

Tour 2010 Radio Europe

The summer is over and we start to think about the next vacation, for some time we had been thinking about France Brittany and Le Mont. St. Michel, so I begin to plan the trip even putting in some radio activations.



By the spring time the itinerary is complete, nearly 5,000 km to cover and countless activations; estimated time from July 13 to the 31, 2010. The route programmed will be followed 99% of the time. This was initial itinerary:

Start: Gussago, Milano, Como, Border // HB Border // LX 1° LXFF-002 / LX-00024, Border // DL 2° Steffeln DLFF-047 / DLV-01, Monschau, DLFF-003 ?, Border // ON Eupen, ONFF-001?, Liegi, 🍺 Hoegaarden, Tienen, Aarschot, Lier, 🍷 Westmalle, 1 Castle ?, 3° ONFF-002 Border // PA 4° PAFF-010, Border // ON Putte,

5° AN-020, Anversa, Zelzate, Maldegem, Knokke Heist, Zeebrugge ONFF-?? Lighthouse ?, 6° 1 Windmill ?, Oostende, 🍷 Westvleteren-S.Sixtus, 7° ONFF-055 / ONAO-005, 8° ONAO-006, 🍷 Watou, Border // F Steenvoorde, Saint-Omer, Fruges, Abbeville, Fécamp, Etretat, Pont de Normandie, Honfleur, Deauville, Caen, Sword Beach, Juno Beach, Gold Beach, Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, 9° Utah Beach FFF-028, Normandie, Cotentin, Le Mont-Saint-Michel, Saint-Malò, Bretagne, Brest, 10° FFF-027 / FRA505, 11° M29-010 Quimper, Vannes, Nantes, Niort, Limoges, 12° Chateau de Montlosier 63-085 / FFF-025 / FV-01, Clermont-Ferrand, Pont-de-Dore, 13° Augerolles FFF-026 / FAO-017, Saint-Etienne, Lione, Chambéry, Modane FFF-012?, Border // I, Frejus, Torino, Milano, Gussago, End.

At the end we will have travelled 4666 km.

Radio activity mainly on 20 and 40 meters SSB, ICOM IC746 / IC706, 80-100 Watt Solar Panels, Trap Dipole \wedge 20/40 or Vertical Kenwood. (Never used)

I began documenting some references in each state such as: lighthouses, mills, castles, observatory, volcanic areas, and the boom of the moment: the WFF parks; another fixation of mine was to visit some Belgium breweries. So I begin to ask the various managers to get some new references, from Valery RW3GW I got the new LXFF002, FFF025, 26, 27, 28 and 29 from Eric ON7RN the new castle AN-020, from Paul F2YT another castle 63-085, from Andrew RN1CW other # valid for the World Castle Award. I gather some interesting activities x all the States that I cross, from Luxemburg, to Germany, Belgium, Holland and France.

I reviewed the route on Google Earth I get the coordinates drawn by PoiEdit record them in the TomTom and before I depart I do a simulation run, I set up a park and a castle in the lower Bergamo area.

In June I record my itinerary info on some bulletin boards and newsgroups, and finally we are off.

MONDAY July 12

At 13:30 we are on the way, we take the highway BS - MI – Lakes, at 15:30 we are at the customs of Chiasso, and at the 21hr. in Strasbourg for dinner. The outside temperature is 31.8 degrees Celsius, a few more km and at midnight I stop at a rest area in Luxemburg for a peaceful sleep. Today we have travelled 766 km. With 2 fill ups of diesel at 1,238 and 1,25 Euros per litre.

TUESDAY July 13

After a good rest and a healthy breakfast at 9:15 with an outside temperature of 19.5 degrees I get on with my first broadcast. At 11:00 are next to the Castle of Esch sur Sure and I start.



I broadcast three references: the LX castle, the WCA castle and the new Flora Fauna Park, the transmission is poor in 20 and good in 40, however in less than two hours I have in my log 162 Qso. At 13:40, after lunch I'm on the way to DL.

At 16:00 we are in Steffel, volcanic area, so I pass the reference DLFF-047 and that of DLV-01 volcanoes; poor transmission in 20 and good in 40, I log 167 Qso in two hours.

At 18:10 after taking down everything I'm on the way to Belgium; to 20:45 we are at the free parking lot in front of the Hoegaarden

brewery. Outside temperature 30 Celsius.

Today, we covered 346 km.

WEDNESDAY July 14

In the morning we visit the brewery where they produce the fabulous Biere Blanche, at 11:30 we are off to the other brewery of the Friars of Westmalle Abbey, there we have lunch in the restaurant adjoining the brewery, tasting the Westmalle beer Double black 7 ° and the Triple blond 9.5° ...fabulous!!

I stop a few miles in the village of Malle to activate a windmill WIM BMA-2027 and also the step Zip UBA PostC 2390, the transmission is fair, but with so many QRN and in fact in less than one hour later a storm is coming, I sneak



102 Qso I take everything down in the rain and I'm on the way to Holland where, after having viewed and photographed the Castle and the Park I stop in a public parking lot in Putte for a quiet sleep. It is 21:00hr.

Today we have travelled 185 km.

THURSDAY July 15



Wake up at 9:10, breakfast and we travel a short distance to the Park area PAFF-010 where I make 126 Qso; other short trip to the castle Ravenhof for the new one broadcasting BCA AN-020 / WCA ON-00436 and Zip code UBA PostC 2940 with 122 Qso.

At 14:20 we depart for Antwerp and the sea, at 16:00 we are at Zeebrugge, where I activate the lighthouse BEL-047 and the Park ONFF-008; fortunately there is a circus and in order allow their caravans to park the fences were taken down, we are in the park about 50 meters from the lighthouse! I also pass on the ref. UBA PostC 8300, good propagation and I do 289 Qso, at 19:00 we leave, so beautiful all the ocean coast of Belgium, near the France border I leave the sea and return to East for Watou where we arrived at 22:00. Today we travelled 202 km.

FRIDAY July 16

In the morning we go to visit the brewery S. Bernardus that produces different types of beer including the S. Sixtus also where do some shopping. Soon after we are at Westvleteren Abbey. It is noon and we stop at a small village, we go to a local eatery Jagerhof for lunch, the personnel speaks only Flemish but we manage to get some of their specialty dishes, while we wait they serve us two great beers with pretzels, about 40' later they bring us two fabulous dishes, mine are baked ribs, the whole rack, I could not finish it I have them wrap the rest. Adriana has a mega fillet with fried potatoes, with fresh coffee total cost 40 €.

In a few km we are at Palingbeek Park, I make two activations from 14:00 to 18:00 through the Park ONFF-055 and in turn by the two observatory ONA00-005 ONA00-006 and always with Zip-code UBA PostC 8902, at the end there will be 137 and 147 Qso.

It is now the 18:00 hr and we leave in the direction of France. At 23:50 we are in the parking lot over the cliffs of Fécamp. Today we have travelled 345 km.

SATURDAY July 17



In the morning we visit the reefs, the church and the German bunker of the 2nd World War, then we move to Etretat for the



lunch break and visit other cliffs. We cross over the bridge of Normandy, € 5. We also time to visit Hunflair, a beautiful medieval

town where we have a snack with crepes and cider. A few more kilometres and at 19:30 we stop for the night in the square of the port of Dueville in the company of 50 other campers. Today we have travelled 84 km .

SUNDAY July 18

At 9:00, in a beautiful sunny morning, but with temperatures only 12.5°, we leave following the Atlantic coast up to Ouistreham, here we visit the Pegasus Bridge and other relics of the Second World War We go by Sword Beach, Juno, and Gold Beach and we get to Arranches where we can still see the remains of the bridge made up with concrete blocks brought by the allies. We return inland for about 15 km to visit the museum in Bayeux, here you can admire a tapestry of 1080 about 70 meters long and 60 cm high, hand embroidered representing William the Norman the conqueror of England. After having visited also the beautiful cathedral we take once more the road of the sea. At Colleville we stop to visit the American cemetery on the Omaha Beach and at 17:30 we assist to the lowering of the flag.....

After visiting Pointe du Hoc, we go by Sain-Mere-Eglise to see the parachutist hanging from the church and at 19:40 we arrive at Utah Beach where we stop for the night in the parking lot of the museum. 181 km travelled today.

MONDAY July 19



At 8:40 in the morning the temperature is 18.5 °, I pull up the antenna and transmit to the new one FFF-028, (the photo is on Google Earth) good pile-up and 207 QSOs in the log, we have lunch and leave at 13:15. I begin to perceive problems to gear-box, the first gear it's hard to plug in and the reverse gear scratches, I'm thinking to shorten the tour, and I forgot the Cotentin peninsula.

At 16:00 we arrive at Le Mont St. Michel, the temperature is a warm 32.3 ° and we settle in the large parking lot near the entrance, the fare is 10 euro for 24 hours. We spend the

afternoon wandering around the town ending with a good fish dinner and oysters. At 22:00 we return at the camper. Total distance covered today 156 km.

TUESDAY July 20

At 9:30 after breakfast we depart, the sky is overcast and the temperature is 19.3°.

First stop is Champ Dolent Menhir, a granite stone almost 10 meters high from Neolithic era for religious purposes. We then go to Cancale, oysters capital, this is a fast visit, no parking facilities for the camper. At noon we are in St. Malo, quick visit to the sea port area surrounded by the castle and lunch with Moules-frites (mussels and fries) really good with beer and coffee, € 25 for two. We take advantage of parking near the hippodrome to fill up the water tank and discharge the WC. At 17:15 we are at Fort La Latte, a beautiful medieval castle with two drawbridges to guard the bay. At about 21 we reach Cap Frehel where we visit the lighthouses and then we stop for the night. The parking lot cost is 3 € for 24 hours. I set up the antenna, but can do very little as it begins to rain, the references are for the lighthouses FRA085 and FRA227 and DFCF22-022 for the tower. Today we have travelled 126 km.

WEDNESDAY July 21



Early in the morning I do some activities and at 10 we start with 132 Qso to log and 16.9 °.

Then we visit the Pointe Arcouest and we stop to photograph a forest of hydrangeas, a woman comes out and in local dialect says something, I tell her that we are Italians, and she again tries in French, but having just realized that she was eating (pecorino with onions) we cut short the conversation! Next, Pointe du Chateau with many beautiful beaches and pink granite rocks, like our Costa Smeralda.

On to Porz Bugalè where we notice strange boats with a wheel in the front and two little handles in the back,

basically a wheelbarrow about 3 to 4 meters in length. Is also strange to us the ocean tide that retreating leaves 500/600 meters of beach! Then we are off to Gouffre near Plougrescat to see the house between the two rocks. Very strange!!! Then Perros-Guirec, Ploumanach, Tregastel,



still beautiful beaches, and pink granite rocks. We are on the tip of Trebeurden and a couple of local ladies hearing us speak in Italian approach us and tell us that the town is twinned with Villanuova sul Clisi (a village about 20 km from my home in Italy). At 19:20 we arrive at Kerbolic where we stop for the night on the pier-parking lot at

the river mouth. Today we covered a distance of 215 km.

THURSDAY July 22

A quiet night, maybe too quite! We woke up at 10! It is a sunny day and the temperature is 18° degrees. We have breakfast and at 10:30 we are on the road to St. Pol de Leon where we visit the beautiful cathedral, buy a pizza remarkably good and away to Roscoff the largest port used by the ferries to England. We go by Bay Goulven where they race kart with a sails, then off to Brignogan. Here we still find white sandy beaches and the ever present lighthouse.

Then we go by another beautiful menhir. The next site is Porscaff where great fishing boats



loaded with algae arrive daily, the load is then transferred with large crane in trucks to be transported to their final destinations. We pass under the imposing lighthouse of Trézien and arrive at the Pointe de Corsen where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Channel with variety of billboards. We spend the evening in the free parking lot of Le Blancs Sablons at Conquet near an old fort, it's 19:30 and the temperature 22.3°.

The beach is beautiful and huge, the sea is calm and the ripples that travel in waves of fifteen centimeters get us wet since we decided to roll up our pants and walk the beach.

A glider tries to take off, but is unable and after about one half hour gives up. A dozen horses are running on the shore line by now the sun is setting, an idyllic scene. Today we covered 160 km.

FRIDAY July 23



It is 10 o'clock, the skies are overcast when we start off, we go by Conquet and the first stop is Pointe St. Mathieu where we visit the ruins of the church on the promontory and the great lighthouse, there is no time to do any radio activity! We drive by Brest but the many traffic lights and various stops aggravate the problem of the gear-box. We finally enter the Armorique Park and I "smell" radio activity... We go by the bridge of Térérez, under construction, sixty more feet and the bridge will be complete. We pass by the beautiful village of Camaret-sur-mer, and finally we are at Pointe du Toulinguet. I stop in front of the lighthouse and I set up the antenna and the radio, broadcast the two references: the lighthouse is FRA505 and the park FFF-027.

At 18:00 we start off with 221 Qso in the log and some K, JA, and VE. Shortly after we are on the promontory of Pointe du Penhir

and here too, we can admire huge bunkers and monuments of Second World War We travel a little more and at the 20:00 we stop in the parking lot of Cap de la Chevre, It is still daylight, but the temperature is now 18.5° degrees.

Today we have travelled 144 km and top off the tank of diesel, cost, 1,099 € x litre; fuel prices are very different from place to place, on the highways they run between 1.25 and 1.28, in supermarkets we found them under 1.10 € and in a full tank it could mean a saving of € 14!

SATURDAY July 24

After a quiet night we leave at 10 o'clock for the interior of the country, at Pleyben there is the most beautiful and largest memorial in France (more or less our burial chapels), the memorial is



a large granite monument carved with religious scenes. We get into town where there is the weekly outdoor market, we take the opportunity to shop, and we also visit the small church of about the 1600, with beautiful stained glass windows. We turn back to the sea toward Kériolèt, it is now 14:40, here we find a beautiful windmill DMF M29-010 that I activate up to the 17:00 with 116 Qso. At sea we visit two more famous cliffs with their respective lighthouses like Pointe du Raz and Pointe du Van, is now the 18:00 and is beginning to rain so we decide to do some shopping at Audierne. The

gearbox problems persist, we decide to bypass some isthmus and shorten our trip. At 21:00 we are at Concarneau in a well-marked parking lot, at the old station, the parking meter fee for an overnight stop for campers is of 2 €! Instead they want 4 € to fill up the water... I still have enough, so I forgot the fill up. Brief visit to the historic centre since it is drizzling and then to bed. Today we covered 212 km.

SUNDAY July 25



We spend the morning visiting the town of Concarneau, very similar to our Sirmione or to S. Marino, medieval houses, many fine shops, stalls for the sale of oysters, etc. .. It is 10 in the morning, there are 17° and is raining. We meet a couple from Genoa who give us tips on another beautiful village not on our schedule.

At 12:30 we leave for another scheduled cultural stop, Pont-Aven, a village of 3000 inhabitants where Paul Gauguin lived. We arrive at 13:00 and 27.4° it is lunch time so we choose a good

restaurant to eat, on the menu seafood. Then we visit the town, interesting to see the posters with the paintings shown on the places in which they were made. We leave for Auray, the town suggested to us, we arrive at 16:40. The town is on a major river where it developed in the Middle Ages as a commercial town. The 15th century city is located on one side of the river. Another stop is planned in the area of the



menhirs at Caernac where we arrive at 18:00. The info-station is closed, but everything is visible and so we start to walk, look, and observe. The most important area is Kermario where the alignment of these menhirs is almost 4 km long and 100 to 150 meters wide of, each rock is up to 4 meters high!

We bypass other promontories and leave the Atlantic coast heading towards the east. We take the highway and for the night we stop in La Roche sur Yon in the parking lot of the Carrefour supermarket, I take this opportunity to fill up the tank, 1.08 € / lt. Today 318 km.

MONDAY July 26

Quiet night, in the morning we decide to shop in the supermarket, prices are generally good,



with the exception of the fruit that more or less is comparable to ours; the unusual thing in France is the mineral water which is sold in 5 litres containers for about 0.5 €. I fill the shopping cart with also a number of French and Belgian specialty beers for little more than € 1 each. We get on the highway and in the evening we are at Vulcania, 15 km from Clermont Ferrand. This is a huge theme park in an old volcanic area. I set up antenna and radio and begin this activity broadcasting two references, the park FFF-025 and the volcanoes that is WVA FV-01, in two hours I make 161 Qso. It is the 21:00 hr, but do travel

another 45 km to the castle of Montlosier, the park headquarters. We arrive at 22:00 with having travelled 456 km today.

TUESDAY July 27

I spend the morning doing radio activities, I broadcast three references: the castle DFCF 63-085, the park FFF-025 and the volcanoes WVA FV-01 and in a couple of hours I make 178 Qso. Quickly we leave for the last radio activity in the area of Augerolles, activation of the park, FFF-026 and of the observatory FAO-017, 191 Qso on the log in two hours. At the 17:00 we leave under a light rain towards home. The highway is free, we pay only the Frejus tunnel, at 22:00 we are over into Italy and soon after we stop for the night in Total rest area of Oulx. We have covered today 478 km.



WEDNESDAY July 28

After a quiet night at 10 o'clock we are on the road. We get home at 14:30, but first a stop to my local mechanic and after a quick check he pulls up the hydraulic clutch with force and everything is back to normal. I missed four days of vacation for lack of maintenance of an O Ring!!! Today we have travelled 292 km.

We travelled a total of 4.666 kilometers, used 530 litres of gasoline. which is about 8.8 km x lt.

Final report of the radio activities, more than positive, 15 activations and 2458 Qso, transmission on 20 and 40 meter good for Europe but there are also on the log some JA, K, VE, and many Om Russians of the Zone 9 and Ø.

All the Qsl are sent to the manager on September 19.

Thanks to all correspondents, but especially to my wife Adriana for her patience, 11, 44, 73 Paul I2Æ i2ae.paolo@tin.it

