

Crews continue to make progress in Rockhill Furnace

By Lawrence Biemiller
FEBT Vice President

Uncertainty over the future of the East Broad Top's tourist operations hasn't prevented FEBT restoration crews from making considerable progress on a variety of preservation projects in the EBT's Rockhill Furnace yard. All of the projects are made possible by FEBT members' dues and donations, as well as by the hard work of FEBT volunteers.

Two crews are at work on EBT combine no. 14. The combine crew is currently finishing up the clerestory roof, in which restoration volunteers have installed some new rafters and replaced parts of some others. The rafters support a new deck, gracefully curved at both ends to match the roof's original lines. But FEBT president Lee Rainey, who leads the combine crew, said that despite those and many other new additions, "the great bulk of the car is still old wood." It's hard to tell for sure, however, how old the "old" wood is, because it's clear that the car has been rebuilt several times before. Different types of nails offer some clues. The curved ends of the clerestory, for instance, contained mostly old-fashioned flat nails, suggesting that the material there was original to the car.

On the other hand, the partition between the passenger and baggage sections of the car was clearly added after the car had aged enough that its shape had already begun to deform: The door, Lee observed, was built not as a perfect rectangle but with angles matching the deformation. The partition may date

from the 1930s, he noted. He added that nothing found so far in the overhaul of the car gives definitive answers to the questions of who built it or when.

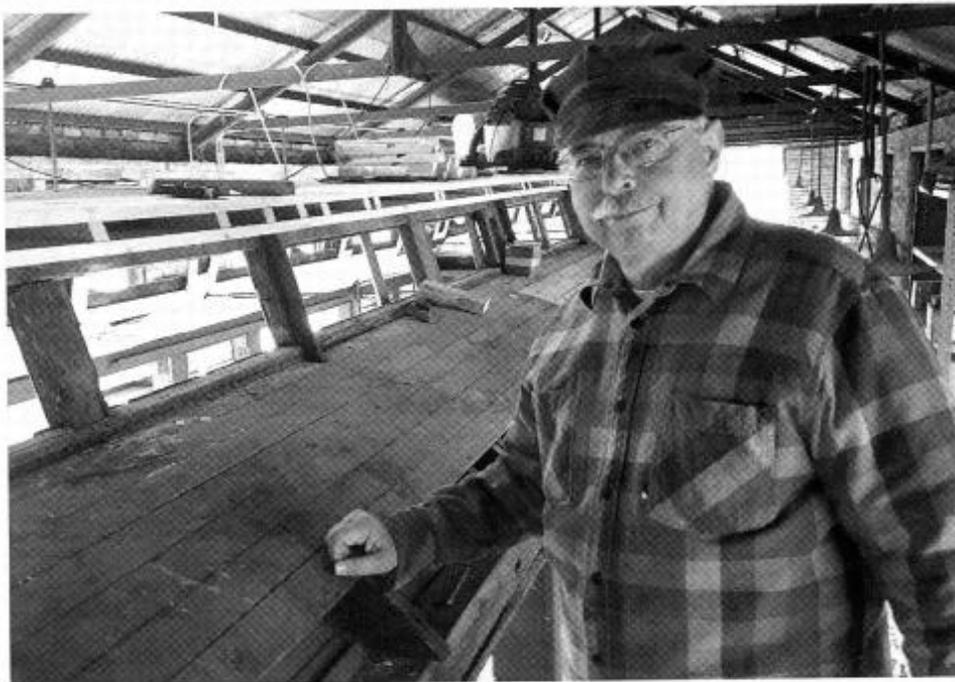
Next up, Lee said, will be gluing new sheathing on the car's sides and beginning to reassemble the decorative surfaces of the interior.

Meanwhile, the steel crew is rebuilding the second of the car's two wood-and-metal composite trucks, having finished the first last year. The second will go more quickly, said Steve Jacobs, the crew leader, because he had a number of parts made for the second truck at the same time they were being made for the first. Still there are surprises. Steve pointed to where one of the pedestals (within which the journal boxes travel) had worn badly—and also that the pedestal in question had already been turned inside out and repaired at some earlier point. (That switch left the initials of the car's original owner, the Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn, facing inwards.)

When the steel crew has spare moments, Steve said, members turn their attention the boxcar that is currently spotted between the paint shop and the EBT shop superintendent's office (the converted stone farmhouse) to hold FEBT supplies. It will get a new roof this summer, he said, in addition to new steel in the walls at one end. The crew also expects to install a second new coal chute on the coal dock at the south end of the yard.

Jim Bacon's crew of "boiler rats" has largely finished work

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Up on the roof

FEBT president R. Lee Rainey, who coordinates our restoration work at Rockhill Furnace, reviews current work on the roof of East Broad Top Railroad baggage-passenger combine no. 14. The car's roof framework has been repaired, and the finishing touches are now being applied to new tongue-and-groove wood roof sheathing. *(photo by Lawrence Biemiller)*

Restoration efforts advance at Rockhill Furnace

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on the newly-leveled blacksmith shop. The doors and lower walls have been rebuilt, replacing wood that had rotted after sinking below ground level (new battens won't get painted till sometime this summer). A new concrete pad for the steam hammer's big exterior muffler was poured during the April work session. The crew has also returned a large and motley assortment of tools, parts, and other items to roughly where they had been inside the building before the leveling project started. Still on the crew's to-do list are a number of jobs left over from the reconstruction of the boiler-house roof, including final touch-ups to the area where the boiler-house and machine shop roofs meet. The crew has poured concrete around the rusted base of the west boiler smokestack and plans to give the base of the east stack similar treatment soon.

Meanwhile the fourth crew, known at the "glass rattlers," has finished work on the west wall of the locomotive shop—parts of which needed new sills—and has restored the wall's windows. The crew, led by Chris Coleman and Bill Adams, has turned its attention to the locomotive shop's south wall, which also required significant structural repairs (the southeast corner appeared to be supported almost entirely on a tie plate nailed sideways into the rotted base of a door post). Now in progress is a project to rebuild all four of shop's doors, which will be taken down one at a time and replaced with a temporary door while the repairs are made over the summer.

In February the FEBT board approved just over \$41,000 worth of new and continuing spending on Rockhill Furnace

projects—an impressive contribution to preservation of the EBT. Roughly 20 people—longtime members and newcomers with a variety of skills—show up for the monthly work weekends, but more help is always welcome.

As noted above, donations to the FEBT Restoration Fund are the principal source of the funds we use to support our restoration efforts at Rockhill Furnace, Robertsdale, and elsewhere. Please mail your contributions to support this work directly to

FEBT Restoration Fund Treasurer
513 Shady Avenue, No. 12
Pittsburgh PA 15206-4447

FEBT Museum receives two EBT artifacts

Last fall the collection of the FEBT Museum was considerably enhanced when Philip J. Padgett, founding FEBT member and former president, donated two significant East Broad Top Railroad artifacts to Friends of the East Broad Top. FEBT assistant vice president Vagel C. Keller reports that last September Phil donated one of the EBT's station train-order signals and a wall-mounted wood file box.

The train-order signal, marked with a patent date of September 16, 1872, was used by EBT station agents to inform the crews of approaching trains if they needed to stop to receive orders from the EBT dispatcher. A lantern above and four sheet-metal blades below are mounted on a metal shaft, which rotates in a two-part metal housing to provide two signal indications (stop or proceed). Over the years these signals were located at the Mount Union coal plant and stations at Shirleysburg, Orbisonia, Three Springs, Saltillo, Coles, Rocky Ridge, and Robertsdale. Where the signal Phil donated to us was used is currently unknown.

The wood file box was mounted on a wall, with its hinged front swinging down to form a shelf. The interior of the box is divided into compartments. The box was apparently used at Orbisonia Station and dates from that building's construction.

Phil purchased both artifacts at auctions held long ago at EBT Winter Spectaculars organized by the late C. Roy Wilburn, who was then the EBT's operating vice president.

2013 Rockhill Furnace Work Schedule

January 12-13	June 22-23
February 16-17	July 13-14
March 16-17	August 3-4
April 20-21	August 24-25
May 18-19	September 21-22
June 1-2	November 9-10

Tentative work week May 20-24. For more information contact **Lee Rainey** at (814) 867-7878 (home), (814) 404-3968 (cell), or leerainey@aol.com

2013 Robertsdale Work Schedule

January 19-20*	July 6-7
February 23-24*	July 20-21
March 16-17*	August 3-4
April 13-14	August 17-18
May 4-5	September 7-8
May 18-19	September 21-22
June 1-2	October 5-6
June 15-16	November 2-3

*Tentative dates subject to change at short notice due to weather or availability of volunteers. For more information contact **Hank Inman** at (804) 353-0817 or **Vagel Keller** at (412) 441-7881 or vckeller@comcast.net

2013 FEBT Museum schedule

In 2013 the FEBT Museum will be open on the first and third weekends of each month, May through September. Regular museum operating hours are 10 am to 5 pm on Saturdays and 1 to 5 pm on Sundays. The museum will also be open special days and hours in October and for 2013 FEBT events. FEBT assistant vice president Vagel C. Keller, who coordinates our museum operations, reminds FEBT members that volunteers interested in helping us at Robertsdale are always needed. If you think you would like to join us there, contact Vagel directly by telephone at (412) 441-7881 or by e-mail at vckeller@comcast.net.

Ballots for four FEBT directors due May 31

FEBT members are requested to vote to elect four persons to the nine-member board of directors of Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc., using the ballot included with this newsletter. All FEBT members holding regular, family, sustaining, associate, life, senior, and student memberships are eligible to vote in this election. The directors chosen by FEBT members in this election will serve two-year terms of office.

The nominating committee for this election cycle consisted of FEBT director David A. Phillips (chairman), and FEBT members James A. Bacon and Richard M. Ullery. The committee has placed four FEBT members on the official ballot based on the names of potential nominees the committee received, including three incumbent directors holding seats up for election. One director now holding a seat up for election, Vagel C. Keller, informed the board that he did not intend to seek reelection. Note that the five other incumbent directors, Lawrence Biemiller, Nancy E. Jacquemin, David A. Phillips, R. Lee Rainey, and Wade N. Woodcock, will continue to serve as members of the board of directors until the 2014 election.

Each candidate was asked for a written statement of 100 words or less summarizing his past and present contributions to FEBT and indicating what he would do if elected. These responses are reproduced below (minimally edited), in the randomized order in which the candidates' names appear on the official ballot. An asterisk (*) denotes an incumbent director running for reelection.

William L. Adams*

I have been a member since 2000, and have served on the board for eight years. I have contributed to events, documentation, publicity, modeling supplies, and exhibits. I have been involved with many restoration projects and am a restoration crew leader in Rockhill Furnace. I will continue to support FEBT's restoration work in both Rockhill and Robertsdale, and continue to work on exhibits for and support uses for Robertsdale to increase its value to members. In this uncertain period, FEBT needs to foster interest, maintain relevance, and explore some long-term options.

Henry F. Inman*

I have served as a FEBT director and officer since 1993. Currently I serve as chief financial officer and coordinate our restoration work and museum operations at Robertsdale. I am committed to working on the challenges we face, which include (1) continuing efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of FEBT operations, (2) advancing our restoration program, (3) expanding our outreach initiatives, (4) further developing our museum and collections, (5) securing the funding needed to maintain our progress on these activities, and (6) most important of all, working with the owner of the EBT to assure its future.

Andrew H. Van Scyoc*

I have had an affiliation with the EBT in one capacity or another for most of my life. More recently as an active FEBT volunteer I have become interested in helping to continue development of a sustainable and effective FEBT. Much of my day job requires project planning over the next decade and as part of the Board I'd pursue the establishment of a long term plan and work to see it followed. The established relationships between FEBT, the railroad, and the operator, as well as Railways to Yesterday, are critical components to the strength of FEBT and must be fostered.

Dennis R. Straub

I have previously served on the board for several terms. In addition to serving on the board, I for many years coordinated, set up, and helped staff a welcome booth at the railroad on select weekends to familiarize the general public with FEBT and encourage membership. Additionally, I am the Outreach Program coordinator, and distribute information packets to people who request them through our web site. I recently became involved in efforts to resume publication of *The Timber Transfer*.

We are pleased that former EBT brakeman and retired Huntingdon County commissioner Lee R. Wilson has again agreed to serve as election judge. All 2013 election ballots must be mailed to **FEBT Directors Election, c/o Lee R. Wilson, Election Judge, 10642 Wilson Road, Three Springs PA 17264**. Only ballots received by May 31, 2013, will be counted.

FEBT displays at train shows and conventions: can you help?

Members of Friends of the East Broad Top continue to assist our outreach efforts by representing us at recent and upcoming train shows and conventions.

Next summer the **National Model Railroad Association's 2013 National Convention and Train Show** will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 14-20. FEBT members in that area interested in the possibility of setting up a FEBT display table at this event should contact FEBT outreach coordinator Dennis Straub, whose telephone number and e-mail address are given below, so that we can reserve space at this event.

The **2013 National Narrow Gauge Convention** will be

held in Pasadena, California, on August 28-31. FEBT members who plan to attend this convention and are interested in helping us with a display table should contact Dennis Straub as soon as possible, so we can confirm the necessary arrangements.

We are always happy to provide literature and information about the EBT and FEBT to FEBT members for distribution at train shows, conventions, and other events. Please contact FEBT outreach coordinator Dennis R. Straub by telephone at (717) 249-4239 (home) or by e-mail at denebntnut@aol.com, providing as much advance notice as possible.

This newsletter is a publication of Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc., a nonprofit educational and historical society dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the East Broad Top Railroad, a US National Historic Landmark located in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. FEBT regular membership costs \$35.00 per twelve months; other memberships are available. For more information please consult the FEBT web site at www.febt.org or contact our membership office by writing to the address below. Although not affiliated with the East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company, Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc., holds events and work sessions on the property of the East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company by arrangement with the East Broad Top Railroad. However, the East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company retains the right to restrict or deny access of any person to its property at any time and for any reason.
