



DA0CW/p 01.may 2013 DLFF-119
Nature-Park Steinwald
Castle of Grötschenreuth DL-02829 BOB-038



The nature-park Steinwald (stonewood) was covered by a lot of hammer-mills in the 12th and 13th century. The water of the nearby river Fichtelnaab was used to drive the machines. The owner of that possessions were mostly rich people and so several of the landed gentry was able to build their own small palace. In the beginning of the 16th century the ironwork was no longer rentable in that area as it was cheaper to get the required power for ironwork out of coal. In 1611 the castle of Grötschenreuth was built on top of the hill above the river Fichtelnaab. The portal tower in the back was added 1870 and the two towers with the wound-



Castle of Grötschenreuth

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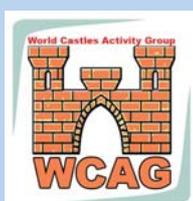
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May 01 is a free day in Germany and this year the 12th time also the date for the middle-german castle day. Last year we proposed also a German wide castle-activity-day on that date. So this year the second time also the German castle day.

When planning for this event I selected one castle in the area of nature-park Steinwald. Distance was not too far and Grötschenreuth is a very small village with only around 300 inhabitants. As May 01 is also the date to set up the maypole in each village, I preferred to be a bit outside in the pure nature.

Weather forecast was not so perfect, it was cold the whole day and very windy, however finally we had to be more than lucky that no rain appeared but it never looked like spring, when leaving the car you always had an autumn feeling with heavy winds.

After setting up the station and the first antenna-tests SWR was quite good, however 20 meters were I did the first attempts was unproductive. Worked at 0711 UTC there my first station with good old friend Sergey RA3PCI. He appears in almost 35 of my portable-logs since 2010. But after only a couple of contacts I had to leave 14MHz as the band was totally down. Tried my luck on 40 but the band was absolutely





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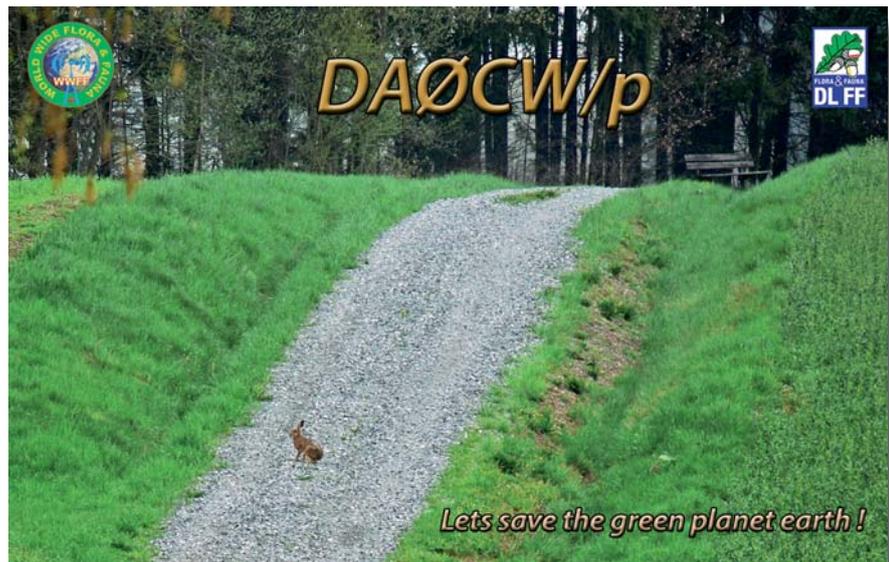


full. The austrian contest this day covered a wide range of the SSB-band. So tried two or three times until I got a frequency which was acceptable. This was also the biggest thrill during this morning to defend the frequency against the stations coming closer and closer from two sides. This made it also nearly impossible for me to work a lot of the other castle-stations, because when you left it was very strange to get a new frequency. So I mainly concentrated to call my own and hand out the new multiplier DL-02829. Beside this also a lot of stations were happy to get the nature-park-multiplier too.



In some periods it was running absolutely seamless and more stations were calling that I was able to work down. But the second half of the operation it dried out a bit and the conditions went down rapidly. I made further attempts also on 20 and got some short openings there with about 40 contacts. Altogether we stopped at 1003 UTC with a total of 215 stations worked 47 percent from germany, 11 percent italian and 10 percent polish stations. My last contact

was a CW-QSO with my friend Fred DL8DXL/p who gave me three castles with one contact plus a new DLFF. The rig was my normal portable FT-450 AT with Heil-Headset powered by a separate car-battery. Antenna: double-dipole. Thanks to all stations who gave us a call. If you want to look if you are in the log, check:
<http://logsearch.wwff.co>
<http://www.wcagroup.org>
 73, 44, 11 cu from the next one
 All reports from previous activities can be found at:
<http://www.qrz.com/db/da0cw>
 73, 44, 11 cu from the next one
 Manfred -DF6EX-



Flora-Fauna-Committee-member
 World Castle Activator Group #036
 COTA-Team-Germany #037
 COTA-Team-Russia COTA-RU #011
 SP-CFF-member #029
 SP-CFF-honorary member #004

small visitor behind the castle

