

CLE 81 SUMMARY OF THE EVENT:

Since this month's CLE was slightly different to our more usual types, the results are presented in a number of different ways. As well as the usual 'Table' formats, produced by our CLE Coordinator, Brian Keyte, G3SIA, the results have also had further analysis by the NDB List's Technical Coordinator, Roelof Bakker, PA0RDT, and the results for both Europe and North America/Rest of the World are also given here, showing the characteristics of the reported NDBs in more detail. Brian also produced a complimentary summary of "Beacon Effectiveness", which is also available as a .pdf file from the CLE pages.

Because of the more unusual nature of this event, below is a collection of comments and items, which include the "CLE 81 Final Details", and these will offer more information about how the CLE was operated, and what the results can tell us:

CLE 81 "FINAL DETAILS":

Hi all,

Our special 'Local NDBs' listening event starts on Friday. Please read the following details carefully:

Days: Friday 14th July - Monday 24th July
Frequencies: All LF/MF

Please tell us about your strongest local NDBs (not DGPS or Navtex) - you can choose how many to report on, but we suggest around 10 - 50 of them. All of them should be STRONG daytime signals, also easily copied all night. Reports from several of us on the same strong NDBs will be welcome (e.g. the Distance and Strength results will help us to know which NDBs tend to be consistently stronger or weaker)

The logs will follow a similar format to the usual one, every line starting with the usual information -

Day and UTC (any ONE time when you copied the NDB during the event).
You can get the best results around midday.
kHz - the NDB's nominal (published) carrier frequency.
NDB Ident.

These will be followed by ANY ONE or MORE of the following extra pieces of information in any order (each one is optional):

NDB location (name).

Distance from you - please add 'km' or 'mile'.
(if you do not know this we shall be able to work it out)

Strength. A RELATIVE figure starting with 'S' - e.g. S9+28 from an S-meter reading, or, using ANY meter calibration, readings such as S68, S71, etc.! Please try and use an OMNIDIRECTIONAL aerial for your strength measurements - a mini-whip would be ideal, or a small rotatable loop set for maximum signal.

Timing. The total time for one cycle followed by 'sec' - if you can measure to within 0.1 seconds, that's better (there is no real merit in accuracy greater than that). Or, if you prefer, the gap time (e.g. ID+5" gap). Please give details if the ident is sent more than once (e.g. IDx2) and if there is a DAID (long dash between IDs).

Offsets. The actual frequencies of the upper and lower offsets OR the separation of the upper (+) and lower (-) offset from the carrier in Hz.

Please measure to within +/-10 Hz if you can. +/-1 Hz is better (there is no real merit in accuracy greater than that).

Part time? If the NDB is not normally 24-hour operation (i.e. not usually 'on' both around midday AND around midnight), or if it has been off air in recent days/weeks, please add details. Your advice will be very helpful to others trying to log the beacon.

Negative / 'Quizitive' Ident? If you can hear the NDB with a negative (or reverse) ident please add '(neg)' and give details - e.g. what the neg. sounds like. 'Quizitive' idents - only reported in some UK beacons so far - are peculiar idents heard as a 'growling' low note superimposed on the carrier when listening close to it in frequency and distance. Please add '(quiz)' and say what it sounds like - they are not made up of normal length dots and dashes.

Picture Maybe you already have a picture taken at the NDB site, or you could use your camera during the event. Please send any pictures direct to Alan, beaconworld at tiscali.co.uk NOT VIA THE REFLECTOR (members without Broadband may not welcome lots of large emails). Any picture size and format will be OK - Alan will make them all into a standard size and format and put them together on a page linked from the CLE page where they will all be easily available to view. Please include '(pic)' in your log line to show that a picture is being sent to Alan.

Anything else unusual about the NDB.

Here is an imaginary log line (from someone providing most of the information) showing how the results might look:

```
dd UTC kHz Call
~~~~~
14 11:50 328 HIG S9+20 1040 1020 21sec San Sebastian ESP 38km
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Please include the S, sec, km, etc. ON EACH LINE (rather than in headings). At the start or end please add details of your location and, if you provided Strength results, the aerial you used for them.

It will be harder than usual to put all the results together afterwards - I shall do the usual job with the 'harvester' program, and Roelof has kindly agreed to do most of the harder, mainly manual, work of analysing the extra information. If you want to send 'interim' logs please do so, but PLEASE make it clear that it is not your final log. Your FINAL log must include ALL of your contribution to the CLE.

I will send an 'Any More Logs?' email at about 17:00 UTC on Tuesday 25th July so that you can check that your log has been found OK. The final closing time for logs to arrive on the List will be 08:00 UTC on Wednesday 26th and Roelof, Alan and I hope to complete the job fairly soon after that.

The results will extend the information in Rxx and will provide a useful CLE archive for future reference. Please help by making sure that your own local NDBs are included.

Good listening
Brian

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~~~~~
From: Brian Keyte G3SIA brian at keyteb.freemove.co.uk
Location: Surrey, SE England (CLE co-ordinator)
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Some comments from Roelof regarding his analysis of the European CLE Results:

Hello all,

In the attachments you will find two .pdf files with the results of CLE81. One in frequency order, the other selected per reporter.

For offsets the most common format appeared to be the actual frequency. I have taken the liberty to convert the others to this format to have a uniform presentation. Signal strength was reported in S units and dBm. It was a bit difficult to find a common form and I have tried to convert the data to S of the SINPO standard. This ranges from 1 to 5. Probably not very accurate, but useful to have an indication of signal strength. Again the original data can be found in Brian's Excel file.

I hope this list is of use to some of you. I found it both interesting and educational.

Best regards,

Roelof Bakker, pa0rdt

Some comments from Roelof regarding his analysis of the North American CLE Results:

Hello all,

In the attachment you will find two files with the results of CLE81 for listeners in North America. In the first the results are given in frequency order. In the second the results are in reporter order.

It appears that the Upper/Lower ID format in N.America is +/- Hz from the nominal frequency. I have used this format in the combined results. Not all listeners have reported offsets and as I do not have any offsets myself of course, these are omitted.

The signal strength has been converted to the 1 - 5 scale format of SINPO. Some listeners used this format and this was quite helpful. I have tried to establish the levels as good as possible from the reports.

Looking at the daytime signal strength of a few more remote stations, some powerful NDB's must be around.

I hope these lists are of use to someone. I enjoyed preparing them.

Best regards,

Roelof Bakker, pa0rdt