

CLE260 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS:

Hello all

Our 260th Listening Event was quite a challenge (well - aren't they all?) In the **260-269 kHz range**, Europe listeners had only a handful of NDBs to find, while most of the Rest of the World listeners had their hard work rewarded by finding several.

For the second range, a huge **440 – 1740 kHz**, it was the other way round. Slim pickings for Rest of the World, but not such hard work for Europe listeners – hundreds of signals to the east of them but many very difficult for live listening. In fact three reporters logged over 100, mostly thanks to Pskov, which can 'see through' most of the Broadcast Station QRM. Hartmut found an amazing 203 NDBs in all.

CONGRATULATIONS to **BOB** in South Australia – this was your 100th CLE. Welcome to the **100 CLUB!**

This is where I must make a BIG APOLOGY. I find that some months ago I somehow failed to maintain my system for recognising anniversaries like that and some have gone by un-marked. Among the missed ones was **ALAN** – CLE257 was his **200th**, a big milestone! Joachim is helping me to find any others who have been missed – for mention in the next C's Comments – and he has arranged for his Harvester to find and alert us about these special achievements in future, thus relieving my failing memory a bit!

We have an **interesting problem** after Dave's logging of TWO probably different NDBs, both of them sending 'OF', both on 514 kHz and both from Russia. One seems to be a very recent new arrival. The problem arises because our databases have assumed that an NDB's Ident, QRG and Radio Country, taken in combination, will be a unique 'key'. I think they always have been - until now!

We have had a few duplicates within USA, but not within the same State - so no problem. Russia has been two Radio Countries, European (RUS) and Eastern (RSE), but RUS is now proving to be big enough to have duplicates. Catering for NDBs that share the same key is currently a problem for Joachim's CLE Harvester (a way will be found!), but it is probably OK for other databases that only STORE data and FIND it by displaying beacons in a list.

YLS and XYLS The last CLE 'lost' its Coordinator's Comments because going on our re-scheduled holiday had to take priority! 'My Sue' is very supportive of my radio hobby, but it is something of a love/hate issue! If you have a YL/XYL you maybe know the feeling. On CLE weekends, for years we have swapped our Sunday evening meal (normally cooked by me) to Mondays so that I can listen on the last night. Listening when we are on holiday is more difficult. That's only sensible when we are in the holiday cottage and with spare time around midday. I am only really interested in listening then because it finds the local NDBs and it tests your equipment, not the fickleness of night-time propagation. An hour or so is 'allowed' for me to lay long wires (also with permission of the cottage owner if necessary) plus an hour or so for listening. That's usually enough to hear all that can be heard. We often happen to be away during the televised Wimbledon fortnight which is great because it releases me for hour(s?), as Sue is a big tennis fan! Other opportunities are wet days, not good for walking, and usually we get a few of those when we are in Scotland or Wales.

I am often reminded of Tammy Wynette's 'Stand by your Man': ***"Sometimes it's hard to be a woman, giving all your love to just one man. You'll have bad times and he'll have good times, doing things that you don't understand. But if you love him you'll forgive him, even though he's hard to understand . . . "***

Coming CLEs: (The dates are provisional at present)

CLE261	Fri. Oct. 23rd - Mon. Oct. 26th	('Normal')
CLE262	Fri. Nov. 20th - Mon. Nov. 23rd	
CLE263	Christmas – New Year	A 'Special'

Good listening, take care.

73

Brian
(CLE Coordinator)

My thanks, as always, to Joachim, who quickly resolved several problems that we had harvesting the CLE logs this time and who contributed a lot to the above.