

Summits on the Air (SOTA) – Summit report

HB/SZ-038 – Windwurf – 1379 m.a.s.l. – 2 points

September 24, 2017 (updated October 8, 2017)

by Markus, HB9DIZ

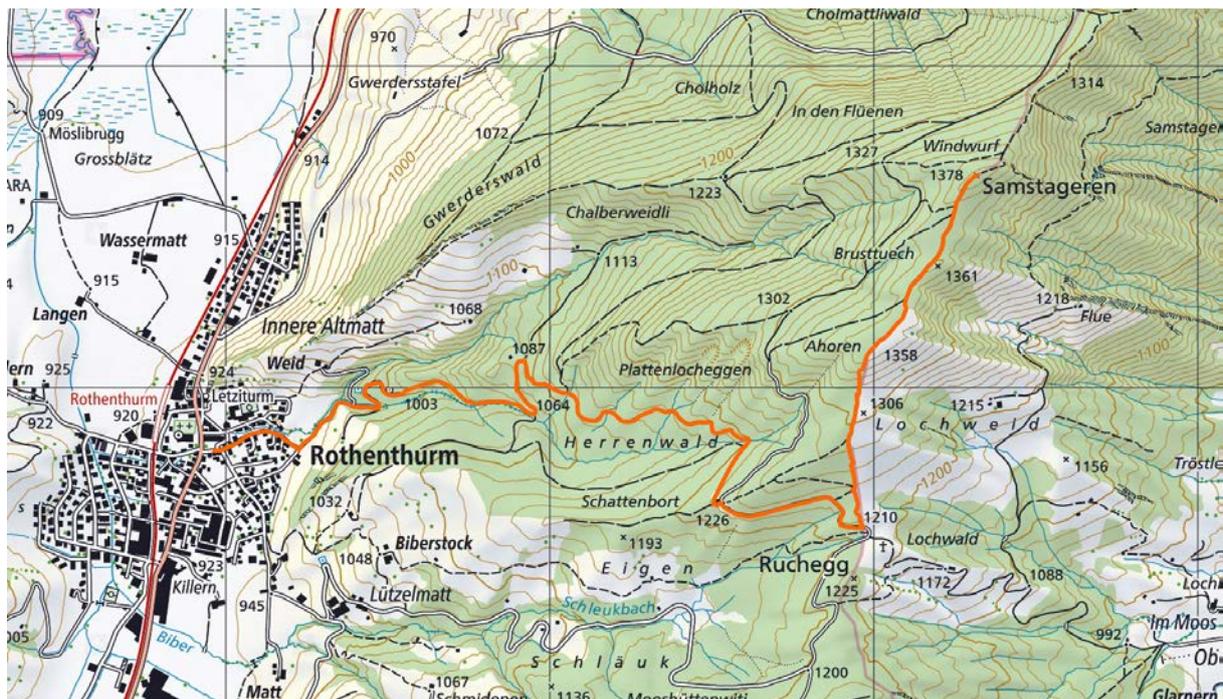
Since I haven't known Windwurf so far, I had to check out this hill once. Yesterday was a sunny Saturday, and we headed out to the valley of Rothenthurm, a nice plateau in central Switzerland, about 900 m.a.s.l., connecting the inner and outer parts of the canton of Schwyz (HB/SZ region in the SOTA programme). The plateau itself is a protected natural area in parts, counting for "World Wide Flora & Fauna" (reference: HBFF-0056).

The name of the village is derived of the Red Tower, an old defense tower originating from 1323. Rothenthurm is well-known within Switzerland for its church, especially for its roof with colored tiles depicting religious symbols and a prayer. My family name is traditional there, but I don't originate from Rothenthurm.

Windwurf is a German term meaning an area with trees thrown by a windstorm. Indeed, parts of the ridge have been ravaged by hurricane Lothar in 1999. Young forest is growing up now and has created a new landscape – we enjoyed this contrast between old and new woods.

How to activate

The hike starts in Rothenthurm and may be reduced by experienced mountain bikers in the first part up to the ridge, but we haven't met any. The forest roads met are closed to private traffic and blocked with gates.



How to get to the trail head and to the summit



The trail head is located in the center of Rothenthurm. Get there by public transports (railway station: Rothenthurm) or use the central car parking nearby the municipality house (parking fare in 2017: CHF 1 per hour – calculate 4 hours for your activation).

The sign-post at the east end of the car park shows a hiking time of 1 hour and 50 minutes. It is possible to reduce it by using by-passes, but this makes your hike arduous. We enjoyed the recommended path via Ruchegg, since the forest road is shady and not steep at all. The second part northwards is steeper, with steps on the trail. It's exposed to the sun in parts, so don't forget a cap or your hat. You'll enjoy there on the other side lovely outlooks to the Lake of Zurich region, to Einsiedeln and the higher mountains in the canton of Schwyz.

The trail leads over the summit and can be continued towards Katzenstrick, Einsiedeln or Biberbrugg. There are some simple boards to sit down and some small pinewoods – no summit cross, but a landmark stone. We even saw some deer (and three huntsmen).



View towards east: Sihlsee above Einsiedeln and Trachslau, with the higher mountains of HB/SZ (canton of Schwyz) and HB/GL (canton of Glarus).

General info

- Activations so far: 11.
- Trail head/car parking: [47.104748](#), [8.676458](#).
- We took the same way back to our car in Rothenthurm.
- ascent of 450 m, distance of 4700 m, 105 minutes up, 75 minutes down.

Activation details



Position of the operator at the real top of Windwurf with new wood, the mast and a border stone on the right side.

We enjoyed a beautiful activation on the real top of Windwurf with one QSO to the United States, only few other hikers and nice outlooks to both sides.

Besides, there are alternatives to the real top, since the activation zone of 25 m is very large.

Activation at Ahorn resp. Ahoren summit at pt. 1358. There is a summit cross to recognize this spot. You have a beautiful view to the east, but no shadow. This saves about 10 minutes of hiking for one way.

Activation at an outlook to Einsiedeln. Follow the summit trail past the summit for about 50 m. You'll see there a comfortable bench offering a shady place and a really marvelous outlook towards north to the village of Einsiedeln and its famous monastery.



Outlook towards Einsiedeln and Sihlsee.

Supplements from other activators

Peter, HB9TVK, reported an alternative car park located at a forest road more southwards. He used it in 2015. This would save most of the access to Ruchegg. This car park at Mooshüttenwiti is marked on the following map and located at 1170 m.a.s.l, just at the traffic ban sign post.

I've not checked this access alternative myself so far.



Data source: Swisstopo, map.geo.admin.ch.

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