

Summits on the Air (SOTA) – Summit and winter activation report

DM/BW-851 – Winterwald – 1175 m.a.s.l. – 10 points

December 29, 2017

by Markus, HB9DIZ

Some new summits had been introduced by December 2017 for the DM/BW region. One of those got my attention simply by its name: Winterwald. This is German for “winter forest” – and memories of hills with white spruces, covered in snow, arose. I had to see this Winterwald!

Doing some inquiries has located Winterwald in the southern part of the Black Forest, nearby Schluchsee. This region is a nice day trip from Lucerne. So we headed out some days after Christmas. And yes, we met a little paradise: December 29 was a bright day once you had left the ground layer of fog. Splendid sun and enough snow, what a beautiful day!

How to get to the trail head

We had not been alone with the idea of having a day off, indeed. So there was some traffic on the roads and imagination was needed to park the car. But the locals are prepared and allow you to park your car along the main street. There is a small parking lot in the hamlet, but the local skiing area for families with 1 small ski lift attracts lots of people, so this place is full of cars soon.

The SOTA peak Winterwald is accessed best in the winter period from Fischbach, east of Schluchsee, east of a forested ridge named Ahaberg, a hill getting its name from the hamlet of Aha. Winterwald is only a field name for the top area of this ridge. It's easier in the summer period: all trails are easily accessible, there are viewpoints like Bildstein, or you can do the nearby “Schluchtensteig” hike.

By car: Parking lot/trail head: [47.844739, 8.159625](https://www.openstreetmap.org/?lat=47.844739&lon=8.159625) (we parked along the main street)

There is a regional public bus service bringing you to Fischbach, with a bus stop at near-by Gasthaus Hirschen.

How to get to the activation zone





The simplicity of access depends on the snow depth. The trail starts some meters north of the parking lot [A] on track "Bildsteinweg", guiding you westwards, away from the houses of Fischbach and the winter activity around the ski lift. The track had been cleaned by a snow plough and leads conveniently upwards to the entry of the forest [B]. From now on, you have to make the way by yourself. Several walkers before had already made a viable trail.



The last part of the track to Winterwald leaves this trail to the left some meters before a clearance with a wooden seat for huntsmen [C]. Snowshoes would have been best for the last part towards the activation zone [D], since nobody had been there since the snowfalls around Christmas. We managed to do that "our way" with our hiking shoes, hi.



Calculate 30 minutes in the winter period from the parking lot for an ascent of ca. 120 m at a distance of ca. 1300 m.

Today's activation

We set up the station under a further high seat for huntsmen. The construction offered support for the 10-m-mast and a simple seat for the operator. Snow and frostiness limited all comfort to a minimum. So we wanted to do a rather quick activation. 20 m brought only 1 contact to Victor, GI4ONL. So 40 m should bring the rest . . . and it did, a dozen of contacts within 13 minutes made their way to the log.

It seemed that the battery of the KX2 didn't like Winterwald as much as we did. It regulated frequently down to 5 watts by itself towards the end of the activation. Like on several activations before, I had kept my phone connected to a USB battery block. We cleared up quickly (but carefully so as not to lose something in the snow) and headed down to the ski lift, the noise and Gasthaus Hirschen where we took a good meal. The sun had disappeared in the meantime unfortunately.



Since it was Friday after Christmas, we had looked out for Santa, collecting unwanted parcels and enjoying some days off. And for sure: Santa knows Winterwald, since he knows all paradises!

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