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One Weekend - Six Special Trains

Mario Gavazzi

The '*Fliegender Rhätier*' waits for Ge 6/6 No. 415 to run-in with the '*Pullman Express*' at Preda.
All photos: Mario Gavazzi

Over the weekend of the 15th/16th October the Rhätische Bahn hosted the 20th anniversary of the founding of 'Club 1889', an organization founded by people interested in the RhB and named after the inaugural year of the Landquart-Davos line. To mark the occasion 'Club 1889' worked with 'Historic RhB' and the RhB to organise and run six special trains, all using vintage equipment.

The line between S-chanf-Samedan-Pontresina hosted the '*Holsboer Express*', named for the promoter of the Landquart-Davos line, and the '*Lunghin Express*' named for the Graubünden mountain pass that is the triple watershed that feeds several important European rivers. Between Samedan-Bergün on the Albula line ran the '*Pullman Express*' and '*Fliegender Rhätier*', whilst on the Bernina line between Pontresina-Alp Grüm the '*Bellavista Express*' and '*Montebello Express*' operated, both using Ge 4/4 No.182 the 'Bernina-Krokodil' built in 1928 for the Winter Olympic Games that were held in St Moritz, and an original composition of yellow Bernina Bahn coaches. Between s-Chanf and Pontresina the 1902 steam engine G 3/4 No.11 '*Heidi*' headed the '*Holsboer Express*' and Ge 4/6 No.353 (from1914) powered the '*Lunghin Express*'. On the Albula line the '*Pullman Express*' , using the RhB's rake of historic blue/white Pullman coaches, was in the hands of RhB Ge 6/6 'Krokodil' No. 415. A highlight for many was the '*Fliegender Rhätier*' that featured a composition in honour of the 1930s, and the new trains of that era that featured 'Leichtstahl' construction. RhB Historic's ABe 4/4 No.501 headed its companion driving trailers BDt 1721/1723 (all built in 1939), together with baggage car D 4052, all representing a rarity in the Swiss railway scene.

The two day celebration involved a lot of hard work by numerous volunteers who not only operated the six trains

TOP: G 3/4 No.11 '*Heidi*' at S-chanf before heading the '*Holsboer Express*'.
ABOVE: Ge 4/6 No.353 hauls the '*Lunghin Express*' through Zuoz.

but also organized a catering service in Samedan Depot. Here there were shops selling railway souvenirs etc, concerts, a collection of 'oldtimer' PTT Post Autos, miniature trains for children - and adults! 'Club 1889' made this into a festival for everyone. Congratulations go to the organisers from the Club, '*Historic RhB*', and the RhB itself, for making such a successful event.