

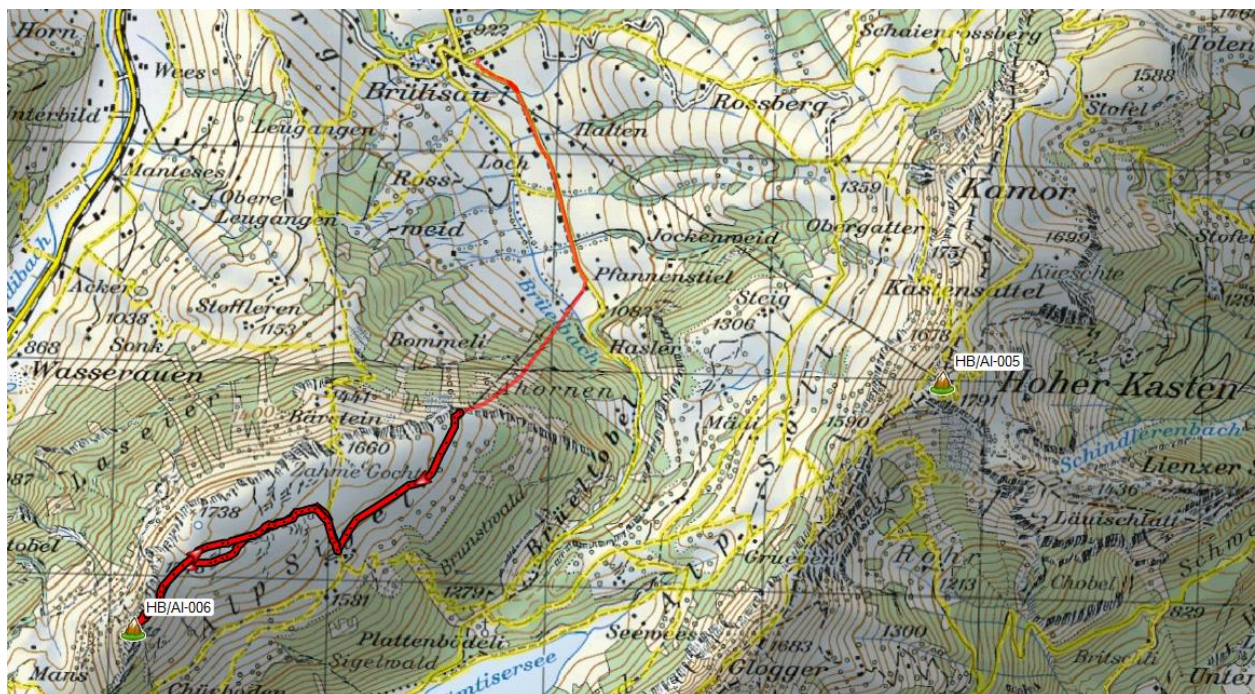
Hoher Kasten HB/AI-005 and Alp Sigel HB/AI-006

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Paul, HB9DST

Summary: These two cablecar summits can easily be done in one day; one is a "ride-up" activation, the other requires a hike of just 45 minutes. And the two cablecar valley stations are just 1 km apart. Further, yet another cablecar activation (Kronberg, AI-007) is not far away at all.

It was a sunny day and I wanted to do an activation. However, it was also probably the hottest day of the year so far, so I didn't want anything too ambitious. Thus, I decided on Alp Sigel, which entails an ascent of just 163 meters but you still get wonderful views and a true Alpine feeling.



On this map, you walk from the Brülisau bus stop along a road to Pfannenstiel, where you ride the cable car to the heavy red line where the actual hike starts.

Although I didn't activate Hoher Kasten on this day (I had already done it before), I include it in this report because it is so close by. It's a ride-up summit, and there is a reasonably large space for antennas -- if it's not overrun by visitors, which can happen on a nice day.



View to Hoher Kasten from the Hoher Kasten cablecar station.



View to Alp Sigel (HB/AI-006) from the Hoher Kasten cablecar station.

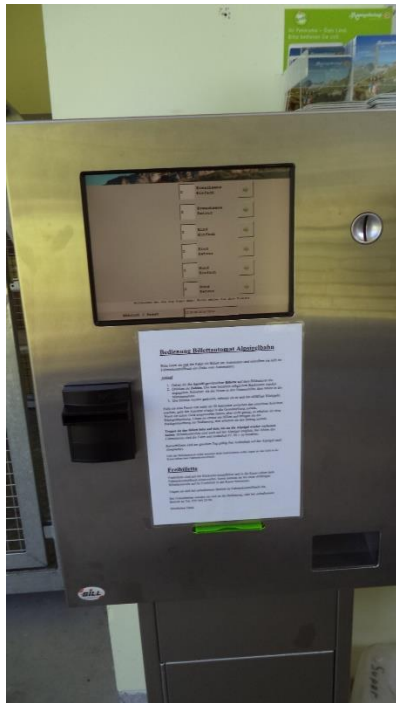


Aerial view of the Hoher Kasten summit.

The bus from the Weissbad train station takes you to Brülisau in ten minutes, and the final stop is directly at the Hoher Kasten cablecar valley station. There is also plenty of parking for those who drive. The cablecar costs CHF 38.00 round trip (half off with a Halbtax or GA).



Alp Sigel cablecar valley station, a 1 km hike from the bus stop at the Hoher Kasten valley station.



Ticket machine at the Alp Sigel valley station. It accepts coins and bills.

It's then just a kilometer hike down the road to Pfannenstiel where you find the valley station of the Alp Sigel cablecar. Again, plenty of parking available. It costs CHF 25.00 for a round trip in a gondola car (no discounts accepted). You pay in a machine, and the sign says only 4 people at a time, although the elderly lady at the time put 6 of us in the car going up.



A view from the Alp Sigel summit station looking across to Hoher Kasten.

From the summit station, it took me 45 minutes and 163 meters ascent to get to the summit. The first third of the route is along a flat dirt road. The second third goes up the hills, T2, no danger whatsoever. The final third is a bit steeper with no perceptible trail (nothing marked on the maps, either), but it's easy to figure out where to go. And at the summit itself there is a very steep dropoff at the edge with no fence or other protection whatsoever.



The first third of the route -- T1.



The second third of the route -- T2.



The final ascent (in the background), partially a T3.

On the summit there are only a few small bushes which can be used for a mast support, but I was able to do fine. The activation area is relatively small, so multiple activators at one time might have a challenge.

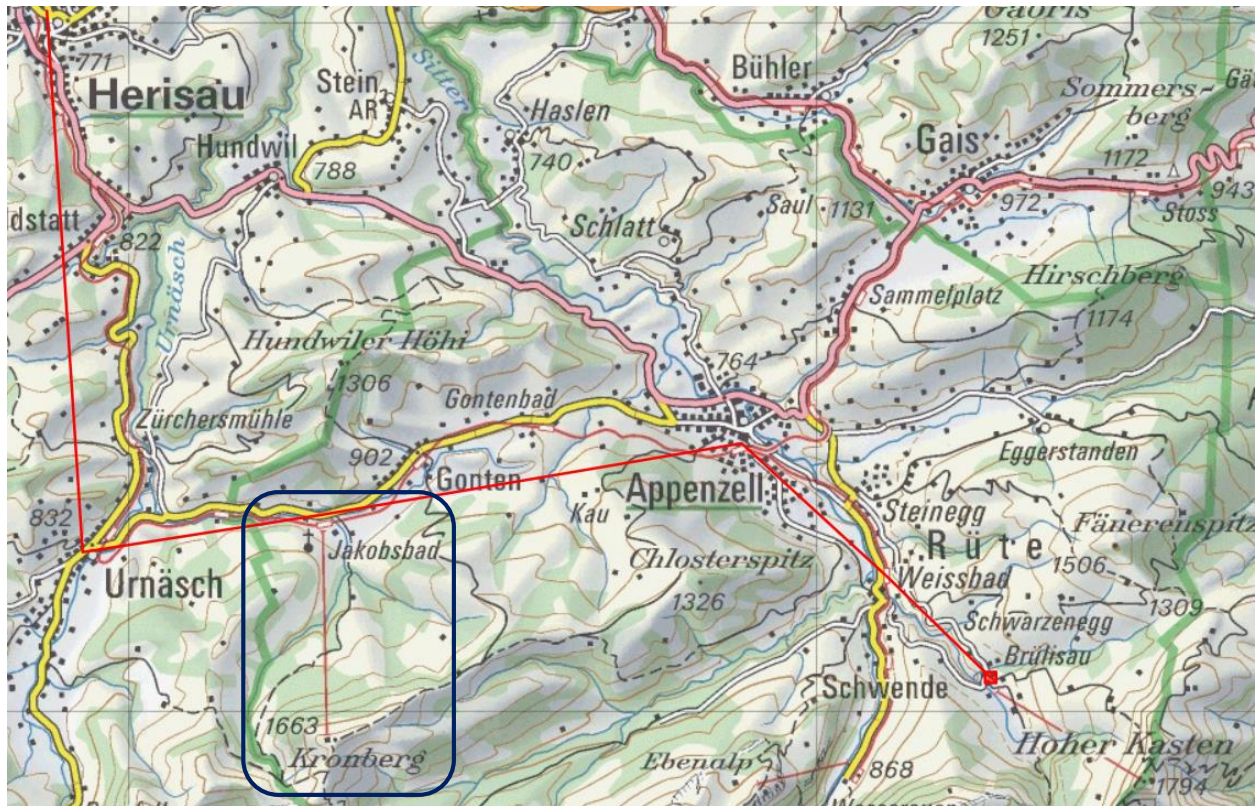


Activation zone with my mast lashed to a shrub. Note the steep dropoff on the right side without any protection.

It turned out this was the perfect choice for this very hot day. Even though the ascent was relatively modest, I drank more water than normal.

Final note for visitors: the train from Herisau through Urnäsch and Appenzell to Weissbad makes a stop at "Jakobsbad". This is the valley station for the cablecar to Kronberg (HB/AI-007). Thus, it would easily

be possible to do three cablecar activations in one day. In addition, at Jakobsbad there is a rope course and summer toboggan run that could keep your family occupied while you are doing the activations.



Rope course and summer toboggan run at Jakobsbad, which is also the valley cablecar station for Kronberg HB/AI-007.