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DÉLÉMONT DEPOT OPEN DAY

Ron Smith



In the depôt was the magnificent 2-10-0 "Elephant" No. 2978. When these big machines were put into service, they would not fit into the roundhouse; so two roads were especially extended about 4 metres outwards, just for them. ALL PHOTOS. Ron Smith

Earlier in 2008 the SBB Historic section of the SBB website had a paragraph noting that between 10.00 & 14.00 on Saturday 11th September there would be guided tours of the Délémont half roundhouse for CHF10. When I arrived at the depot, a five minute walk from the station, there were some 18 adults and children waiting and bang on 10.00 the door opened and the host team came out to split us into French and German speaking groups. The depot is the HQ of the Historische Eisenbahn Gesellschaft (HEG), a volunteer organisation founded in 1985, that maintains the depot (and its two turntables - a big job in itself!) as well as restoring and operating trains. Information on the group, who would welcome active or passive new members, can be found on www.volldampf.ch.

The whole site is full of rolling stock needing money and manpower to restore to full working order and in addition to this there are countless other interesting items at the depot, ranging from a comprehensive collection of axleboxes, a sales coach with books, magazines, relics and even SBB clothing, a hand operated two axle crane, a crossing barrier with gong, and many others.

It was good to see so much historical rolling stock being cared for, and the historic building being kept in such good shape. Restoring old rolling stock is a hard and long task, all power to the HEG!

1. 0-4-0 "Zephir" No.3. 2. F17463 is a beautifully restored 2-axle post van with an open sided gangway. 3. The Delemont roundhouse. 4. Under active restoration was 0-6-0 "Tigerli" tank engine 8485. 5. A strange little diesel loco, 0-4-0 SLM 3464, was built in 1930 for the Basel chemical company CIBA.

