



OK8WFF/p - 05.04.2016

WWFF OKFF-0312

National Nature Monument Zelezná Hurka



A recent volcanic field: Ten years after geoscientists had found a second volcanic centre north of Mytina in the 1990s, they made a sensational discovery. On top of the hill Rehberg they found the youngest maar volcano of central europe, outside the Eifel volcanic field. Zelezná Hurka (german name: Eisenbühl) has a height of around 20 meters and is the smallest volcano in west-bohemia. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe discovered the area in 1823 and found great interest on the different mineral-sources there. Location is between the village of Neualbenreuth on the german side and Mytina on the czech side.



information table about Zelezná Hurka

Since more than one year I was planning to make an activity from that location. It's reachable on the german side on a small former custom-road.

The border-crossing is for walkers only. The surrounding area on the german side got an impressive rise of visitors during the past years, as near Neualbenreuth the Sibyllenbad, a state-recognized mineral spring spa resort was established some years ago with a lot of visitors and guests.

At the end of last year I finished my hand-carrier but that time was too late to go, as

the weather was too unstable.

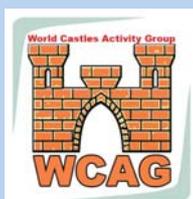
There is also an extreme vegetation there and no really way to go there during summer, as the whole area is surrounded by fields and of course the ground conditions are supporting the growth extreme. Size of the protected area is only 3,5 ha and election was in 1961 as national nature monument.

So from my point of view, only spring or autumn would make sense. During the past days weather was not so impressive but I had two days free on monday and tuesday and when I heard the weather forecast for tuesday we decided short termed to do an attempt.

In the first usage of the hand-carrier in field of course the plan was also to detect some



DF6EX - leaving germany





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vegetation there in late may 2015



vegetation there in early april 2016, so time to go now or wait until summer is over

problems to avoid them for future, maybe bigger activities.

The carrier worked in most points as planned, however found out that the positioning of the small fiberglass-mast needs to be improved as it was too weak.

At the beginning of the operation we had beautiful spring weather with temperatures up to 21 degrees, however at the end the wind came up very heavy and sometimes it was difficult to keep the antenna-setup under control.

We announced the begin of the activity for 1130-1200 utc. Finally we were on the air at 1210 UTC with HB9TWG as first station in the log.

Of course no phone-connection there, but we had the luck that the 2nd station which called us spotted us directly and so the begin was quite good.

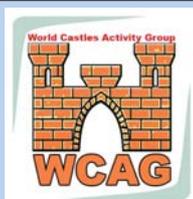
Activity was during the week and also conditions in the short distance area was quite bad during the past weeks so the expectations were not so high.

Signals went up and down during the next 45 minutes on 40 meters and the signal strength of the calling stations often went up and down between S3 and S9.

About 110 stations reached us in this period and from that side it

was quite successful. When 40 meters brought no more new stations we moved to 20 meters and had also the luck that the first calling station directly put us in the web. So also here we had a small run and some surprising callers too.

Hide JA4DND was calling in with a 59 signal and was surprised to hear what we are using on the other side. However of course he has always an excellent signal caused by his outstanding equipment.





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Also from the other side N8XGS Randy was putting in an extremely loud signal out of the Detroit area. The complete result of the activity were 140 contacts in a total operating time of 70 minutes. We reached 26 countries with 20% of the contacts with Italy, 17% Germany and 14% Poland.



When a farmer appeared with a large bottle of liquid manure we preferred to leave. Also the wind was growing more and more and sky changed from blue to grey. I had to wake up my feet as the position on the small seat of the carrier was not so comfortable. So finally a good result. Thanks for calling. Hope to meet you from the next portable-activity.

All activities at:
<http://blog.winqsl.com> 73, 44, Manfred

