
A "Wild" Thing

Post Conference Tour

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1. February 15

The weather forecast says it will be fine for the following 4 days! Seven participants and two guests climb from Lenk to the Iffighore, 2378 m, ski down to the lake and reach the Wildhornhütte. The warden is not there, so we start cooking dinner (and heating the small winter room at the same time). With a few more people coming, it gets rather crowded...

2. February 16

Fortunately we have melted enough snow last night, breakfast is ready soon. For the first hour, it is quite cold and we climb in the shade. On the saddle, we come out into the sun. We make a break and enjoy the view to the south. The glacier has a gentle slope, only the last part to the Wildhorn is steeper.

From the summit, we can see the entire panorama of the Bernese Alps and of the Valais. A cold breeze prevents us from staying longer at the top; down at the saddle it is much warmer. Two of us have to go back, they work on Mon-



Fig. 1: The last metres to the Wildhorn, 3246.3 m



Fig. 2: Skiing down from the Schnidehorn to the Rawilpass

day. We stick the skins again to our skis and climb to the Schnidehorn, 2937.3 m. On the way down to the Rawilpass, we curve through powder snow (although there has been no snowfall for more than two weeks!).

The last climb to the Wildstrubelhütte, 2791 m, requires the last bits of energy from some of us. But the warm welcome compensates that quickly. The old hut and the new addition harmonize perfectly. A beautiful sunset concludes the day.

3. February 17

It is only a short climb to the Wisshorelücke, and then we ski down to the Glacier de la Plaine Morte and push along the track in the flat for another kilometre and a half. At the



Fig. 3: At the top of Wildstrubel, 3243.5 m, with the Wildhorn in the background.



Fig. 4: Crossing the creek in the Ammertentäli.

bottom of the Chli Schneehore we rest before starting the steep slope. We ski down on the east side and climb to the summit of the Wildstrubel in half an hour. The view is just perfect – and still there is no cloud in sight!

On the glacier there is powder snow again. The slope beside the icefall is more than 40 degrees steep, everyone skis down safely. We put on the skins again for the last few metres to the Lämmernhütte, 2501 m. There are not many visitors, and we have a sleeping room for our own. But first of all everybody is thirsty. After dinner, most of us go to bed early.

4. February 18

As we leave the hut, the sun has just arrived. We climb to the Mittelgipfel (of the Wildstrubel massive, it has exactly the same height as the “west peak” Wildstrubel!). We ski along the ridge to the east. As we are so close, we climb the Grossstrubel too – that’s the third summit of 3243 metres! There follows a descent of almost 2200 m, through an icefall, narrow gullies, shrubs, trees and a creek bed.

At the bottom we miss the bus by a few minutes. But by skating on the cross country track we reach the KUSPO in a short time. We get our luggage out of the locked room; have a shower and a drink. Then we get on the bus, take the train to Zweisimmen, where we have only a few minutes to change to the train to Spiez, there again a quick change to the train for Berne. The “giants” of the Bernese Oberland, Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau are glowing red in the last sun-rays as if they wanted to say good-bye...