



DP7COTA 01.may 2012 DL-02336 BOB-002
Castle of Neuhaus



The Castle of Neuhaus is located in a deep valley but there on top of an about 30meters high stone-



wall. The castle was built in th 13th century by the earl of Leuchtenberg. Then it was first loaned and later sold to the monastery of Waldsassen. In the 17th century it was re-furbished and became the place of the judge of the monastery. Directly beside the castle which was more a palace than a castle and was never used by knights, there is a tower called „Buttertube“ as it looks looks like this. During the period of secularisation in the begin of the 19th century the castle was sold back to the city of Neuhaus. They used it at first as administration-building and later as a school. Today the castle is the location of the Waldnaabtal-museum. The town of Neuhaus is located about 15km north of Weiden. The castle is also located in the WFF-area DLFF093, nature park „nördlicher oberpfälzer Wald“.

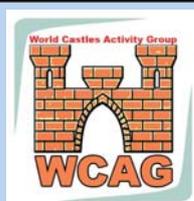
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At may 01 this year happened the first time the german castle day together with the middle-german castle-day. So of course I tried also to bring some activity from the nearby located castles. The weather-forecast was not so promising, however the announced heavy rain seemed to appear one day earlier. When looking out of the window in the morning my xyl and me decided to go for the planned castle-activation. Neuhaus was not too far away from our home-location we only had to find a good location for operating. As the castle is deep in the valley we decided to stay a bit higher and found a good place in an industrial-park. As it was a free day in germany there was not too much business and we could use some fences for hanging up the dipoles. Starting at 0724 UTC again we had no luck with 20 meters. Conditions were disillusioned as during the past castle-trips too. So finally we had to concentrate again on 40 meters. I switched several times back but always the same result. There was also the austrian activity day so band was very busy but after some intensive search could find an acceptable frequence and again was surprised on the high sequence of callers. There were also a lot of other german castle stations populating the band and it was a funny and successful morning. We met a lot of friends from previous operations. The temperature was rising up to 25 degrees and it was pretty warm in the black car..

In about two hours of operating time we could get 189 stations into our log for this first time operation from BOB-002.

Reaching dinner-time the conditions dropped down a bit and after some unsuccessful attempts we decided to make at first a brake for a mediterranean dinner to get back some energy :-).

While discussing our planning we decided as weather appeared stabile to continue in the afternoon with another castle.





DP7COTA 01.may 2012 DL-02337 BOB-003
Castle of Wildenau



The Castle of Wildenau was built around the year 1100 by the earl of Sulzbach. In the 12th century it came in the lineage of the „Staufer“ the famous noblesse of this time. During the Hussitten-war in the 15th century the castle was totally destroyed and rebuilt later. In the year 1992 the Ackermann family bought the mostly destroyed building and started with the restoration. It took almost ten years. So the castle today is in private ownerwhip however is also used for the „Wildenauer castle-celebration“ wich includes also an historical market.

From our dinner-location till the next stop on our tour we had to drive about 30 km. Wildenau is also about 20km away from the city of Weiden, however into the other direction.

When arriving in Wildenau we first had to sort out the various locations. As the weather was so good a lot of farmers were outside and some places looked not so functional. Finally at the end of the town we found a good solution were nobody could be disturbed in the work and a soccer-game on the opposite-side of the road. No fence at all available so we had to take our own plastic-holders to keep the dipole-ends off the floor. Used it again inverted with the middle on the mast mounted beside the car in a height of six meters. Operation started at 1157 UTC with another attempt on

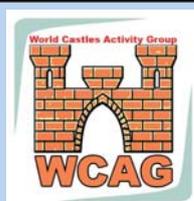


Castle of Wildenau DL-02337 BOB-003



building down the „shack“

20meters which was not so successful. Later then continued again on 40 meters. Propagation in the afternoon now there was also bader. From time to time I tried back to 20 and finally could get there a couple of contacts in the log. However most efficient again was 40. The sun came out more and more and made it harder to continue in the car. Also the voice still was a bit handicapped so finally after again two hours of operation-time finally we could get 111 stations in the log for another new castle-multiplier. So everything was packed for the tour back home.





DP7COTA 01.may 2012 DL-02335 BOB-001
Castle of Falkenberg



Castle of Falkenberg DL-02335 BOB-001

The oldest parts of the castle of Falkenberg are dated back to the 11th century. During the time periods it often had changing owners. In the 13th century the owner were the „Leuchtenberger“ in the 14th century it was in the ownership of the monastery Waldsassen. In the thirty years war it was conquered by the swedish general Königsmarck. In the 20th century the castle was in the ownership of Friedrich Werner von der Schulenburg who was german ambassador in moscow. He restored the building and wanted to spent his retirement years there. However later he was involved in the assassination against Hitler and was executed. In december 2008 the castle was buyed by the town of Falkenberg.

The tour started at this location and finally should end also here. After calling the whole day in SSB I finally decided to end the day with CW. When we arrived at home and unloaded the car I started at 1644 UTC with the

latest hour of this days activity. Again at first 40 meters but then moving to 30 and later 17 meters I could hand out the third castle point this day to altogether 87 stations.

The castle is not so rare as meanwhile several thousand contacts were made from here however still got some interest. This was also the point were I started with WCA at all. When moving my QTH to Falkenberg with the castle-view out of the window I first tried to get a castle-number for it. When talking with Gerhard DL5AWI from COTA he told me there is currently nowone responsible for bavaria-east. So I made it my own and brought the first 44 castles on the listing bavaria-east were I have actually activated 15 out of them. So there is quite a bit more to do and some plans for further operations also combinations with WFF already exist.

Finally an altogether pleasant day with a lot of other castle-stations on the band. Thanks to all callers and of course SWLs on the bands. Thanks also to my xyl for taking part. When switching on the computer got also a lot of mails coming in.

All logs will be posted shortly to the WCA-database and for the first castle also to the WFF-database.

73, 44, 11 till the next time Manfred -DF6EX-
World Castle Activator Group #036 COTA-Team-Germany #037
Informations about our other activities can be found at:

<http://blog.winqsl.com> in english <http://www.u23.de> in german.

