

HOLIDAY CLEs 226 and 227 - Co-ordinator's Comments

The Topics this time are:

Listening for **Arctic Beacons**

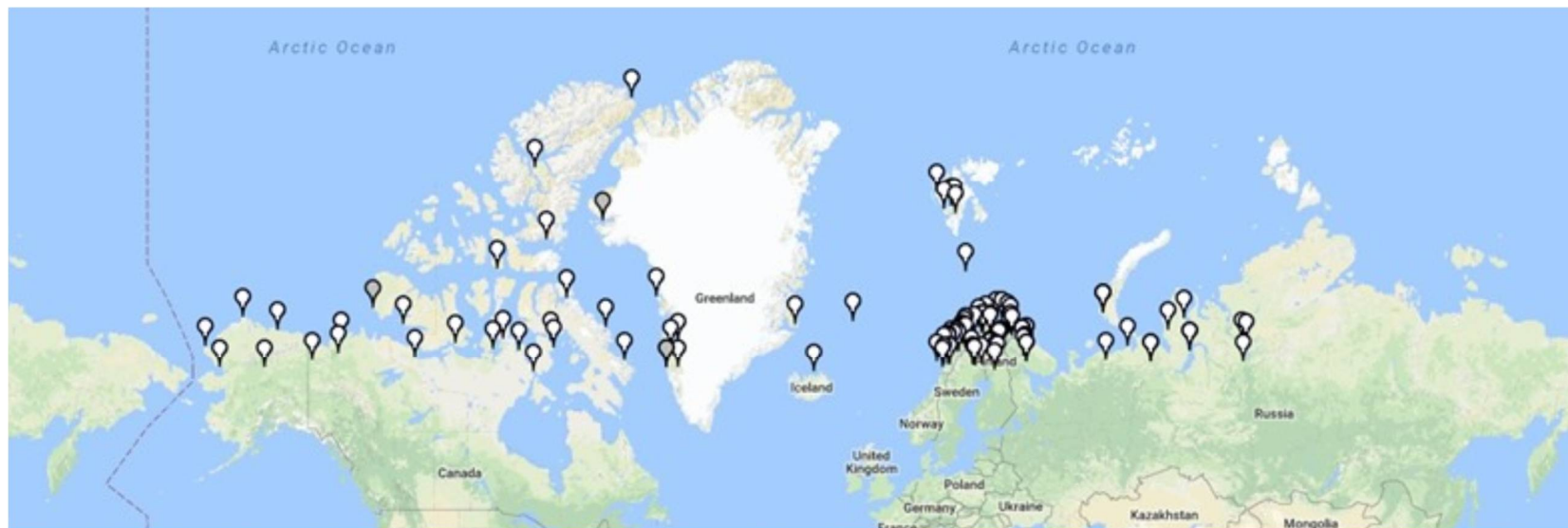
Remote Listening

Listening for **NDBs in the Countries cut by a chosen Bearing** from you

Our **Coming Listening Events**

During the Christmas - New Year holiday period we revived TWO different and unusual CLEs running together, something we had not done for several years. Each was an idea that we had only tried out in a short CLE many years ago - CLE059 and CLE092. Both of them had been a success, but we had almost forgotten about them!

In **CLE226** we concentrated on listening for the **ARCTIC NDBs** – beacons located north of the Arctic Circle (and used by Santa each year to navigate his reindeer on their long flights!). The map below, from RWW, shows the 113 Arctic NDBs that have been reported since the start of 2017. A handful of those may have become inactive since then. The 36 CLE226 logs included reports on 99 different NDBs, probably the most intensive listening for Arctic NDBs ever!



You can see that the NDBs are really concentrated in Northern Scandinavia (unsurprising, as it is one of Santa's main bases!). Reception of those far-north signals was greatly helped by logs from two reporters who listened from their homes in Sweden and Finland, and by three others who also got very good results by listening via the Internet using remote SDRs located near, or above, the Arctic Circle. The map shows that Arctic NDBs are well scattered in the north of Alaska, Canada and the NW of Russia. If we had any listeners (and/or remote receivers) towards the NE of Russia and Siberia, maybe we would discover for the first time a few remote 'new' NDBs up there? I also wonder whether there might be an active NDB or two anyway near the South Pole – RWW seems to show nothing within 4,000 km (2,500 miles) of it.

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| CAN BC bt | CAN BC co | CAN BC sm | CAN NS vm | CZE my | DEU hw | DEU je | ENG ag | ENG bk | ENG me | ENG pt | ENG px | FIN r0 | FIN ro | HOL rb | HWA mx | NOR d8 | SCT ds | SWE ll | SWE z8 | SWE z9 | USA AZ sr | USA CO ac | USA IL dt | USA IL fy | USA MI ct | USA MO dp | USA NE dn | USA NH jc | USA NJ ge | USA TX ch | USA TX du | USA WA so |
| 7 | 1 | 13 | 4 | 11 | 30 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 41 | 25 | 3 | 75 | 4 | 73 | 72 | 59 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 12 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 6 | 5 |

The little table above shows how many Arctic NDBs were heard by each reporter. I forgot to add these counts at the end of the Listening Times table where they are usually found.

The results in bold were made using the remote SDRs.

REMOTE SDRs

Some 'purists' might feel that listening via a remote site is somehow not right – a kind of 'cheating' maybe! Use of recordings is also often hard for some of us to welcome, or to want to do themselves. Remote SDR listening is normally fully 'live' without any use of recordings. I seldom try them, but remote SDRs do provide a great and easy opportunity to explore a fascinating new world of beacons in far-away places. Ones that cover the NDB frequencies well are increasing in number, they are usually freely available, are easy to use and many now have advanced technical features. It is two years since we had a CLE dedicated to Remote Listening. High time for another one?

Our **BEARINGS CLE227** was a full-scale repeat of the weekend experiment (CLE092) early in June over ten years ago.

We each again chose **any one bearing** (degrees clockwise from due North) and tried to log up to 10 NDBs located in each of the radio countries that were 'cut' by that bearing line. Use of a great circle map was needed and several good ones were used, such as Google Earth. Listeners chose their bearings for a variety of reasons – and the choosing seems to have been almost as much enjoyed as the listening!

The following table shows the choice of bearings made by the listeners and a summary of the results they achieved:

| Who? | Chosen Bearing | Countries Heard | NDBs Heard | Av.NDBs /Country |
|--|----------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| CZE lk Ludek Kosek, Jablonec nad Nisou, N. Bohemia | 170 | 6 | 38 | 6.3 |
| CZE my Milos Holy, Lhota pod Radcem | 145 | 10 | 76 | 7.6 |
| CZE ze Zdenek Elias, Jablonec nad Nisou, N. Bohemia | 170 | 6 | 52 | 8.7 |
| DEU bd Bernhard Hein, Dessau-RoÄylau | 158 | 8 | 65 | 8.1 |
| DEU hw Hartmut Wolff, Near Wolfsburg | 230 | 9 | 55 | 6.1 |
| DEU je Joachim Rabe, Norderstedt, north of Hamburg | 134 | 8 | 67 | 8.4 |
| ENG bk Brian Keyte, Bookham, Surrey | 310 | 7 | 34 | 4.9 |
| ENG hh Brian Heath, Stapleton, Leicestershire | 108 | 9 | 90 | 10.0 |
| ENG me Mike Thayne, Whitley Bay | 134 | 10 | 77 | 7.7 |
| ENG pt John Pitty, Horsham, West Sussex | 215.36 | 7 | 46 | 6.6 |
| ENG px Peter Greatorex, Bolsover, Derbyshire | 082 | 5 | 34 | 6.8 |
| FIN r0 Raimo Karjalainen, while at Siikalatva, Rantsila | 270 | 2 | 15 | 7.5 |
| FIN ro Raimo Karjalainen, Laukaa, near Jyvaskyla | 168.51 | 4 | 24 | 6.0 |
| HOL rb Roelof Bakker, Middelburg, Zealand | 094 | 11 | 89 | 8.1 |
| ITA wb William G Buchanan, Alessandria | 249 | 4 | 32 | 8.0 |
| SCT ds David Atkins, Tighnabraich, Argyll | 163 | 10 | 50 | 5.0 |
| AUS, SA rw Bob Warren, Blakeview | 025 | 3 | 30 | 10.0 |
| CAN, BC bt Brian Butler, Hazelton | 121.5 | 10 | 37 | 3.7 |
| CAN, BC sm Steve McDonald, Mayne Island | 107 | 16 | 94 | 5.9 |
| CAN, NS vm Vernon Matheson, Truro | 298 | 7 | 52 | 7.4 |
| HWA mx Mike Tuggle, Kaneohe, Hawaii | 040 | 10 | 30 | 3.0 |
| USA, AZ bc Bob Coomler, Tucson | 060 | 9 | 57 | 6.3 |
| USA, AZ sr Steve Ratzlaff, Near Sahuarita, SE Arizona | 076 | 10 | 81 | 8.1 |
| USA, CO ac Anthony Casorso, Westminster | 061 | 11 | 84 | 7.6 |
| USA, IL dt Dave Tomasko, Galena | 243 | 11 | 87 | 7.9 |
| USA, IL fy Joe Farley, Downers Grove | 150 | 12 | 81 | 6.8 |
| USA, ME d7 Dan Petersen, via Web-SDR at Lubec | 232 | 14 | 51 | 3.6 |
| USA, MI ct Carl Schmidt, Rochester | 173 | 12 | 53 | 4.4 |
| USA, MI jb Joe Miller, Troy | 172 | 12 | 55 | 4.6 |
| USA, MO dp Dick Palmer, Wentzville | 060 | 13 | 91 | 7.0 |
| USA, NE dn Don Tomkinson, Gothenburg | 084 | 6 | 42 | 7.0 |
| USA, NH jc John Collins, Charlestown | 214 | 13 | 87 | 6.7 |
| USA, NJ ge George Muha, Cream Ridge | 327 | 5 | 33 | 6.6 |
| USA, TX ch Chuck Dobbins, Alpine | 040 | 10 | 98 | 9.8 |
| USA, TX du Douglas Springfield, New Chapel Hill, NE Texas | 141.11 | 6 | 37 | 6.2 |
| USA, WA so Steven O'Kelley, The Dungeon, Nr Seattle | 116 | 9 | 44 | 4.9 |

I owe Joachim an apology. When we agreed that he would tackle the Bearings results, and me the Santa (Arctic) ones, I had only thought that the many NDBs would be 'eaten up' by Joachim's new harvester (they were) and that my very limited number of Arctic NDBs would be relatively easy for me, using the old harvester's manual checking approach. I forgot that the trial Bearings CLE had been very trivial to analyse. This time, with 36 bearings logs instead of only 14, Joachim was presented with the need to check all the bearings and countries and he often needed to agree changes with the reporters in order to make meaningful results.

COMING CLEs

After the two Holiday specials, we are certainly due for a normal frequency-range event on the last weekend of this month:

CLE228 Friday 26 – Monday 29 January 'Normal' CLE

CLE229 Friday 23 – Monday 26 February

CLE230 Friday 23 – Monday 26 March

(These are still provisional dates at present)

Meanwhile Joachim and I wish you Good Listening

Brian

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