

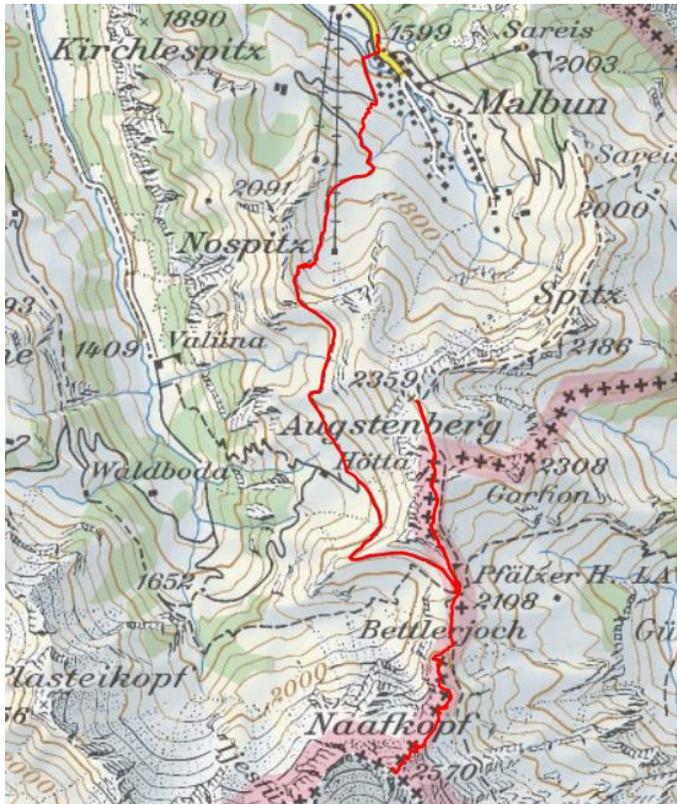
Naafkopf (HB0/LI-002 – OE/VB-123) and Augstenberg (HB0/LI-004)

July 30/31, 2013
Paul, HB9DST

NOTE: The Association Reference Manuals have been updated to eliminate border summits accounting for multiple countries. I was one of the few people who was lucky enough to activate the world's only triple summit (HB/HB0/LI). The HB summit was removed from the list in February 2015, the OE summit was removed on December 31, 2015. Now only the LI reference is valid.

Summary: Three associations and 30 points on one summit – that's unique in the world! And with the SOTA Management Team talking about changing the rules to eliminate such multiple-association summits, it was time to act fast.

Ever since I spotted this triple-association peak worth 30 points and me working on my Mountain Goat, I wanted to activate it. And because there is an Alpine hut below the peak, that made the trip even more attractive. I spoke with Hugo HB9AFH, and we decided to do a joint activation.



On the morning of July 30, Hugo drove to Malbun where we parked. There was road construction that week in the village and the hiking signs were down, so we missed our turn onto the main trail. We took a slight detour (not shown on the GPS track), which added about half an hour to our hike up to the Pfälzer Hut, which was 509 meters. We got there just early afternoon.



On the way up to the Pfälzerhütte.



The hut is finally in sight...



...and on a nice day there is plenty of activity.

We removed our overnight materials from the backpacks and then hiked up Augstenberg (another 211 meters) as a warm-up activation for the next day. The weather was somewhat cloudy, which is not bad for an ascent, and this activation also gave us some great views of Naafkopf and Malbun.



Looking up to Augstenberg, our warm-up summit, from the hut.



Malbun as seen from Augstenberg – this is what we climbed on the first day.

We had a very pleasant evening/night in the hut. We purchased our evening meal (basic pasta with sausage and vegetables), had a beer or two (or three – what else is there to do up there?) and went to our room. The hut was busy but not packed. We managed to get a double room for ourselves rather than sleeping in the group bunk rooms, a nice convenience. That was likely due to the fact we stayed over on Friday night; I'm sure on Saturday night the place is booked solid. Anyway, after a long day, we slept very well.

We had breakfast at about 8 a.m. on Saturday and made our way to Naafkopf. It turned into a beautiful sunny day (dry trail!). A friend had been up there two weeks before and had the last remnants of snow on the trail, but we found it totally clear of snow. The hike up is generally OK, just one section on a hillside where it's pretty exposed, and you need to take steps carefully. The last section is somewhat steep, requires the occasional use of hands, but nothing especially dangerous. Ascent 462 meters.



Looking up to Naafkopf – our destination for Saturday – from the hut.

At the top there is a three-legged wall – on one side you're in Switzerland, on another Liechtenstein, on another Austria. The activation zone itself isn't very big, about the size of an average bedroom. Hugo found no good place to extend his end-fed dipole, so he ended up using a vertical ground-plane antenna. I had my AlexLoop along, and that made it easy for me. This is one of those cases where the loop was very much worth the investment and its reduced antenna efficiency. Of course, we needed a bit longer to work the pileups from all three associations and get our 30 points.



The 3-legged wall at the top of the rather small activation zone. I lashed my AlexLoop because of a strong breeze on the summit.



Here's the marker indicating the Austrian side of the 3-legged wall.

The trip down to the hut was non-eventful. Again, we packed up our overnight stuff into our backpacks and made our way down to Malbun. We were tempted to activate another summit on the way down, but instead we opted to stop on the way home to activate HB/GR-121 (Regitzer Spitz) because I was anxious to check summits off on my quest for Edelweiss #1 (which I did eventually get).



Hugo HB9AFH (left) and Paul HB9DST following the successful activation of Naafkopf.

Under any circumstances this would have been a very pleasant SOTA experience. But having the triple summit for 30 points – unique in the world – along with the overnight stay in the hut made it a very special trip with an excellent SOTA companion.