

Le Chamossaire HB/VD-020 and Chaux Ronde HB/VD-024

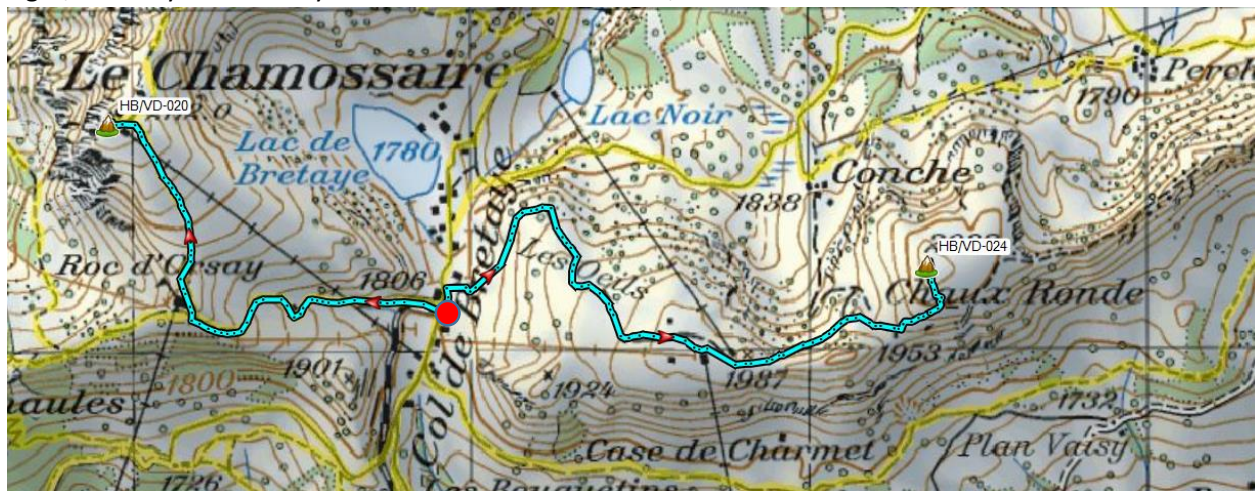
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Summary: If you're in the Lake Geneva region, here are two relatively easy 8-pointers that can be done in one day. I took a guest, Hans PB2T, on this tour, and he enjoyed it very much.

Your starting point for both summits is Col de Bretaye, which you reach from Aigle on the east side of Lake Geneva, not far from Montreaux. This is primarily a family skiing area (no really difficult slopes) but it is also popular for hiking in other seasons. In addition, this spot is not accessible by car. The best bet is to park in Villars and take the cog railway up (1/2 hour trip) to the final destination. Note that there is a restaurant at this final train station for refreshments while you are waiting for the train back down to Villars (runs every hour on the hour) or while your non-SOTA family/friends are waiting for you.

From the train station (red dot on the map below) situated in a valley the two summits are hidden from sight, but they are close by: Le Chamossaire to the west, and Chaux Ronde to the east.



There is nothing terribly difficult about either summit. For VD-020 Le Chamossaire, you follow the service road to the large telecommunications tower; 1.6 km, 291 meters of elevation and it took me 42 minutes. There is a fenced off area which means you have plenty of mast supports. There are also two log benches, so we each took one for our activation.



Train station at Col de Bretaye and the road leading up to VD-020.



First view of VD-020 (the communications tower in the center) from the service road.



Hans PB2T operating from one of the two log benches in the activation zone.

We returned to the train station and then went on our way to VD-024 Chaux Ronde. As you can see on the map, there is no official hiking trail to the summit. We followed a dirt service road to Point 1987 and then hiked up the hillside. The total hike was 2.2 km, 269 meters of elevation and it took 51 minutes. Fortunately, it late enough in the year that the cows were down from the pastures and we didn't have to deal with them or fences. Here the activation zone is quite large, but there is nothing at all you can use for mast supports except for a shrub here and there.



On the left side is the road leading up to VD-024, which is behind this hill.



First view of VD-024, the hillside visible just to the left of the chair lift support mast.



Hans PB2T setting up his antenna mast using tent pegs and line on the rather large activation zone of VD-024.