

CLE198 CO-ORDINATOR'S COMMENTS:

"This CLE had terrible noise problems.

"Very poor conditions. Didn't matter which direction...

"- - a lot of QRN /lightning/local noise etc.

"Plagued by all sorts of noises, especially static that never let up.

"- - tough slog with lots of lightning and solar activity...

"Too many noise for good job..

"- - very bad conditions during evening / night

"Lots of local thunderstorms and not much propagation

"- - static was fierce and weak signal work was not possible.

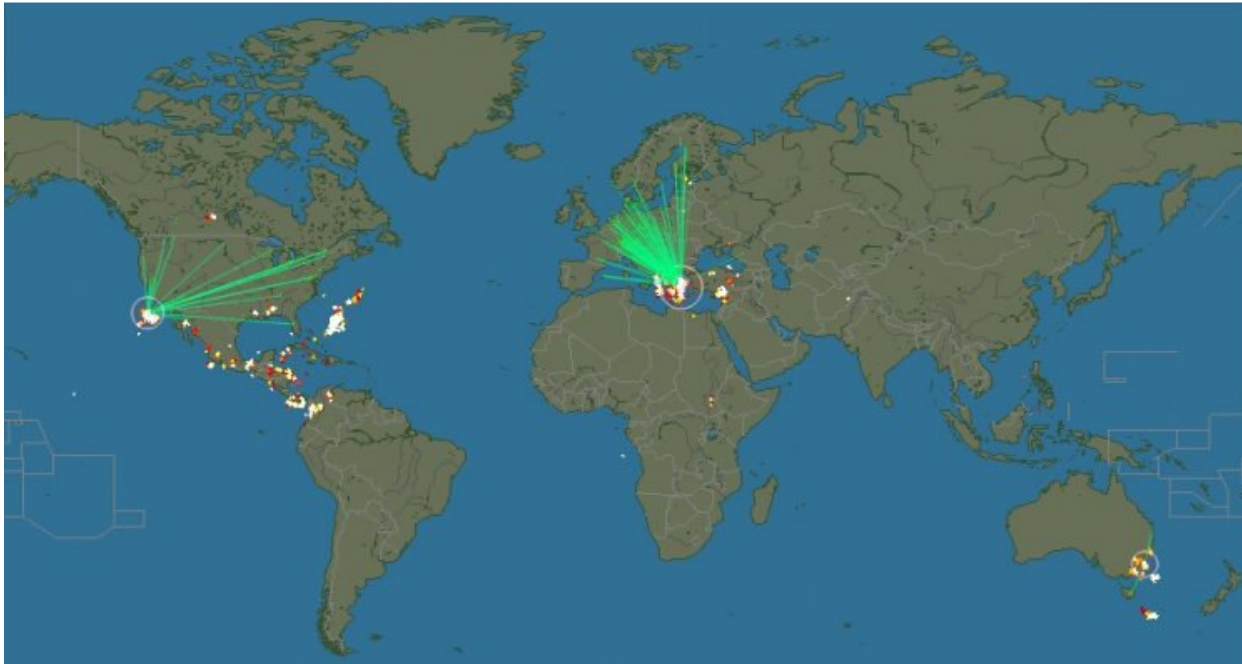
"Propagation was not very good and a lot of the common stations were weak or very weak.

"- - the signals where few and far apart. - - Conditions may have been very poor but you kept me out of the pub.

You get the picture!

Those kinds of comment came from nearly all of us, though it is true that some also had very positive things to say.

I was watching the 'static' maps during the CLE. The worldwide (?) one below was made on Monday as the event was ending for Europe, but it was typical of the whole weekend. Particularly 'static' in more ways than one was the storm activity around the Adriatic. It persisted the whole time (and it is still there as I type this). Spare a thought for William, trying to listen from Italy. <http://www.blitzortung.org> - well worth a look (and listen).



(21 Sept 2015 08:35 UTC)

Most of the rest of Europe was spared local storm activity, so places like England were relatively lucky.

Despite the bad static and the reduced propagation, our results mostly out-performed the ones we got in June 2014 when we listened in the same 15 kHz range. There were 22 of us who took part in both of the events and the tables below show how their results compare between THEN and NOW.

EUROPE Listeners	Av km THEN	Av km NOW	Total km x 1000 THEN	Total km x 1000 NOW	NDBs THEN	NDBs NOW	Max km THEN	Max km NOW
CZE my	1002	913	60	47	60	52	2242	2258
CZE ze	713	752	7	32	10	43	1414	1414
DEU hw	965	899	81	70	84	78	4505	1990

ENG ag	700	703	21	20	30	28	1904	1904
ENG bk	305	665	7	35	24	52	785	1968
ENG hh	821	825	41	45	50	55	2086	2718
ENG me	1033	1029	64	64	62	62	3671	2290
ENG px	580	547	16	8	27	14	1876	1876
FRA jj	713	648	23	20	32	31	1777	1777
HOL rb	886	1030	48	95	54	92	4990	3534
Averages:	772	801	37	44	43	51	2525	2173
% Increase:		4		18		17		-14

REST OF THE WORLD Listeners	Av km THEN	Av km NOW	Total km x 1000 THEN	Total km x 1000 NOW	NDBs THEN	NDBs NOW	Max km THEN	Max km NOW
AUS TA rw	950	1846	5	30	5	16	1325	3607
CAN BC sm	1335	1694	29	39	22	23	4315	4499
HWA mx	3151	1679	19	5	6	3	5563	4522
USA CA dn	1967	2079	20	31	10	15	4016	4016
USA CA pa	1894	2102	25	42	13	20	3876	3925
USA CO ac	1338	1388	15	46	11	33	5244	5244
USA IL dt	577	1014	12	46	21	45	1378	2446
USA NH jc	1047	909	23	18	22	20	2448	2249
USA NJ ge	1194	907	11	11	9	12	1860	1860
USA OR sr	1141	1388	14	28	12	20	4441	4441
USA TX du	1303	1135	23	44	18	39	10502	2433
USA UT mu	1403	1396	17	20	12	14	4715	4715
Averages:	1442	1461	18	30	13	22	4140	3663
% Increase:		1		69		61		-12

Av. km = Average distance from listener to NDB for all their loggings
Total km = Sum of distances from listener to NDBs for all their loggings
NDBs = Number of NDBs logged
Max km = Maximum distance from listener to an NDB logged
(UNIDs are not included)

From the bottom lines in the tables, you see that the average distance from listeners to the NDBs they logged was almost the same (a 4% and a 1% increase). However, the **average number of NDBs heard** (and the total distance from listeners to NDBs) was a lot more this time, especially away from Europe with an **increase of over 60%**.

It is interesting to look at the final column, the **average most DX logging**. Unlike those other averages, that one **FELL by about 12%**. That was caused by the lack of real DX, though three over 5,000 km loggings, including Jonathan's transatlantic logging of Portugal from MA, were notable exceptions. I think the better non-DX results may be partly due to our increasingly sophisticated equipment (receivers, aerials, use of recordings, etc.). Those allow us to catch more of the borderline middle-distance signals while the really DX ones would be impossible.

Other explanations welcomed!

My usual 'thank-you's - to Alan, Don, Steve, the Rxx inputters (laptop says it should be *in putters!*) and the very reliable log-makers (less than 1 report in 200 needed correction!).

The equinox has now just passed - listening should be good for all of us in the next two months. I hesitate to give dates for the coming CLEs, having just had two 1-week-early ones, but things will surely have settled down here by the end of October.
So back to the usual last weekend of the month:

CLE199 is planned for the weekend of 23 - 26 October
CLE200 for 27 - 30 November (probably).

Good listening
Brian
(CLE Co-ordinator)