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Autor: Satterly, Keith
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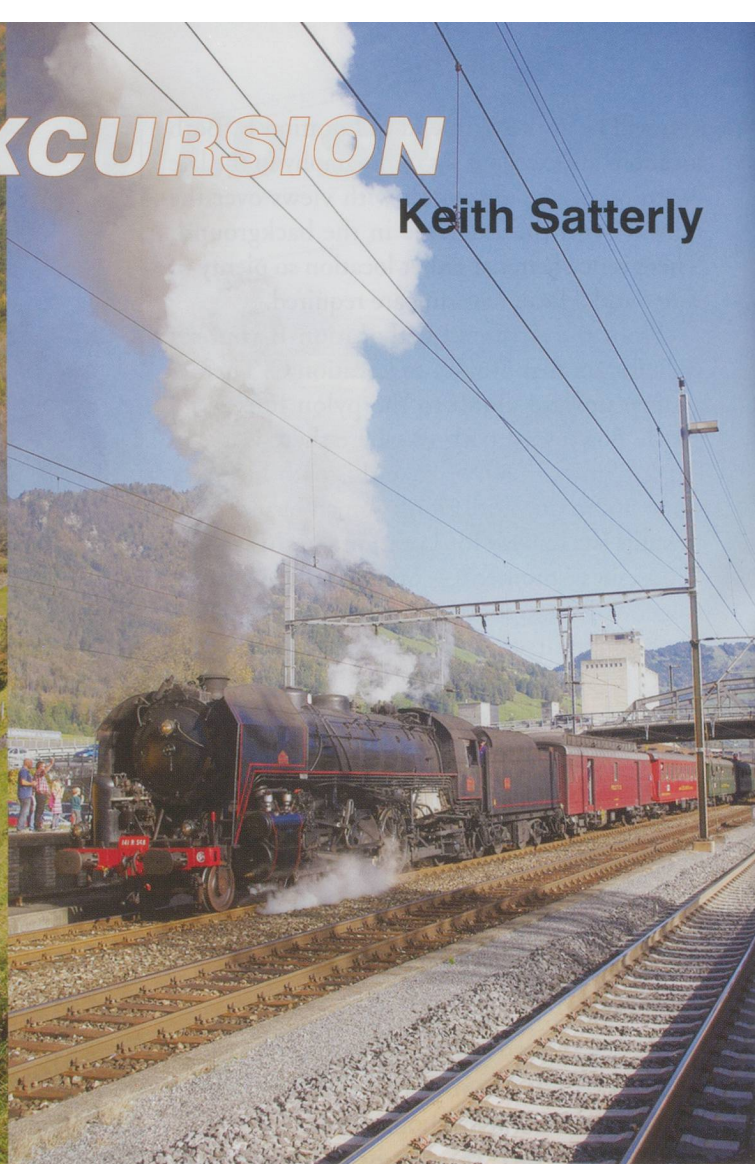
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A 'CLASSIC' EXCURSION

Keith Satterly




LEFT: For the climb to Goschenen 141R 568 was limited to 4 coaches and seen here at Ellbogen near Erstfeld.

RIGHT: 141R 568 departs from Brunnen for Erstfeld with the complete train.

All photos: Keith Satterly

On the weekend of the 20th/21st October the Swiss Classic Train Company ran a weekend excursion entitled 'Steam from Zürich' over the Gotthard route to Lugano. On Saturday 20th the whole train was hauled by 141R568 from Zürich, via a water stop at Brunnen, to Erstfeld where the train was split with Ae6/6 No.11421 *Graubunden* taking the 1st-class portion to Wassen to watch the 141R568 run through with the remainder of the train. The whole train was then combined again at Goschenen for the run through to Bellinzona and Lugano. Sunday 21st was interesting as the 141R took a train from Lugano to Luino where it met DB Class 50 No. 3673 that was on an excursion from Luino to Biasca and return. It was planned that the Class 50 was to parallel the 141R for part of the way during the afternoon, and again the 1st-class portion went ahead so that its passengers could witness the spectacle. Unfortunately both steam-hauled trains were late arriving at Bellinzona and had to wait until service trains had departed north before the spectacle could begin. Unfortunately during the parallel running one of the locos' whistle stuck open, so an emergency stop had to be made to enable a member of its crew to produce a ladder and sort out the problem. After this the Class 50 terminated at Biasca and returned to Luino, whilst the

Ae6/6 departed ahead of the 141R so the 1st-class passengers could view the steam train. Reaching Airolo the 141R finally made a water stop and the two-trains combined with the 141R leading and the Ae6/6 on the rear of the 12-coach formation. At Erstfeld the electric was detached and the 141R continued on to Zürich. It was a memorable weekend. Windows down, parallel running and superb weather. 

Also involved with the weekend trains was Ae 6/6 No.11421 '*Grischun/Graubunden*' here seen at Biasca with the 1st-class portion of the train.

