. – Andy Van Scyoc photo*

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*No. 16 returns to Rockhill during the EBT Goes to War! event with troops onboard and artillery waiting on May 13<sup>th</sup>. – Susan Wall photo*

# MAY WORK EFFORTS YIELD RESULTS, FUN

The May work weekend and work week were combined for seven straight days of volunteer activities in Rockhill Furnace from 5/20 through 5/26. We had an outstanding week, with great weather, major progress on multiple restoration projects, and lots of fun volunteer activities. The Railroad operated Saturday, Sunday, and Friday, so we had lots of steam sights, sounds, and smells while working on projects. 54 FEBT volunteers participated over the course of the week, with great support from the EBT Foundation staff.

The week started on Saturday 5/20 and work began on multiple projects that progressed throughout the week. The track crew was busy all week with multiple projects. Alignment and surfacing were completed on the mainline near Horn's Cut, additional ties were installed in Track 4 in the yard, and over 800 feet of new ties were spiked south of the Rockhill yard to the Odd Fellows Cemetery Rd. crossing.



*The May Work Session participants gather outside the Paint Shop on the morning of Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. – Eric Knepp photo*

Work on Combine 14 included sealing and painting on the clerestory, painting the passenger compartment, rebuilding of seat cushions, and installation of most of the remaining siding on the south-east side.

The crew on Boxcar 174 completed the final frame and bolster repair on the northeast corner, and continued installation of new wood interior lining.



*Progress is happening inside and near the Paint Shop.*

*Left: Charlie Wootton, Mike Wahler, Cliff Howell, and Van Cresswell work on Combine 14 on Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>. – Dave Bulman photo*

*Right: Ben Bilott and Bill Bilott double-check their shop sketch while working on Baxcar 174. – Al Gallo photo*

The window crew installed restored sashes in the Storehouse, and installed restored sashes and repainted the white window trim on multiple windows in the west wall of the Carpentry Shop.

A major new project for the work week was the reconstruction of the lean-to between the restored Storehouse and the Stone House. This building was removed in 2021 after documentation to allow for structural repairs to the Storehouse. New gutters on the Storehouse and Stone House over the lean-to were first installed. New ledger boards and roof rafters were then installed, and the exterior walls were framed. Roof deck boards and wall siding were installed next. Additional rafters and deck boards were installed to recreate the original roof “vee”. The new siding was painted, and battens were installed and painted. Finally, interior wall framing was partially completed.



*Al Modro paints the trim around a freshly installed window sash in the west wall of the Car Shop. – Al Gallo photo*



*Left: Craig Confair and James Roslund install the first new roof rafter of the lean-to. – Dave Bulman photo*



*Right: The completed subroof and new gutter work above the lean-to. – Dave Bulman photo*

We had a number of fun volunteer activities during the week, starting with the FEBT 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Saturday evening. Monday through Friday we had lunch together in the Rockhill Trolley Museum pavilion. Tuesday evening, we had a group dinner at the Village Tavern in Mill Creek. Wednesday evening, we had a cook-out dinner in the RTM pavilion. Following dinner, we had a great program by member and author Tony Reevy on his new book “The Railroad Photography of Phil Hastings”. Thursday evening, we attended the first night of the Three Springs Homecoming Carnival, which included nice EBT Archives and Special Collections and FEBT displays.

Thank you to such a large group of volunteers for making all this progress possible! Please consider coming out for one or more of the sessions to help us continue to preserve and restore the East Broad Top. 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](mailto:rhrestoration@febt.org). Visit our website at <https://febt.org/volunteer/> for more information on all of our volunteer projects and how you can participate. – Dave Bulman ([dbulman115@gmail.com](mailto:dbulman115@gmail.com)) – Dave Bulman

# FEBT: 40 YEARS YOUNG AND 1900 STRONG

Over 100 FEBT members gathered on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to celebrate the incorporation of FEBT 40 years before. Rain fell as the crowd collected on the Orbisonia Station platform to board the chartered train to Colgate Grove. With a yellow FEBT banner and large “40” balloons on the caboose railings, the train carried everyone to the Grove where a catered picnic awaited. The 40<sup>th</sup> celebration marked the first use of two new pavilions at the Grove. Fortunately, the rain broke shortly after arrival and everyone enjoyed the meal amongst new and old Friends alike.



*No. 16, with the 4:30 special train in tow, awaits on the Colgate Grove wye during the FEBT 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The new pavilions see their first use as FEBT members enjoy a good meal and even better fellowship. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo*



FEBT President, Andy Van Scyoc, said a few words referring to what FEBT has become: a 1900-member organization raising over \$200,000 and generating 10,000 volunteer hours each year. Mr. James Roslund spoke on behalf of the EBT Foundation, thanking the FEBT for all that has been done and the unyielding support to preserving the EBT. Deane Mellander spoke as one of the four founding FEBT members present; Lee Rainey who was not able to join us at Colgate Grove but was on the platform to see us off, Dave Johnson, and Harry Sage in addition to Deane. Deane shared

that he began as an EBT modeler and that he joined in the fledgling FEBT which was inspired by Friends of the GG1, or FOGG, who were raising funds a few years earlier to repaint an Amtrak GG1 into authentic Pennsylvania Railroad livery. After the speeches, the guests all reboarded the train to return to Rockhill where the Rockhill Trolley Museum generously had several trolley cars waiting for an evening ride out the Shade Gap branch.

To see some of the event, you can watch the video at FEBT’s YouTube channel. Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POxeVd97mVw>. – Andy Van Scyoc

# MAY FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Another record-setting month is in the books for the 2023 FEBT Fundraising Campaign. After setting new high water marks for donations and dollars contributed in April, FEBT donors also surpassed the previous May numbers in both categories; by more than double! Each donation is greatly appreciated, and is used to help further the progress made. You read above about all the projects accomplished during the Spring Work Week as an example of how FEBT utilizes your contributions, as well as all the continuing track restoration efforts. Again, thank you!!

**2023 Fundraising Goal:**  
\$180,000  
**May Donations:**  
\$17,514.20  
**Campaign Total:**  
\$232,043.32 – 128.9%

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 Karen Bulman  
P.O. Box 43063  
Cincinnati, OH 45243

## May donors\*:

Edward Adamchik	Joan Adams	Lawrence Altoff	Beth Ann & Richard Andrews
William Bailey	Bryan Becker	Vincent Bellafore	William Blome
Douglas Blount	Patrick Boab	Casper Bocklage	Eric Booher
George Botic	John Bowie	Alexander Bowser	Joseph Brabec
Charles Bradley	Kenneth Brink	Edward Brucker	David Bulman
Robert Caccese	Wesley Camp	James Campbell	David Capp
Paul Carpenito	Matthew Cesare	Steven Chorkawy	Angela Cialone Kershaw
Ronald Cicchini	W. George Cook	Ben Cornelius	Frank Couch
Keith Danis	Thomas & Shirley Diehl	Frank Dziama	Steve Elliott
Thomas Ennis	Linda Erdman	Karl Erickson	Steve Esposito
Pat Fahry	Robert Farkas	Donald Fenstermacher	Gorman Findley
Douglas Fink	Louis Fisher	Carl Fowler	Edmund Fox
Richard Gauthier	Charles Geletzke Jr.	Paul Gramlich	Roy Haeusler
Luke Hamann	Bruce & Kathy Hartman	William Hessler	Nathan Hileman
John Hiller	David Homer	Cliff Howell	Victor Humphreys
Wayne Johnson	James Kauffman	Robert Kessler	Victor Kidd
Michael Klein	Charles Klump	Larry Knepper	Keith Kreider
Richard Lind	F. Palmer Lindblom	Byron Locke	Matthew Malkiewicz
Garret McCabe	Chris McChesney	Thomas McMaster	Robert Meckes
James Millhouse, Jr.	J. Harold Mohler	James Montgomery	Michael Moore
Bill Morrison	William Mosteller	Terry Mott	Andy Mulhollen
Mark Nieting	Thomas O'Leary, Jr.	Dave Padula	Paul Payton & Bette Schultz
James Pifer	Mark Podvia	Robert Polasky	Walter Poppe
Michael Ray	Peter Reisiger	Charles Rhine	Michael Romansky
Mike Rotz	Ross Rowland, Jr.	Norman Runk	Jennifer Rygel
Bruce Saylor	John Schmidt	Russell Schmidt	Mark Schmitt
Raymond Schmitt	James Seville	Jon Shade	Ira Silverman
Tom Simco	Christopher Simone	Robert Smith	Peter Smykla
Tom Stackhouse	Earle Stalfort, Jr.	Dave Steinberger	Stephen Gould
Paul & Matthew Stolzenfels		Steve Stroman	Peter Switalski
David Syiek	Robert Taylor	Gary Thomas	Mike Torreson

Vincent Trotta  
Kevin Walsh  
John Widmeyer  
David Wood

Micke & Dave Trussell  
David Watts  
Larry Williams  
Terry Woolsey

Paul Vaughn  
Walter Weart  
Brian Wolfe  
John S. Yoder

David Vinci  
Richard Weiss  
Lynn Wolfe  
James Zumbo

In memory of Gordon "Gordy" Ley:  
Dave Johnson                      Kathryn Ryberg

\* - All donors listed represent donations received between April 22, 2023 and May 21, 2023. Donations received after May 21 will be reported in the July 2023 issue due to press time constraints.  
- *Karen Bulman and Doug Davenport*

## A NOTE FROM THE FUNDRAISING TREASURER

Thank you, donors! Your contributions are appreciated and reflected in all of the fantastic work being done at the railroad!

We are making an administrative change requested by donors wishing to simplify their record-keeping. For our donors who contribute via our Company Store and who pay by either credit card or PayPal, we will now distribute the IRS contribution acknowledgement letter as an attachment via email, eliminating the need to physically mail the letter.

The new streamlined process will send the acknowledgement promptly within 24 – 48 hours of your Company Store contribution!

This change has gone into effect and soon we will send emails to our on-line donors who made a contribution in 2023. Note that there will be separate emails for each on-line contribution made.

If you make a donation via check, the IRS letter will continue to be physically mailed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [febtfundraisingtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:febtfundraisingtreasurer@gmail.com). – *Karen Bulman*

## SOME FEBT OFFICES CLOSED DURING JUNE

As you read this, we (Membership guy Pete & TT editor Jane) should be about a week and a half into our tandem bicycle ride from the headwaters of the Danube River in Germany to Budapest, Hungary. All membership activity will resume when we return. We will have been gone for a month. Don't be shocked if it takes me another month to dig out from under that month's worth of work. – *Pete Clarke*

The FEBT Newsletter office will be closed the week of June 19<sup>th</sup>. No disruption to the July issue is expected. The editor will be on vacation that week, and will be happy to reply to any emails upon his return. – *Doug Davenport*

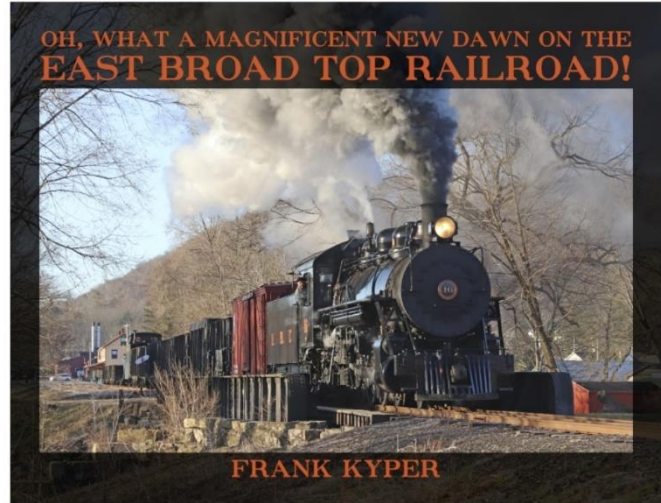
*The 746<sup>th</sup> Railway BN is set up in Boxcar 170 during the EBT Goes to War! event on May 13<sup>th</sup>. – Susan Wall photo*



# COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

This book by Frank Kyper describes the rebirth of the EBT since the formation of the East Broad Top Foundation and announcement in February 2020 to resurrect, rebuild, and once again operate the railroad. The book also looks back into earlier days of the railroad as a coal and rock hauler, and tourist road running over only five miles of its track. A number of vignettes are presented of events on the railroad during its earlier common carrier and tourist train eras.

Fourteen chapters, over 100 pages, softbound. Kyper's final book of his present-day East Broad Top/Mount Union trilogy. A must-have book for every fan of the EBT!



**\$50.00 Member Discount Applies Shipping \$12.50**

Order through FEBT Company Store website at [store.febt.org](http://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 on merchandise and shipping total. Send mail orders to: FEBT Company Store, c/o J. Quinn, 121 Chester Drive, PO Box 215, Pine Grove Mills, PA USA 16868-0215

## FEBT COMPANY STORE NEW, BACK IN STOCK AND COMING SOON

### New in the Company Store:

From Ric Case's 3-D Printed Models:  
EBT Coach No. 4/5 Car Body (HO)  
EBT Combine No. 16/17 Car Body (HO)

### Back in Stock:

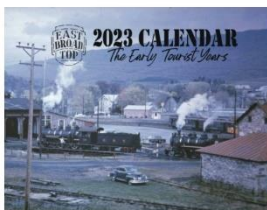
EBT Storehouse kit from Banta Modelworks (HO)  
EBT Coles Station kit from BTS (HO)  
EBT Saltillo Station kit from BTS (HO)

### Coming Soon:

EBT 3 Springs Depot kit from Southern Heritage Models (HO)  
EBT Blacksmith Shop kit from Banta Modelworks (HO)  
EBT Combine No. 14 Car Body (HO) from Ric Case



Photos courtesy of Ric Case.



**On Sale Now:  
2023 EBT Calendar \$10 That's Half Price!**



## “IT’S ALL GOOD”, SAYS THE TRACK GUY

We begin this month’s report by stating the perfectly obvious (which, I am told, is one of my best talents). That perfectly obvious truth is that our people, our volunteers, are our most valuable asset. The reason is also perfectly obvious: without people to do the things we do to support the railroad and to encourage its preservation and growth, nothing much would get done.

When I consider the wealth of talent and the depth of the dedication of FEBT’s volunteers, my mind is often led to consider the wide variety of ways that people manage to lend their time and abilities to our efforts.

It’s then that the thought enters my mind: “It’s all good.”

So, consider some of the ways that “It’s all good”.

When someone says to me, “I can only come to help out once a year (or its variation, ‘I can only come once a month’)", I respond with, “It’s all good, whatever time you can manage, however much or however little, always helps.” In view of this, I think of some of our volunteers for our current Work Week... we have one coming from Las Cruces, New Mexico, and another from Durango, Colorado, and yet another from the Cincinnati, Ohio area. Those who live that far away can usually manage only one – or perhaps two – trips to Rockhill each year.

Then, I often hear this comment: “I’ve never done track work before.” I respond with, “Well, by the end of the day, you’ll be fully proficient in track work, and we’d be happy to certify you in this area.” OK, perhaps that’s a bit of an exaggeration, but you get the idea. Those who are new generally catch on quite quickly, and we’re happy to guide and to educate.

Sometimes, someone will be honest about their physical abilities, saying, “I can’t do such-and-such”. That, too, is all good. We never ask anyone to do tasks that are beyond their abilities, and we watch our crew members closely to ensure they are doing well, having fun, and are making a lasting contribution to work at hand.

*Above: The track crew pauses from its mission of rehabilitating Track 4 in the Rockhill Yard, as No. 16 passes by to prepare for the day’s tourist train runs. – Al Gallo photo*

*Right: The track crew inserts a tie into Track 4 on May 20<sup>th</sup>. – Tori Davenport photo*



In connection with this last thought, I often encourage questions – especially from those who might be new to working track - by saying, “The only dumb question is the one we’re afraid to ask.” That, too, is all good: ask away!

Of course, we had a cadre of volunteers who are able to come regularly. Some of them have decades of experience in track work, and who are able to assist with coordinating the work. That, too, is all good. So, what have we managed to accomplish since last month’s report with all this “goodness”? Well, quite a lot, actually. Here are some details:

- We assisted in the installation of many, many ties in the main track south of the Rockhill yard, filling in the every-third tie work done last year with the remaining two ties. Spiking up of these ties is underway as I write.
- We assisted in spiking up 54 ties in the main on the south side of McMullin Summit.
- We installed 116 ties in Track 4 in the Rockhill yard.
- We are assisting with lining and surfacing of the main track south of Horn’s Cut.

Now, to the details of the “It’s all good” where our personnel are concerned.

In our Work Weekend and midweek sessions, the following have assisted since the last report: John Widmeyer, Daniel Lane, John Quinn, Van Cresswell (new – welcome!), Dave Johnson, Al Gallo (new – welcome!), Chris Wenger, Kevin Conklin, Jack Fornadley, Phil Coyle, Victor Booth, Joel Myers, Norm Wilcox, Matt Wall, Tim Schindele, Conrad Meyer (new – welcome!), Mark Reese, Dave Hart, Tom Jordan, Tom Perman, and Don Bayer (new – welcome!).

As Work Week has progressed, we’ve been blessed to have the presence of the following: Dave Johnson, Don Bayer, Bob Meek (new – welcome!), John Thompson (new – welcome!), Tony Reevy (new – welcome!), Jim Colby (new – welcome!), Larry Fuchs, Joel Myers, John Widmeyer, Dan Lane and Andrew Greene. Invariably, we hear comments like, “This is fun, it’s hard and demanding work, but we’re making a tangible difference.” Yes, that’s absolutely true, and such comments are also, all good. – *Gene Tucker*



*Above: Ties are staged for installation in the main line between the coal dock and the Oddfellows Cemetery Rd. grade crossing at the southern-most point of the Rockhill Yard. – Gene Tucker photo*

*Left: The track crew poses after a hard (but fun!) day’s work of restoring Track 4 in the Rockhill Yard. – Deb Tucker photo*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Event</b>
June 10, 11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 10, 11	EBT	Orbisonia Antique Power Show
June 10, 11	RTM	Johnstown Car Weekend
June 10	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
June 17	RTM	Trolleys and Ice Cream!
July 1, 2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 8	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
July 8	EBT	First Responder's Day
July 15	RTM	Trolleys and Ice Cream!
July 29, 30	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 12	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
August 12	FEBT	Robertsdale Community Days – Barbershop Quartet Concert
August 12, 13	BTACMHS	Robertsdale Community Days – Museum open, bake sale
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
September 21-24	EBT	Ragtime at the Railroad
October 6, 7, 8	FEBT	FEBT Fall Reunion
October 6	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29	EBT	Peanuts Great Pumpkin Patch Express
November 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session

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

## UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Dates for the remainder of the work sessions for 2023 are posted on our website, and above. 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](mailto:rhrestoration@febt.org). – *Dave Bulman*

## UPCOMING ROBERTSDALE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

No volunteer events are currently scheduled. – *Pete Clarke*

## FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

<i>Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM</i>	June 3, 10, 17, 24	July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
	August 5, 12, 19, 26	September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
	October 6, 8 (Friday & Sunday of FEBT Reunion), 14, 21, 28	December 2, 9, 16

# WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? RTM SEEKS OPERATORS

“No visit to the East Broad Top Railroad is complete without a ride on the Shade Gap Electric Railway.” Visitors to Orbisonia have heard this sentiment since the 1960’s. Volunteer trolley operators are needed to help keep this long tradition viable.



*Picture yourself here, as a trolley motorman, enjoying the summer breeze while operating a piece of historic equipment along the former Shade Gap branch of the East Broad Top. – Joel Salomon photo*

The Rockhill Trolley Museum is one of the three legs of the Rockhill Furnace stool alongside the EBT Foundation and FEBT. The EBT, FEBT, and RTM have long been supporting each other and building off each other’s talents and resources to maintain the historic equipment, rebuild track, optimize the visitor experience, and even market a broader historical picture.

As more and more visitors are drawn to Rockhill, the trolley museum is in need of additional volunteer operators for both weekday and weekend operations. No experience is required to become an operator. If you enjoy antique machinery, meeting interesting people, and sharing history, you will certainly enjoy running any of the museum’s 23 historic trolley cars which come from as close as Johnstown, York, and Scranton, and as far away as Chicago, San Diego, Brazil, and Portugal.

Training will be provided. Contact the trolley museum [info@rockhilltrolley.org](mailto:info@rockhilltrolley.org) or explore the Rockhill trolley Museum’s website at [www.rockhilltrolley.org](http://www.rockhilltrolley.org) for additional information.



*Come join a fun group of trolley operators at the Rockhill Trolley Museum. – RTM 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 1,800 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/](http://febt.org/) for more information.

### MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top  
membership is up to  
**1878**



*The FEBT Board of Directors poses at Colgate Grove during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Platform row: Ray Davidowski, Gene Tucker, Vice President Bill Adams, President Andy Van Scyoc, Secretary Curt Miller. Ground row: Dave Bulman, Doug Davenport, Lawrence Biemiller. Not pictured: Lee Rainey. – Matthew Malkiewicz 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](mailto:Newsletter@febt.org). Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Events occurring after the 25<sup>th</sup>, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.