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2014 SRS Calendar

It is time to order your 2014 edition of the SRS Calendar the format of which will be similar to last year's. As usual we expect this edition to sell-out, so get your order in as soon as possible. The Calendar costs £10, however with postage to UK addresses the cost will be £12.50. Due to increases in overseas postage rates members outside the UK should contact Gyn Jones at SRS Sales to enquire about delivery costs. In order to receive the calendar before Christmas orders must be in by 30th September. Send your order and payment to Glyn Jones whose contact details are on the inside of the back cover. It is anticipated that the calendars will be posted out in early October.

Date for your Diary

The 2014 AGM will be held on the 15th March 2014 at the Hallmark Hotel (formerly Midland Hotel), Derby. It is being organised by the East Midlands Branch on behalf of the management committee. Any offers of layouts or displays should be sent to Glyn Jones – his contact details are in this magazine. Contributions towards expenses are available.

SRS Website and Society Web Forum

If you have access to the Internet have you had a look at our totally revamped Website yet? It is well worth a few minutes of your time. You can also access the SRS Web Forum through the website. The forum is exclusively for members and to gain access email forum.admin@swissrailsoc.org.uk

Swiss Model Railways at Exhibitions

Based upon information we have received, at least one Swiss-based layout and sometimes the SRS Information Stand, will be at the following Model Railway Exhibitions in the next few months. Dates and venues may change. Always check with the organisers before you travel.

- **Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd September** - Blackpool and North Fylde Model Railway Club Exhibition at Fleetwood High School, Fleetwood, Lancashire, FY7 8HE.
- **Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September** - Soar Valley Model Railway Exhibition at Charnwood College, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 4SQ.
- **Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th October** - Manchester Model Railway Society Exhibition at Armitage Centre, Moseley Road, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 6ZT.
- **Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th October** - Furness Model Railway Club at Barrow in Furness 6th Form College, Rating Lane, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9LE -.
- **Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th November** - Tolworth

Model Railway Show at Leisure Centre, Red Lion Road, Tolworth, Surrey. KT6 7LQ.

● **Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th November** - Warley National Model Railway Exhibition at NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT.

● **Friday 29th, Saturday 30th November & Sunday 1st December** - Wakefield Model Railway Exhibition at Thornes Park Athletics Stadium, Horbury Road, Wakefield, WF2 8TY.

The Birmingham Branch - What goes on?

For Society members who have never been to a branch meeting, you may wonder what goes on. When I first joined the Society in 2006, my nearest branch was the West Midlands whose meetings were advertised as being held in members' homes. You were invited to contact the organiser to find out where and when the next meeting was to be held. Being a shy and retiring person, I didn't fancy turning up at a strange front door in deepest Worcestershire and announcing I had come for the SRS meeting. Imagine if it had been the wrong house! At the next AGM I sought, and obtained agreement from the Management Committee to form the Birmingham branch. I managed to book a meeting room in a local Church and started from there. The Membership Secretary offered to send out a letter put together by me to any members in the local area - it had to be done this way for data protection reasons. We have now been going for five years, and are about 20 strong on a good night. We start our session in September and run through to May breaking for the summer. Quite a few members bring their wives along, so we make sure that our programme caters for them too! (They don't welcome rivet counters). After a brief introduction, we usually watch a slide/digital presentation for 40 minutes before pausing for tea, coffee and conversation before the second half to finish by 10pm. The room we use is very warm and comfortable with soft chairs and carpeted floor, and has a large cream painted wall, used instead of a projection screen. Over the years we have had many different speakers, with most of the Management Committee supporting us at various times. Our December meeting is always the best when members bring seasonal food to share, and a light-hearted quiz brings plenty of fun and laughter. The message is, if you're within reach you're welcome to join us at any of our meetings (details in Swiss Express or on the website), or support or even form another local branch.

Steve Buck.

Members' Letters

From: Maurice Criddle - by Email.

The West of England branch believes it was fortunate to be the first branch to invite Paul Hagger, the Marketing Consultant of the Swiss Classic Train to give a presentation about its operation. This he did at the April 2013 meeting in Newton Abbot. The branch is very grateful to Paul for coming all the way from his home in Northumberland the day before, staying the night in hotel accommodation, delivering his presentation in the morning and afternoon, and then returning home to the North East that evening.

Members found his illustrated talk most interesting, informative, and enjoyable and are very appreciative of the fact that he would not take any contribution towards his expenses. Furthermore, Paul said that he is willing to visit any other branch of the Society.

From: Paul M. Grant - Toronto, Ontario.

From my recent trip to Switzerland the days of a loco and carriages on one's train are seriously numbered. However, from my observations the SBB is replacing them with very attractive seven-car units on various services. I also saw a new seven-car unit hooked onto a 14-car set on one route, presumably an economic way of proceeding by using one path for two services. The loss of the traditional loco/carriage working is sad for some, but I am of the opinion that railways have to progress and must face the future head-on, so everything is 'right'. The ability to easily upgrade an operation from seven to fourteen cars must be good and is the future. Regarding the item on P9 of the June *Swiss Express*, unfortunately, when have there not been thieves around train and bus stations? One has to be very aware all the time when travelling and perhaps use an additional strap to secure bags, etc. to ones arm, or do as I do and carry my shoulder bag across my chest. Many people using long distance travel these days seem to have forgotten even the simplest rules, and do not use that god-given ability, common sense. Here in Canada

we do not have the benefit of Switzerland's excellent public transport system, but on my trips from Toronto to Quebec City I am still able to travel in a civilized manner using Via Rail.

From: Malcolm Hardy Randall - by Email.

In response to requests I am considering republishing the book "The History of the Gotthard Railway". The updated version is currently approx. 680 pages covering the period 1961 - 2000. There will be over 550 illustrations of which 20% will be in full colour. New drawings and track plans along with new text will be included. Due to the high cost of publication I would like to know how many members would be interested in purchasing the book, cost of which would be approx. GBP45.00. As an alternative I am considering the publication being released as a DVD, cost around GBP20, with sound and 8 video clips. Would any members interested in this project please email me with their preference of either book or DVD? My email address is gotthard@tiscali.co.uk

Swiss Railways Society Annual General Meeting and Spring Meet 2014

In the Garden, Edale, and Wyedale Rooms of the Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby

Saturday 15th March 2014 10:30 – 16:30 hrs

(Guests and friends are also welcome but a donation of £2 per person would be appreciated)

The event is organised by the East Midlands Branch with the support of the Management Committee.

Confirmed Sales Stands – Winco, Platform 5, Contikits, Hornby International, Gerald Savine Prints,
Society Sales, N-Scale Ch, Bring and Buy Stall, Raffle.

Confirmed Layouts and Displays – Beckenwick (HOM) by Simon Ellis, Untermitten (HOM) by Dave Howsam,
Switzerland on the Move (Z) by Chris Atkinson and layouts by Alan Wardman, Steve Tinsley and Axel Klozenbuecher

Photographic Competition.

It is hoped to run various workshops during the day – more details later.

Annual General Meeting - 14.30 hrs

To be followed in the evening by a Dinner in the Wyedale and Garden Rooms at 19.00 for 19.30 hrs

MENU

Mushroom Soup with Truffle Oil

Poached Fillet of Scotch Salmon with a Saffron Cream Sauce served with Seasonal Vegetables and New Potatoes

Mango and Passion Fruit Cheesecake served with Chantilly Cream

Freshly Brewed Filter Coffee with Swiss Chocolate

(A vegetarian alternative is available but must be booked in advance)

It is planned to have an after dinner speaker and a quiz. The cost is £26.00 per person including service and VAT, but NOT wine.

Last date for booking is 1st March 2014. Late bookings may be available but please contact the organiser first.

Bookings to:

Glyn Jones, 13, Welland Close, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE15 0AG

Cheques should be made payable to Swiss Railways Society. Please enclose a s.a.e. for the return of your tickets.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

A special bed and full English breakfast rate of £55.00 per person for a single room, or £48.00 per person for a double or twin room per night is available. This reduces to £52 and £46.50 respectively if booked for both the Friday and Saturday nights. In addition a table d'hôte dinner will be available on Friday 14th March at a cost of £20 per person. This must be booked with the Hotel a minimum of two weeks prior to the event and is also available to non-residents attending the Friday evening talk. Bookings should be made direct with the hotel, but please ensure you mention the Swiss Railways Society AGM when making your booking.

The full address of the hotel is: The Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby DE1 2SQ. (Tel: 01332 345894)

JOIN US FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND

The East Midlands Branch will be hosting their March meeting in Derby at the Hallmark Hotel on the Friday evening commencing at 20:00.

The Speaker is Rob Morrey and the talk is entitled "1984 and all that"

Any offers of further layouts and displays will be gratefully received; a contribution towards expenses may be available, please contact Glyn Jones if you can help.