

DGPS CLE181 CO-ORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

Last weekend CLE181 confirmed the popularity of our once-a-year-decoding events. 32 of us sent logs (plus one that unfortunately had to miss the deadline). Unsurprisingly, conditions were not as good as in February 2012, but we 'heard' 206 different stations from 81 radio countries.

It was a busy weekend for our decoder programs. 15 of us reported using just DSCdecoder, two just Multipsk, three used a combination of those two, five used Spectrum Lab and one Multi-mode. Six omitted to say.

Less than half of the logs needed any changes to correct typos, etc. But guess who made two typos (at least) - myself!

The Longitude for #825 Hackleburg, AL was wrong in my database, and had been for many years. The mistake had not been spotted because it has not often been reported in our occasional DGPS CLEs. (Thanks to Dick in MO for noticing that he had it in the DX25 list).

In the 'Decode Times' table, the lines from 00:00 to 23:59 were correct but the last five lines were redundant - I had left them there from the last DGPS CLE. The corrected table is attached. (Thanks to Dryden for spotting that and letting me know).

I'm never happy, of course, to discover that kind of thing, but VERY glad to be told about it. I must take it a bit slower and be more careful.

Some listeners are still a bit puzzled by what seems to be the complicated way we identify the DGPS loggings.

Each transmitter site Worldwide is allocated a unique TX Ident which we show with an initial '#' - e.g. #454 That is used in the various databases to identify the Station, so it is needed on all logs.

It gets a bit complicated because the actual GPS correction data being transmitted comes from a nearby receiving station where the GPS signals are received so that their accuracy can be calculated. The receiving stations are allocated RX ids, and they are also intended to be unique Worldwide. There are usually TWO of these nearby receiving stations with different RX ids. We show the RX ids with an initial '(' - e.g. (715 and (716, the normal BCRref and BCRref2 for the alternative site.

It is the RX Ident which is transmitted, and read by our decoders, NOT the TX ident.

Any one Station may change from time to time to use data from its alternative receiving Station. We then get a different RX ident from our decoders.

DSCdecoder comes with a reference list which is used to find and display the corresponding TX Ids. Sometimes it doesn't have the details for a station that you have received - it may even have wrong data, pointing you to the wrong TX station!

The important things are that the decoders indicate whether a decode is valid and **they do tell you the RX Idents, the only critical thing for identification.**

There were 8 listeners' logs where the transmitted Ref IDs, (nnn, were not shown. Those results may therefore be less reliable (A few could not be included when the given kHz and TX ID did not match).

I have gone through the results to extract the cases where the **alternative RX ident (BCRref2)** was also reported during the CLE.

I assumed that it was the normal (BCRref), usually the lower number, that was the one being shown in the majority of reports.

Location	ITU	kHz	TX ID	BCRef	BCRef2	Rptr
Torshavn	FRO	287.5	#454	(715	(716	DEU hw
Torshavn	FRO	287.5	#454	(715	(716	HOL do
Maple Hill Topeka, KS	USA	289	#765	(202	(203	USA MO dp
Driver, VA	USA	289	#806	(012	(013	USA NH jc
Narva	EST	295.5	#531	(531	(861	DEU je
Narva	EST	295.5	#531	(531	(861	CZE jv
Riviere du Loop, QC	CAN	300	#926	(318	(319	USA MO dp
Riviere du Loop, QC	CAN	300	#926	(318	(319	USA NJ ge
Riviere du Loop, QC	CAN	300	#926	(318	(319	USA NH jc
Gilze Rijen	HOL	302	#426	(426	(655	CZE ze
Greensboro, NC	USA	303	#824	(047	(046	USA MI k4
Sagres	POR	305.5	#341	(482	(483	ENG bk
Sagres	POR	305.5	#341	(482	(483	ENG ag
Ristna Lt	EST	307	#530	(530	(840	CZE jv
Ristna Lt	EST	307	#530	(530	(840	CZE ze
Ristna Lt	EST	307	#530	(530	(840	DEU je
Shepelevskiy 2	RUS	311	#005	(002	(005	ENG me
Hoek van Holland	HOL	312.5	#425	(425	(650	CZE jv
Chico, CA	USA	318	#878	(256	(257	USA CA dn

For a few countries the decoded ID is the same as the TX Ident, though that is not the strictly correct practise. There are also a few countries which choose Ref Ids which are not the allocated ones.

Despite the little complications, I hope more of us have become permanent DGPS fans as a result of the CLE. If you are not already a member, do consider joining the dgpslist. And if you were using DSCdecoder, which seems to have performed well for all the 18+ users, do consider registering your copy if you have not yet done so.

If you are only a dgpslist member, maybe you have developed a taste for CLEs? If so you could join NDB list, where your appetite can usually be satisfied every month!

Returning to the NDBs in our usual hunting grounds, our likely future CLE dates remain as previously given:

CLE182: May 23-26
 CLE183: June 20-23 (probably 'normal')
 - then probably last-weekend-of-the-month Events after that.

Meanwhile,
 Good Listening
 Brian

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