



DP7COTA 30.june 2012 DLFF-143 Nature-Reserve Waldnaabtal

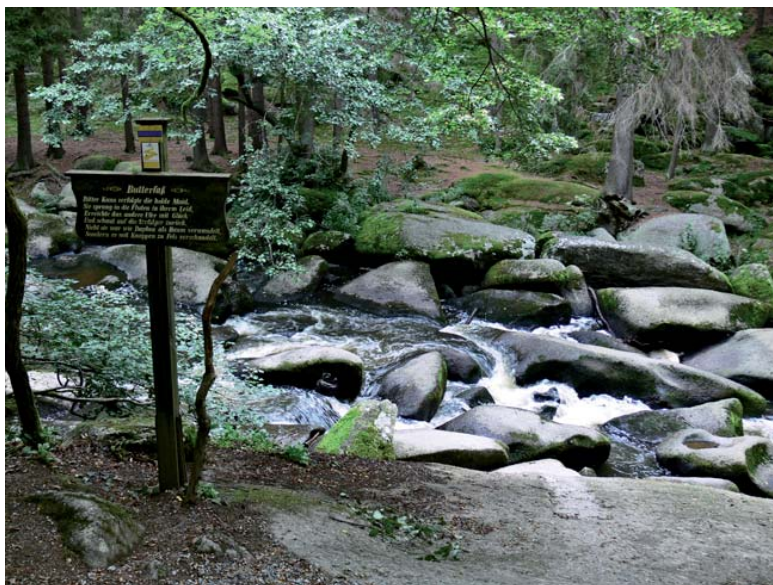


Nature-Reserve „Waldnaabtal“ is located about 20 km north of the city of Weiden and about 20km away from Czech Republic. The area is under nature-protection since 1950. It´s similar like a canyon

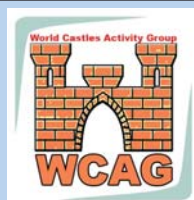


which made by the river Waldnaab searching it´s way through massive granit during the past million of years. There are some sightseeings along the river through the valley called for example „Butterfass“ (buttertube) or „Kammerwagen“ The area is a paradise for walker and biker with a wooden house in the middle with a water-wheel and more than enough place also for children to play in the middle of the nature. Good wander-ways surrounding the valley in all directions and you can choose trips between 1,5 or 5 hours to reach your destination. The area is also part of the bavarian-bohemian geopark.

The water-wheel beside the wooden house in the centre While it´s a beautiful location by foot or with the bike, it´s difficult at all to access the area by car. There is only one place where you can go to and have also an acceptable room for antennas. Together with my friend Günther DC2RK who accompanied me in several trips before during the past years we planned for june 30 as it looked nearly free from bigger contest-events. When I was leaving in the morning it started to rain. When I reached our operating-place the first thunder were rolling. So at first I preferred to stay in the car because we were just under a big powerline which was not so funny if lightning starts. However then after about 15 minutes the bad weather disappeared and the sun came out over the valley. Just right in time because Günther arrived with his camper and the trailer. So we started a couple of minutes past 0500 UTC to bring up the first antenna the double-dipole for 20/40 in the trees. While also the station was arranged I started in the trailer with the operation while Günther finished the setup with the 17/30-meter-dipole. As I was the only operator four bands should be more then enough. When turning on the FT2000 and checking the SWR and the chance for a good frequency I found 40 meters very silent. So it was no problem at all



view to the butter-tube





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to start exactly at 7.144. After three calls Luciano I5FLN called me and put us directly in the cluster. As usual with a good frequency and a loud signal which we seemed to have the hell broke out. Two times I had to go the unlikely way to go by numbers because otherwise nearly no control. Signals came in booming from everywhere in europe and it made a lot of fun to work down the always growing number of stations. Finally the first hour on 40 meter brought 165 stations in the log. So I remained on 40 meters until 0715 with a total of nearly 250 contacts there when the propagations were changing a bit so decided to try my luck on 20 meters. Against all

the water follow its way through activations in 2010 and 2011 where we often had 40 up to 50 percent of the QSOs on 20 meters, this year I had always the similar results in my meanwhile 15 portable operations in 2012, that 20 meters is mostly inproductive and extremely changeable. However I started to switch to CW and the WARC-bands to fill the log and from time to time it was running again well with some hard times in the middle of the operation. We had also some information material about ham-radio with us as there were a lot of tourists starting from our location to the centre of the nature reserve. After switching between the bands and moving to CW I returned again to 40 meters were meanwhile a lot of german stations had now also good openings and the number of 40 meter contacts until the end of the operation raised to more than 450, so this was de-



our camp-setup





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finitely our top-band this day. On 20 meters we finally concluded with 210 contacts, WARC-bands were not so effective, no short-skip propagations and of course with that antenna setup not the chance to put out big signals in DX. From the mode-side there was 80 percent SSB and 20 percent CW. I had a good place in the trailer however temperatures this day were extreme so I made unusual some short breaks because had the final hours constantly 38 degrees in my „shack“. The altogether operation-time were 6,5 hours. The result was not so bad, altogether 760 contacts. The top-country in our log this time was DL with 145 contacts, number two

thanks to Günther DC2RK for his great support

taken by Italy with 84 QSOs followed by nr. 3 Poland with 74 contacts. A separate foto-QSL for this activity will go to the printer next week. As the special call DP7COTA is limited until February next year, I plan to do a second activation later this year to give also those a chance who missed us this time. The location we used is also in qualifying distance for the World Castle Award. So beside the DLFF-143 and the special-DOK COTA, this contacts count also for WCA DL-02335.

The logs were already posted to WFF and WCA for the electronic databases. Thanks a lot for all sta-



Manfred DF6EX operating DP7COTA

tions which were calling in and made this to a very successful event. Thanks also to the listeners and their interest. All SWL-cards for sure will be answered too via buro.

At the end Günther and me celebrated the success with an ice-cold alcohol-free beer.

QSL as usual automatically via our QSL-Manager DL7RAG

73, 44, 11 cu from the next one

Manfred -DF6EX-

WFF-Committee-member

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.

Germany DP7COTA
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WFF WCAG DL FF

