

UPDATE NR 22

November 2013

**WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE HERITAGE RAILWAYS AROUND
EUROPE NEWS ♦ VIEWS ♦ ARTICLES ♦ CURRENT EVENTS ♦
OPINIONS**



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Council - New and Re-election

At the Annual General Meeting of Fedecrail on 13th April 2013 in Albi elections to Council were on the agenda.

Jacques Daffis was re-elected unanimously as Vice President.

Following on from Belgian Marie- Thérèse Beunckens standing down from Council Joseph van der Perre, also from Belgium, was elected.

According to the articles of association at least one member of the Council must have Belgian nationality because Fedecrail is incorporated in that country.

The Annual General Meeting confirmed his nomination by Council.

Ingrid Schütte

FEDECRAIL 20th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Thurs 3.04.14 - Wed 9.04.14

Advance notice that the 2014 Fedecrail Conference will be held in Budapest, Hungary. It has been unusual for Fedecrail to return to a previous venue for a conference, but a persuasive plea extending the invitation was made by Fedecrail member, MAV Nosztalgia. 2014 will mark not only the 20th anniversary of the foundation of Fedecrail in Brussels in 1994 but also the 21st anniversary of the operations of MAV Nosztalgia. The previous conference held in Budapest was highly successful and appreciated. There is a wealth of locations of railway heritage and emphasis in the 2014 will be on visiting locations not covered during the 2010 conference programme.

As usual we are keeping clear of the Easter holiday period:- **Thurs 3.04.14 - Wed 9.04.14** the business sessions and main visits programme; Wed 9.04.14 - Sat 12.04.14 a post conference tour is being planned using a MAV Nosztalgia special train to visit heritage railways and projects in neighbouring countries

Peter Ovenstone, Joint Conference Organiser.

7. FEDECRAIL Youthcamp in Austria

The participation in the FEDECRAIL-Youthcamp 2013 that took place from Friday the 2nd until Sunday the 11th of August 2013 in Austria was pleasingly high. Youths aged between 15 and 24 years had the opportunity of gaining insights into the tradition of the railways and the culture of the host country. A total of 25 youths from 10 nationalities arrived on August 2nd 2013 in Bezau's Bregenzer Forest, where they were able to gain a cross-sectional impression of Austria's rich railway-museum landscape accompanied by three guides.

During the first 4 days the Bregenzer Forest Railway's railway museum took over the role as host, and Haus Erlengrund in the vicinity of the railway station was very suitable accommodation. On the morning of the 3rd of August 2013, FEDECRAIL's president, David Morgan, officially opened the 7th FEDECRAIL Youth Camp. As representative of the Austrian Museum and Tourist Railway Association (ÖMT) – responsible for detailed planning and acting as national representative – the association's secretary, Harald Baminger, welcomed everyone and extended his good wishes for a good camp.



Photograph: Bregenzer Forest Railways-U24-Bezau_20130803-HBaminger.jpg



Photograph: Bregenzer Forest Railways-Railway construction-Bezau_20130805-Martin Strohm.jpg

The renovation of a changeover track at the Bezau Railway Station, and the de-rusting and subsequent prime coating with anti-rust paint of an original U 24 Bregenzer Forest steam locomotive, *inter alia*, appeared on the work schedule. The young helpers were also welcome to participate in the preparation and reworking of the steam locomotive in the railway museum's elaborate workshop. Dr. Oskar Müller,

Chairman of the Bregenzer Forest Railway Museum Association, was pleased with the commitment of the European railway youth. Not only will the work remain in the youths' memories, but also the special experience of the trip to Schwarzenberg with the Bregenz Forest Railway train, locally known as the *Wälderbähnle*. Long-lasting memories will also include the cable car outing - from Bezau up to the summit of *die Niedere* at Baumgarten - giving a panoramic view of the Bregenzer Forest, the High Alps, and Lake Constance.



Photograph: BWB-Uh102-Schwarzenberg_20130803-HBaminger.jpg



Photograph: BWB-Train-Bezau_20130803-R.Popp.jpg

After the opening in Bregenzerwald, the entire group moved on to eastern Austria on the 6th of August 2013. Due to the closure of the Rosenheimer Corridor the trip across Austria started from Dornbirn via the particularly scenic countryside on the *Giselabahn* route between Wörgl and Salzburg and continued via Vienna to Ternitz, where the group put up camp in the Europawiese Youth Hostel.

On the following day on the *Höllentalbahn* train route of the Austrian Railways (*Österreichische Gesellschaft für Lokalbahnen*), work started in the region of Reichenau's train station. The former local Payerbach-Reichenau to Hirschwang railway line at the foot of the Rax and Schneeberg mountains gave impressions of the historical electric traction. Ing. Wolfgang Thier, manager of Höllentalbahn-Projekt Ges.m.b.H, responsible for the organisation of the day, was impressed with the enthusiasm („thirst for action“) shown by the young European Railway Volunteers.



Photograph: Austrian Railways-Reichenau-20130807-MBickenbach.jpg

The proximity of the UNESCO World Heritage site: the Semmering Railway, provided the impulse for the trip to wine region called *Weinviertel* on the 8th of August 2013, not be done via a direct route. After an impressive journey along the oldest mountain railway in the world, the day's first goal constituted visiting the *Südbahn Museum* in Mürtzschlag. At about noon the group departed by Railjet to Vienna-Meidling where an historical tramcar of the VEF – the Association Friends of the Railways – awaited the participants. With this vehicle – built in 1927 – followed a representative tour through Vienna, the capital city, to Praterstern where not only Ring Street impressed with its magnificent buildings. From here the trip continued further by regional train to Mistelbach, where accommodation for the final night was provided in *Kolpinghaus*.



Photograph: Südbahn Museum-Muerzzuschlag-20130808-RPopp.jpg



Photograph: Assoc. Friends of the Railways-4023-Praterstern-20130808-RPopp.jpg

The finale showed activities at the Association *Neue Landesbahn*, which not only is appointed for the preservation of the Korneuburg to Ernstbrunn route - maintaining a steam train and organising extra tours, but together with the Zayataler Rail Taxi and the *Weinviertel*-Handcars, operate important tourist activities in the region. The work programme's priorities on this section of the route are centred on the clearing

of encroaching vegetation from, and maintenance of, the track's superstructure and to abate track subsidence. Neither a trip on the Adventure World Railways from Ernstbrunn to Korneuburg, a visit to the Wolf Research Centre in the Erstbrunn Wildlife Park, nor a final barbecue evening at the Asparn-on-the-Zaya Railway Station, may be missed. Alfred Jirout, chairman of the Association *Neue Landesbahn*, shared interesting facts with the youngsters about the *Weinviertel's* region, and the significance of the local dense railway network in the days of yesteryear.



Photograph: Tobias Kassay



Photograph: VNL-Railway taxi-Asparn-20130810_RPopp.jpg



Photograph: VNL-5047001_Ernstbrunn-20130810-RPopp.jpg

Before leaving for Vienna on the morning of the 11th of August 2013, the presentation of certificates of participation by Sten Erson-Wester, leader of the FEDECRAIL Youthcamp of the European Federation of Railway Museums and Tourist Railways, took place.

During the 10-day camp, the participants were offered a diverse programme comprising: working on museum railways and rail vehicles, facilities and infrastructure, as well as learning about Austria's railways and cultural features of different regions. Furthermore, intensive exchanging of experiences took place and many friendships were made.

FEDECRAIL and the ÖMT express their thanks to the hosting organisations and partners for their support. Our particular thanks go to the three guides: Marco Meusburger, Reinhard Popp, and Fabian Köhazy, who as participants of previous camps, accomplished their responsibilities and occasionally challenging tasks, with ease.

UPDATE

An amendment: In my report on the AGM proceedings in Albi, in the last update under the heading **EU funding projects and opportunities**, in the last sentence I referred to "David Morgan felt that an email sent by Sweden was unacceptable. This should have read "David Morgan felt that an email sent by **MRO** was unacceptable, and in no way was JHRF involved.

My apologies for this error.

Steve Wood

HOG Working Group Update

Following Livius Kooy's report on the HOG group meeting with the ERA at Valenciennes, I am pleased to report that the summer has been full of activity.

The main aim was to produce a document to submit in connection with our aim of becoming a Representative Body with ERA.

After much work, and many draft documents, with consultation amongst HOG members, the ERA, and Brian Simpson MEP, a final submission was completed. In this respect acknowledgement must go to Andres Wedzinga without whose expert help the end result would have been impossible.

This all culminated in a meeting in Brian Simpson's office in the European Parliament on Monday 30th September, at which the document was handed over, to be sent to Vice President Siim Kalles, The Commissioner for Transport European Commission. The next step is for all countries to gain support for the application through their national bodies. David Morgan, President, has already started this process from the UK.

Also derogations have been applied for in respect of the 4th European Rail Package. Further information and hopefully further news will be provided in the next edition of update

Steve Wood – Chairman HOG

***Frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes Neujahr 2014
A merry Christmas and a happy New Year
Joyeux Noël et bonne Année
Prettige Kerstdagen en een gelukkig Nieuwjaar
God Jul og gott nytt År***

I apologize for the long time waiting for the new update. A hard disk crash with data lost thereby led to it. Now a nonstop backup program is running.

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