

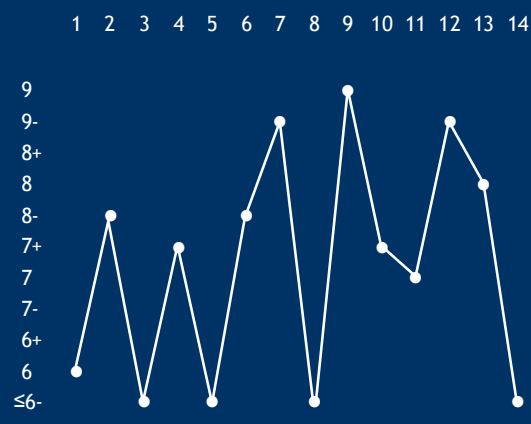


## In 2012 the Schertle-Pfeiler at Untersberg celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

50 years ago, in 1962 between July 6 and July 9, Werner Schertle († 1979) and Heini Steinkötter made the first ascent of the "Direkte Südwand" on the German side of the Untersberg which is located near Salzburg. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary the first ascent was honored by Renate Schertle and Albert Hirschbichler. The route dates back to the period of "Direttissima", thus the amount of material used was accordingly high (150 pitons, 4 wooden wedges, and 7 bolts).

**Schertle-Pfeiler**  
ABO-, 9(8-), S1-2  
S, 1650 m a.s.l.

W.Schertle (1962↑)  
330 clm (900 vam)



overall impression ★★ ★

- adventure ●
- variety ●●●
- scenery ●●●
- exposure ●●●
- rock quality ●
- steepness \
- fun factor

During 10 days in 1997, Richard Koller re-equipped the route in a perfect way using 70 bolts. Some sections of the route were altered substantially, because his intention was a free climb. For example, the entire P12 is now well to the right of the original line. In this way the original, predominantly artificial climb of grade VI/A3 has become a route in the 9th grade (according to UIAA) when redpointed.

In the Internet some people cite this route as an example of an over-equipped classical climb. However, fact is that this route had been almost forgotten: there were only 2 ascents between 1980 and 1997 due to the ongoing deterioration of the pitons. Therefore a re-equipment had to be made. Could one think of another way of doing the re-equipment than the way it was done? Replace the missing pitons with new pitons? Leave the original line unaltered without enabling a free ascent? Only partly replace the old pitons with bolts leaving the rest of the pitons exposed to decay? No, everything was done right: the route remains demanding, the courage and the performance of Schertle and Steinkötter can still be acknowledged. No doubt, the route is well protected, but with the focus to do it free. Lately, despite the re-equipment, the route has been nearly forgotten again. There are only very few recent ascents listed in the book that Schertle and Steinkötter left in the wall and which surprisingly is still in a very good condition. In 2009 there was just one party in the route, in 2010 there was none, and in 2011 there were only four until end of September. Our article intends to bring this route back into the focus of ambitious alpine climbers.

Why should one want to climb this route (3 stars out of 5)? The line is not perfect due to several traverses, there are several sections with loose rock (particularly in the yellow dolomite), some sections are dirty and stay longer wet after heavy rainfall. But you can be sure that you will have an exciting day. A retreat after P5 is only possible by climbing back the traverse, after P9 the retreat is almost impossible. The exposure is breath-taking: the large overhang in P9 belongs to the most airy passages that can be found in multi-pitch routes and demands a good moral (if you take a fall at or above the edge of the roof you should make sure to be able to reach the wall again). P9 is the crux pitch and rated 9 when redpointed. Other hard passages can be found in P7 (9-, single move), and in P12 (9-, endurance). A curiosity in this compact and steep wall is the perfect and totally unexpected bivouac area after P7. Finally, at the top of the climb you walk just 100 m to the Stöhrhaus where cake and coffee wait for your reward. For whatever reason, this climb earns more ascents which also would be good for the route because some of the loose rock would be removed and dirty passages be cleaned.

**Approach:** parking for hikers just outside Hinterrettenberg. From there in about 1:45 hour to the route.

**Start of the route:** on a ledge at a ring that is difficult to see from below. An old rope is hanging down to the rucksack depot. Instead of using the rope, better reach the ledge from the right.

**Guidebook:** Georg Sojer, Richard Koller, "Berchtesgaden I Ost", Panico Alpinverlag 2012



# Schertle-Pfeiler at Untersberg (D)

Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



**P14: 5+, b4, p1**

**P13: 8, b8**

beautiful, single move at the beginning, then easier, wall book from the first ascent at the end

**P12: 9-, b10**

splendid despite some dirt, steep, endurance, not the original line

**P11: 7, b8**

slightly easier than P10 in more solid yellow rock, exposed and beautiful

**P10: 7+, b11**

yellow and not reliable rock, steep crack, partly different from the original line

**P9: 9, b11**

often wet at the start, easier in the middle, very hard and extremely exposed roof

**P8: 3, b1**

**P7: 9-, b5**

strenuous and very hard at the end

**P6: 8-, b7**

single move, often wet

**P5: 5+, b5**

**P4: 7+, b4**

short but beautiful, differs from the original line

**P3: 5+, b4**

**P2: 8-, b6**

beautiful

**P1: 6, b6**

not very nice





# Schertle-Pfeiler at Untersberg (D)

Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



In the incredibly airy P9, the crux pitch.





# Schertle-Pfeiler at Untersberg (D)

Multi-pitch climbing routes in the Alps



P5 which leads into the steep part of the wall.



In P10 which has some loose rock.



In P9 after the roof.



P12, the last of the three very hard pitches, which unfortunately is somewhat dirty at the end.