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AACZ HOCHTOUREN-WEEKEND IN THE TURTMANN HUT

22/23–24 August 2014 – After a very wet summer, a group of 18 members, candidates and guests of the AACZ were happy to enjoy a dry and sunny end of August weekend which I had organized in Valais. Nearly everybody arrived at the Turtmann hut on Friday evening so as to have an early Saturday morning start.

Brunneghorn (3833m) was climbed by two groups on Saturday. Helen Alexander, Andreas Hirschi (guest) and Philip Oettershagen took the Normal route (WS) while Alex Fuchs, Hansi Wäsle, Norbert Ackerl, Robert Buessow, Regina Smejkal (candidate) and Vaclav Potesil (guest) scrambled up to the summit via the NW ridge (II, ZS) encountering a lot of loose rock without much scope for placing protection. In the second rock band they were able to make good steps in the firn slope for about 80m. For the last 20m, they had to traverse onto the north face to reach the summit where Alex did a great job leading the group to the top. Perhaps the significant amount of snow during the summer made the route-finding more challenging than usual.

Wolfi Fischer and Chris Nowzohour headed towards the "Klettergarten" for some multi-pitch routes and the Tyrolean traverse on the way. Another group including Andrey Vlasov (candidate), Simon Birrer (guest) and myself arrived at the hut on Saturday early afternoon and, after a short break, followed Jenna Denyes (candidate) up the cold and windy Barrhorn (3610m). Pamela Stathakis and Michael Altdorfer decided to climb Bishorn (4153m) via Mergash but had to turn back shortly before reaching the summit as it was getting late and the weather was turning bad.

In the evening we all met up for a hearty meal. The hut was overbooked and every spare mattress had to be used to accommodate all the guests.

The next day, Alex and Vaclav, Norbert and Robert, Simon and myself left the hut in the dark to climb Bishorn Ostgrat (ZS, II-III). When we reached the glacier in the morning light Norbert and Robert decided to turn back because of lack of warm clothes while the rest of us continued over the glacier towards the east ridge. After their experience of loose rock on Brunegghorn, Alex and Vaclav preferred to walk around the rocky part and join the ridge from the north at point 3939m. Simon and I continued over the ridge. The first 100m were full of fresh powder without any visible previous traces. The following rocky part was solid frozen and the climb was pleasant but short (~100m) and finally turned into sharp firn ridge. At 3939m we saw the other party climbing up the firn slope. After arriving on the summit, both teams descended via the normal route to the Cabane de Tracuit and on to Zinal.

On the same day, Pamela, Claudine Blaser and Wolfi climbed Brunneghorn via the normal route. Michael turned back at the glacier because he had to catch a flight the same day. Ändu, Helen, Hansi, Regina, Philipp and Norbert chose to climb Barrhorn. To sum up, it was a very active and successful weekend in a beautiful region where the AACZ club and associated friends explored most of the routes accessible from the hut.

Elena Borisova

NW ridge Brunegghorn (photo Norbert Ackerl)



Brunegghorn descent (photo Robert Buessow)

