

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Railways Society  
**Band:** - (2018)  
**Heft:** 136

**Artikel:** The Historical Railway Association 'VHE Emmental' : SRS member  
Hans Jörg Schweizer reports on a local association  
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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-853781>

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# The Historical Railway Association 'VHE Emmental'



**SRS Member Hans Jörg Schweizer reports on a local association.**

Ed 3/4 No.11 of 1908 vintage.

Photos: Hans Jörg Schweizer

The VHE (Verein Historische Eisenbahn Emmental) was founded in its present form in October 1997 and is based at Huttwil. They are committed to the preservation of historically valuable railway rolling stock – locos, coaches and freight. Every year different events are organized, both public and private outings. One of these is a 'Fondue-Steam-Train' that operates annually every January. From the VHE's Huttwil base the special train travels via Langenthal, Burgdorf (a stop for water), Gerlafingen (another stop for water), Solothurn, Oensingen to Balsthal. The turn-around there lasts about 2 hours and here a fondue is served to the passengers in the coaches – as much as you can eat! A

visit to the depot of the OeBB (see at [www.oebb.ch](http://www.oebb.ch)) and the model railway is possible. Coffee, tea, wine, beer and snacks are served while the train is en-route. After the stop over it returns over the same route back to Huttwil.

Last year another VHE excursion took members to the Feldschlosschen Brewery at Rheinfelden. My wife and I boarded the train at Olten, close to our home in Aarburg. The train journey had started at Huttwil, travelling via Langenthal, Olten, Läuelfingen (by the old line to Basel), Liestal to Pratteln where it reversed direction to Rheinfelden, after the loco, an old electric railcar, ran round the train. As there are no electric lines from the old station at Rheinfelden to the

VHE's Ed 3/4 No.11 at the station platform.

The Diesel Shunter on our train at Rheinfelden.








TOP: Passing the old Feldschlosschen station.  
MIDDLE: Our train at the entrance to the Brewery.  
BOTTOM: The spotless interior where it all happens.

TOP: The Railcar on our train poses with a wagon at the brewery.  
MIDDLE: The ex-EBT BDe 2/4 No.240 that pulled the train most of the way.  
BOTTOM: Two Berna lorries at the brewery.

brewery, a small diesel tractor had to pull the train up to the brewery and later bring it back to the station. Unfortunately the brewery's old 'Tigerli' steam locomotive was no longer running. After about 3 hours at the brewery the trip home went from Rheinfelden to Frick, Brugg, Aarau, Olten and

back to Huttwil. Another really fantastic day on the rails that was organised by the VHE Emmental, and as seen from my point of view. There would be much more to say, but I'm not a good writer in English! See the VHE web page at <http://www.vhe-emmental.ch/> for more information. 



A snowy scene on the VHE in January 2017.