



**Activation Nature Park Steinwald DLFF-119 and World Castle Award DL-02346**

Our 10th WFF-operation should go again to our home-nature-park „Steinwald“. We made the first activation of this park on may 02, 2010. Altogether 460QSOs were done last year. However meanwhile we worked on some improvements



Manfred DF6EX same position as usual in the trailer on 20/40.

on our own working-methods and of course the antenna-system. Last year we had strong noises from a nearby commercial transmitter and also there was a contest-activity. So we checked carefully and found out that no contest-was in our planned time-frame which should disturb us. However lot of other WFF-activities were announced and especially the weather made some troubles during the final days before operation with always unexpected heavy rainfalls and strong thunderstorms. We agreed together that we want to use a different location which was also a bit higher than the 2010-location. We were at 760meters asl and with the friendly support from Andrew RN1CW and Gerhard DL5AWI we managed to get a new reference number for the World Castle Award for the nearby our QTH located „Burgruine Weissenstein“. So all contacts were valid for DLFF-119 and for WCA DL-02346 (COTA-Nr. BOB-012). We started around 0430UTC in the morning from home. This time „only“ the three initiators of Team DAOCW/p took part. Günther DC2RK (offering his mobile-QTH, generator and doing all other supporting works around), Xaver DK4RM (on the outdoor-station on 80,30,17meters), Manfred DF6EX (in the trailer running 40 and 20meters). First call on 40meter on 7.024 our QSL-manager



DL-02346

DL7RAG was the nr. 1 in the log and the first spot from him in the cluster produced a nice run in CW. While the second station was installed the main-station was running CW on 40 and later 20 meters. After two hours the number of callers was quite limited and the propagation changed with very heavy noises on the bands. 40 meter was almost dead and no caller could be identified clearly. Again a change to 20 meters than brought the turn-back.

A really nice and long short-skip opening on 14.244 appeared and we could work in a series far more than 200 stations also with a lot of SP, DL, PA, ON in



Günther DC2RK and Xaver DK4RM in front of the park-information



it. So again after a hard start it was looking like a finally good end-result. However more and more heavy clouds and QRN appeared in our stations, so it was not clear how long we



Xaver DK4RM working down 30 and 17 meters



should stay because we finally didn't want to dismantle the camp on this location within a thunderstorm. However Murphy this time took us the decision. Just after putting N3GJ at 1116utc in our log the stations went out, because the generator stopped. When we watched the surrounding weather-situation we found that it would be better to break down everything before to to an attempt to re-

pair the generator. So everything was packed carefully in our cars. 721 QSOs were done with about 60 percent CW, 40 percent SSB. Finally after everything was packed we took a short excursion into the history of the nearby located castle or fortress „Weissenstein“ located on top of the nature-park „Steinwald“.

There was no castle-activity before in our DARC-district. So our local ham-radio-club started to be the new coordinator in our district. As first step we introduced 16 castles in our area the north-eastern upper-palatinate. These



Xaver and Günther „entering“ the castle

were referenced from the german COTA-team and also from the international WCA-team.

Of course also in the future this will be an interesting thing to combine both interest-groups and we have also similar situations in other parks.

So this new activity was againg a great success for our team rising the total amount of contacts far above the 5000 QSOs totally.

Equipment:

Yaesu FT2000 D

Yaesu FT990

double-dipole 30/17

double-dipole 40/20

about ten meters up in the trees.



You don't need to send a QSL-card.

All contacts will be confirmed automatically with a special DA0CW/p-WFF-QSL-card from our QSL-manager Heinz DL7RAG.

BOB-012

Also all logs will be posted to the WFF-database and also the WCA-database that you hopefully get confirmed two new counters for your personal records.

Thanks for the QSOs, thanks also to all SWLs who heard us (confirmation sure)  
Hope to meet you from elsewhere.

73, 44, Team DA0CW/p



Manfred on top of the fortress, with a view to OKFF-006, OKFF-012, DLFF-058, DLFF-098, DLFF-093 and so on and so on ....