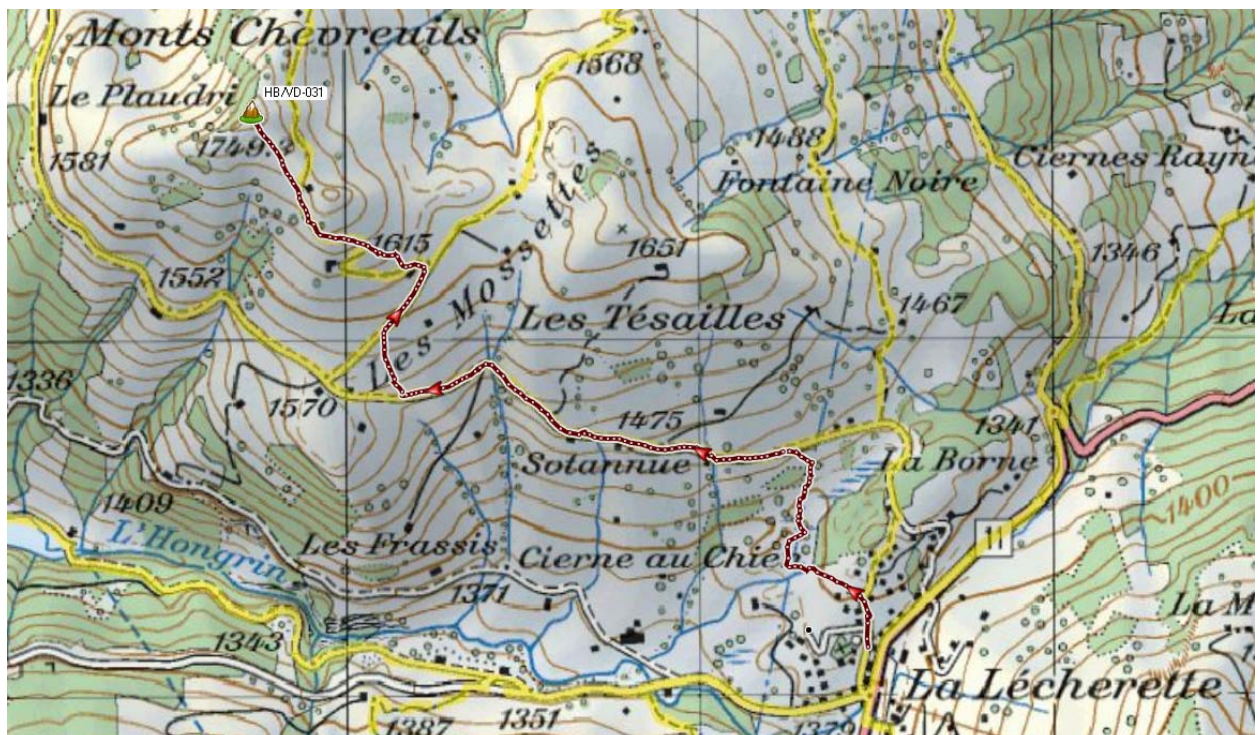# HB/VD-031 Monts Chevreuils

February 1, 2014

Summary: A relatively easy snowshoe SOTA that should be possible under almost all conditions.

On this day I decided to activate HB/VD-031 Monts Chevreuils because this was the closing weekend for the international hot air balloon festival at the nearby town of Chateau-d'Oex, which is world famous as a center for ballooning (the first nonstop flight around the world by balloon, done by Bertrand Piccard, launched from that town). I had hoped to get some great photos of me operating my radio with lots of balloons in the background. It was not to be -- because of high winds and an incoming weather (snow) front, the flights were cancelled for this particular day.

My travels took me from Gstaad where I spent the previous night, on the train to Chauteux-d'Oex, then the bus to La Lecherette (where there is plenty of parking). From there, following well-marked hiking trails (follow Route #5), it took just over 1.5 hours to go the 3.3 km and climb the 342 meters of altitude to the summit. Note that on the ascent, I deviated from Route #5 and instead decided to take a slight shortcut through the fields rather than stay on the boring road. It was an easy snowshoe hike with excellent packed trails the entire way, not much more than WT1. There are virtually no dangerous spots; however, the final ascent is probably around 30 degrees, so if there is a lot of fresh snow you should take care. On the summit there were tons of other snowshoers and people on touring skis, it seems to be a very popular route. Not far from the summit (on the other side of the approach as on my map) is a mountain restaurant where you can take a break after playing radio.

Follow snowshoe trail #5 from La Lacherette

About 2/3 of the route is a prepared road, very easy to hike along.

The final approach to the summit.

The last couple of hundred meters to the summit.

View of the trail up the summit from the top.

Operating position -- no benches or seats; lots of activity on this summit.