

# CLE209 CO-ORDINATOR'S COMMENTS:

## Apologies

I'm ashamed to be sending this **three weeks** after the weekend of the listening event. The big problems with my Windows 7 to Windows 10 upgrade couldn't have come at a worse time – I shouldn't have tried to install the upgrade only a week before the usual Wednesday's main processing of the results. It didn't help that this CLE was an unusual event needing different kinds of results.

Thanks to excellent service from my local computer shop, the laptop is now running W10 (very fast) with a W98 Virtual Machine which allows me to run all the usual QBasic and Access programs without editing them and with few changes in the procedures that I need to follow. An alternative would have been to use the latest Access and 'basic' equivalents in W10 but that would have taken me a VERY long time trying to convert the 50 or so programs and altering the procedures to match.

I managed to send the last of the results ten days late and, in the end, they were more or less error-free I think. The further week's delay before sending this is explained by catching up on all the other things that I didn't do during that time (and by certain events in Rio!).

## The 'Barn Door' CLE

We normally return to Barn Door listening about once every two years when we listen with unusual kinds of receiver that are 'wide open' with minimal or no filtering - home-brews such as 1ADs using regen, very old (usually very large) receivers, ultra-light portables (usually very small), etc. Not all of us have the equipment (or motivation) to listen this way, but the few that do take part (20 of us this time) always seem to find it especially fascinating and they look forward to the next time.

Many of the listeners added extra comments in their logs – here are short extracts from some of them:

Listening with my Dad's old Grundig was fun. It was a bit uncomfortable sometimes with the heavy static but having the headset on and hearing the noise and the fading reminded me of what I was missing by using the SDR and the waterfall for everything. - - - Its a pretty decent old radio. - - - (Tony)

I decided to use my pocket size portable receiver Eton E5, which has a built in socket for external antenna. I used what Eton call SSB but in fact it is normal AM mode with a bandwidth of 10kHz. - - - (Mike T)

This CLE set me to reminisce about years past when, in addition to a pair of youthful ears, success in DXing depended on operator technique (developed with practice) along with knowledge of a band's properties (derived from study), and with both coupled with patience/persistence in listening. Success still depends primarily on these factors but I have come to realize that features afforded by an SDR -- have extended my years of NDB logging. --- (George)

I pulled the Tecsun PL380 out of the drawer and gave it a set of fresh batteries. I have fitted an external ferrite rod antenna to it that works well if you use it outdoors. I don't think my neighbours saw me wandering round the garden at 3am with a headtorch and a clipboard. --  
- (David)

Used homebrew Regen receiver without even a frequency display- used strong Canadian stations to guess where I was. (John)

I always wondered how the TS-440S built around 1992 would work on longwave so I chose it for this CLE. I set it on WIDE selectivity and used CW mode. My goal was to log 100 beacons -- (Dick)

I used a Sony 2010 receiver to start with; I left it outside on the stand, intending to get up early Sunday and do more listening. A high wind came up in the night and blew the stand over, toppling the 2010 to the ground --it now no longer works. So at 4 a.m. I scrambled to find another radio; --- (Steve)

I opted to use the homebrewed regenerative receiver I built last summer. A 7 tube + rectifier (5 actual 'bottles') circuit I designed myself, based on 1920's-30's technology. --- (Phil)

-- used my version of Mike Tuggle's MOSFET REGENERATIVE RX. --- This receiver works amazingly good and it was no problem at all to log 100 stations, which went pretty fast as you do hear so many stations at the same time! (Roelof)

This CLE's weekend could easily qualify as an excellent example of Murphy's Law at it's best. I had started to build a clone of Roelof's version of Mike Tuggle's MOSFET Regenerative Receiver. --- (Joachim)

One-active-device regenerative using a single Siemens 1216 dual gate MOSFET (equiv: BF988), with gates tied together. For maximum sensitivity the set is operated well into regenerative oscillation. A passive series tuner in the antenna-ground circuit eliminates broadcast band overload and spurious responses. --- (Mike T)

What a joy to actually drive a rx again. Perseus may be top notch but its not the same as working with something you built yourself. --  
- (Peter)

Maybe the above have tempted you to look back through some of the comments in full – they make very interesting reading.

### **Coming Events**

**CLE210** 26 - 29 August, **260-270 kHz and 440+ kHz** (it includes the Amateur Beacon frequencies around 475 kHz)

CLE211 23 – 26 September

CLE212 28 – 31 October

Good listening

Brian

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