

NDB LIST 7th CLEs QUESTIONNAIRE November 2014
MAIN SURVEY RESULTS

49 Members replied to our questionnaire, half of them from North America (CAN + mainland USA).
 40 of the 49 had taken part in half or more of the co-ordinated listening events this year.

The answers will help us to plan and run our CLEs so they are as interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile as possible.
 Listeners were asked to give THEIR OWN VIEW each time - not necessarily what they think others might want.

I will go through the replies in the same order they appeared in the questionnaire.

The original questions are repeated below in **green**.

The most frequent replies are flagged in **yellow**.

I have shown what seem to be the conclusions in **blue**.

Where the same questions were asked in the last three questionnaires (2011, 2008 and 2005) the older results are also shown, shaded in grey.

For many of the questions, listeners were asked to choose one of the following answers:

- YY = Agree strongly (or 'always')**
- Y = Agree (or 'often')**
- X = neutral or don't know (or 'sometimes')**
- N = Disagree (or 'seldom')**
- NN = Disagree strongly (or 'never')**

(Some questions were left without any answer - e.g. if a question was not understood, or for any other reason)

I have repeated the **'Positivity Ratings' results**, as previously posted by email.

This is a number indicating how positive the replies to a question were, on average.

Each **YY** answer contributes 2 points to the rating, each **NN** takes 2 points away

Each **Y** answer contributes 1 point to the rating, each **N** takes 1 point away

So the most positive possible rating from the 49 replies would be **+98** and the most negative **-98**

PART 1 - CLEs - HOW OFTEN? WHAT KIND? WHEN?

"In a typical year we have had 12 end-of-the-month listening events plus one or two extra ones.

I would prefer CLEs to be held MORE FREQUENTLY than this. (YY, Y, X, N or NN)"

The general feeling is that we have enough CLEs.

Only 1 in 11 of us want them more frequently.

The five who disagreed strongly (that's 1 in 9 of us)

(Positivity Rating : - 25)

Answer	Count	2011	2008	2005
(blank)	4	5	2	1
YY	1	3	3	1
Y	3	2	3	5
X	16	8	13	8
N	20	16	22	25
NN	5	4	4	4

<== e.g. this time 20 replies gave answer 'N' (disagree) for this question.

(The most frequent answers are flagged in yellow)

probably want fewer CLEs.

"Most of our CLEs have been 'normal' ones, in which we listen for all the NDBs within a narrow frequency range. HOW MANY of each type of CLE you would like in a TWO YEAR period of about 25 CLEs?"

Thank you for all the thought that went into answering this - and just about all of the replies DID add up to about 25 CLEs!

The table shows how many listeners wanted each number of CLEs of each kind.

E.g. for **Normal CLEs**, you can see that 20 listeners wanted to stay with 14 Normal events in 2 years, flagged in yellow.

TYPE OF CLE	comments	Number of CLEs we want in two years																						(blank)		
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		22	
Normal (have been about 14 in 2 years)					1	1						1	2		4	2	20	3	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
Countries/Islands (specified radio countries)	5#	10	16	18	1		1																			3
DX CLE(logging longer distance NDBs only)	2#	3	13	22		7	1																			3
Middy or 'Field' CLEs (daytime only)	1#	16	12	15		2					1															3
Barn Door (simple RX, antique, ultralight ...)	4#	9	14	21	1		1																			3
*DGPS (logging DGPS beacons only)	1#	13	17	13	2	1																				3
*Navtex (logging Navtex beacons only)	1#	16	15	11	2	2																				3
HF (Amateur)	1#	16	13	15	1	1																				3
SPECIALS (like 'A-Z', 'Noah', 'Pyramid', etc.)	16#	10	13	18	1	4																				3

The results show that, overall, our preferred mix of CLE types is -
'Normal' CLEs - still about 7 in each year (14 in 2 years)
Each of the other types - about once each year or once every two years.
 *The replies for DGPS and Navtex suggest that they are less popular than in 2008. That is explained by members who left NDB List and joined the 'new' Groups. (Those Groups were not invited to reply to our surveys).

Listeners added comments in favour of various kinds of Event. Some treated ALL non-Normal CLEs as being SPECIALS, so I have shown all the comment counts with a #. (please see below for comments on the 'real' SPECIALS)

"If there are any of the SPECIALS that you particularly enjoy please say what kind they are."

The answers above show that there is a wish for these, especially for the Christmas / New Year Event.

The PYRAMID CLEs win for sure, with special requests from 11 of us.

"The PYRAMID involves serious strategy IT'S AWSOME!!!"
"I really enjoy the PYRAMID CLEs They are challenging for me!"
"PYRAMID is the most frustrating fun we do."

There were also mentions for:
A to Z ("I did a chain once - the hardest test of my log ever")
Noah ("Was interesting")
"Liked the Navigation one we did one time"
"University of Twente" (Remote receiver)
 and:
"I enjoy seeing the evil Brian conjures up"

"CLEs give me TOO LITTLE scope"

(not enough NDBs to search for) (YY, Y, X, N or NN)"

The 17 listeners who disagree strongly would probably prefer a smaller frequency range in most 'Normal' events. The 10 listeners who agree would want a wider frequency range.

There was a geographical difference between the replies from listeners in mainland N. America compared with Europe and the rest. (Please see the extra, mini-table to the right.) As might be expected, listeners in much of North America have fewer NDBs within range than most European listeners.

It seems that the frequency ranges are rather too large for many Europe listeners, but about right for most of us. I used to think that we would soon need to make the ranges wider as more NDBs disappear - maybe the increasing use of recordings is offsetting this? Europe and N.America each still hear about the same number of NDBs in each of the CLE frequency ranges.

(Positivity Rating : - 38)

Answer	Count	2011	2008	2005
(blank)	2	-	1	1
YY	2	3	4	2
Y	8	5	6	7
X	4	7	4	10
N	16	13	20	16
NN	17	10	12	8

NAm	Eu+
2	0
1	1
7	1
2	2
5	11
7	10

"I often make recordings (e.g. using an SDR) and find loggings from them afterwards"

At first sight it looks like most of us have become anti-recording!

The different wording explains the different result. **Not having** an SDR is different from **not accepting their use!** These aids to listening probably remain generally acceptable.

Between 1 in 3 and 1 in 4 of us now regularly use recordings.

(Positivity Rating : - 23)

Answer	Count	2011	2008
YY	11	15	18
Y	7	10	19
X	1	5	4
N	8	4	4
NN	22	4	2

NB: This question was rather different in 2008 and 2011 when the use of recordings was first tested:

"I think the use of recordings during CLEs (e.g. using an SDR) to find loggings afterwards is acceptable."

"I think the remote use of a receiver in another country during CLEs (e.g. via the Internet) is acceptable."

This fairly new addition to the hobby is still seldom used but - **There has been a big swing towards acceptance of it. More than half of us were strongly against it three years ago. Now more than half of us find it acceptable.** (our first remote listening CLE was a year after the 2011 Survey)

(Positivity Rating : +14)

Answer	Count	2011
YY	10	2
Y	16	5
X	8	6
N	8	5
NN	7	20

"I would like CLEs to be made more competitive (like 'contests')."

Yet again, there is no doubt at all on our views about this.

(Positivity Rating : - 65)

#	Count	2011	2008	2005
(blank)	1			

It has been about the same in all six previous questionnaires.

It says a lot for our hobby that it provides all the interest and challenge that most of us want without the need to include competitions and 'winners'.

YY	0	0	0	0
Y	1	2	0	7
X	7	6	6	4
N	14	6	10	9
NN	26	24	29	24

"CLEs sometimes include public holidays. I would normally prefer this when it applies to my Country."

Again, more than half of us have no view on this, but a small majority of the rest would prefer events that include holidays.

I will try to include holidays on the few occasions that it is practicable.

(Positivity Rating : +3)

Answer	Count	2011	2008
(blank)	1	1	
YY	1	5	6
Y	12	10	13
X	25	21	25
N	9	0	3
NN	1	1	0

PART 2 - HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR CLE LOG?

"It will be interesting to know the range of methods used to PREPARE OUR CLE LOGS."

	Y/Y	N/NN	(bl)
Before or during the CLE I usually get 'seeklist' details from Rxx (e.g. via the CLE page)	27	16	2
As I listen, I usually WRITE my reception details onto a 'seeklist' prepared in advance.	16	27	2
As I listen, I usually TYPE the NDB Idents, etc., direct into a computer.	31	15	1
I just type my log without any 'program' help.	14	33	2
The NDB DETAILS are taken from a list or database that I maintain on my PC.	39	9	1
My LOGS are made with the help of a program or database that I set up myself.	26	21	1

in 2011		
Y	N	(bl)
20	18	
15	22	1
25	13	
13	24	1
29	8	1
21	16	1

in 2008		
Y	N	(bl)
16	30	1
21	25	1
14	30	3
28	17	2
17	25	5

in 2005		
Y	N	(bl)
21	22	1
14	29	1
19	23	2
20	21	3
17	24	3

"What is the main program that you use to generate your actual log?"

WWSU continues to be increasingly popular, but EXCEL and other programs have their dedicated users.

We still use a great variety of ways of making our logs, from the simplest possible to the most sophisticated.

Program	Count	2011	2008	2005
WWSU	22	15	11	3
Weblog	(-)	1	5	6
ACCESS	4	3	4	3
EXCEL	11	10	9	11
WORD,etc.	7	4	7	5
Other	4	2	4	7
None	1	3	6	9

--	--	--	--	--

"The final deadline for arrival of CLE Logs (e.g. 08:00 UTC on Wed.) is usually about two days after the CLE ended (e.g. midday on Mon.). I would prefer LESS time than this."

(YY [= one day less], Y, X, N or NN [= one day more])

The answers show that most of us want no change.
4 of us want 1 day less time and 3 of us 1 day more.

(Positivity Rating : - 13)

Answer	Count	2011	2008
(blank)		1	2
YY	4	5	1
Y	-	2	3
X	27	23	22
N	15	4	14
NN	3	3	5

PART 3 - VALUE OF THE COMBINED RESULTS?

The next question was to find out which of the results tables and lists are useful.

"I find the following items USEFUL or INTERESTING (YY, Y, X, N or NN for ones that you would probably never use). If you do not know what an item is, please leave it with no answer"

(Positivity Ratings)

	T A B L E or L I S T	YY	Y	X	N	NN	(bl)
+72	The main list of BEACONS HEARD	27	18	1			3
+63	The table 'COUNTRIES (& States, etc.) HEARD	24	16	5	1		3
+44	The table of counts by 'LISTENING TIMES'	19	12	9	6		3
+44	The table of NDB counts for each FREQUENCY	19	14	6	6	1	3
+55	The list of 'MINE ONLY BEACONS'	21	16	7	1	1	3
+33	The table of 'TRANSATLANTIC BEACONS'	13	15	11	6	1	3
+69	The NOW/THEN progress statistics (same freq.)	27	15	4			3
+61	The list of MOST HEARD beacons	22	18	5	1		3
+64	The (new) list of MISSING beacons	24	17	4	1		3
+61	The 'DX25+10' list (furthest 25, nearest 10)	25	15	4	2	1	2

These seven items are to be found in the CLE results EXCEL files, then copied by Alan as PDF files in the CLE Section and the Archives.
(www.ndblist.info/cle.htm)

These three are lists which are within the CLE results emails.

i n 2 0 1 1							(bl)
YY	Y	X	N	NN			(bl)
27	9	1					1
23	10	3	1				1
16	12	5	4				1
10	17	7	2	1			1
18	13	6					1
9	12	13	3				1
15	16	6					1
21	14	2					1
17	16	4					1
19	14	3	1				1

It looks like we should continue with all the existing tables and lists.

PART 4 - GENERAL

"I find the CLE SECTION of the Website useful (<http://www.ndblist.info/cle.htm>)" (YY, Y, X, N or NN)

Clearly, the CLE page is very useful to most of us - thanks, Alan.

(Positivity Rating : +40)

Answer	Count	2011	2008	2005
(blank)	3	2	1	1
YY	13	18	13	13
Y	22	5	16	13
X	4	12	14	14
N	6	1	3	1
NN	1	0	0	0



"Thinking of the last 12 months, please say about HOW MANY CLEs you took part in (just a GUESS is OK)."

40 of the 49 listeners who replied had all taken part in 5 or more of the year's CLEs.
There were 5 listeners with 2 or fewer CLEs, representing the newer listeners.

"If you have any comments or suggestions on the timing of CLEs (which usually include the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights on the last weekend of each month), on the conduct of CLEs, log making and posting, deadline for sending logs or anything else, please give them here"

This question (and all of the earlier ones too) gave an opportunity for listeners to add their extra thoughts and there were plenty of added comments. Those about the **SPECIAL CLEs** were given above

Here are most of the other comments, approximately in the order of the questions (none of them is mine!). I omitted just a few - e.g. to preserve the writers' anonymity.
The gaudy colours are not significant - just trying to embellish things a bit!
I've kept the mixed upper/lower case typing - I didn't know how to change them without lots of re-typing.

More Frequent CLEs?

I ENJOY THEM BUT I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP TO MAINTAIN.

Perhaps a single day event even once a week. People not interested can stick to the regular 3 day ones.

Types of CLE:

Home country is a good one, but it seems to me that Islands got very confusing with the term "Island" poorly defined.

Keep the home and DX event.

Midday/field CLEs:

Only a handful of NDB's on air here.

USERS CAN DO THIS WITHIN THE 'NORMAL' CLE (daytime only).

These could be single day events.

Barn Door: *Please give a month lead time for home constructors who might want to try.*

HF (Amateur) beacons: *Just not interested and these may be using all sorts of digital modes not plain CW.*

WOULD LIKE TO SEE A CANADA ONLY CLE SOMETIME.

With the number of NDBs going OTA daytime and specific country CLEs can be problematic.

Remote RX?

ITS A HOBBY. LISTEN HOW YOU CAN.

Recordings?

*That cat is out of the bag. There's really no going back. I don't think it's real radio.
IT JUST REDUCES THE FUN FOR ME.*

Wish use of recordings were separate.

More competitive?

IF I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BREAK THE HARVESTER I WOULD PUT IN A LOT MORE 'N'S FOR THIS.

Log Making

I use my log of all stations ever heard in Excel in a particular band segment as a starting point.

**PAPER LOGGING AT THE RECEIVER AND TRANSFORM IT INTO USEABLE DATA (FREQ OR ALPHABETICALLY)
AND THEN SIT DOWN AT THE COMPUTER AND START TYPING IT UP.**

As I listen I WRITE my reception details (I update my Excel list by "color code").

I MAINTAIN A COMPLETE LIST OF BEACONS HEARD AT MY CURRENT LOCATION WITH OFFSETS.

I like to keep log files in simple text files which are easily manipulated with simple programs -

Using such I can do such things as extract search and even plot using Google Earth.

I HAVE A LIST OF ALL THE BEACONS THAT I HAVE EVER HEARD THAT ARE NOW OUT OF SERVICE.

A program c++ I wrote with Embarcadero studio XE4, the program uses an Access d/base.

I MAKE MY OWN SEEKLIST FROM MY LOG AS WELL AS USING REU.

I use an Amateur logging program called "Win EQF" that I modified over 15 years ago. "Win EQF" reads my R 75 frequency and enters it. It also updates location etc from past logs.

I HAVE A TARGET LIST THAT I KEEP UP TO DATE.

I listen to recordings from Perseus and write down stations, then put them into WWSU to generate report.

I USE RNA WWSU AND MY OWN DATABASE CONCURRENTLY.

During the on air hunt I write everything on paper. During breaks and after the event I enter the information into the computer system.

For each CLE I open a new "session" in WWSU. For NDBs that I can't recognize easily I listen to the ID for quite long and try to catch it as clear as I can - then I type it in WWSU and look for a matching entry in WWSU database.. .

Deadline for CLE logs?

GOOD COMPROMISE BETWEEN "ACHIEVING PROMPT FEEDBACK" AND "FITTING IN WORK/FAMILY".

This should really be at your convenience Brian not ours.

JUST RIGHT.

CLE Section on Website

I like it how it is!

I LOOK UP THE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS CLE'S IN THE SAME RANGE.

Have never used it yet.

Any other general comments? (These are shown in no particular order)

I would appreciate an earlier advice to schedule. Everything else is OK with me.

MAYBE A MID MONTH CLE WOULD MISS SOME OF THE SOLAR DISASTERS !!

ENJOY THE CLE'S AS THEY COME. FIND IT HARD TO ASK FOR MORE THANKS.

Schedule during good conditions (If only that would work!!).

**MAYBE FREQUENCY MEASUREMENT CARRIER AND OFFSET ON A SEPARATE DAY TO SUIT YOU BRIAN -
1 DAY BETWEEN CLE'S ? MAYBE NOT !**

I have been playing with the on line SDR radios and those are interesting. I think they might sometimes be allowed but should be a separate log. In some CLEs they might be inappropriate.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO USE THE DATABASE TO DEVELOP A SEEKLIST WITHOUT PRINTING OUT ALL OF THE COLUMNS? USUALLY I ONLY NEED FREQ OFFSET ID AND QTH INFO FOR MY SEEKLISTS! (see *Note 1 below)

*I think the current timing scheme is great as long as it doesn't place undue stress on you.
RESULTS; THE 'FREQ' TABLE IS THE ONLY USEFUL ONE FOR CHECKING MY RECEPTION AGAINST OTHERS;
THE 'COUNTRIES' TABLE IS A WASTE EXCEPT FOR COUNTRIES CLE'S.
I am MOST pleased that you keep everyone to schedule -- no exceptions.
I'M HAPPY WITH THE TIMING. NICE TO BE ABLE TO PLAN WELL IN ADVANCE.
I wish there was a way that we could take our coordinated results and find propagation trends.
I'M GRATEFUL TO THE ORGANISERS FOR ALL THE WORK PUT IN TO A CLE. I THINK THE REU/RNA/RWW
EDITORS GET FAR TOO LITTLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THEIR EFFORTS.
I look forward to every CLE.
LOVE THEM! NEWISH TO NDBS BUT LONGTIME SW/HAM/MW DXER.
I am happy with the way you run CLEs and very thankful you're still willing to do them. I'm sure no one else
would step up to take your place if/when you decide to stop!
IN THE RESULTS TABLES IT WOULD BE NICE IF FOR ALL REPORTERS IT HAD THE SAME COLUMN LETTER
BETWEEN THE VARIOUS TABLES. ONLY NEGATIVE I COULD THINK OF GREAT JOB ON EVERYTHING.
Totals heard by each participant. (see *Note 2 below)
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK ON THE CLE'S. I REALLY ENJOY THE CHALLENGES (WHEN THE PROPAGATION
IS WORTH WHILE).
I need to be home more on CLE weekends!*

There were several other kind comments on my efforts. Thank you, all.

It's good to hear that I seem to be making a useful contribution. I enjoy doing so (usually!) - and it gives the old brain cells a monthly boost.

The high quality of everyone's log-making keeps the 'harvester' running smoothly and I'm also very grateful to Alan, Pat, Mark, Don and others.

***Note 1:** I know a way of doing this for REU, and I sent details to the listener who asked.
If anyone else is interested (or who may know a better way) please contact me direct.

***Note 2:** I didn't understand this comment, so I contacted the listener.
As a result, there is a change in one of the Excel tables, on a trial basis at least
(details coming in the Co-ordinator's Comments).

Taking our replies together, most of us do generally agree about most things

Comparing the results from all seven CLE Questionnaires shows that there has been little change over the years.

It's impossible to keep everyone happy all the time - but we should occasionally try to cater for the more unusual views.

Many thanks to all who helped us by replying to this survey.

CLEs, or not - Good Listening!

Brian