

Why Switzerland?

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Eisenbahn Amateur

You should receive with this magazine an application/renewal form for subscribing to Eisenbahn Amateur magazine which members can get at a special rate through the Swiss Railways Society. However, the number of our members who subscribe to *Eisenbahn Amateur* has been dropping for a number of years now. The Society's Management Committee are concerned at this and would encourage members to consider taking out a subscription to what is an excellent product that covers both the real thing in Switzerland and railway modelling too.

Scottish Branch Lunch/Meeting

In my notes in the March 2009 edition of *Swiss Express*, I asked members residing in Scotland to let me have suggestions for somewhere to hold a lunch followed by a meeting. Such a meeting would preferably be held somewhere in the Central belt. The response to my request was, to say the least, underwhelming! Undeterred, however, a suitable place in Linlithgow has now been identified and we propose to hold the lunch and meeting there on Saturday 10th October commencing at 11.30. The after-lunch meeting will comprise a speaker and a slide presentation. The cost per head for a two course lunch is expected to be between £10 and £12. For further information please contact either myself, or Willie McKnight, Scottish Branch Organiser as soon as possible – his contact details are on page 51 and mine are on page 3. Wives/partners will be most welcome to join us as will any member from outside of Scotland.

WHY SWITZERLAND?

From the next edition of the magazine we will be running an occasional series where we have asked the above question of various members of the SRS. Their responses will be limited to less than 200 words. I own-up to having taken the title from that of a super book by Jonathan Steinberg first published in 1976 and reprinted many times since. To start-off the idea I have put together in 178 words the background to my interest in everything Swiss.

“It is all down to Miss Saunders. I was eight years old. It was September 1951 and a new school – for all of us; new buildings; new teachers; new pupils. Our new form mistress Miss Saunders suggested that we all talk and write about the summer just passed. She started, telling us all about her holiday to the Swiss Alps. Nice hotels, different food (we still had the end of rationing), alpine chalets, walks in the mountains, cows with bells in the high meadows, and the trains – she always came back to the trains. She was enthused with them and had taken numerous photographs of everything. I recall

that she brought in her camera. It was a Leica. Seemed normal to us children! She must have had her own darkroom too, for she came in with large prints, black and white of course, that we made a big display with. There was a large map, publicity material she had acquired from somewhere, plus masses of postcards from her visit. I was sold on Switzerland – and I still am”.

Malcolm Bulpitt



Re 4/4 No 11299 leaves the tunnel at Wassen.
PHOTO: Phil Weaver