



Utö, Finland, 9 June 2020

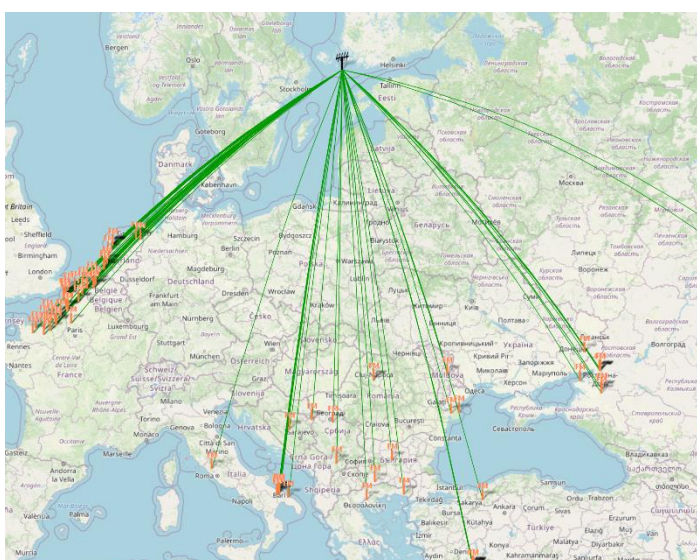
This is likely to be a surprising email... I think I may have heard Klokradio in Finland last Friday!

I am an electronics engineer with radio as my hobby. I am not really a radio amateur – they talk with each other over the radio. But my hobby is trying to hear distant broadcast stations with sensitive receivers and big antennas.

There was a very special “radio weather” on Friday June 5th. I heard many FM radio stations from The Netherlands, Belgium and France. This was the second event like this during this year. Conditions like this occur mainly during summer time: VHF radio signals get reflected back from the ionosphere, somewhere about 100 km above the ground.

I am currently on my summer vacation, spending it on a remote island called “Utö” (Outer-Island in English), out of the South Coast of Finland. This is my eleventh year in a row I come here with a bunch of my friends to a “radio camp”. This is an excellent spot for catching distant radio signals because there are no local radio services here and the level of local interference from all sorts of machines and electrical appliances is so low.

We have our antennas stored on the island and the first thing to do on arrival last Wednesday was to set them up and connect to the radio receivers we carried with us. The day started with radio stations from Russia, Turkey and the Balkans. In the evening, however, the reception improved and we received quite a few FM stations from a small area from Holland to Normandy in France. As you can see from the mapped log of my Friday’s catches below, most of these stations came from a pretty narrow sector.

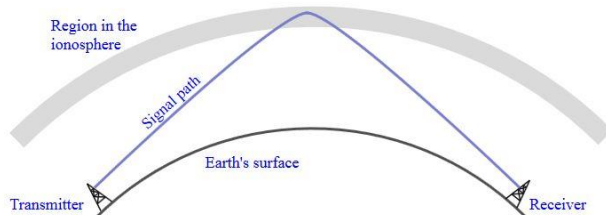


Obviously big stations like NPO, SLAM!, France Culture etc. took up most of the channels. However, I was lucky enough to capture and record bits of the programming from a number of small local radio stations, too. One of these was from the frequency of 97.3 MHz at 18:21 Central European Summer Time. Two men were

discussing there in Dutch with some background music playing. I did not hear the name of the station but instead, my computer-based radio receiver displayed an RDS PI code **8CC0** which, I think, might belong to Klokradio. The RDS display also showed partial Radio Text beginning with the words "Zin in...".

The reception was very brief because of interference from a French station, but I will enclose you a clip of that. It would be so nice if you can check the attached sample to hear if you recognize the programme.

### ***Behaviour of radio waves in the upper atmosphere:***



I have listened to foreign radio stations since my childhood, 1979. For many years, I listened to international shortwave stations, like BBC World Service, Radio Netherlands Worldwide and Voice of America. However, for about twenty years, I have mainly listened to distant FM radio as a hobby. The reason is that it is more difficult! You really cannot predict when a special long-distance reception occurs. However, it is most likely around mid-summer. It is very interesting to hear radio programmes that are normally heard only within a local community. And it is perhaps even more rewarding to try and figure out the identity of these programmes!

On days like today, when there was no special radio reception, we try to keep us moving around the small island as this hobby can keep us sitting for hours to an end. Sometimes I do kayaking, fishing and bird-watching as well.

It would be interesting to hear what you think about my audio clip.

I wish you a great summer!

Best regards,



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