

CLE191 - CO-ORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

What's this all about? To summarise, here are:

Some thoughts and extra analysis of our **end-of-February Co-ordinated Listening Event** and the **amateur 600m beacons**.

What some **non-CLE** members think about CLEs!

A bit about the **coming Solar Eclipse** and how we might investigate its effects on the propagation of NDB signals.

A few words on our **7th Navtex Listening Event**, planned for the end-of-March.

(I'm sorry this email has been delayed a bit, due to the sudden serious illness of a family member.)

In **CLE191** (20-23 Feb.) we were listening in two frequency ranges, 260 - 269.9 kHz and from 440 kHz right up to 1740 kHz. 45 of us took part and between us we heard nearly 400 different beacons.

The second range included the **amateur beacons**, mainly around 630 metres (476 kHz) and there was interest from 600MRG - the 600 Meter Research Group. Our thanks to their members who helped to promote the Event, operated beacons and added some extra analysis of its results.

In all there were about 100 reports on 20 amateur beacons, located in the following radio countries:

Europe: **CZE, DEU, ENG, IRL, ITA**
Canada: **BC, NL**
USA: **CO, CT, MA, NH, PA, TX., VA, VT, WA**

I tried to find the location details for all those - several were missing in the lists that I searched. The listeners' logs helpfully reported the Locators if they were included in the transmissions, so those were easy to work out. Stupidly, I failed to note that WG2XSV's Vancouver location is in WA (across the Columbia river from Portland Oregon) and not the Vancouver that I knew about in BC (but the calculations are based on the right Locator). My apologies to Neil who helpfully (and very politely) pointed it out.

Full details from the event can be found in the combined results (see my emails of 25 Feb. or our NDB List CLE page - it is open to all readers: <http://www.ndblist.info/cle.htm>)

Several beacon operators were pleased to find that their signals were reaching new places. Another correction: The 'Listening Times' Excel table for Rest of the World shows the wrong list of reporters at the bottom, just above the line of counts (you could maybe 'Enable Editing' and delete line 266?).

We have been interested in whether **Non-CLE Members** of NDB List - and non-members of NDB List too - are finding our CLE results of any interest. I wondered if I should be explaining things better for any readers who haven't taken part. All the details before each listening event are shown in the NDB List CLE page (see above) and the archive of previous results is also available there for anyone to see. The 11 replies were from readers who had taken part in no NDBs or in less than a handful of them - thank you if you are one of the 11. All but three had found the results useful or interesting to them. No-one mentioned anything that should be better explained. I think some will be joining - or re-joining - the Listening Events - that was not the object of the exercise, but it would be a very welcome outcome.

On Friday 20th March, between about 09:00-10:30 UTC, there will be a **total eclipse of the sun** crossing part of the North Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea. The narrow band of totality, where the sun's disc will be fully covered by the moon for less than 3 minutes, will only cross significant land at the Faroe Islands and Svalbard. However there will be a very wide area across North Africa and the whole of Europe where the eclipse will be partial. There is a good animation of that at

<http://www.solareclipse2015.org.uk/the-partial-eclipse/>

Places within a few hundred miles of the areas of totality will experience quite large reductions in solar radiation, rather like near sunrise and sunset. That could allow sky wave signals passing across those areas to show some unusual propagation changes. Many of us, especially in Europe, could be well placed to help in studying this and I think Alan will have some suggestions for us nearer the time.

Last November we had our 7th Questionnaire (Review) of CLEs and what members want from them. It was again clear that a DGPS CLE and a **Navtex CLE** is each wanted about once every two years. Our 6th Navtex CLE was in March 2013 and we're now due for our 7th, so Navtex CLE192 is being planned for 27-30 March, again shared with the Navtex DX List members. It will be an opportunity for NDB List members to re-visit decoding the navigational messages on 490 and 518 kHz, or to give decoding a try for the first time. Navtex DX List members, who do not normally have co-ordinated listening, will be able to compare their weekend's results with those from many others, near and far. To give several of us time to get ready for a 'new' kind of listening, Alan and I will provide some initial advice about two weeks before the event.

Our provisional future CLE programme looks like this:

CLE192: 27 - 30 March Navtex
CLE193: 24 - 27 April 'Channels Choice CLE' (a special, from Alan!)
CLE194: 22 - 25 May Normal CLE
CLE195: 19 - 22 June (a week earlier than usual)

Best regards to all

Brian

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