

NAVTEX CLE192 - CO-ORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

NAVTEX CLE192 - SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Our Co-ordinated Listening Event during the last weekend in March was our 7th dedicated to receiving messages for shipping (navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts) from the Navtex stations worldwide. Some of us were trying Navtex decoding for the first time, maybe also using a decoder program for the first time. It was also a chance for some Navtex enthusiasts to try out co-ordinated listening for the first time.

This is something that we do every two years or so. With 36 of us taking part, we were just one less than the record number of 37 two years ago.

Over the years we have tried several different ways of covering Navtex in our CLEs - a different numbers of nights, different choices from the range of frequencies, tackling the frequencies in two CLEs over separate weekends, etc. Each has pros and cons and I'm not sure that we've found the best way yet.

CONDITIONS

Also near to the sunspot maximum, this Navtex CLE again coincided with poor propagation. Roelof, who has been monitoring Navtex on 518 kHz for a couple of years assures us that the lack of propagation was unique (He commented that Navtex reception can also be a good propagation indicator and as such it has served him well.)

However we were listening from 27 different radio countries and messages were decoded from five Stations over 9,000 km away (5,600 miles) by reporters far apart from each other in NH, WA and TA.

Conditions were not helped for Europe listeners because of the extra stormy conditions with long weather forecasts which continued for most of the weekend and filled many of the 10-minute slots.

Most listeners away from Europe had their usual disadvantage of relatively few stations within likely range of them.

DECODERS

The table shows the number of users of the various decoders in our last three Navtex events.

CLE	March	SeaTTY	YaND	Other	not stated
141	2011	22	1	8	4
168	2013	10	24	6	4
192	2015	10	26	4	2

Clearly, Dirk's excellent YaND decoder very quickly became the preferred choice, with SeaTTY also remaining popular. Multipsk is the main 'other' choice.

MESSAGES

Our thanks to the reporters who included raw decodes from their most DX Stations.
Some of the more unusual messages received by listeners were:

"MYDAY ALERT 18 METER SAILINGVESSEL MAGNGS ZAREMBA CS SPG3930 CAPSIZED BROKEN MAST IN POS. 60-08.3.N 003-36.70E 5POB ROGALAND RADIO AND JRCC STAVANGER COORDINATING ... "

"COAST GUARD RECEIVED A REPORT OF A 12 FT BLUE/WHITE PARTIALLY SUBMERGED KAYAK DRIFTING 10 NM WSW OF LA AU POINT, MOLOKAI ... "

"CYPRUS TURKISH RADIO ILLEGAL STATION USING E ID..."

"ALL BE ADVISED THAT THE NAVIGATIONAL WNG FA15 BROADCASTED BY ANTALYA RADIO IS ILLEGAL ... "

"TUGBOAT CAPSIZED IN 41-45N 140-44E AT 270610UTC. CREW WENT MISSING. ..."

"THE BLAST DANGER AREA IS ACTIVATED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ROCKET MOTOR TESTING AND IS A HAZARD WITHIN THE LISTEDCOORDINATES. ... "

"ONE PASSENGER FELL OVERBOARD FROM FERRY ISHIKARI..."

WHAT'S NEXT?

For **NAVTEX Lovers**: If you are ONLY a member of NDB List, I'm sure Dirk and Roelof would be pleased to see your request to join the Navtexdx List:

(just send an email to: navtexdx-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

For **CLE Lovers**: If you are ONLY a member of Navtexdx List and you are interested in NDB logging, with or without CLEs, Alan would be pleased to see your request to join the NDB List (just send an email to: ndblist-subscribe@yahoo.com)

Our next monthly CLE No.193 for NDB List members (searching for normal NDBs), will probably be over the weekend of April 24 - 27 with early advice the weekend before it.

The May Event will probably also be over the last weekend of the month.

AND FINALLY:

Many thanks to everyone for their logs and for the care they took in making them. Our thanks to Alan for all he does for us in the <http://www.ndblist.info/> Website.

And of course, to Vincent, for his work on the Navtex input to Rxx.

I am leaving the last word to Hans who sent his first Navtex CLE log this time and made these comments in a blog:

"I like NAVTEX for several reasons. It's an open format, easily decodable and messages are mostly in plain English. Then it's just like fishing with a fish pod: you can leave your setup on over night and in the morning see what nice DX you have caught. - - - The last reason I like NAVTEX is the content being broadcast. It provides a window on a world that most of us don't know much about. Most messages are warnings about military exercises, weather reports and changes in locations of buoys, etc. But occasionally you see distress messages and then you realize how much hardship and suffering there is out at sea and how mighty it is."

Good Listening

Brian

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