

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: 5 (1997-1999)
Heft: 9

Artikel: EWWG and the SRS at the railway technology '98 exhibition
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854562>

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EWWG and the SRS at the Railway Technology '98 Exhibition

by Andy Mickethwaite

In September '98, an article was published in the Interface section of the Times which described the Interlocker system for computer control of a model railway, and my demo layout EWWG, which is based on a Swiss warehouse scenario. The organisers of the show saw this, and having seen the layout, invited me to take the layout to the show. As well as providing a little light entertainment for visitors, the layout also showed that modern technology (the main theme of the show) can be successfully applied to model railways.

The stars of the show were the full size, 12inch to the foot, exhibits - a Midland Mainline Turbostar class 170 (just opposite our stand - our HO stock looked rather small by comparison!), a Croydon tram, the Arlanda Express (Stockholm airport link) and 2 Virgin coaches fresh from refurbishment. Other exhibits showed the modern equivalents of the nuts and bolts of railway technology, from couplings and connectors to computer software for minimising the OPRAF fines for late running.

In comparison with a model railway exhibition, facilities were very different - carpet tiles, wall

panels round the stand, lighting and electricity laid on. Even set-up and take-down were, for the NEC, comparatively easy and incident free. At this point I must acknowledge the considerable assistance of Dave Howsam - without his help, I could not have managed to put on a display. At his suggestion, we took display boards covered with SRS publicity and Swiss railway posters, which made the stand look more professional - and less empty than it would have otherwise have looked!

When the show opened, we were amazed at the response. In the first couple of hours, all the interest was for the SRS and we had given out almost all the SRS literature we had taken. In this period, there was hardly any interest in the model or the computer, giving me some very mixed feelings! In an attempt to get more literature, Dave rang the chairman who was believed to be going to visit the show, to be told that he was at the NEC, and arrived on the stand just as Dave returned from the phone. Fortunately for our credibility,

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Internet Sites & Stock changes by Brian Hemming

Details have been received of more Internet sites with a Swiss flavour or of modelling interest.

<http://www.vbz.ch>

Zurich Tramways in German

<http://www.bvb.bsonline.ch>

Basel Tramways in German

<http://home.worldcom.ch/~jvnet/index.html>

Lake Geneva Steamship (in English), with fleet details

<http://www.lakelucerne.ch/indexen.htm>

Lake Luzern steamship (in English), with fleet details

http://www.rigi.ch/index_e.html

Rigi in English

http://www.rigi.ch/bahnen_e.html

Rigi site railway pages in English

<http://www.users.imaginet.fr/~mikeaz/funi03.htm#switzerland>

Funiculars - Links to 29 Pages (worldwide cover, including Switzerland)

http://gamayun.physics.sunsyb.edu/RR/commuter_maps/zurich.gif

Zurich S Bahn Map

<http://www.roco.at/roco/e-index.html>

Rocos English pages

<http://www.eisenbahn-amateur.ch>

Eisenbahn Amateur page (not just the latest edition) - in German. Contains many links.

<http://www.bahn.de>

DBAGs main page - there is an English translation but it is quicker to call the German page and click the "English" button than to type the whole address. The timetable page is useful because it contains the whole of Europe and allows you to work out through journeys from any station in Britain to any station in Switzerland - even via France and avoiding Germany! Bus services are not included for Switzerland

A free internet chat site exists on *onelist.com*. It

has two sites relevant to Swiss railways dealing with SBB and BEMO. Type in *onelist.com* and then either SBB or BEMO to find details of the chat group. Subscription to the groups is free and the content is of great interest. Recent topics in the SBB group have included CIWL dining cars, dining car pantographs and BLS autozug trains. The BEMO site deals with both models and the railways covered in the BEMO range.

Thanks to Steve Bratt (UK) and Dick Shiels (USA) for providing much of the above. The Secretary (E-mail: b.j.hemming@btinternet.com) will be pleased to receive any further contributions.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS STOCK CHANGES

September 1998

No changes

October 1998

Rebuilt & Renumbered:

RABDe12/12 1114 to RABDe 510 013

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interest levels stabilised after that. Later on, we had a visit from a Swiss gentleman who could not understand why there was any interest in Swiss railways in the UK, and was amazed to learn of the existence and size of the society - word of the SRS has evidently yet to permeate all railway professionals in Switzerland.

On reflection on this interesting, enjoyable and, for the modeller, very different show, I would like to express thanks to the officers and members of the society who visited the stand and talked to us. I must again thank Dave for all his help, and hope that his efforts keep him even busier with new membership enrollments!

For details of the Interlocker system for simulation and control of model railways, contact Andy at 40 Ripley Road, Heage, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 2HU. Or visit his web site at <http://www.abel.net.uk/~ilocker/>