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# AACZ SKITOURENWOCHENENDE ROTONDOHÜTTE (MARCH 15-16, 2014)

Even the best of mountain plans are at the mercy of the weather. Twenty-three of us were booked into the Rotondo hut for the AACZ skiing weekend on the 15th and 16th of February. But heavy snow and a forecast of zero visibility made us cancel. Another opportunity opened up a month later but only ten of the original group could make it at short notice. Luckily there were exactly ten spaces left in the hut. So nine of us – Elena Borisova, Felix Dimigen, Raniero Della Peruta (with two guests), Robert Buessow, Martin Hood, Geoff Warnock and myself – met up in Realp on Saturday morning. Our tenth, Eugen Zalinescu, had decided to get a bit more exercise and was skiing in the long way via Winterhorn and Pizzo d'Orsirora.

We skied up the easy track to Ober Chäseren and then climbed west onto the broad northwestern slopes below the Rottälligrat. We had perfect skinning conditions until

we reached the Rottälligrat itself. Strong winds buffeted us as we hiked the narrow ridge to Rottällihorn. The clouds had come in from the south and what would have been a soft snow descent to the Rotondo hut was now a bone-jarring ride over the frozen ruts of yesterday's skiers.

The welcome at the hut was warm. A little bit of snow fell overnight, promising some nice skiing for the next day. On Sunday we divided into three groups: one heading over Leckipass and then a traverse over Stotziger Firsten down to Realp, another heading up to Hüenerstock, and the third towards Pizzo Rotondo, hoping to get into the Bedretto valley. Visibility was mixed with high clouds and mist drifting amongst the peaks. Not the best of conditions perhaps, but we all managed to get in a bit of adventure and some nice skiing.

*Roy Smith*

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## INTO THE VALLEY OF DECISIONS

Of the ten Hüttlis who took part in the windy Rotondo area ski-tour weekend organised by Roy Smith in March 2014 last spring, seven made the right decision – not to come with us over the pass into the Bedretto valley.

That left just Robert Buessow, Eugen Zalinescu and myself to ski out southwards from the hut into an unpromising dawn. Later, when we stood on the pass, the wisdom

of the majority became apparent. Our planned traverse wasn't going to work. For ten minutes, we stood and gazed into the swirling cloud, hoping it would clear. It didn't. Time to recalibrate, as those in-car GPS sets say: instead of the Rotondo, we could climb the Witenwasserstock. Or so we thought. As we approached, we saw another party – it turned out to be Roy's – skiing from the top of a lower summit. Ano-