



OK8WFF/p - 06.05.2017

Nature Reserve Rathsam OKFF-0895



Nature Reserve Rathsam has a size of around 50 ha and is located about 4 km away from the village Liba in Czech Republic, directly on the german border and not too far away from the city of Cheb (Eger). The large area with meadows is an important area for migratory birds and the combination of grassland and trees is also home for a lot of amphibians like the crossed viper. The area is surrounded by walking and biking trails as well on the czech and the german side were the two rivers Röslau and Eger (Cheb) meet together.

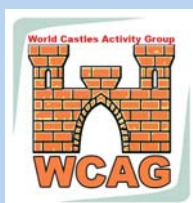


I made the first trips in the area in 2015 were the plans became structure, to make an activity from here. On the german side you find the town Hohenberg with a representative castle. This year at the district-meeting also our local radio club had to present a forecast of the 2017 planned activities. When writing the documentation to Peter DO1NPF, our district-leader, I got a quick response from him. He saw our planned WWFF-activities this year and asked if he could take part on such an action. Of course we were very happy and only had to sort out what would be a best destination for the common project. We wanted to present him WWFF from a positive aspect and searched for a

possibly new one in the area. Four weeks ago, I made the first pre-trip to find the final location. Of course, as the area is forbidden to approach with car, it would be an extreme portable operation but that was also the goal to show WWFF under real nature-aspects.



The contest-calendar was checked and 22.april was the first plan. However the weather made it impossible. Finally we choosed the may 06 as replacement. Also there the week before it was again very cold with temperatures around the freezing-point





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Peter DO1NPF and Konrad DH6RAE with the station on the shopping-trolley

and two days before the planned activity there were heavy rainfalls which produced a lot of mud but finally the weather for saturday (only) should be dry and a bit sunny, so we decided one day ago for the final go.

Finally also Konrad DH6RAE agreed to take part so we met at my homelocation for the short car-trip to Hohenberg where we started on a parking-place, 300 meters under the castle of Hohenberg, to prepare for the walk.

With the main-gear on the shopping-trolley with the appended glas fiber-mast and some additional baggage we started and 2km after passing into czech republic we found a suitable location on a flat area with free shot to all directions and the river not too far away.

At 0708 UTC we started with the first CQ-call exactly on 7.144 were our good friends Pit YO3JW close followed by Luciano I5FLN awaited us and after the first appearance in the DX-cluster the adventure started.

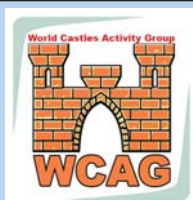
Apparently our signal was good, we were running the whole operation full power 100 watts out of a 74ah battery which brought the trolley to a complete weight of 35 kilogramm. Only conditions were again changeable and the closer countries like some areas of germany, austria had difficulties and confirmed that the signals were often going up and down within a few minutes.

Excellent however was the propagation into italy, poland, france. The top scoring countries were italy with 82 contacts,

followed by germany 53, poland 46, france 17, belgium and spain, both 11 stations in the log.

When the first hour was over, we still could keep up on the same frequency on 40 meters and the result with exact 190 contacts was fantastic and we could keep up the good run for almost one further hour.

We met also some walkers and bikers which came along the trail. Weather was looking like rain when we arrived, but then the sun was coming out and the temperature was rising. We had some antennas with us but finally decided to keep up running with the 20/40 meter Windom and don't lose too much time for any experiments.





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Some short tests on 20 meters were done, but band appeared during all attempts more or less closed. 9H1FL from Malta made it into the log however beside some british, spanish or russian stations there was big silence. So we finally went back for another short run on 40 meters.

After exactly 2 hours and 4 minutes operating time we stopped at 0913 UTC with Hans SM3TLG who made it as latest contact in the log.

Finally close to dinner-time we wanted to make a short operation from the castle and then to do a break together and discuss a little bit.

The final result were 315 contacts with exact 30 different countries reached.

Special thanks for taking part on the adventure goes to Peter DO1NPF. Hopefully we could give you some positive insight into the WWFF-activities and feel free to join us anytime again in one of the following operations, many thanks as well to Konrad DH6RAE

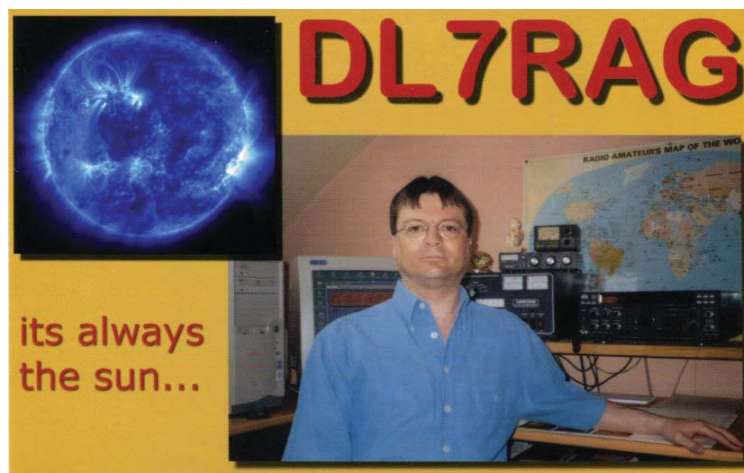
73, 44, 11, Manfred DF6EX see you next time from elsewhere

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In memory to a great ham:

Finally we wish to dedicate this very successful operation to our team-QSL-manager Heinz DL7RAG who became a silent key at 03.05.2016 almost exactly one year before this operation with only 53 years.

When Team DA0CW/p started in 2010 with the first WWFF and later Castle-expeditions, Heinz was always a great supporter and handled in the following years more than 25000 QSL-cards for the calls DP7COTA, DA0CW/p, DA0WCA, OK8WFF/p and was always a great supporter of our activities and handled the big bunch of incoming cards alone. All stations, which worked us have for sure have received a lot of our around 40 different color-



QSL-cards signed by him.

Thank you for all your great help Heinz

73 and rest in peace

Your friends from team DA0CW and your colleagues from DARC-OV-Stiftland U23

