

HB/GR-102 Lüschrgrat and HB/GR-103 Tguma

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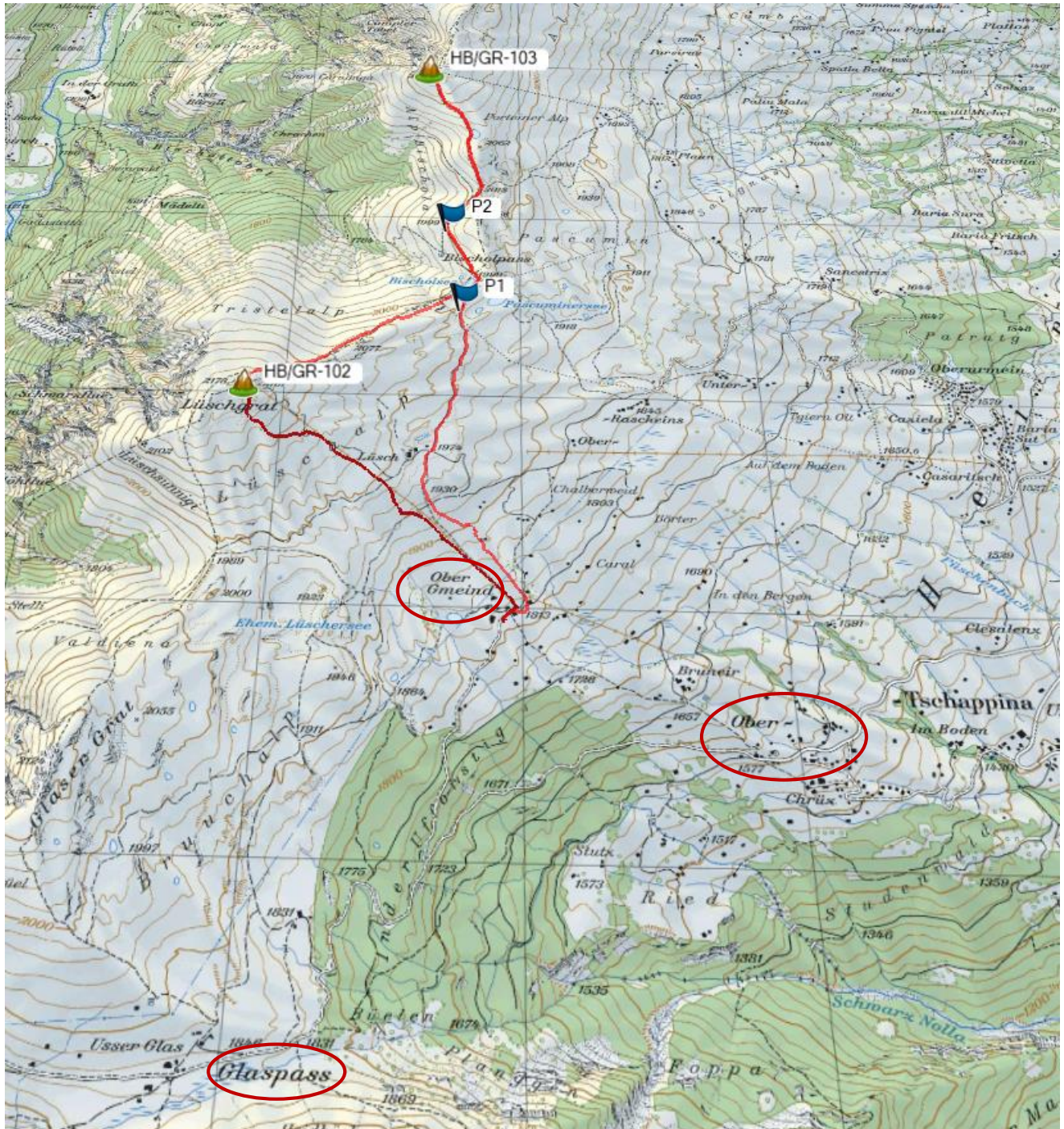
Summary: It's difficult to find a double-activation that is possible with snowshoes for the winter bonus, but this is one of those rare candidates.

It's such a great time of year for snowshoe SOTAs, and today the conditions were almost perfect. The roads were all clear and dry; hardly a cloud in the sky with temperatures at the parking lot in mid-afternoon of 7 degrees C; just a slight breeze; avalanche rating at only "2". I activated these two summits on separate days last summer and recalled that they would be good candidates for snowshoes.

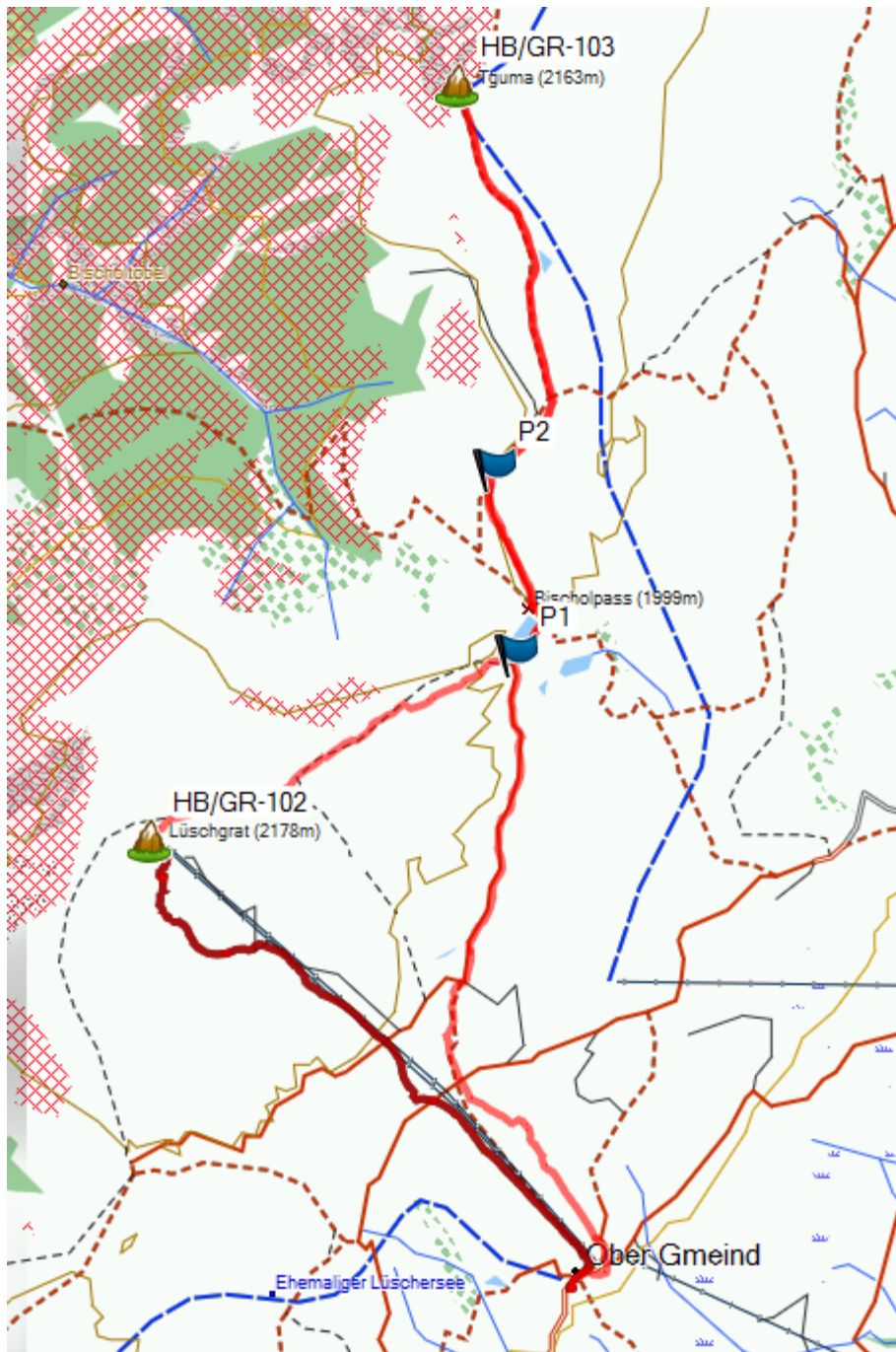
The first question is "Where do I start from?" I usually travel with public transportation, and in the summer months the bus goes up to Glaspas (circled on the map). There's a good bit of parking and a restaurant / hotel for refreshments. It's a very popular jumping off point for hikers and the hike runs relatively flat over to Ober Gmeind and the approach to Lüschrgrat. In the winter months, though, the bus travels only to Obertschappina, which adds roughly 400m of ascent and lots of time to the project, and so a double-activation is almost out of the question. Given that fact, I decided to make an exception and drive my car. The route is through Chur, Thusis and Tschappina. Looking on the map, I saw a road leading to Ober Gmeind, which would be quite a bit closer to both summits, more so than any other place. When I drove to the region, I found all the roads were clear and dry. Upon getting to Ober Gmeind, I also found a convenient parking lot. Conclusion: if you are driving for these activations, Ober Gmeind is the best place to start from, whether in summer or winter. Because I arrived at 8 a.m. and the ski tow lift doesn't start running until 9 a.m. I easily found a parking spot. When I returned in the afternoon, all the spots were taken, even in the small lot just above the one I was in. So you are well advised to arrive early to guarantee getting a reasonable parking spot, which might be even more important if there is still plenty of snow on the ground / in the parking lots.



The parking lot at Ober Gmeind -- almost empty at 8 a.m. It fills up quickly, though.



In the summer, a bus runs up the whole way to Glaspass (bottom), but in the winter it runs only to OberTschappina (right side). If you are driving, the best place to park is at Ober Gmeind (upper center, but make sure the street is clear enough of snow in mid-winter).



The hike displayed using the Swisstopo mode showing slopes steeper than 30 degrees (crosshatched areas). For this hike, you need not worry about such slopes and problems if the avalanche rating is low.

Leg 1: Ober Gmeind to Lüschgat

Here, for the most part you follow the tow lift. I asked the operators for permission to hike along the piste, and they said it was fine as long as I stayed well to the edge. Staying on the prepared base made it much easier to move along because the springtime snow was relatively soft, and otherwise my feet would have pushed through almost every step.



Simply follow the piste from Ober Gmeind to Lüschrgrat, always keeping to the far side to avoid skiers.

The lift doesn't go the entire way up, so for the last quarter or so you can follow other ski and snowshoe tracks to the actual summit. This leg of the hike took 1 hour 16 minutes to climb the 374 vertical meters. The activation area is a large plateau that has a number of posts to which you can attach a mast.



My setup on Lüschrgrat on this day and the previous summer.



View from Lüschtgrat over to today's second summit, Tguma. Note how the ridge climbing up to the summit is very wide and thus presents hardly any danger.

Leg 2: Lüschtgrat to Tguma

For this, you hike back down into the valley to P1 where a foot trail meets up with what in the summer is a dirt service road. You descend 197 meters. Again, the only way this was possible was because there was conveniently a well-used packed-down snowshoe trail where I didn't sink in; everywhere else I would have struggled with every step. From P1 to P2 it is essentially flat, then you start the 182 meter ascent to Tguma. This leg took me 1 hour 11 minutes.



Following the snowshoe trail down to P1.



The snowshoe trail from P2 to Tguma is not quite as clear, but it is there and was extremely useful.

The summit at Tguma is not extremely large, but it is big enough to handle several stations. I lashed my mast to the summit cross. Be very careful, because on the back side of the cross there is a lethal extremely steep drop, something some deep snow could disguise.



My setup at the summit cross on Tguma; a photo from the previous summer showing the steep dropoff behind the cross - use caution!

Leg 3: Tguma to Ober Gmeind

The final leg from Tguma to Ober Gmeind was mostly on snowshoe trails, which made life so much easier, especially now that it was afternoon and the bright sun had really softened the snow. There was only one short section, on the map from Point 1974 to Point 1930, where there was no trail and I had to slog through some show up to my knees. At Point 1930, though, I rejoined the ski piste, which I followed to Ober Gmeind.

Overall for the day I covered 8.4 km.



Following the snowshoe trail from P1 to Point 1974. Background left: GR-101 Piz Beverin.