



NEWSLETTER

September 2013

Reunion to Focus on Modeling, History

The Friends of the East Broad Top Fall Reunion will take place at the railroad October 11-13—as usual, that's Columbus Day weekend. A few details remain to be ironed out: Last year we had an 11th-hour surprise—the year's only EBT train—after we thought the planning was done. But here's the schedule so far. (You'll get a detailed program at registration.)

Friday evening, October 11: Registration for the weekend's events will open at 5 p.m. at the Rockhill Elementary School, on Meadow Street just east of the EBT yard. The school will be our base of operations Friday and Saturday. The annual FEBT business meeting will begin at the school at 7 p.m., followed by a presentation about the EBT. The FEBT Company Store will also be open for business at the school.

Saturday, October 12: Registration will continue at the school, where we'll also present a mix of programs, including a session by FEBT Director Dave Phillips on layout design and lighting and a presentation by FEBT President Lee Rainey on the iron industry in the region. The second in our new series of EBT paintings by Peter Lerro Jr. will also be unveiled.

Voting in the photo and modeling contests will take place all day, a modular HOn3 layout will be on hand, and you can continue your Company Store shopping. We're still discussing other possibilities with the railroad, but the Rockhill Trolley Museum will run a full schedule of trips on the EBT's Shade Gap Branch.

Saturday evening we'll convene for dinner in the trolley museum's pavilion, and afterwards return to the school for the annual FEBT auction—where one of the items for bid will be last year's Peter Lerro Jr. painting of a train paused in Robertsdale—as well as the announcement of the contest winners.

Sunday, October 13: Events will move to Robertsdale, where the FEBT's newly-renovated Old Post Office will be open, along with the FEBT museum in the EBT station. (After the FEBT program, be sure to stop by the nearby Coal Miner's Museum.)

To ask questions, volunteer, or donate items for the auction, contact the reunion coordinator, Andy van Scyoc, at vanscyoc@gmail.com or (301) 943-6255. (You can also let him know about any special dietary needs for dinner.)

Registering for Reunion

You can register for this year's Fall Reunion at the Rockhill Elementary School beginning Friday, October 11, at 5 p.m. Registration continues Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Registration includes access to all FEBT events in Rockhill and Robertsdale, including the dinner at the trolley museum, the fundraising auction, contests, presentations, and demonstrations. The price is \$40 for FEBT members and \$45 for others.

To get to the school from US 522, turn west (toward the EBT) at the Orbisonia traffic light. You'll find the school on your left shortly before crossing the EBT tracks.

Activity in Mount Union Signals New Future for East Broad Top

By Lee Rainey
FEBT President

A track crew under the leadership of EBT Operations Manager Daniel Gilliland has been hard at work all this summer in the Mount Union yard, marking the start of a new era for the EBT. The work follows the purchase by the East Broad Top Preservation Association of the entire Mount Union yard from the Kovalchick family, longtime owners of the historic narrow gauge.

The track under restoration is a mix of historic standard-gauge and three-rail track extending south from the junction with the Norfolk Southern at the site of the long-vanished PRR Jacks Tower. The line travels along Pennsylvania Avenue in Mount Union and past the site of the EBT transfer yard and former coal-cleaning plant. Extensive renewals of ties, switch stands, and ballast will be required to return the line to operation. Landscaping and fencing of the urban right-of-way is also included in the plan.

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The Mount Union work is part of a strategy to acquire and preserve the entire 33-mile narrow-gauge main line and the surviving narrow-gauge equipment and building complex at Rockhill. Standard-gauge movements are expected to be confined to the historically-dual-gauge portion of the line in Mount Union and Allenport. This north end of the line will leverage both interchange traffic with the NS and economic-development opportunities in the boroughs to create a revenue stream to support expanded operations.

In conjunction with the property sale, the Kovalchick Salvage Company has offered for sale the EBT hopper cars that have long sat idle in the Mount Union yard. Selected cars of historic value have been reserved by the East Broad Top Preservation Association, based on a survey of the yard's contents by Gilliland and FEBT President Lee Rainey. Additional cars and parts—especially trucks—with a role in future FEBT restoration and interpretive projects were identified by a crew led by FEBT steel-car expert Steve Jacobs, and the FEBT is in discussion with the salvage company about acquiring these items.

These positive developments point strongly to a resumption of tourist operations in 2014.

New Painting of Rockhill Shops Complex Will Debut at Fall Reunion

Once again this year, the annual Fall Reunion will bring the unveiling of the latest East Broad Top painting by the noted railroad artist Peter Lerro Jr. Executed especially for the Friends of the EBT, prints of the original painting are not for sale, but are available free as a “thank you” to those who contribute \$75 or more to our restoration campaign.

The second in a series of prints featuring portions of the railroad restored by the FEBT work crews, this year's scene focuses on seven buildings in the Rockhill shop complex repaired with the help of restoration donations. Designed in consultation with the Boiler Rat and Glass Rattler crews, who have done so much of the Rockhill restoration, the print features busy shop men at work around the buildings as they would have looked during the railroad's heyday.

Brass Engines, “Action at the Company Square” Highlight FEBT Auction

The annual auction at the FEBT Reunion will feature an opportunity to bid on not only brass models of two East Broad Top engines but also “Action at the Company Square”—the original painting featured in the highly-popular FEBT 2013 fundraising print—and many other items. (We'll be accepting donations for the auction until it starts, by the way, so now's a good time to search your shelves and drawers for railroad-related items that you'd like to contribute in support of FEBT's projects.)

“Action at the Company Square” focuses on the FEBT restoration efforts in Robertsdale and was a commissioned work by railroad artist Peter Lerro Jr. The painting is professionally framed and the mat carries a special commemorative badge describing its provenance. A custom painting of this sort by an artist of Lerro's calibre normally commands a commission of several thousand dollars, so bidding will commence at \$1,000. All proceeds go to support the mission of the Friends of the East Broad Top.

Among other items already donated for the auction are two unpainted brass models of EBT Mikados: an On3 model of one of the three big engines and an HOn3 model of one of the smaller twins. In addition, through the generosity of FEBT member Frank Aplan the auction will be well-stocked with narrow gauge mementos, including a large collection of narrow-gauge videos, long-out-of-print FEBT art, ornamental narrow-gauge-themed belt buckles, and commemorative caps from narrow-gauge museums around the country.

4 Members Elected to FEBT Board; Business Meeting Set for October 11

In the election held earlier this year, Bill Adams, Hank Inman, and Andy Van Scyoc were reelected to the Friends of the East Broad Top Board of Directors, and Dennis Straub, who had served on the board previously, was elected to fill a vacant seat. Each received over a hundred votes out of 110 cast, according to Lee R. Wilson of Three Springs, Pa., who has served as FEBT's election judge for a number of years. Five other members received one or two write-in votes apiece.

As noted elsewhere, the annual Friends of the East Broad Top business meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 11, at the Rockhill Elementary School, 510 Meadow Street, Rockhill Furnace, Pa. FEBT President Lee Rainey and other board members and restoration-crew leaders will be on hand to update members on the organization's many activities.

Rules for 2013 Fall Reunion Contests

As a reminder to members interested in entering models or photographs in Fall Reunion contests, the current rules governing these contests are reprinted here. Note that these rules are the same as those for the 2012 contests.

General rules

Any FEBT member who is a reunion registrant may enter the model and photo contests. A member in good standing who cannot attend the reunion may have a reunion registrant submit an entry for that member.

Any FEBT member who is a reunion registrant may enter a model which he owns but did not build, and may choose to have any award the model earns placed in the builder's name.

No model or photo that has ever won an award in a previous FEBT contest may be entered. Any model or photo that has been entered in a previous FEBT contest without winning an award may be repeatedly entered until it wins an award.

Photographs

All photographs must feature the contemporary East Broad Top Railroad; subjects may include railroad operations, equipment, buildings, active and inactive right of way, and restoration activities.

Photos will be entered in either the black-and-white or color categories.

All photos must be mounted on, or in, a mat board. No picture frames or glass/plexiglass covers may be used.

The size of the mat board used to mount any photo can be no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches. The photo may be any size that does not exceed the size of the mat board.

Only one photo may be submitted by an entrant in each of the black-and-white and color categories.

The photo must be entered under the photographer's name. Only the photographer can enter a photo.

Models

All models must be based on contemporary or historical subjects directly related to the East Broad Top Railroad. Models of locomotives and rolling stock may represent equipment owned and operated by the EBT, equipment proposed but never actually purchased and operated by the EBT, and equipment owned by other railroads or private owners that operated regularly on the EBT. Models of structures and dioramas may represent railroad buildings; structures proposed but never actually constructed and used by the EBT; structures adjacent to the railroad right of way, whether served directly by the EBT or not; and nearby structures and scenes which helped define the railroad's geographic context, character, and history.

There is no limit to the number of models entered by each entrant.

There must be at least two models entered in a category for a contest to be declared. No award will be given in any category in which a contest is not declared. At the discretion of the contest chairman, in consultation with the reunion chairman, categories may be combined to insure a contest. All models submitted will be eligible for the Best in Show award and any special contest awards.

The contest categories for models are as follows:

Locomotives—Any self-propelled equipment except maintenance-of-way speeders;

Rolling Stock—Any revenue freight equipment, including cabooses; any revenue passenger equipment; and any nonrevenue equipment primarily intended for track or lineside maintenance;

Structures and Module/Dioramas—Any building or other structure, either railroad-related or lineside; and any structure or structures that are mounted on a base which depicts a scene, with or without track.

Supporting documentation may be displayed with any entry, so long as the entrant's name does not appear on any of the documentation.

Special Contests: From time to time, special contests may be announced, featuring a specific subject or type of equipment. A special award will be given for the entry with the highest vote tally among the entries in the special category.

Awards

All awards will be by popular vote of all reunion registrants. In addition to the categories listed above, a Best of Show category will be included for the model entries only.

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Awards for first, second, and third place will be awarded in each category where a contest has been declared. In addition, all entries will receive a Certificate of Merit for participating in the contest.

Awards for first place in each contest will normally consist of a plaque; awards for second and third place may consist of either plaques or certificates. In order to control expenses, the plaques may be prepared and provided to the recipients at a later date, so as not to create award plaques for categories in which no contest is declared. An appropriate certificate and/or ribbon will be provided at the contest to signify the winners in lieu of the plaques.

Special “Action at the Company Square” Diorama Contest

This contest is for the best mini-diorama based on the Peter Lerro Jr. painting. We’re defining this as a scene that includes at least three adjacent elements depicted in a portion of the artwork. For example, you might choose to include on your mini-diorama the depot, the adjacent automobile, and the scale track, as shown in Lerro’s scene. Your diorama can be any size (though we are thinking most are not more than a square foot or two), any scale, but the key point is that you cannot enter just a building. The buildings or cars or locomotive must be a threesome, and in a little setting that mirrors the painting.

For more information about the Fall Reunion contests, contact Andy Van Scyoc by telephone at (301) 943-6255 or by e-mail at vanscyoc@gmail.com.

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.

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