



Nature-Park Steigerwald DLFF-117 17.september 2011



What you think is often different from what you ´re doing. In august we made our „last“-team-operation for the season 2011. On our latest club-meeting we still had some WFF-discussions. So finally we agreed that we probably will make another „last“ trip of the year together. The destination was easily selected cause I planned already two weeks ago with my xyl to go there however the contests on that weekends made it not effective. So the nature-park „Steigerwald“ should be the destination for the tour. It´s nearly the same distance like one



Our camp-setup in DLFF-117

month before in Hassberge, so for me about 180km distance to drive. Steigerwald is located very closed to Hassberge but on the opposite side of the river Main. Our first planned location selected by Google-Maps was near the town of Eltmann. Our only time frame for this activity would be september 17th, because also this weekend SAC-contest but in this case we could have been nearly ready before the contest starts. Everything was running well but than the weather changed rapidly. In our

last phone-contacts one day before start we were nearly at a point to cancel everything because weather-forecasts were looking dramatically with heavy rain and especially announced thunderstorms in that area. So our last agreement was to pack everything and finally if really looks so bad to cancel in the morning because in the days before sometimes temperatures down to 2 degrees, so it wouldn´t be so funny to continue then with additional rainfall and noise from the thunderstorm. The team as usual was Günther DC2RK for logistik and supply, Xaver DK4RM running 30 and 17 meters, and me, Manfred DF6EX, running 40 and 20 meters. When I picked up Xaver at his home we first drove through a heavy rainfall but then sky was clearing a bit. When reaching the freeway sun still appeared a bit, so we hoped that it would be better than announced. Günther´s QTH is a bit closer to the destination so he started at 0400 UTC however he couldn´t drive so fast with his camper and the trailer behind.



Our meeting-point was directly in the park-area where we should find then as fast as possible an acceptable location. After looking on the weather announcements we dropped our first location and decided to go a bit closer to Bamberg where the bad weather should appear later the day were we hopefully already left. So the meeting-point was near the town of Viereth-Trunstadt on the upper eastern



one of the numerous ships passing our location

edge from the park. Günther arrived five minutes before us and found a large parking-area which took us exactly 10 seconds to decide that this would be an acceptable accommodation. With a total length of around 100 meters we could build our two antennas in an acceptable distance to avoid distortions between the two stations. Our planned start was for 0700 UTC. After building up the first antenna

with the support from some fiberglass-masts (because the trees were too low) the first station started at 0655 UTC with OK2SFO as first one in the log. So we were exactly in the plan. Hopefully weather would still keep as good as it currently was. Still overcasted but no rain. In the meantime Xaver and Günther built up the second antenna for 30 and 17. This time the second shack was in the camper

cause outside was too risky. As there was the announced SAC-contest in CW this Saturday we first started in CW as later when contest was beginning we would have enough time to continue in phone. The start on 40 meters was slow. Not too many callers. I made less than one hour in this mode and then changed to SSB, as it seemed to be more productive. Meanwhile at 0706 also Xaver with the second station was on the air on 30 meters beginning with HA7UW. and later On 40 meters SSB it was as usual difficult to find a clear



Xaver DK4RM in the camper



Günther DC2RK seems really to enjoy the trip

frequency and I moved up to 7.156. Begin was again hard, till I found a station which announced me in the cluster then the hell started. Never heard such pileup before in any activation. It was difficult to get it under control. First I tried with split 3 up, but that was nearly the same. Only one big chaos calling on and on and not too much to find out. Then I switched back to transceive and used the method which I normally hate, calling by numbers. This was the only possibility to work down the whole bunch of stations. Anyhow

I had a good run, but then again it rapidly broke down and there were not so many interested stations. What

I saw in the previous activations was also the same in this one. In 2010 we had large numbers of russian and ukraine hams in the log. Currently it seems that the WFF-hype is there getting smaller because when we moved to 20 meters there was not so high interest as in earlier activations. Also Xaver had sometimes a hard time on 30 meters not so many callers and our number of logged stations was claiming not so fast. He soon changed to 17 meters and this was his better band this day. This was the first activity from Steigerwald. I checked all cluster-spots finding only one announced spot indicating DLFF-117 however seems that this was in error as the station was not located there. I also rechecked with Igor's EW4DX database and there was no credit before with this park. So we continued with our own set assignment to give it out to as many as possible. Meanwhile also

the first rain-clouds appeared. Anyway sitting in the trailer with not too many contact to the world around I just could hear from time to time the rapid rain-falls which were coming for a few minutes and then luckily dissappeared again. So altogether we had great luck with the weather and no thunderstorm at all during our complete stay. Günther well supported us with coffee during the operation as usual. In the early



Manfred DF6EX in the trailer working 40 meters SSB

afternoon also the first DX-stations appeared in our logs on 20 and 17 meters. Our antenna-setup is not perfect for DX, mainly constructed to satisfy europe however a number of stateside, canadian and japanese callers made it into the DA0CW-log. We first planned to stay until 1200 UTC but when the next shower appeared and we extended the activity for about an hour to dismantle everything with dry feet. The trip finally resulted in 935 QSOs within a totally operation-time of six hours (exactly 368 minutes). That makes an average score of 152 QSOs per hour. Without the eight dupes there are 927 remaining contacts with altogether 829 unique callsigns in the log. Our top-band again was 40 meters with a grand total of 403 QSOs followed by 20 meters with 203 and close behind 17 meters with 200 contacts. From the country-aspect leader was DL with 174 contacts, followed on place 2 with UA. The third place went to I with 83 and close behind UR with 81 QSO. Last QSO was with S58AL at 1303 UTC on 20meter phone.

With my team-colleagues Xaver and Günther this was our sixth trip together in 2011 with nearly 5000 QSOs. Not planned but finally very interesting we had the chance from the small number of unactivated in germany to hand out two new ones at the end of the season. We had some more plans for this year however weather was often changing too rapidly to continue. For my own this was my trip number 13 in this years season activating 10 different WFFs and 7 new castles. Our QSL-manager Heinz DL7RAG for sure will hope that this was the last but currently I cannot promise him. Our general practice for all operations is to get a chance for everyone who is interested to be in the log. All QSOs will be as soon as possible in EW4DX-database as it´s the only interesting thing for WFF-hunters, so it normally takes one or two weeks maximum for the upload. Every station gets an interesting QSL-card for the confirmation. So we meanwhile produced ten different colour-QSL-cards for our past operations. All designed with nature-motives from our area. Every contact will be confirmed automatically. So you don´t need to send your card as we don´t collect for DA0CW or OK8WFF. Thanks to all stations which were calling and giving the sense for the portable-operations. Also thanks to the SWL-stations sending us their reports. Enjoy your time on the radio and the beauty of the nature and hope to meet you probably from another WFF-area or WCA-castle.

73, 44,
Manfred -DF6EX-

for

Team DA0CW/p

Günther	DC2RK	Supply/Logistik
Xaver	DK4RM	17/30 Meter
Manfred	DF6EX	20/40 Meter

Informations about our other activities can be found at:

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

