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# TIGERLI-FESTIVAL

Daniel Zumbühl

## The Sursee-Triengen Bahn stages an unique event.

*All of the six engines that took part of the Tigerli-Festival were transferred at once from Sursee to Triengen on the afternoon of Friday 21st September 2007.* PHOTO: Thomy Erzinger.

Six steam engines brought some 3,000 railfans, plus parents and children, to Triengen in order to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the steam engine No. 5. Organised by the Surental steam association this unique steam spectacle took place on the Sursee–Triengen Bahn (ST) in September 2007. The ST is interesting as it is one of the very few railways in Switzerland that was never electrified and it still operates as a freight line in its own right.

Thanks to the perfect weather, and the dedication of about 70 volunteers, the Tigerli-Festival was a great success. No less than six steam engines were present – apart from the ST-owned No. 5. There were locomotives from the Zurich Oberland; from the region of Berne; from Balsthal; and from the paper factory Perlen. In different configurations, sometimes with three engines at once, they continuously hauled from the morning to the evening two passenger trains as well as one goods train that was specially put together for photographers, of which in a huge number were present beside the track. A big sensation on the day was caused by the steam railcar of SBB Historic. This brought some railfans from Zurich to the festival and worked a public excursion from Triengen to Geuensee, returning to Triengen on Sunday.

After the festival both presidents of the organization committee, Thomy Erzinger and Othi Wirz, showed satisfaction about the success of this big event, and also about the fact that it had been managed without problems or accidents. Whether the Tigerli-Festival will take place again in the future, is not yet clear. Perhaps something similar will be organized to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ST in 2012.

In 2008 there will be steam specials on the ST on the 1st August (Swiss National Day) and on the 28th September. On the 1st November there will be a Gourmet Trip behind steam. Go to www.dampfzug.ch for more information on these trips.