

CLE199 CO-ORDINATOR'S COMMENTS:

It was our 14th 'Countries' CLE last weekend and there are a few things to comment on:

Good Conditions - Hurray!

Countries CLEs - are they popular?

Special efforts made by two listeners in contrasting situations

Our no. 200 next month, then two Christmas-New Year Specials

Good Conditions

At last most listeners were able to report good listening conditions. The summer static and the solar upsets are at last giving most of us a break in the Northern Hemisphere and we can expect six good months to come. The 'new NDB' listeners' counts for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights were:

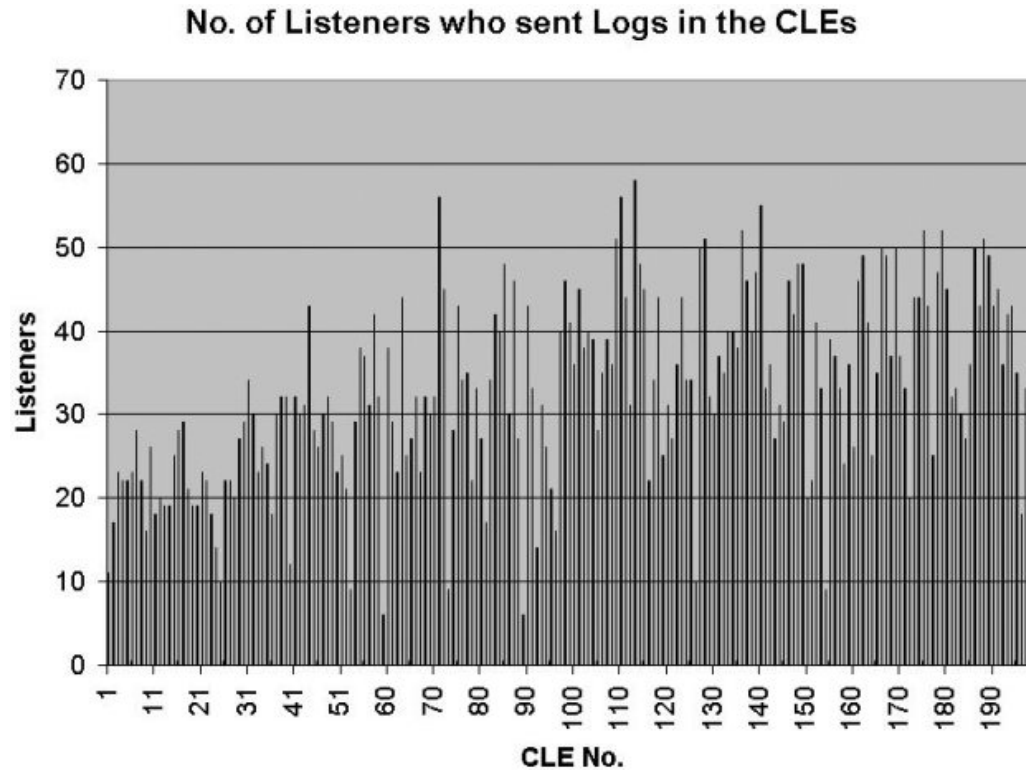
Europe: 425 - 113 - 76

N America: 428 - 63 - 131 (e.g. on Saturday night 63 more NDBs were added to N.American listeners' logs)

Those figures strongly suggest that Friday night was best and Saturday's conditions were not so good, particularly in North America.

Countries CLEs - are they popular?

Here is the chart showing the number of listeners' logs sent for each CLE. You can see that there were about 20 logs at the start and the number grew gradually to reach almost 40 by CLE97 near the end of 2007. During the eight years since then it has remained about the same at a bit below 40 logs, but still with individual highs and lows depending on the time of year and the type of CLE, etc.



Our 'Normal' CLEs, when we hunt for the NDBs in a small frequency range, are by far the most popular based on the number of logs we get. They have averaged 43 logs during those last 8 years. The seven Countries CLEs over that period have averaged 31 logs - by chance exactly the same as in CLE199. Our DX and 'Midday' CLEs have been very popular, each averaging about 40 logs, but that's not very reliable because there have only been three or four of each of those kinds.

All the other kinds of CLE have averaged 33 logs or fewer.

Special Efforts

Countries CLEs always favour some listeners. A few may even have TOO MANY beacons within range of them! Other listeners have the opposite problem - very few NDBs from the chosen countries to be heard at all.

I thought two logs told interesting stories of how listeners near those two extremes tackled their approach.

Guillaume, in Quebec, was faced with the likelihood of hearing less than a handful of A- B- C- NDBs. They were among his nearest targets, but 4,000 km away overland.

His solution included listening from a less noisy location, improving the aerals there, using settings to optimise signals from the hoped-for directions and trying out new tools, including Linrad, to improve weak signal detection. His results showed only 7 NDBs (only one of the 31 listeners, in an even worse location, had a lower count). BUT Guillaume was very happy with the results as they included three new ones, and he heard several other new ones outside of the CLE range (posted separately), including his first ever NDB from Wyoming.

Near the other extreme, **Roelof** in Holland has several A, B, C countries not far away and his count was the second highest of the Europe listeners. The interesting thing was his own use of Linrad which allowed him to copy by ear the keyed carriers of some distant NDBs which were within 1 Hz of the carriers from strong local NDBs. Roelof did add that "The use of Linrad comes at a price: it is rather time consuming!".

You may enjoy (re-)reading the detailed comments from Guillaume and Roelof in their logs.

If, like me, you find Linrad and other state-of-the-art tools a bit too much like magic to embrace, don't worry! In CLE199 many of the other listeners with much simpler equipment clearly also enjoyed the event and the special challenge that it meant for them.

CLE200, 201 and 202 Sandwiched between this Countries CLE and two Holiday Specials to come, we'll be 'back to normal' - a straightforward frequency range event, probably over the weekend of 28 - 30 November. The holiday events will be over a long period (about 10 days) probably starting on December 25th and ending on about 4th January.

Meanwhile - good listening!

Brian

From: Brian Keyte G3SIA ndbcle'at'gmail.com
Location: Surrey, SE England (CLE Co-ordinator)
