

CLE216 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

Hello all

Time to tell you a bit more about our 216th Coordinated Listening Event – including some interesting things that you can't see in the main results.

Stolen from Steve!

But first, 'stolen' from Steve's excellent blogspot (<http://ve7sl.blogspot.ca/>), is this general summary of what our CLEs are all about.

These listening events serve several purposes. They:

1. Determine, worldwide, which beacons are actually in service and on-the-air so the online database can be kept up-to-date.
2. Determine, worldwide, which beacons are out-of-service or have gone silent since the last CLE covering this range.
3. Will indicate the state of propagation conditions at the various participant locations.
4. Will give you an indication of how well your LF/MF receiving system is working.
5. Give participants a fun yet challenging activity to keep their listening skills honed.

Three Special Members

CLE216 marked a rather special achievement for three of our members – **John**, **Mike** and **Steve** all took part in their **100th CLE** – congratulations!

The following extract from a table in my database shows for each of them their most recent CLE number ('MaxOfCLE') and their FIRST CLE number ('MinOfCLE') and the total count of CLEs.

It means that, with this CLE, quite appropriately **21 listeners** in total have achieved '**100 Club**' status. You can see from the table that it will be some time before the next 100th member arrives – perhaps it will be Joachim or Robert?

CLE_Reporter COUNTS				
Reporter	MaxOfCLE	MinOfCLE	Count	Name
USA NH jc	216	114	100	John Collins
ENG me	216	107	100	Mike Thayne
CAN BC sm	216	005	100	Steve McDonald
DEU je	216	102	90	Joachim Rabe
NIR ry	205	003	90	Robert Connolly

If you are interested in your OWN position in the table, I'll include details in the next 'Coordinator's Comments' probably showing everyone who has taken part in at least one CLE in the last 12 months.

CLE216 for First-Timers

That's 1st time NDBs heard ('new ones') not first time CLE-ers.

It was surprising to see that 20 of us made a point of quoting the number of NDBs they heard for the first time. Europe listeners were particularly lucky – well over half reported new ones (seven of them heard three or more) and I think most of the rest routinely choose not to flag 'firsts' in their logs. The conditions seemed to be unusual for nearly everyone. Sometimes NDB signals were extra fickle, giving strong signals in some directions while being quite inaudible in others.

332-SBI (Rabat, Morocco) was mostly very well received from about 1,000 miles away by six listeners in France, England and Scotland, but remarkably it could not be heard at similar distances by either Roelof or Hartmut - and they can be relied upon to catch anything that's going! Part of the explanation of course is the over sea path for the six (about 50% of it) but very little over sea for the others.

The logs from Geir (in Thailand), Hans (Taiwan), Edgar (Tasmania) and, as always, Mike (Hawaii) added Worldwide interest. There was some transatlantic reception in both directions (details were given at the end of the Rest-of-the-World Excel attachment).

NDBs were logged from over 5,000 km away (3,100 miles) twice by Europe listeners and eight times by others.

You will find the usual night-by-night table at the end of this email. It shows that the first night was clearly the best for Europe, while in North America generally there was very little change over the weekend.

The Revived 'Harvester'

You won't want to read chapter and verse about this. Suffice to say that a Windows 7 to 10 upgrade in my laptop failed dramatically here in August 2015, taking away all my PC activities (except for my Hudl tablet!). Fortunately, things were OK again in time for the next CLE, using a new hard drive and W10. The necessary QBasic and Access programs to produce all the CLE results had been transferred to run, still under Windows 98, but in a Virtual Machine in the laptop!

That went well for 16 more CLEs until an unknown 'event' last December suddenly prevented all methods of communication between the VM and W10 except by my taking photographs from the screen! My whole NDB Database was locked away in there with no effective means of access to it at all.

Since then the situation has been fully recovered (a) by using a rather-too-old backup of the database, (b) by running QBasic within W10 (Joachim was massively helpful in achieving that) and (c) by recently installing a 'new' Access 2007 in W10, so getting me halfway up to date from 1998 to 2017! (again with great help and advice from Joachim and from Alan).

For January's CLE215 we used a one-off format ('Our Nearest NDBs') chosen to allow me – more or less – to process those results without the need for Access.

For CLE216 everything has been almost back to normal here, though the more up to date version of Access is different (and better of course). A bit like changing your car after ten years (as I usually do) – you want to do basically the same things, but have to re-program yourself to achieve it!

One remaining problem is that I am temporarily unable to compare our current CLE results with 'the last time' (New NDBs?, Missing NDBs? and the NOW – THEN statistics). As a stopgap, I'm having to use 'the last time but one' to make those results – typically 30 months ago instead of 15.

Pictures Please?

I thought it was a great idea of Don's, in his email to the List, to include the unusual and interesting pictures about 'Missing NDBs'.

It got me thinking about maybe including a picture of one of us in each of my future Comments emails?

As a starter, here's a mugshot of me!



If you would be happy for your picture to be used in this way, do please email something suitable to me at ndbcle@gmail.com. It should ideally be radio-related (not too much gear in the picture) and with a sentence or two about yourself to go with it.

It's quite OK if it takes a few years off you – like the above!

Maybe you agree that, when looking at a log, it's good to have a picture of the sender in mind.

Finally, I was really pleased to read the words of appreciation at the end of one of the CLE216 logs:
'For an old man such as me, this was a very satisfying albeit a very challenging exercise.'

That exactly fits my view, too, of the recent few days listening and the harvesting!

Good listening
Brian
(CLE Coordinator)

CLE216

EUROPE

NIGHT	NDBs	Exp.	+/-
Friday	732	603	129
Saturday	203	301	-98
Sunday	120	151	-31
Totals:	1055	1055	

NORTH AMERICA

NIGHT	NDBs	Exp.	+/-
Friday	294	294	0
Saturday	139	147	-8
Sunday	82	74	8
Totals:	515	515	

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.

**You can see that the results show the first night as definitely the best in Europe.
In North America, conditions night-to-night were remarkably normal - no big changes.**

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