

HB/SZ-035 Dossen

March 21, 2014
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Weather: sunny, little wind, almost spring-like conditions, some snow still on the ground

Summary: A relatively easy and picturesque 4-pointer, possible to activate even during winter to get the bonus.

Total distance: 2 km; ascent 140 meters, time to summit 50 minutes (would be faster in summer)

I was spending the day with some visitors from Netherlands (Hans PB2T and his charming wife Margreet K2XYL), and they wanted to do an activation not far from where they were staying. We decided on Dossen (SZ-035) because it was only a 40 minute drive for them, it would be a picturesque area and Hans could get the winter bonus.

We met at the Kräbel cable car station just to the west of Arth-Goldau. It is easily accessible by public transportation, and there is also a modest sized parking lot there for day-trippers. The 10-minute cable car ride (the cabin fits probably 15 people max. squeezed very tight) took us up to a plateau, and not far from the cable car station is a restaurant where we started off with a hot chocolate. (Note: one summer, for the National Mountain Day contest, I spent an overnight at this inn. The rooms are extremely basic, but that's to be expected. I've also had one of the largest cordon bleus I've ever eaten at this restaurant.)



A short walk from the cable car station to the restaurant (shown here).

The deceptive thing about this activation is that while you start at 1653 meters and go up to 1686 meters, there's actually a valley in between the two points. From the restaurant you start on a prepared road and a very gentle incline down, then after a few minutes it starts dropping

more rapidly. After a few twists and turns you are at the low point of 1546 meters, then you begin the ascent to the actual summit.



This is where the road from the restaurant starts to dip, and on the other side of the valley you can see the destination, Dossen.

Despite the warm week and much snow having melted, there was still snow on the ground. The path on the road was easily passable, but in the stretch from the low point up to the summit at Dossen there were spots where our feet sank into as much as 40 cm of snow. I could have used my snowshoes, but they would have been a luxury rather than a necessity (as demonstrated by the fact the three of us made it up to the summit). I did, though, wear my YakTrax, which I found very useful in these conditions.



The final approach to the summit. At this point the hard work is done.

On the summit there is a cross for attaching a mast, and there is also a bench which makes for comfortable operating. Note, though, that a fellow SOTA activator reported that just a week

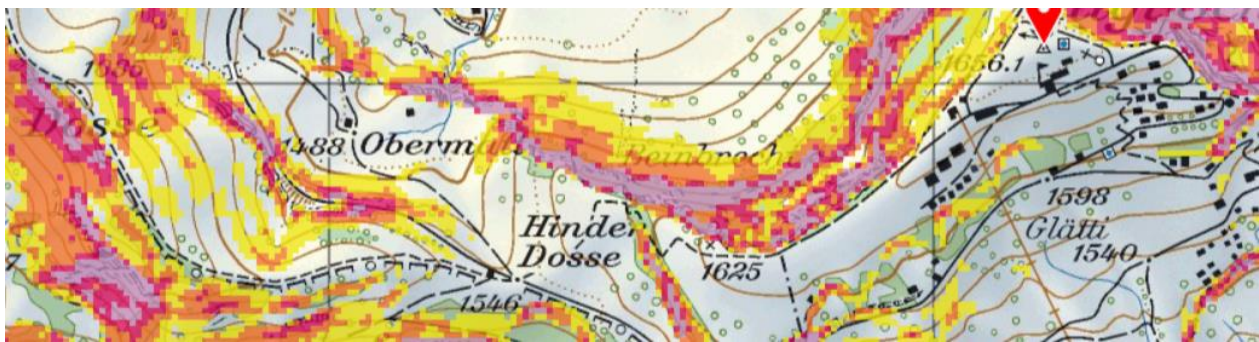
or two before this bench was still totally covered by snow, so in the wintertime don't count on it being accessible.



Hans PB2T and Margreet K2XYL at Hans' operating position on HB/SZ-035, making an entry in the summit book.

Propagation was average, I made just one S2S, and I spent most of my time on 30 meters. After an hour on the air, we slugged through the softening afternoon snow back to the restaurant where we rewarded ourselves with a couple rounds of beers.

Note: in the summer, it would be very possible to ride the cog railway all the way to Rigi Kulm (expensive unless you have a rail pass) and activate this "walk-up" summit (HB/SZ-021) and then hike down to SZ-035 for a double activation, easily feasible in one day. The cable car from Rigi Scheidegg takes you down to one of the last cog railway stops, so if you left your car there or are taking the train, connections are also possible. It is also possible to get to Rigi Kulm from the western side of the mountain. In other words, there are lots of variations possible on this theme.



Color marking areas > 30 degrees. Although the final approach to the summit has steep drop-offs to the sides, the ridge is plenty wide enough and there is no real danger.