

# A week of food, sun, fun and - in between - trains

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Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal**

Band (Jahr): **3 (1991-1993)**

Heft 4

PDF erstellt am: **06.06.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-855177>

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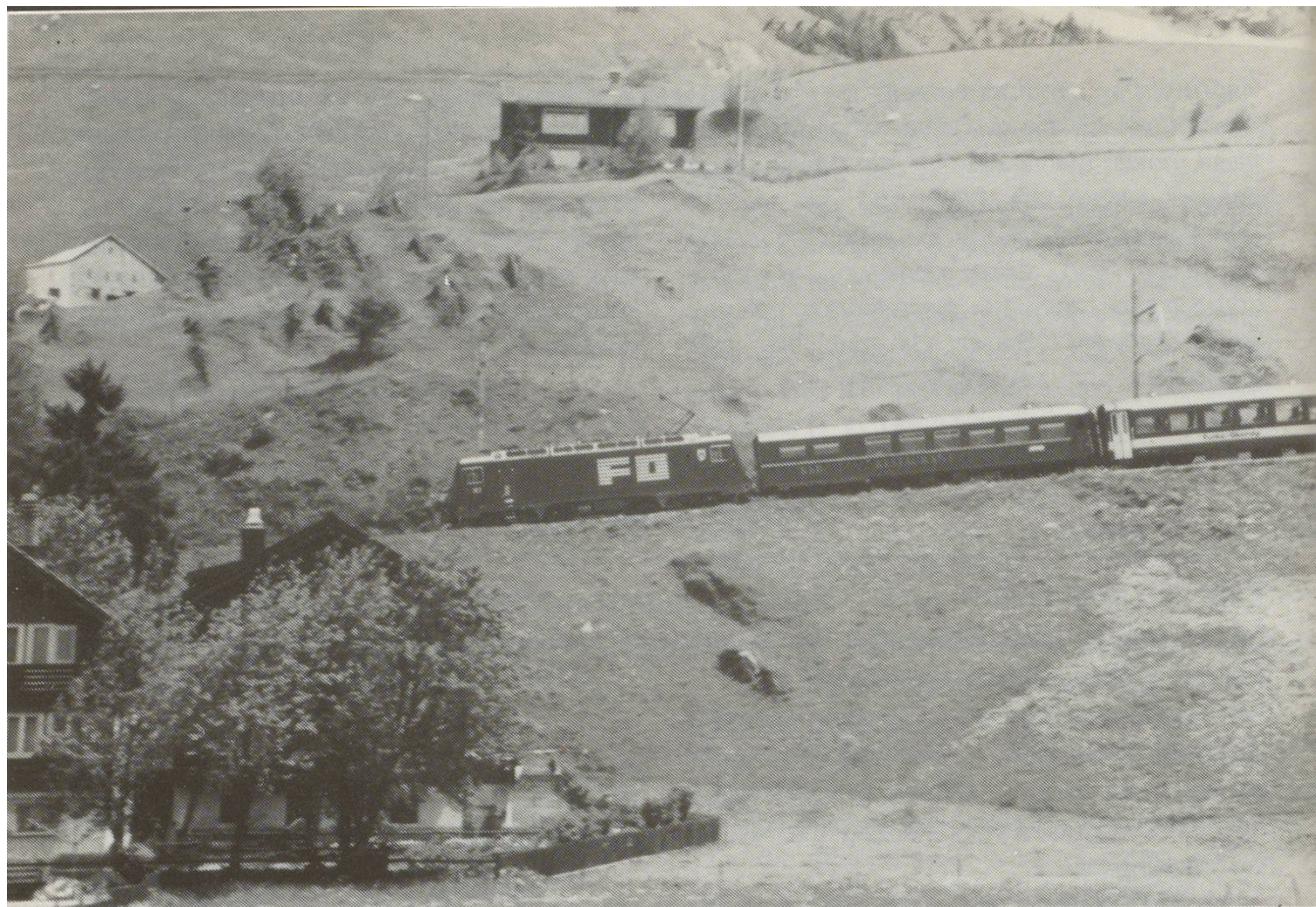
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*Eastbound Glacier Express descending the zig-zags towards Andermatt, 13 June 1991.*

*Photo C.J.Freezer*

## **A Week of Food, Sun, Fun and - in between - Trains**

by Steve Cribbin

Following the success of the previous year, the Hotel Stolzenfels again put together a programme of railway weeks under the guidance of the Proprietor, Andreas Jenny, one of our Swiss SRS members. These weeks are an excellent way to meet rail fans on an international basis, with enthusiasts coming from a wide range of countries, as well as SRS members from the UK.

The August 1991 programme had been fully booked from early in the year and those lucky enough to attend were not disappointed. After booking in on Saturday afternoon the group assembled for the introduction and welcome drink followed by a video of forthcoming attractions.

A sunny Sunday saw the group en route for Filisur, but not by train, instead on foot, walking via the Wiesen viaduct where a picnic lunch was taken whilst photographing the movements over this well known landmark. Monday, again in

glorious sunshine, saw the party leave the Grisons with a trip on the Glacier Express to Andermatt and, after lunch and photo sessions at the FO depot the group returned on the St.Moritz bound Glacier Express, the highlight of the day being the evening meal taken in the reserved RhB restaurant car en route to Davos.

Tuesday saw a visit to the main works of the RhB at Landquart with guided tours in both English and German, where the party learned of the problems of the latest motive power and rolling stock.



The following day our party was not only to leave the Grisons, but Switzerland into the bargain! A journey via the Bernina Express was undertaken in perfect conditions to Tirano, where a visit to a local wine producer had been arranged. A superb meal followed a guided tour of the wine cellar and a brisk walk back to the station saw the party return on the afternoon Bernina Express - well, nearly all the party!

Glorious sunshine again greeted the group for Thursday's history lesson, a walk via the instructional footpath between Preda and Bergun. Plenty of opportunity to photograph the Albula line is provided and the possession of a working diagram meant that our party were at the right locations when the trains arrived. Half way down the walk a distinct smell of grilling bratwurst filtered through the trees and as the party arrived at an open meadow between two of the viaducts, the sight of Andreas' father greeted us, complete with portable barbecue and cold beers. A long leisurely lunch was spent sunbathing, eating and drinking, with the occasional burst of activity when a passing train

required photographing. Early evening saw the group arrive at Bergun where, after further beers and/or ice creams we returned to Davos.

Friday was to be another highlight when after a coach journey via the Fluela pass to Scuol, the group boarded a Pullman saloon coach for a first class journey to St.Moritz where dinner was taken in a mountain restaurant. We returned via the Albula line and Filisur to Davos. A small competition had been held during the week and the lucky female winner was allowed to travel with the loco driver in the cab of a Ge6/6" from St.Moritz. A lively evening at the hotel kept many guests up until the early hours to round off a superbly organised week.

Any member who is thinking of joining a group next year should contact the hotel early (see advertisement in this issue) as quite a few places were booked at the end of this year's programme. Unlike intensive rail tours, these weeks should appeal to member's wives as much as to RhB fans, as previous parties have had plenty of female support.

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