

The 'How?' and 'Why?' of CLEs (Jan. 2022 revision)

What are CLEs and Why do we have them?

Coordinated Listening Events (CLEs) allow us share our listening for NDBs non-competitively. They were originally designed to study conditions in a particular part of the band and at a particular time.

They encourage us to practise our hobby and, by comparing our results with others, to improve our knowledge of it, our listening techniques, our receivers and aerials, etc.

Many of our CLEs re-use the same narrow range of frequencies after a year or so.

That can provide each of us with an excellent way of measuring our personal progress by comparing our own results in the two CLEs.

Most important of all, CLEs are FUN!

What kinds of CLE are there?

The most common ones are what we call 'Normal' CLEs, in which we all listen for the NDBs in a fairly narrow frequency range, such as 320-335 kHz. About 10 of these different ranges allow us to cover all of the NDB frequencies. Mixed in with those are 'specials', in which we tackle some very different kinds of challenge. Those often use the whole range of the NDB frequencies from 190 kHz to 1740 kHz.

I've not made a CLE log before - how do I start?

First-timer logs are always **very** welcome.

Don't worry about 'doing it right' - a CLE Co-ordinator would happily re-type a whole first-time log if necessary to get it through!

If you use a format similar to the logs sent to the NDB List, it should be OK. To get started you could use Excel or Word or Notepad - or even just type it in a normal email.

There are some excellent log-making programs provided by our members. For example, Alex's 'WWSU' is a popular one which includes a comprehensive database of the NDBs you are likely to hear. It makes logs which are 'CLE-friendly' of course - we always know we'll not have much trouble processing it when we see a log made that way!

Please always include details of your **location** (country, state, town or city **and** your 6-digit **Locator** if you know it (or, if you don't, your Latitude / Longitude). Also please give brief details of your station (receiver, aerial, etc.). Your log will then be of interest to everyone, whether they are new or old members.

To be sure that we find your CLE log it is very important to include in the Subject of your email:
CLEnnn where nnn is the CLE number
and FINAL (so we are using the correct version).

Please don't send your log in an attachment.

What order should I put my loggings in?

Any order you like.

Most listeners choose frequency order, but, for some special CLEs, country order or time order might be more suitable.

The **date, time logged (UTC), kHz and IDENT** have to come FIRST in all CLE log lines.

They need not be in that order between themselves, but all of the lines in your log must have the same format.

Those are the only necessary items to show.

If you want to, after those you could also add the NDB location names, their distances from you, etc., but the names and distances are always worked out by the Harvester program.

Can I show more than one logging of the same NDB?

Yes, but that is very seldom needed and it would be treated as a minor error. The combined results would only show one of the loggings. If one was made around midday that would be the more interesting one.

Can I send 'Interim' logs to the List during the CLE?

It's entirely up to you, but if you do, please add '**INTERIM**' clearly in their Subject.

Many listeners are interested in how others are getting on and it might help them with their own listening.

If you send Interim logs, you must also send a '**FINAL**' one containing all your loggings for the CLE.

What happens When? - and How are all the Logs put together to make the 'Combined Results'?

There are short and long answers to that. Here is a short-ish answer:

Most CLEs start at midday on a Friday (your local time) and finish at midday on Monday (again, local time).

You can send your log to NDB List any time up to the Tuesday but it might be too late to use after that.

On the Tuesday evening we send an 'Any More Logs?' email to the List showing whose logs have been found and the number of loggings in each of them.

Joachim's 'Harvester' program has details of all the active NDBs in the CLE's frequency range (made from Martin's RXX Database). It detects any errors there might be in each logging – e.g.:

- An NDB Ident doesn't match the kHz shown for it or it is outside that particular CLE's frequency range.
- The Date/Time of a logging is before the start of the CLE or after the end of it.
- More than one logging is shown for the same NDB (we would usually keep the earliest one)

We make the necessary corrections when we can (we send details of changes to the affected reporters later)

The Combined Results of all the reporters are usually made within a day or so and are posted to the NDB List – lots of lists, statistics and tables. We usually also send a 'Coordinator's Comments' email a few days later, summarising any other interesting things about the CLE. Copies of all past CLE results can be seen in **THE CLE SECTION** of the **NDB LIST WEBSITE** (see below).

Why do you NOT want logs to be sent direct to the CLE Coordinator?

There are several reasons for that.

The main one is that all logs should be open for all to see and enjoy - so if a CLE log is only sent direct to Joachim or to me we would then send a copy of it via the List.

Also, if something goes wrong (e.g. if I make a mistake in handling someone's log) it will be obvious where the fault lies if the user's original log is visible to all.

And if either Joachim or I temporarily don't receive emails for whatever reason, we can find your log online via the NDB List Website.

Can I send a CLE log made from a site away from my normal location?

Certainly! It is often very rewarding to try listening from different places, maybe away from your usual frustrating sources of interference, or using different aerials, portable receivers, etc. Please don't send a log from your normal location AND from somewhere else. We cannot use more than one log from a reporter in the same CLE.

There are also many receivers around the World capable of tuning Long Wave - Medium Wave frequencies and available to be used remotely via the Internet through the kindness of their owners. Many of them are privately-owned kiwiSDRs and they are quite often used in CLEs. They can support more than one user at a time. Some Web SDRs can support a very large number of

users simultaneously – e.g. several hundreds for the one at the University of Twente’s Radio Club at Enschede in the Netherlands (HOL).

Remote listening can be a very good way to expand the possibilities and interest in our hobby.

If you participate in a CLE using a remote receiver, please include its details in your “FINAL” log to the List – its country, state, city/town, 6-digit locator (or Lat/Long) and, if possible, the web-url.

You can use the “Coordinates Converter” in the tools-section of the Rxx website: <https://rxx.classaxe.com/en/reu/tools>

Why do you show some of the results in the email and the rest of them in the Excel attachment?

That's because we hope some of the details in the email will be of interest to non CLE-ers - readers who probably wouldn't open the Excel attachment.

Information in the email is more for general interest than a technical record of the event, and we hope some readers might then go on to look at the full results.

Why don't you use my proper initials in the column headings in the combined results?

The first few CLEs averaged a total of 14 reporters each - there was no problem then with using their simple 2-letter initials.

Having allocated initials, we need to keep them for each listener so that all the old records can still be used.

26 x 26 gives 676 different possibilities for initials, so no surprise that, having had logs from about 400 different reporters so far, the two letter Idents couldn't cope! For a while now we have been allocating 3-letter idents to all new reporters - usually the first letter of their first name and the first and last letters of their surname.

E.g. Donald Duck would be 'ddk'

You can find out a great deal more about our CLEs, past, current and to come by going to **THE CLE SECTION** of the **NDB LIST WEBSITE**, provided and maintained by Alan for us:

<https://www.ndblist.info/cle.htm>

If you have any comments or questions on anything above, please send an email to [ndbcle at ndblist.info](mailto:ndbcle@ndblist.info)

A copy will automatically go to Joachim and to myself.

Replace the ' at ' with an @ symbol.

73

Brian K (CLE Coordinator)
and Joachim R Jan.2022