

CLE211 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

With the equinox behind us, CLE211 marked the start of our 'high season'. Conditions were mostly good for Europe listeners, with little QRN in most areas. By contrast, most listeners in North America suffered bad interference from storms. The final chart below shows a normal night-by-night reduction in new loggings for Europe listeners, but very poor conditions in North America on nights 2 and 3.

An interesting discovery, made by Mike from near England's South Coast, was a mysterious-sounding 'S' repeating every 2 seconds. From about 200 miles north of Mike, Alan reported it too. Then **Peter** in Derbyshire 'threw a spanner in the works' by saying he could also see the same thing in signals from the powerful Radio 4 198 kHz transmitter which is located near the centre of England! The 'S' signal was being seen around 396 kHz –“ i.e. 2 x 198 - so Peter thought that it was a harmonic of Radio 4. (It was also present around 792 kHz, but much weaker).

Andy commented that similar signals have been reported on various frequencies in North America. It seems likely that the signals are being used for remote control of domestic or industrial equipment, etc.

There are also, of course, lots of 'spurious' carriers and things going EEEE.., TTTT.., etc., in the whole of the NDB frequency range. Way back in July 2004 **CLE53 was dedicated to investigating these 'Spurious Signals'**. Listeners sent reports from eight countries and 34 of the spurious signals were heard (or seen) from two or more locations. Few of us had the advantages of Perseus or similar receivers in those days, of course. It now seems likely from the CLE53 results that Martin may have detected the Radio 4 'S' signal **from Toronto** and Matthias may have found the 396 one from near Dresden.

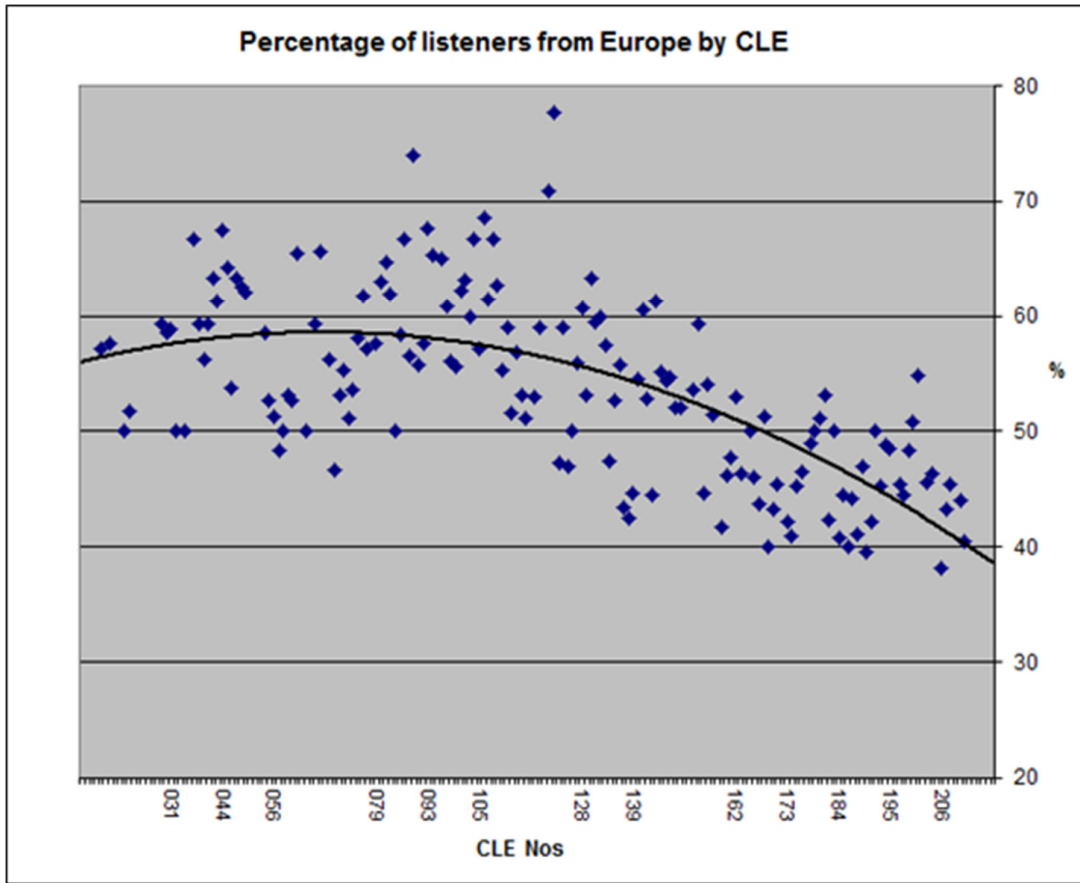
You can still see all the previous CLE results in the CLE Archive Section, maintained there for us by Alan. (<http://ndblist.info/cledata.htm>)

Europe Listeners – Where are We?

CLE211 continued the increase in Rest of the World logs compared with logs from Europe. This time, only 40% of the logs were from Europe, despite the better conditions there, but Europe typically used to provide about 60% of CLE logs.

You can see the changes since our earliest CLEs in January 2001 on the following chart.

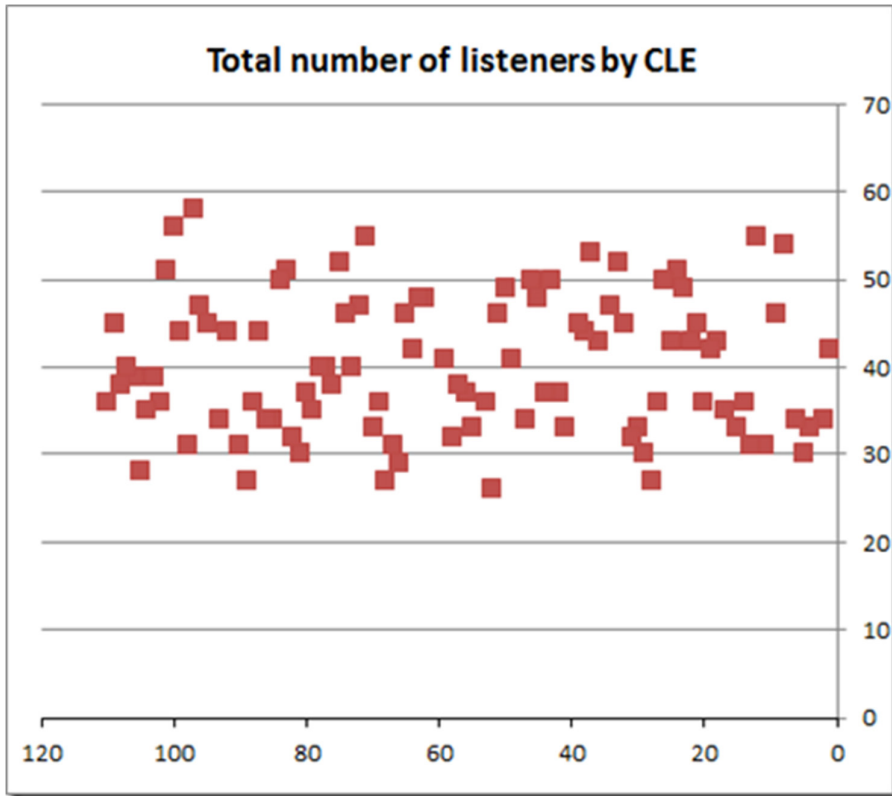
The chart includes all the CLEs when there were over 25 total listeners, chosen because the less popular events give more extreme differences in both directions. The three highest percentages on the chart (above 70%) were NAVTEX and DGPS events which are more suited to listening from Europe.



Of course, I could have chosen the alternative 'optimistic' view by showing the **rising trend** in the percentage of logs from Rest of the World. One reason for the changes must be the great job Steve has done by advertising our Listening Events in his blog (see <http://ve7sl.blogspot.co.uk/>). That has introduced several new listeners to NDB List, mainly from Canada and the States.

Other reasons, anyone?

The **total number** of listeners in each CLE has not changed significantly since CLE100. That can be seen from the following chart which uses the same CLEs as in the above.



Coming CLEs:

- CLE212 28 - 31 October
- CLE213 25 - 28 November

Good listening
Brian

CLE Co-ordinator
(ndbcle@gmail.com)

CLE211:***EUROPE***

| <u>NIGHT</u> | <u>NDBs</u> | <u>Exp.</u> | <u>+/-</u> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Friday | 583 | 551 | 32 |
| Saturday | 265 | 275 | -10 |
| Sunday | 116 | 138 | -22 |
| Totals: | 964 | 964 | |

NORTH AMERICA

| <u>NIGHT</u> | <u>NDBs</u> | <u>Exp.</u> | <u>+/-</u> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Friday | 424 | 291 | 133 |
| Saturday | 42 | 146 | -104 |
| Sunday | 44 | 73 | -29 |
| Totals: | 510 | 510 | |

The 'NDBs' column shows how many NDBs were heard on each night and the total.

The 'Exp.' column shows how many NDBs would normally be expected on each night for that same total (each night about half as many as on the previous one as there are fewer 'new' ones still remaining to be heard)

The '+/-' column shows how many more, or less, were heard each night than expected.

The results show steady conditions in Europe over the three nights.

By contrast, the second and third nights were very poor in North America.

(Night-to-night changes could also be due to a special event - a celebration, etc. - that had affected several of us)