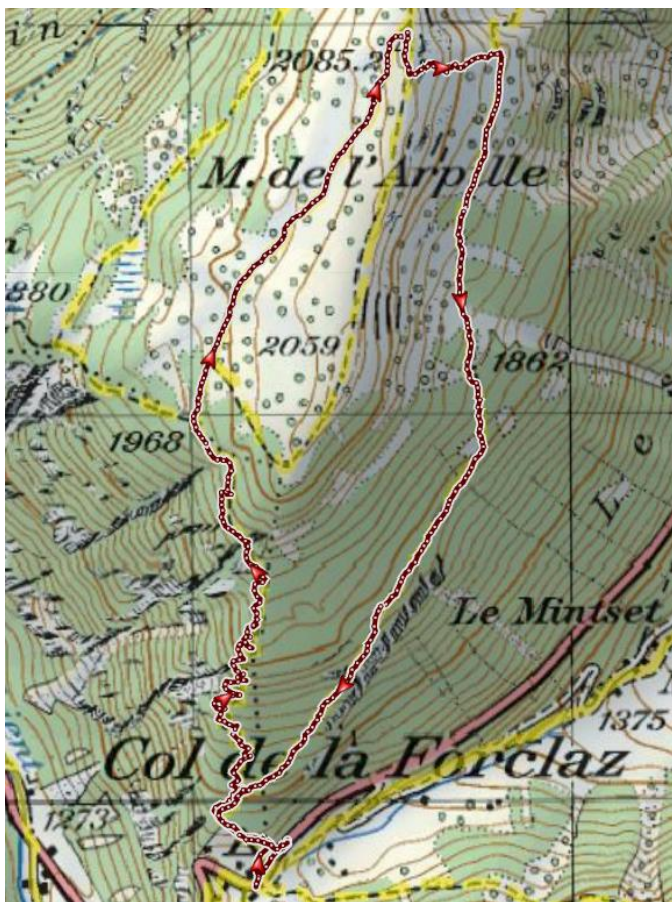


## VS-112, Mont de l'Arpille

*Paul, HB9DST, September 2013*

Hans PB2T was in Geneva on IARU business and had a free weekend, and he wanted to know if I was free for some activations. I was, did some research in my hiking books, came up with a list of possibilities and booked a room in Martigny.

We took advantage of the nice weather on Saturday to activate VS-112. Hans picked me up at the Martigny train station and we drove up to Col de la Forclaz. That's very fortunate because the very earliest bus connection I could catch would get me there at around 2 p.m. -- almost making this an overnight SOTA. There was adequate free parking, and we hiked up about 580m, which took just less than 1.5 hours.



There are two primary ways to get there. Going up we took the western route, which is steep for the first 2/3 and moderate for the last stretch. We came down the eastern route, where the incline is spread out more evenly along the route, except for the section nearest to the summit, where it is quite steep. However, the western path is very rocky most of the way, and it's all in forests. The eastern route is about the same length, has better footing (far fewer rocky sections) and the scenery is much nicer. So anyone activating this summit, I recommend the eastern route. Note, there is a signpost where these two routes merge about 15 minutes north of the parking lot; the yellow sign says the route to the summit is to the left (western route), whereas the white sign also points out that the eastern route exists.



*Although the orange hiking sign says go northwest for Mont de l'Arpille, you can also go northeast to get to there as indicated by the white sign.*

The activation area is nice and large with some nice views. I had 35 QSOs, mostly on 40m with three S2S contacts. Hans started on 20m using his KX3, and on his first contact got a contact from the US.



*The activation area is quite large, which is good because this summit is popular with hikers. Hans PB2T in the left photo; Paul HB9DST in the right photo.*