

# CLE253 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS:

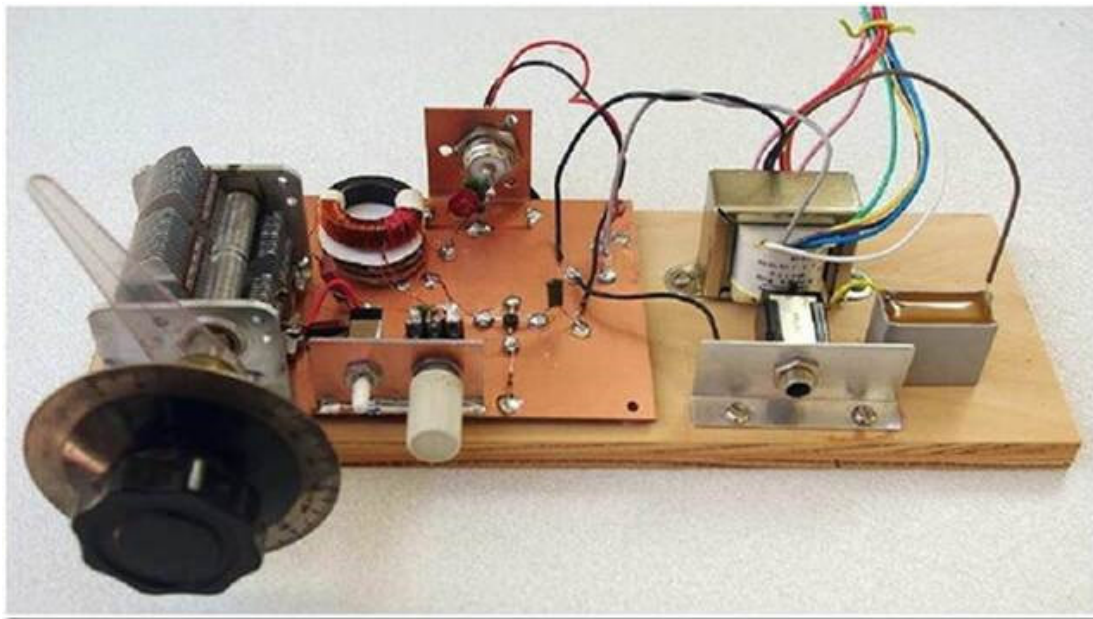
Hello all

It's time to close the Barn Doors for another year or so - but first let's summarise what, if anything, we've learned from CLE253. There was again a fascinating mix of receiver types, all of them capable of keeping our barn doors wide open by using wide filters or no filter at all. Three receiver types were popular - 11 of us chose **portables**, 10 of us used simple sets with **regen** in the first stage, nearly all of them homebrew (six with one or more extra amplification stages) and 8 others used **classic** receivers. There was also a multi-tube **homebrew**, a vintage receiver from the **2nd World War**, an **SDR** at home and one used via the **WEB**.

## 'WIDE OPEN' means BAND CLOSED?

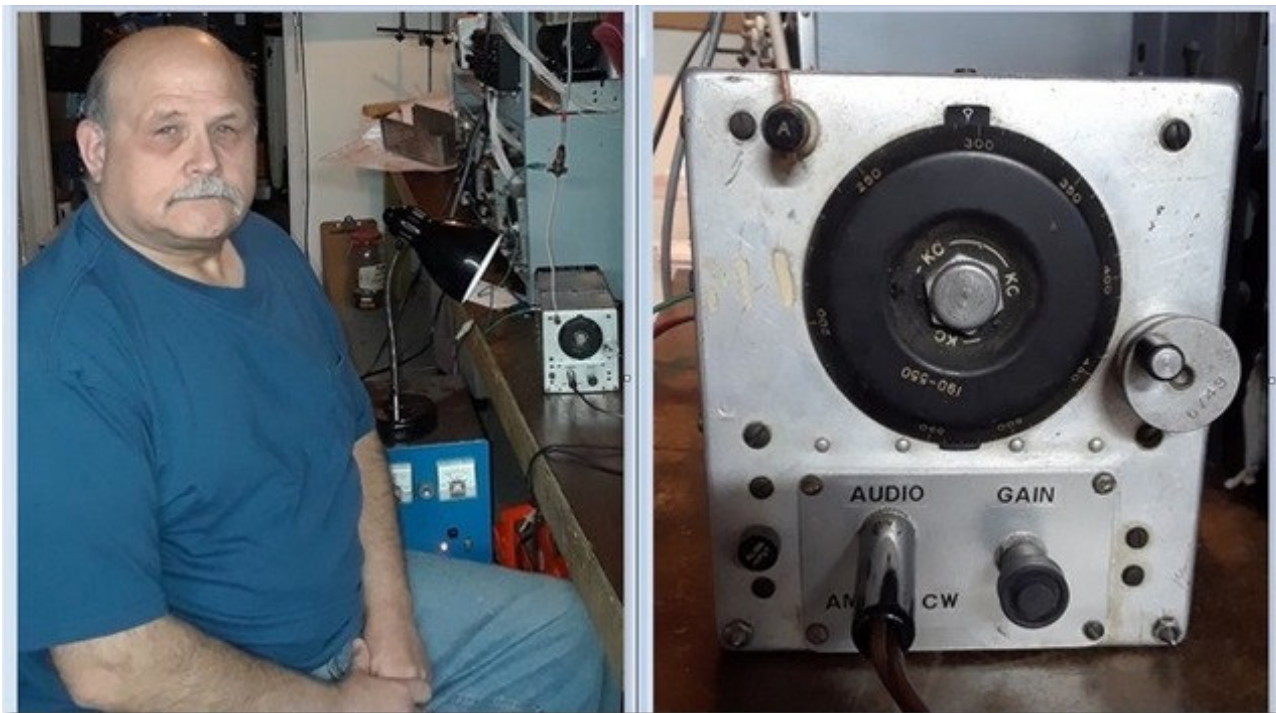
Not at all! The absence of narrow filters didn't stop us from hearing plenty of DX. NDBs between 4,500 km and 7,500 km away were heard 26 times in all, shared among six of us. 18 of those 26 were loggings made by Mike on Hawaii with his faithful 1AD, a one-transistor regenerative circuit, using a Siemens 1216 dual gate UHF MOSFET. It is amazing what such a simple set can receive with a 70-foot long inverted L antenna, 39 feet high.

Steve on Mayne Island, BC, also a 1AD enthusiast, used his very simple BF966 1AD, based mainly on Mike's circuit, and logged 84 NDBs. He had built it in an afternoon to use in a previous Barn Door CLE. This is his picture:



The only components not shown are the 9V battery and the phones.

From PA, Mark (K3MSB) heard 68 NDBs using his ideal Barn Door receiver with a 160M INV-L Antenna.



It is a World War II BC-453-B (ARC-5) powered by a 28V dynamotor.

### **SUMMER or WINTER?**

I think we were expecting a record number of Barn Door logs for this, our 6th, and the first Winter one.

CLE	Month	Europe Logs	Rest Logs	Total
B D 1	Apr-09	9	13	22
B D 2	Jul-11	16	13	29
B D 3	Jul-14	11	16	27
B D 4	Jul-16	9	11	20
B D 5	Jul-18	13	19	32
<b>B D 6</b>	<b>Feb-20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>33</b>

Well, 33 is more than 32, but the number of listeners has been trending gently upwards for Normal CLEs over the years and they are lower in the summer.

The same modest number of listeners tend to return each time for Barn Doors, so I guess it's a case of the enthusiasts coming whatever time of year it is!

Comparing this Barn Door CLE with the last one, this table (data from the main results) shows that, on average, the listeners who took part in both events made really big improvements, particularly away from Europe:

<i>Barn Door 5</i>				
>			Increase in NDBs Heard	Increase in Max km
<i>Barn Door 6</i>	Increase in Av. km to NDBs	Increase in Total km		
Europe	29%	45%	15%	45%
RotW	72%	37%	153%	118%

The number of reporters has only increased slightly but the quality of the actual logs was clearly better.

Is that just due to the High Summer > Winter differences?

It is a lot better than we usually get when comparing *wintertime NOW* with *summertime THEN* for the 'Normal' CLEs.

WINTERTIME didn't discourage Jay from going portable - on a snowy mountain in Scotland!

He knew of an 820 metre long barbed wire fence running from about 50m to 380m above sea level. It needed some maintenance before he could use it (his tools weighed far more than his XH Data D-808 receiver). This is one of his pictures:



Jay's expedition turned out to be quite an adventure - **well worth reading** in his log if you've not already done so.

Repairing broken fences, removing branches that have fallen across them and shorts to ground are things we often put right (even here at my home before this CLE and usually near rented holiday cottages).

We can claim that our unusual hobby provides this free service as a bonus to the community in the UK and probably across the World!

## **LISTENERS' COMMENTS**

We invited comments with the logs and we got plenty.

Joachim and I have selected some snippets that caught our eyes - see below.

### **Coming CLEs:**

(The dates are provisional at present)

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

CLE255 Fri. Apr 24th - Mon. Apr 27th Normal?

CLE256 Fri. May 22nd - Mon. May 25th

Good listening, all.

73

Brian

(CLE Coordinator)

*Our thanks to Steve, Mark and Jay for the use of their pictures.*

SNIPPETS FROM THE LOGS:

**“Great listening event.**

**“Ciara brought my N/S antenna down completely, then along came Dennis and took the E/W antenna down. That made a lot of urgent work . . . anyway it was all finished in time for the CLE.**

**“A really nice back to basics CLE with the good old Sony in use, located in our Potting shed in the garden.**

**“This was one great event, I always enjoy the Barn-Door CLEs, even though my ears always take a great beating.**

**My first go at using a traditional receiver and actually logging NDBs by ear...I've really got a lot out of this CLE .. It's VERY interesting to actually experience the changing conditions in real time, especially at dawn and dusk. This isn't something I had given much thought too as I normally only work with recordings.**

**“.. Door of my barn is open 365 days a year ... Of course it's my favourite event!!!**

**“1-transistor set still does the job ... and just the single knob to twiddle!**

**“...Decided I would go back to basics with my antenna choice and use a very long barbed wire fence I had scoped last winter.**

**“She : "Which receiver will you be using?" Me : "The ugly DIY thing" She : "Does it work" Me : "No idea!"**

**“It was great to have a real tuning capacitor on end of the knob Not done that since the last barn door cle.**

**“The jumping oscillator was the biggest problem. Just as the ears start to narrow in on a weak Ident, it hops across the band.**

**“Having played with PskovNDB for months looking for extremely weak signals, CLE253 was just the opposite. ... It appears that my head contains a nice collection of 'passports' which really helped in unearthing stations amidst the racket!**

**“So thanks for another great CLE, I've enjoyed every one of these 'Barn Door' events!**

**“It was fun to put on the headphones and listen instead of watching the waterfall. My hearing is not very good but the band was quiet and the signals were there.**

“Marine RDF's are not very sensitive as they were only expected to deal with marine beacons and AMBC stations at ~50 miles maximum range.

“Good to exercise the eardrums for a change.

“I had forgotten how much fun you can have with an Ultralight radio listening to our "beacon band"!!

“Had a GREAT time! I think I added one or two new ones to my holster!

*OT: Old Bicycle?*



*(Now where have we seen that before?)*