

CLE252 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS:

Hello all

PLUS POINTS? Yes, there were a few in this CLE - last weekend's listening event looked like being very normal, but it turned out to be a bit special in some unexpected ways.

We were listening for NDBs in one of our narrow frequency ranges (370 kHz to just below 385 kHz) and conditions were mostly ordinary but 2,644 good loggings came from the 58 reporters.

A few listeners sent duplicated reports, easily corrected by deleting one, but **only three reports needed correction** (by adding or subtracting one from the kHz quoted). That must surely be an all-time record. Joachim and I both noticed that the Harvester program hardly called on us at all to sort out any problems - for 46 of the logs it just whirred away for a few seconds and said 'AOK' with no help from us at all!

PUZZLE! I spotted something very unusual in the NOW-THEN table for Europe. That's the one which compares our results with the ones that we had for the same frequency range last time (September 2018).

These were the summary lines, combining the statistics for the Europe listeners:

THEN CLE236 - 370-384.9 kHz - 21.09.2018 - 24.09.2018
NOW CLE252 - 370-384.9 kHz - 24.01.2020 - 27.01.2020

Listeners	Av km		Total km x 1000		NDBs		Max km	
	THEN	NOW	THEN	NOW	THEN	NOW	THEN	NOW

12 'NOW' + THEN reporters:

Averages:	981	1072	60	73	56	61	3254	3942
% Increase:		9		22		10		21

14 'NOW' (not THEN) reporters:

Averages:		1398		110		71		4498
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The strange thing is that the reporters who had not taken part last time **had significantly higher averages** for all four statistics (underlined).

e.g. the 12 reporters from both CLEs averaged 61 NDBs heard this time, but the 14 'now only' ones averaged 71 NDBs this time.

In every previous CLE, nearly all of the four statistics have been higher for the 'regulars' (who tend to be the more experienced listeners).

What was happening this time? A suggested answer to the puzzle follows below!

"PLEASE .." We often ask you to follow 'rules' and conventions to make it easier for Joachim and me - and probably also for Pat (REU) and for Steve (RNA/RWW)

The 'success rates' were higher than ever this time and our THANK-YOUs are due!:

CLE... in the email subject? 58 of the 58 reporters did

'FINAL' in the email subject? 55 did

***A count of your loggings?** 42 did

Give your location? Certainly not 100%

(Sometimes listeners don't even show their names! Then we may have to use the E-Mail address to try and find out who it is!)

The 'CLE...' and 'FINAL' help to make sure that we don't miss your log among all the other List emails.

The Harvester' program tells us how many loggings it found from you, which we compare with any count that you give.

***However** it may be better NOT to give a count if it is just a manual one (rather than from a log-making program), unless you are sure it is right.

Giving your Location - Locator and/or Town/City - makes sure that we show the right details for you and work out distances, etc. correctly.

After several CLEs, Joachim and I recognise your usual location name and we can press on with confidence, knowing we'll get the right distances, etc.- and everyone reading your log will know where it was made.

PSKOV This very powerful new program from Ivan can identify ('hear') many NDBs that would not be audible to a human with headphones. It is being used by us more and more.

Reporters usually quote their equipment in their logs - receivers, aerials, software, .. but often it is their whole range, rather than what they were actually using to make that particular log.

Most PSKOV logs avoid that uncertainty because users usually copy the actual program output, which very recognisably comes from PSKOV.

In CLE252 we had 7 or 8 logs which had been made that way. Joachim and I both noticed that those logs almost always go through the Harvester without any problems - and they are usually quite a lot longer than others. We think that is because PSKOV relies on pre-entered lists of the NDBs to be sought by the program. I guess that will include lots of possible 'new catches' for a reporter, but it seldom has NDBs whose details are not yet properly known.

The really interesting thing is that nearly all the CLE252 PSKOV users **did not take part in CLE236**. i.e. They were 'NOW (not THEN)' users, but with lots of loggings. So the PUZZLE (above) is now solved?

(PS: Is there a simple explanation of what PSKOV does - just a page or so? I get the idea that there may be no need for any old fashioned 'real' listening when using it - which would remove the satisfaction of practising basic listening skills for me - but hopefully I'm wrong)

Coming CLEs:

(The dates are provisional at present)

CLE253 Fri. Feb 21st - Mon. Feb 24th 'BARN DOOR'*

CLE254 Fri. Mar 27th - Mon. Feb 30th Normal

*For our 6th 'BARN DOOR' event we'll only use NON-SELECTIVE receivers.

E.g.:

A simple homebrew RX (e.g. a single Transistor set with regen.),

An 'antique' receiver (something you've not powered up for years?),

An ultralight, - or a normal receiver with NO filtering, or a WIDE filter.

A normal receiver but with NO filtering or a WIDE filter (not less than about 2 kHz and no selection of an audio filter.

This early advice may help you to choose, or make, something suitable to listen with.

Please look out for further detailed advice within a few days.

73

Brian

(CLE Coordinator)