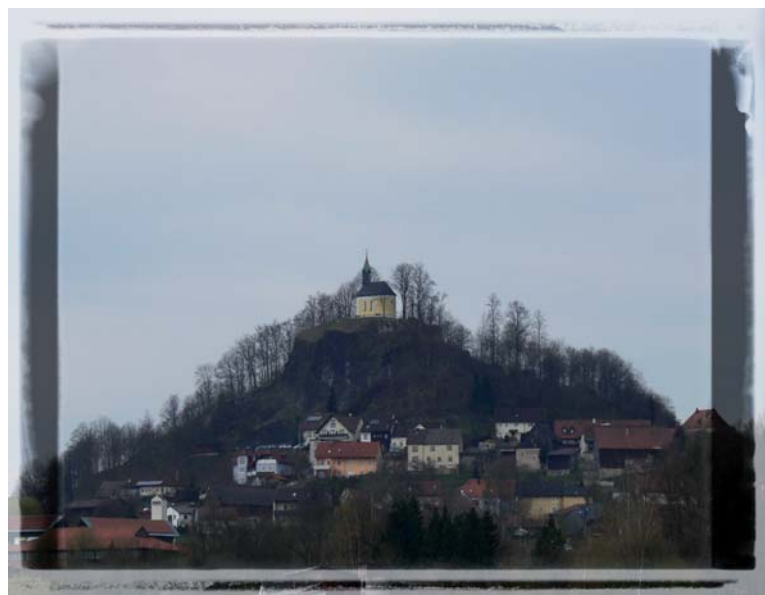




DP7COTA 09.april 2012 DL-02341 BOB-007  
The Hulk of Parkstein



To my biggest surprise, my XYL had not enough after two easter castle trips. So we decided very short-ly do add one more. We planned again for a castle in the closer environment, as the temperatures



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still were not so good, but this day peaking the 10 degrees was much better than the day before. Destination was the former castle of Parkstein. In earlier years it was one of the biggest castles in the area and was in the 12th century in the ownership of Friedrich Barbarossa I. There were a lot of changing owners trough the decades however in 18th century the destruction of the castle started. Stones from the building were used to create the tower of the church from the the nearby city of Weiden. After the town Parkstein was burned down in 1835 they used also big number of the stones from the fortress to rebuild the town. Also in that time a chappel was built on top of the hill. Meanwhile there are only rests from the fortress walls surrounding the basalt rock. Alexander from Humboldt said the 38meter high basalt cone is the most beautiful in europe. In 2004 it was added as number 20 in the

listing of the 100 most beautiful geotopes in bavaria. The town is also located in a nature-park-area. The location for the activation was quickly found. After setting up the station with the antenna in reduced height because of the heavy winds, DP7COTA appeared at 1039UTC. Again 20 meters was absolutely bad. Only a few contacts could be done there. However 40 meters was running excellently and a lot of stations could be worked. Again it was an SSB-only-operation. Beside the new castle-number I could hand out also the DLFF-park-number DLFF-093 from this location. Anyway often activated before this was again an interesting combination for some callers and also the special-DOK COTA for DLD-award. Always when I had the feeling that the interest was turning down another wave of stations appeared and I had a lot of fun to work down the pile. Around 1240UTC 40meter was going down and I made another attempt on 20 meters, but again only a few stations were found at all on the band. So after 2 hours 15 minutes in the cold car and the rain was starting we decided to build down the antenna and mast and prepare for go home. Altogether 279 contacts could be done. So especially from castle-activations this was my most successful till today (as one-operator-castle-activation). So many thanks to all stations which were calling in. Sorry for that who couldn't get a contact despite of the conditions. Special QSL-card comes automatically via buro via DL7RAG. Thanks for calling me and hope to meet you again from the next castle-trip, maybe again a WFF-WCA-combination.

Equipment was FT450AT with double-dipole about 5 meters up, powered by separate car-battery. 73, 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

