

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2012)
Heft: 109

Artikel: Spiez... again
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854331>

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section of the climb to the summit. Our trip was on a gorgeous day, but I suspect that traversing these open alpine pastures with less than good weather in our vintage coach would not have been so much fun, although in the modern coaches the BRB run on normal service trains inclement weather should not be a problem. Several alpine farmsteads could be seen together with the small groups of Swiss brown cows, happily browsing on the alpine herbage, which were the reason for families to spend their summers a thousand or more metres above their homes in the valley below. Arriving at the summit hotel, efficiently run by the BRB itself, we had ample time to enjoy refreshments and the expansive view over the Brienzer See backed by the serried ranks of alpine peaks that stretched as far as the eye could see. All too soon it was time to return back down the hill to the lower terminus and the warm, sunny lakeshore. It was a super trip that can be recommended to anyone and thanks must go to the BRB's General Manager Simon Koller and his team who worked to ensure that this trip was truly special. I would urge any Society member who has not used Switzerland's only steam powered mountain railway to go soon. 

TOP: BRB loco No 6 inside the Brienz shed.

BOTTOM: Two BRB diesels and one steam loco rest in the shed at Brienz.

PHOTOS: Malcolm Bulpitt



SPIEZ... AGAIN

s'Murmeli

Funny place Spiez. Things happen before our very eyes. Last November I arrived from Frutigen at 13.42 for the 13.54 to Bern. Between Platform 5 and 3 the subway and conflicting crowds took 4 minutes, going to the right end took another three – two minutes if you know how! In Platform 1 there was a curiosity; a dead 'Lötschberger' with a Re4/4 II at each end, being pushed and pulled to the workshops. When I suggested that there was surely a good explanation for this the rear driver assured me that in this case the railcar had suffered a total brake failure. Two quick pictures and they rolled out, right across the south end, and behind me there was now a Nina with 'Versuchsfahrt' on its display. This means a trial trip. I was tempted (who wouldn't be?) to couple this to the bicycle sign. I was still wondering when my Bern Pendelino, the newest 610 005, rolled in on the second – amazing. I never found out if they were really testing bicycles, but the thought pleases me still. 

TOP: BLS No 190 at Spiez with a failed passenger train.
RIGHT: Trial trip ?? For Bikes ?? PHOTOS: s'Murmeli

