

CLE311 COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS:

Hello all

Our Christmas – New Year “Pyramid” challenges are always certainly rather different. The holiday period with its ‘distractions’ means that we tend to have fewer participants than usual. The comments many of you added to your reports show that the holiday ‘specials’ have a high fun factor. Sadly however, for a few of us our location means that a pyramid of any level seems impossible to achieve.

Some of us commented in their logs what kind of pre-planning they did – and some said they went down the road: “just log as many as possible and then see what can be put together”. If you didn’t comment, it would still be interesting to know what kind of pre-planning you did – if any.

Here are a few statistics about the achieved pyramid sizes:

In North America 3 out of 12 reporters managed to build a level 10 Pyramid and 5 out of 12 reporters managed to go even beyond that initial target with level 14 being the tallest. In Europe 15 out of 16 reporters managed to build a Pyramid having 10 levels or more. 4 of them even went to levels over 20 with level 30 being the tallest. Imagine the challenge of a level 30 Pyramid having a 30 element aerial on top and requiring 494 NDBs from 59 different radio countries!

Here’s an overview of the number of different signals that we logged over the course of the CLE in each region:

Region	# of different signals heard
Europe	777
North America	313

In addition it’s also interesting to see how many signals we logged from each country. Here’s an overview showing the 20 countries with the most signals logged:

Europe		North America	
ITU	No. of NDBs heard	ITU	No. of NDBs heard
RUS	85	USA, TX	17
FRA	62	USA, IL	17
SWE	58	CAN, AB	16
DEU	34	CAN, BC	15
NOR	34	USA, GA	15
ENG	33	USA, NC	14
TUR	31	USA, OH	14
ESP	28	ALS, AK	14
RSE	25	CAN, ON	13
ISL	24	USA, NE	13
HRV	23	USA, MI	12
SRB	22	CAN, QC	11
ROU	22	USA, MN	10
UKR	17	USA, IN	10
CZE	17	USA, VA	9
IRN	17	USA, SC	8
LBY	16	CAN, NU	6
POL	14	CAN, MB	5
SCT	14	USA, WI	5
SVK	12	USA, AR	5

As usual, we have tried to analyse and compare the 6 most recent CLEs when we used the same frequencies and 'rules'.

Here are the results for the last 6 Pyramid events:

CLE	Date	No. of reporters		Reporters' average km		Average total km (x1000)		Average number of NDBs		Average max. km	
		REU	RWW	REU	RWW	REU	RWW	REU	RWW	REU	RWW
138	Dec. 2010	17	23	1129	1479	287	327	238	231	6108	5630
165	Dec. 2012	17	17	1144	2122	216	268	181	167	4755	6115
201	Dec. 2015	16	15	941	1663	180	135	172	96	4224	5286
239	Dec. 2018	12	17	1263	1874	316	293	231	176	5257	5843
275	Dec. 2021	16	14	1756	2017	257	235	166	138	5128	6077
311	Dec. 2024	16	12	1242	1631	238	107	169	69	4254	4172
6-event overall averages		16	16	1246	1798	249	228	193	146	4954	5520

The counts this time (in the orange band) are not very noticeably different from usual – even when compared with those from CLE 138 - 14 years ago.

However, the **average number of NDBs heard in RWW (69) was VERY different**, way down when compared with all of the previous years. This rapid loss of active NDBs in N America - and other parts of the World - is clearly becoming a big problem.

Much credit is due to the listeners there who managed to build some quite large Pyramids despite those difficulties.

To allow for this loss of NDBs we have started to extend the frequency ranges of most of our 'normal' CLEs, but it is hard to be optimistic for the long term.

A very warm welcome to Dario C. from ITA who sent his first log for a CLE.
We hope you'll find CLEs as interesting as we do and you'll join in again in the future.

Coming CLEs: (The dates are provisional at present)

CLE312 Fri. January 24th – Mon. January 27th

CLE313 Fri. February 21st – Mon. February 24th