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DSF-Koblenz celebrates Swiss National Day


Mario Gavazzi



UeBB steam railcar CZm1/2 No.11 (from 1902), plus coach C 22, at Laufenburg.

All photos: Mario Gavazzi

August 1st is Swiss National Day and everywhere in the country people organise meetings, festivals, concerts and more. For National Day 2017 the association DSF - Depot und Schienenfahrzeuge Koblenz (www.dsf-koblenz.ch) organised a meeting of preserved railcars from across the country. The DSF has some four historic railcars of its own that are kept at its premises in the old engine depot at Koblenz (AG). In addition to celebrating National Day the DSF also chose to use the occasion to mark the 125th anniversary of the opening of the line between Koblenz, Laufenburg and Stein Säckingen. Although the 17km between Koblenz and Laufenburg lost its passenger service in 1994 the SBB route is still used by freight trains, so it was an ideal location to allow an assortment of preserved rolling stock to operate a special service. In addition to three of the DSF's fleet (ex-Südostbahn BDe 4/4 No.80, ex-SBB RBe 4/4 No.1405, and ex-Wohlen Meisterschwanden BDe 4/4 No.2), SBB Historic provided a special train with BDe 4/4 No.1643 and No.1646 plus second class coach 'Leichtstahl'; the Oensingen-Balsthal-Bahn (OeBB) sent "Roter Pfeil" No.202; the Verein Tunnel-Kino (that operates in the Weissensteintunnel) provided its ex-SOB ABe4/4 No.11, and other organisations also sent along equipment. The star of the show for many was the UeBB steam railcar

CZm1/2 No.11 back in working order following its earlier accident. This operated between Laufenburg and Stein-Säckingen. At Koblenz the DSF provided catering as well as a souvenir shop and there were information points for various other associations. Thanks to the DSF this was an excellent 'railway celebration' of a significant day. 



TOP: Verein Tunnel-Kino ex-SOB ABe4/4 No.11 (from 1939) at Laufenburg.

ABOVE: OeBB ex-SBB RBe2/4 No.202 'Roter Pfeil' (from 1938) at Koblenz.

LEFT: A general view of the Koblenz railcar gathering from the DSF-restaurant in the Depot.

