

# CLE253 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS:

Hello all

How often have we heard the words 'Difficult' and 'Challenging' to describe these present times?

Well, last weekend's CLE was no more difficult or challenging, or easier, than usual. Just pleasantly normal!

A welcome **50 of us sent their logs** – a total that has been exceeded only once in all 20 of our previous March CLEs. That was way back in March 2010 when we usually had fewer CLE listeners, but a surprising 51 of us were tempted by the really excellent conditions for CLE128 (385-400 kHz).

I see the Coordinator's Comments after that event made a very dubious conclusion:

*"Comparing our results with the equivalent ones from Oct 2008 suggests that overall we have 'lost' about 12 or 13 NDBs and gained about 4 over the last 16 months, a net loss of 8 or 9 beacons from the total of 314 logged in the range – or a loss of about 2% per annum. **At that rate it will be about 50 years before they are all gone – but of course it doesn't work like that!**"*

Now we have records from our monthly CLEs for nearly 20 years covering the whole frequency range – and more importantly also today's magnificent Rxx Database, so I think we can now produce something showing quite accurately how the number of active NDBs has declined over the whole period. Something to keep me (and others?) busy for a little while maybe, now that we are rather housebound?

A special welcome to **Chuck from Goddard, Kansas**. Good to see another CLE log at last from KS, "The Free State". Chuck's was the first one since March 2012 and before that there were only 9, all from Pittsburg.

The **most widespread reception** was from the 600W NDB, **CBC 415**, 'West End (Cayman Brac)', well situated on Grand Cayman Island, one of the Cayman Islands in the western Caribbean Sea (not far from Cuba). It provided the four most DX loggings from Europe, all over 7,000 km (rb in HOL, ap in ENG, ea in FRA and lw in SCT) and it was heard by 24 of the 29 Rest of the World listeners.

The **most impressive and unexpected** (to me!) reception came using a Remote Kiwi SDR: Michael made his log from Germany by remote use of the receiver on California's Pacific Coast. His 46 loggings include the 5 most DX loggings made by Rest of the World listeners, the furthest being 407 SWH, Swan Hill, 12,600 km across the Pacific in Australia.

Michael log was presented very modestly, so I asked if he could tell us a bit more.

This is what he sent me:

**"During the last couple of weeks I've become a regular user of the KiwiSDR at Point Reyes, California, north of the San Francisco Bay. The receiver is located on the premises of the discontinued historic coastal radio station KPH.**

This receiver hears NDBs extremely well and brings in long haul signals from many exotic islands located in the Pacific Ocean on a nearly regular basis. The antenna in use is a 100 meter long Marconi T, and seems to be located about 1 km away from the Pacific Ocean. This closeness to the sea and its location in a National Park environment with extremely low man-made noise levels are the main ingredients for great NDB DX.

PskovNDB turned out to be another invaluable ingredient for getting the DX stations in the log. During the course of the CLE I recorded some IQ files of 5 minutes length each for convenient offline analysis.

My thanks go to the members of the Maritime Radio Historical Society who installed the KiwiSDR and thus created incredible NDB DX opportunities. Thanks go also to "Mister PskovNDB" Ivan for his splendid software."

Many thanks, Michael

This map, from RWW, shows all the NDBs which were logged from the Pont Reyes SDR during March 2020 by all its users:

(Point Reyes is marked by the red pin in Locator CN)



The only other Remote log made in this CLE came **from Zdenek in CZE**. His local conditions make it impossible to hear much from home, but the Remote RX at Slatina (also in CZE – just!) performs well. It gave Zdenek a very respectable total of 80 NDBs from 27 different radio countries.

Whether remotes are used of necessity, or by choice, they really are an interesting, effective and different way of practicing our hobby – thanks to the generosity of the many radio enthusiasts around the World who allow free use of their receivers. (Have a look at <https://www.sdr.hu> , etc.)

### **Coming CLEs:**

(The dates are provisional at present)

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

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

Good listening and take care.

73

Brian

(CLE Coordinator)