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NEWSLETTER

Preservation Restoration Interpretation

Volume 4, Issue 7

July 2023



The June Work Session Storehouse crew of Dave Bulman, Andy McGuffey, Bob Meek, Al Gallo, Vic Booth and Jim Witmer pose in front of the lean-to with completed upper trim and newly installed shop superintendent's sign. – Andy Van Scyoc photo

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No. 16 returns to the Rockhill roundhouse, passing the nearly-completed Storehouse lean-to project. – Eric Knepp photo

CONTINUED ROCKHILL PROGRESS DURING JUNE

The June work weekend was held in Rockhill Furnace on 6/10 and 6/11. We had more nice weather and a good turnout, with 26 volunteers on Saturday and 21 on Sunday.

Progress continued on Combine 14, including completion of final roof work allowing the exterior scaffolding to be removed. Other work included interior painting, siding prep and floorboard painting for the south platform, and continued seat reassembly.

Boxcar 174 was jacked up and the north truck was rolled out for cleanup and refurbishment.

The Car Shop south wall had the window trim installed, EBT red paint applied, and rebuilt window sashes installed in five of the window openings. It has not looked this good in many a year.

The Storehouse team continued reconstructing the lean-to between the Stone House and the Storehouse. The saloon-style trim at the top of the east wall was installed, as was the support for the superintendent's office sign. The interior divider wall of the lean-to was framed and sided, and the interior bins were stained.

The track crew was busy continuing with the rebuild of Track 4 in the yard. See Friar Tuck's article on Page 7 for more details on the trackwork effort.



A view of the freshly painted passenger compartment of Combine 14. – Eric Knepp photo



Ben Bilott, Dave Dietz, Alex Cook, and Steve Jacobs perform bolster and truck restoration work on Boxcar 174. – Al Gallo photo



If you'd like to help with these and other projects to restore the EBT, come out and join us. 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. 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) – Dave Bulman

The south wall of the car shop after the team of Craig Confair, Mark Reese, Bill Adams, and Bobby Goldby completed trim, painting, and window installation. – Dave Bulman photo.

JUNE ROCKHILL VOLUNTEERS

The following members participated in the June Rockhill Work Session, held on June 10th and 11th. Thank you for your contributions to FEBT's restoration efforts.

Bill Adams	Ben Bilott
Victor Booth	Dave Bulman
Karen Bulman	Wayne Cass
Craig Confair	Alex Cook
Dave Dietz	Larry Fuchs
Al Gallo	Jackson Ganser
Bobby Goldby	Steve Jacobs
Eric Knepp	Daniel Lane
Andy McGuffey	Bob Meek
Mark Reese	Tim Schindele
Ken Schwarz	Russ Semen
Brett Stankiewicz	Gene Tucker
Andy Van Scyoc	Mike Wahler
Chris Wenger	Jim Witmer
Charlie Wootton	



Karen Bulman stains new wood on Storehouse lean-to bins. – Dave Bulman photo

JUNE FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Friends of the East Broad Top has now achieved nine fundraising records in 2023, thanks to your help. February tied the record set in 2021 for number of donations received, and each month since has established new bests in both number and dollars of donations received in that month. June's 51 donations and over \$13,500 received also replace the previous June records set in 2021. The totals for the calendar year of 2023 now exceed \$100,000, and FEBT donors have now contributed nearly a quarter million dollars to the 2023 Fundraising Campaign over 860 donations. Thank you to all contributors for your generosity.

2023 Fundraising Goal: \$180,000
June Donations: \$13,724.89
Campaign Total: \$245,768.21 – 136.5%

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

June donors*:

John J. Atherton	Kendrick Bisset	John R. Bowie	Alexander Bowser
David H. Capp	Thomas Carlson	Robert Courneya	Bruce Courter
Walter Dietz	Jason Feldman	Douglas E. Fink	William Fitch
Robert D. Fontana	John Forr	Carson Freeman	Donald D. Graab
Michael Hegedus	Harvey E. Heiges	Stephen E. Jackson	Dave Johnson
Victor V. Kidd	Michael Koch	Dave & Holly Kominsky	
Mitchell Krausman	Oscar Lurwig	Robert W. Lykens	Conrad Meyer
Randy A. Musser	National Christmas Tree Railroad		David A. Phillips
Brian Poole	Peter Reisiger	Al Rizzo	Thomas E. Sadd
Joel Shaper	John Sheets	Robert Sher	Chris Spina
Donald Stark	Graham J.A. Todd	Charles Ulmann	Vern Van Voorst
Richard E. Wachter	Robert Wenger	Patrick Yough	

In memory of Gordon "Gordy" Ley:
Gene Tucker

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

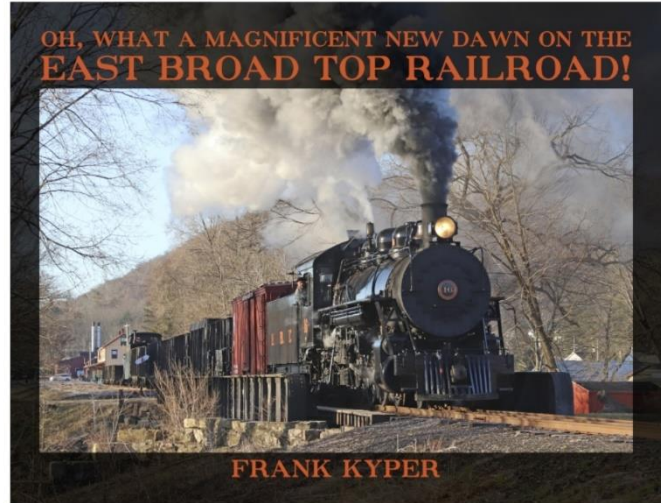
FEBT SUPPORT SECTIONS BACK AT "WORK"

The Membership Office is back in full swing after a month-long hiatus. Membership Guy Pete Clarke reports that all outstanding issues have been addressed. The FEBT Newsletter office closure had no impact on publication, as evidenced by your reading this on July 1st. Your favorite FEBT publication, the *Timber Transfer*, did not have any ill affects by its office closure either. Thanks for your patience while we all had a different type of fun other than our beloved FEBT volunteer works. – Doug Davenport

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

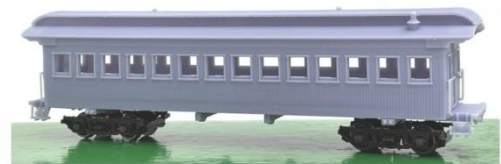
Order through FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org (PayPal, credit cards accepted). Mail orders must enclose check payable to FEBT Company Store (no money orders). PA residents must include 6% sales tax on merchandise and shipping total. Send mail orders to: FEBT Company Store, c/o J. Quinn, 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. 14 Car Body (HO)
- EBT Combine No. 15 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)
- EBT Combine 18 Car Body with Clerestory Roof from Ric Case (HO)

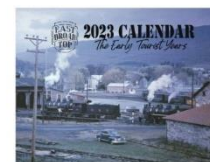


Photos courtesy of Ric Case.

Coming Soon:

- EBT 3 Springs Depot kit from Southern Heritage Models (HO)
- EBT Blacksmith Shop kit from Banta Modelworks (HO)
- EBT Laconia Coach 8/9/10/11 Car Body from Ric Case (HO)

Members only special! While supply lasts, free 2023 EBT calendar with any merchandise order of \$20.00 or more.



A TRACK GANG'S LIFE: TIE INSTALLATION AND SPIKING

FEBT's track forces began this reporting period by spiking up the ties that were installed in the main track south of the Rockhill yard, and we ended the reporting period by spiking up newly installed ties in Track 4 in the Rockhill yard.



In between, we installed a whole lot of ties in Track 4, a total of 156 ties, bringing the total number installed in Track 4 to 347.

Some of the tie installation in Track 4 during this reporting period was challenging due to the fact that we were working in the area where a string of hopper cars sat for so many years. In the many years that they occupied the track, they managed to preserve a bit more of the ties underneath them than was the case elsewhere in Track 4. The combination of the length of time there was weight on the track, along with the presence of the ties themselves, meant that once what remained of those old ties was removed, the area below the ties had become as hard as concrete. Lots of hard work with picks was required to break that stuff up in order to get the new ties installed.

Once we were out of the area where the hoppers had been sitting for so many years, further north toward the Meadow Street crossing, the digging got easier and we were able to save some of the ties in the track. In most cases, however, they had to be moved so as to maintain the 24-inch spacing of the ties.

At this writing, 232 ties of the 347 that were installed in Track 4 have now been gauged and spiked. This work will be complete by the end of the week of June 26th.

We also assisted in installing joists in the Car Shop, in preparation for the recreation of the wood floor in the shop that existed many years ago. Having this option when the weather isn't cooperating is a good thing to be able to do.

Above: The very nicely spiked new and repositioned ties in Track 4 show the progress made by the Track Crew in June. – John Quinn photo

Right: Daniel Lane picks at a remaining tie, while Henry Long and Galen work to insert a new tie into Track 4 just to the south of Meadow Street. – Dave Johnson photo



OK, we couldn't get all this done without help; first-class, willing and hard-working help. So, to name names, we will include in this month's list the following who lent their energy, time and dedication to the tasks: Justin Santichen, Jim Colby (long distance award – from Colorado!), Sam Painter (new – welcome), Chris Letcher (new – welcome), Joel Myers, Todd Johnson, Daniel Lane, Larry Fuchs, Dave Johnson, John Quinn, Carl Salomon, Chris Wenger, John Widmeyer, Victor Booth, Rick Rourke, Phil Coyle, Don Bayer (long distance award – New Mexico!), Tony Reevy (new – welcome), Andy Van Sycoc (FEBT president – first time on the track gang), Tom Perman, Jack Fornadley, Wayne Cass, Jackson Ganser, and Tim Schindele. Thanks, one and all.



Jackson Ganser, Tim Schindele, Larry Fuchs, Chris Wenger and Daniel Lane work to install new ties on Track 4 near Meadow Street. – Al Gallo photo

I've long maintained that being a small part of the East Broad Top's rebirth is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We members of FEBT's track forces are greatly honored to be a force for good in the railroad's next chapter of its life.

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1913

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Event</u>
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
August 19	RTM	60 Years of Operating Trolleys in Rockhill/Orbisonia
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	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, July 1st and 2nd. 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. – *Dave Bulman*

UPCOMING ROBERTSDALE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

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

FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM



July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 August 5, 12, 19, 26
 September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 October 6, 8 (Fri. & Sun. of FEBT Reunion), 14, 21, 28
 December 2, 9, 16

Friends of the East Broad Top
Presents:



Level Best

A barbershop quartet!

August 12, 2023 from
1-3 PM as part of
Robertsdale Community Days.

At the FEBT Robertsdale
Museum, 570 S. Main St.



The museum will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM and will be featuring treasures from the EBT Archives. Also available: walking, handcar, or railbike tours of the mine area.

JULY ARCHIVES DAY IS JULY 8TH

The EBTRR Archives and Special Collections team has been making great progress on their 2022 National Railway Historical Society Heritage grant project “Preservation of EBT Architectural and Engineering Maps and Drawings”. Over 3000 maps and drawings have been inventoried with over 300 of them scanned, cataloged, and available online in the archives [digital catalog](#)! Come see some of the latest discoveries at the FEBT Robertsdale Museum July 8th Archives Day. Archivist Julie Rockwell and Juniata College summer intern Connor Green will be featuring not only cool maps and drawings, but also Rockhill Iron and Coal Company documents and ledgers found in the vaults in Rockhill. The museum is open 10 am – 5 pm. We hope to see you there! – Julie Rockwell

This colorful map of the townships in the Broad Top region is one of the unique items discovered by the EBTRR A&SCP. – Julie Rockwell photo



JUNE ROBERTSDALE REPORT



FEBT Museum door sign, made by volunteer Suzanne Niver. – Pete Clarke photo

I'd like to start by recognizing Steve Jackson and Roy Burnham. While Jane and I were off on our bicycle ride, they came every single Saturday to ensure that the museum was open. Others helped as well, but Steve and Roy were here every day. Thanks guys!

The walking tour just keeps getting better and we continue to get new items for sale at the gift shop. While it's true that the 2nd Saturday of each month is special because of the cool items that Julie Rockwell brings from the archives and you have the option of reading at the library, the 4th Saturday of each month also gives you the option of reading at the library. I'm still going to encourage you to also visit on a 1st or 3rd since those days will allow you more time to enjoy the walking tour and to take a handcar ride. "Also visit?" Yes, the single most common comment we get is, "Gee, I wish I'd have allowed more time, there's so much here." There is no bad day to visit the museum. Don't forget that you need to allow time to visit the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum as well.

Pictures show Suzanne Niver and the signs that she made. The station and passenger car letter board replicas are for sale at the gift shop. They are solid wood, beautifully painted, and coated with several layers of polyurethane. These signs are a FEBT Museum- only sales item, and are not available through the online Company Store, so one more reason to come visit us! She also made signs to help our guest find the correct entry door. Depending on

where you park and how you walked, there's 4 doors and you have to walk past 3 of them to get to the entry door, so this really does help. We also now have two of the great H. L. Scott drawings for sale.



Left: Suzanne Niver poses with one of her Robertsdale station signs.
 Right: Signs are available for sale at the FEBT Museum. – Pete Clarke photos

June was EBT gift shop kitsch month. We want to thank Julie for bringing a lot of items from the railroad and all those who loaned items for this display. Note that at one time, the gift shop was offering H.L. Scott drawings, too. All have agreed this is a fun display and so we will hold it over for another month.



A variety of items on display for the FEBT Museum's Kitsch Month event.
 – Roy Burnham photos

Steve Jackson and Roy Burnham installed some fencing to prevent cars or trucks from passing over the water lines to the old Post Office. This was done on the advice of the water company when we had to repair it this past winter.

Don Barton has been working diligently to get the library “ready for prime time.” It’s ready. Don is like all our volunteers, a fan who finds joy in investigating and learning more about the EBT. He is happy to help get you any of the items we have. He’s happy to help you search for items on the archives website (Can’t do that at home? Come to the museum, we have web access, a PC you can use, and folks to help you figure out how). He’s happy to help figure out the answer to that question that’s been bugging you.



FEBT Museum host Roy Burnham poses with the fencing he and Steve Jackson installed in May of 2023. – Steve Jackson photo



Looking ahead to August, the FEBT museum is bringing in a barbershop quartet on Aug 12th as part of Robertsdale Community Days. (Be glad that Pete and Jane are NOT part of it!) See the ad on Page 10 of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you in Robertsdale! – *Pete Clarke*

A large crowd is gathered at the FEBT Museum at the June 10th Archives Day event. – Steve Jackson photo

SAVE THE DATE: FEBT FALL REUNION 2023



As usual, FEBT will hold our annual Fall Reunion in Robertsdale and Rockhill over the Columbus Day weekend, October 6, 7, & 8. More details will follow but expect special trains, restoration tours, modeling and history clinics, and more! We will launch our 2024 Fundraising Campaign during the Reunion too, which will include some exciting projects! Plan now to be there! – *Andy Van Scyoc*

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 1,900 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.

*Alex Cook, Steve Jacobs, and Dave Dietz work on cleaning a truck of Boxcar 174, while Ben Bilott works underneath the car.
– Eric Knepp photo*



Jackson Ganser and Wayne Cass install waterproofing on the south end of Combine 14. – Al Gallo 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.