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SKI-TOURING WEEKEND SAN BERNARDINO

In March 2016, AACZ members of all age groups and skill levels took off southwards for a ski-touring weekend in the valleys around the San Bernardino pass. Despite uncertain weather conditions, around 20 club members assembled in San Bernardino's youth hostel and hotel. The first day was characterized by high avalanche danger due to snow falls of about 80cm within 24 hours. Thus, the day started out with a search for one's car hidden beneath a huge drift of snow and a subsequent shovelling workout. The touring itself was restricted to ascents (and very powder-heavy descents) of gentle slopes and a nearby ski resort.

On Sunday, the weather in southern Switzerland – and at the same time the hearts of the AACZ snow enthusiasts – cleared up a bit. With the forecast still predicting considerable avalanche danger, rather easy tours in the vicinity of the San Bernardino pass were attempted. A significant portion of the group even ventured towards the excellent weather and slightly better avalanche conditions near Airolo, thus finishing the touring weekend under a blue sky with the ascent of Föisc (2208m) in knee-deep powder.

Philipp Oettershagen

