

Aihkiniemi – Inari – Finland 69.14N - 27.52E
AIH65 5-21.11.2016
EF & FC – from MCDXT group Piancada, Italy

From the *SDR Valley* to Finnish Lapland - "*The Two Months After Report*"



AIH DX Cabin at AIH65

EF & FC

After nearly 45 years of radiolisting and DXing, Elio and me noticed that we did not know that much about Medium Wave DX from Asia and when facing 3 or 4 radio stations on each channel we wondered what to write in our logs.

Actually, our main aim in DXing has been Latin America so far, while we cannot explain our *fatal attraction* to Pacific and Oceania....must be their heavenly places and legendary stories?

Before we left we knew that the best time for Pacific DXing was in October but we had booked a wooden cabin in Aihkiniemi a year ago for the second and third week in November.

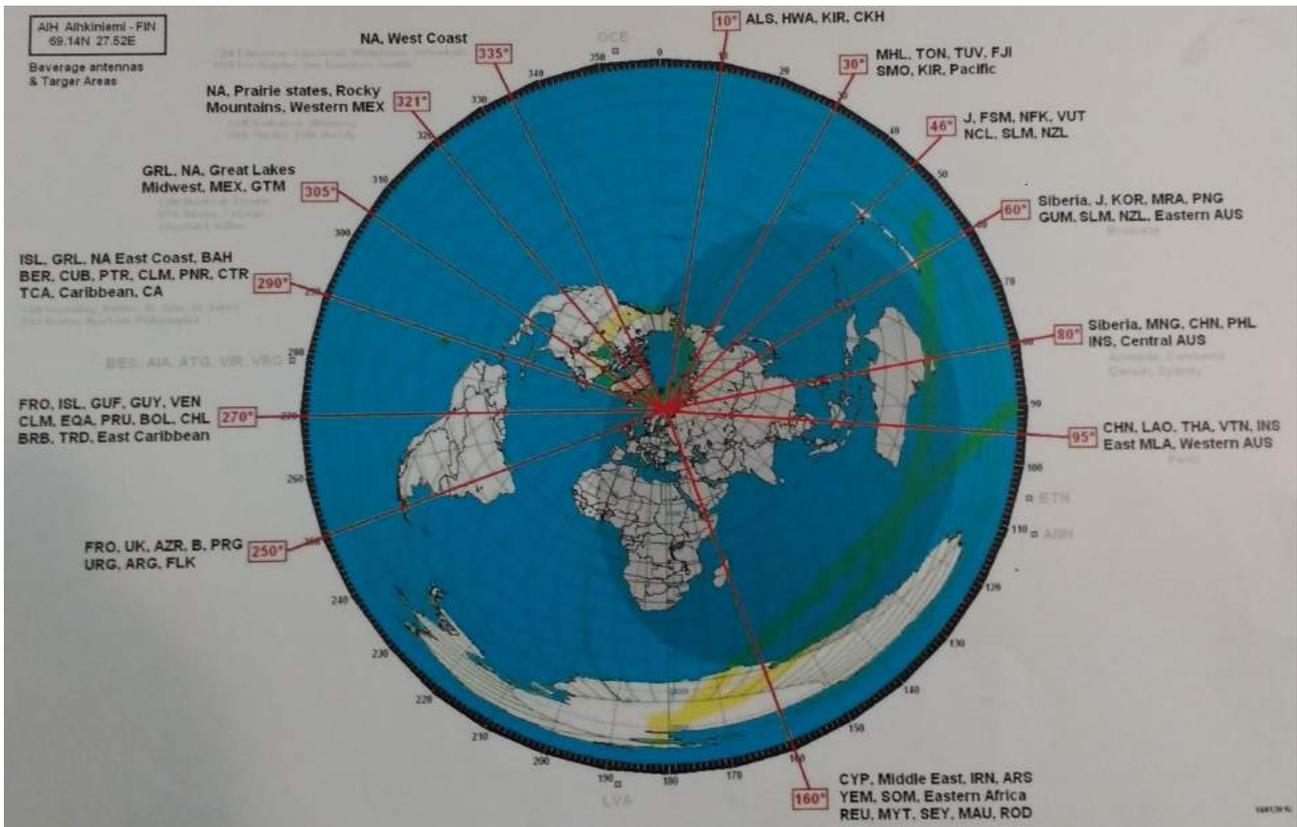


EF - JM - JHT

JM - FC - JHT

See you again JM - JHT!

We found the propagation conditions were altogether a bit better than the AIH64 team, though between the 10th and 14th they were not optimal. We aimed at listening to the **Marshall Islands 1098** which we were able to log at Parkalompolo-PAX59 back in 2006, we could do that this time too... even repeatedly. Our real first was **5AN 891 ABC Adelaide** (Australia), a real treat for us. In Aihkiniemi you can enjoy an exciting variety of 13 antennas (1000 m each), which we appreciated at different times and light conditions. As usual, we soon got trained to them to reach the best confidence according to the changing conditions. In our Piancada .location (NE Italy) we have four Beverages which, though good, do not compare with them.



Martti and Mauno were so helpful in tips for NZL and AUS, which we were told are best available at these latitudes in October.

We could have been happy just with **Rete Italia 1611 and 1620 kHz**, a nice prize for us though limited to the X-Band, but the real achievement was **ABC Adelaide** that we could pick on the very last day, a dazzling 15 minutes' listening at a quite good level, just before switching off and saying goodbye.



Though being not really unexperienced, we could note the following:

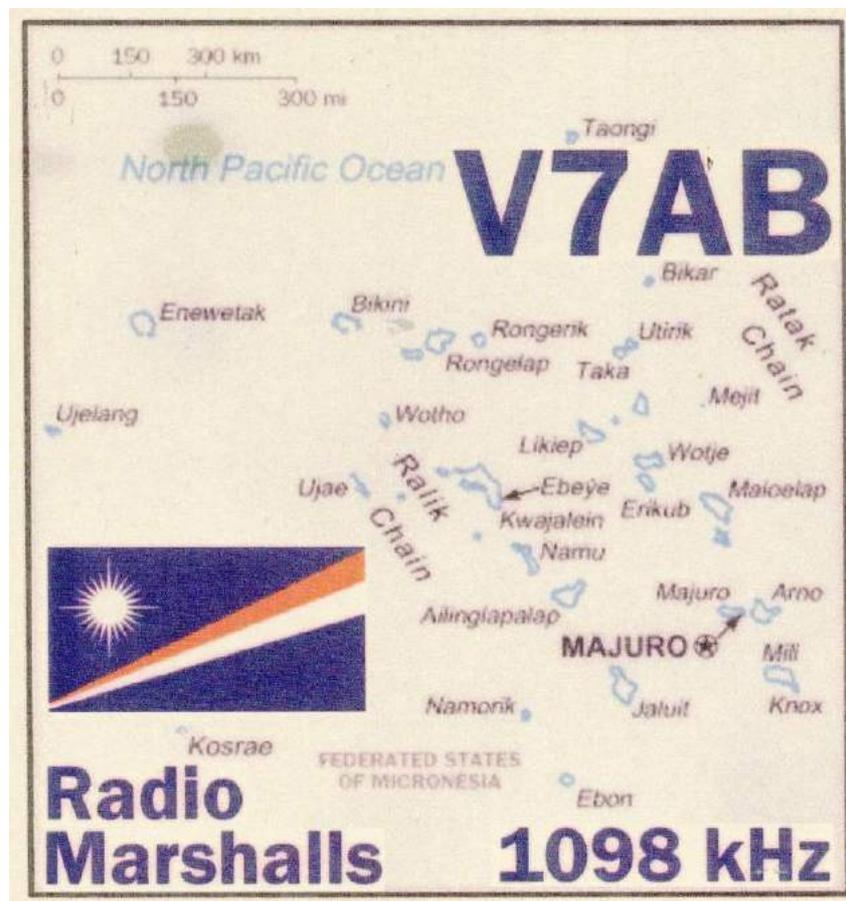
1. The background noise of this far north location is so low or even zero at AIH DX Cabin at 69.14N 27.52E.
2. Signals and voices from Asia (often 3 or 4 each channel) chase each other loud and clear in particular in the afternoon, provided propagation is good.
3. When propagation is low, we could detect carriers, sometimes strong ones, with puzzling modulation, as if shrouded in a blanket which makes the lot utterly unintelligible..

4. There is a staggering variety of Asian idioms and languages, which sometimes came in unpredictably mixed with more powerful signals from Europe...
5. We were not so sure as to the exact location of the signals source, with 30-40° range from a given target. For example, VEN with the 290° antenna, NZL with the 30°, etc. An added thrill to MW DXing!



One of them was **CX144 Radio Rivera 1440 kHz** from Uruguay: we emailed them and we were on air with a QSL thanks to **Freddy Fernandez Carranza**, see this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwMHVTs6DUijVmZSTmdWVFglV0k/view?usp=sharing>



Another thrilling QSL from the Marshall Islands **V7AB Radio Marshalls 1098 kHz** from Majuro, for the second time (after PAX59 2006) from **Antari Elbon** via e-mail in just one day!

Italian Media Corporation



Let us get back to **Rete Italia** (on X-band 1611/1620 kHz) because catching a 400W from Australia is remarkable, but also because it relays programmes of **RAI-Radiotelevisione Italiana** in our language. I remember listening to them in 2007 in Brisbane (thanks to a cheap, tiny Chinese set), at the time I did not have to time to get in touch. Which I did this time with journalists **Daniele Magarelli** and **Ubaldo Larobina** this link:

<http://ilglobo.com.au/about-rete-italia-radio-network/tune-rete-italia/>

As for our traditional LA dxing, we must say we did not have any highlight, though it is exciting to have yet new IDs of *emisoras* which one can seldom get with ease in Italy.

We even experienced something new: a team of listening friends (**Italy DX** YahooGroup and **MCDXT** Piancada) were at work at the same time unusually catching many stations from Mexico, something you never hear in the Mediterranean area. At the same time we spotted for the first time Radio Elohim 1630 kHz from Salvador. You can understand that even in this case listening to unattended recordings may lead to new surprises.



I remember reading some decades ago about the interest in LA DXing for their programming as well, which got otherwise poor if carried out in the vicinity of the same *emisoras*. I personally confirm this feeling, with the only possible exception of their music. The variety of these radio stations from Colombia, Argentina and in particular Brazil, may get poor when you hear para-religious messages by unreliable wizards or *curanderos* whose aims are not clear (or maybe too clear).

Arranging a DX cabin in AIH, or one like PAX which is the same, is not really easy. Everything must be set up to avoid being put off by sudden AC/DC interruptions or by splitters which under severe conditions may show losses, or even by a badly made ground connection.

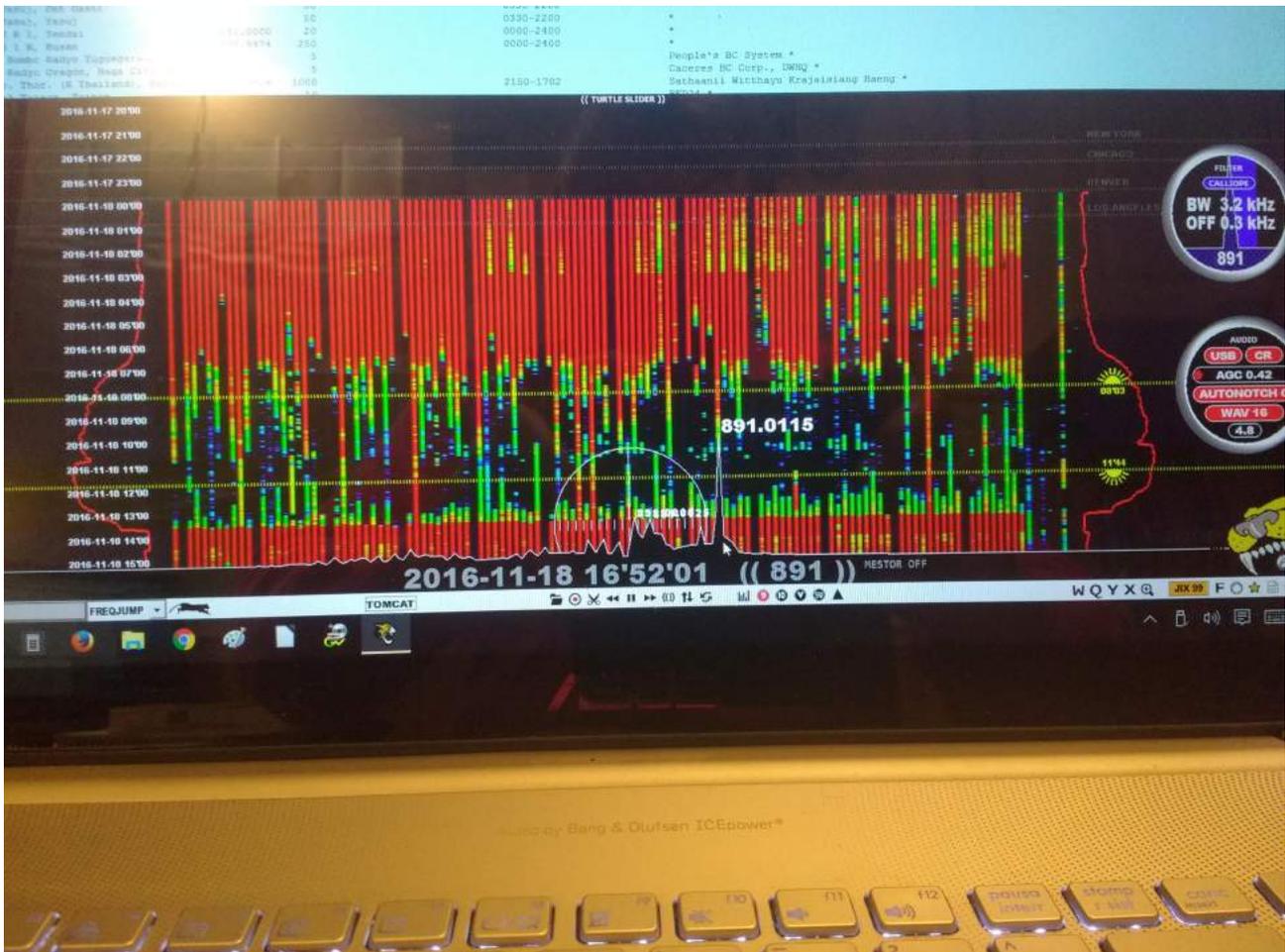
One of the most striking experience was to be able to get sharp signals from 2 or more co-channel stations just by switching 15° azimuth antennas.



FC & EF desk

And now let us turn to the pictures: one can see (on the right) the recently issued **ELAD Duo-R** in stand-alone (but also connected to **SW S2** mode), another **ELAD FDM-S2** and a **Microtelecom Perseus**.

On the left you can see **four in-parallel Perseus RXs**, hitched to 2 PCs featuring what we think is the best software available for MW DXing, that is **Jaguar** (see below) by **Iipo Parviainen** and **LURX Team** (<http://www.mazzic.net/jaguar.htm>).



You can spot two more PCs along with Perseus Ver 5, external Maxtor HD 2.5" - 4TB (for Asus i7, with Win10 and Win10 Pro) and 2TB (for Duo Centrino, with XP e Vista). All this means 22TB recordings which will occupy our life in the next months (or years?! Hi).

And at this point we stop to let you know our enjoyment of the rare feeling of sharing in the Piancada DX team the engineers and Piancada's friends **Franco Milan** (ELAD) and **Nico Palermo** (Microtelecom). Here in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, N-E Italy, a real *SDR Valley*!



It is a bit of a surprise to read in the web and in the radio press something which can be considered as *politically incorrect* that is the not-so-fair consideration of the wonderful SDR devices issued by Microtelecom and ELAD italian realities.

We all know they are at the top of the list of radiolisters and radioamateurs, yet they seem to be properly valued only by users and a bit less in the 'official' press and dedicated websites.

We could also appreciate a Wi-Fi connection (TNX **JMS**) which allowed us to stay in touch with our DX friends in Italy and to check propagation. Along with **TeamViewer** we could even get a remote connection with the above DX friends in Italy (and Finland)... at least the ones patient enough to do so! We will surely do that at our *normal* DX site at Piancada.

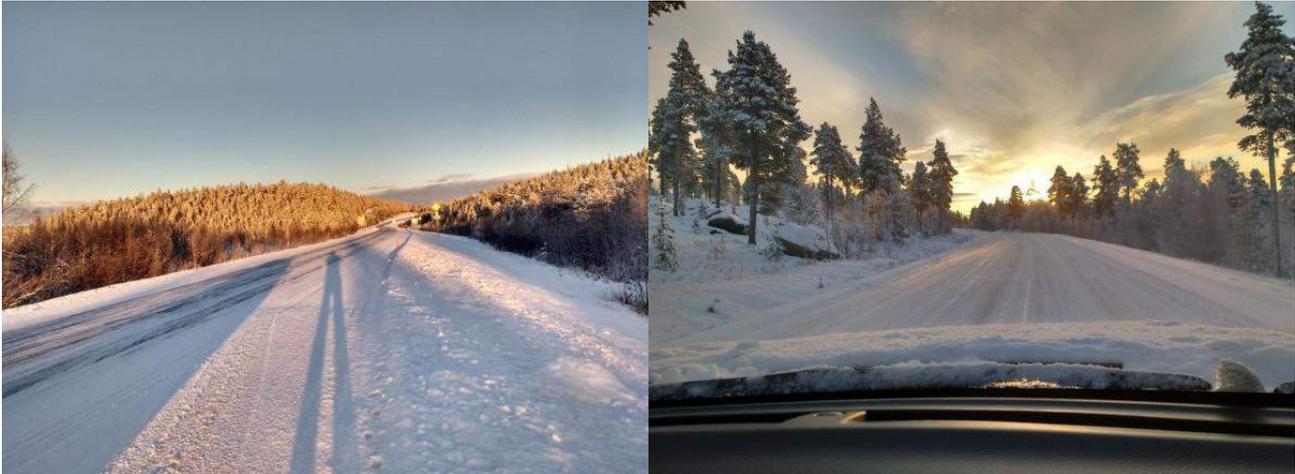


One may wonder if all this is worth it. Well, we think so... as you should see Venice, New York, Rome or Paris once in your life, the same must be said for this extreme DXing experience. Apart from the sheer number of new entries, you can enhance your experience which can be poured to everyday listening experiences.

AIH65 and temperatures

As Mediterranean people, we expected some degrees below zero, as the average temperatures this time of the year.

Actually, the night of the 12th November, driving back home from a relaxing sauna, we experienced -19°C with no wind, something one can stand without any trouble provided you are properly equipped. On our arrival it was $-3/-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ with quite a good deal of snow on the side of the roads, more or less the same when we left early on 21st November being $+1/+3^{\circ}\text{C}$ plus a thick ice layer, which was ok with our 4WD and suitable tyres covering 130 kms from Aihkiniemi (east of Inari) and Kirkenes (Norway).



We – Elio and me - will surely go back to this wonderful location, which also offers an amazing museum of Lapland culture and tradition (<http://www.siida.fi/contents/sami-museum>) along with relaxing and soothing walks... we took amazing pictures (well we think they are) considering that such visits do not occur so often and one should spread their views to something different from radioeing alone.

We often happened to wonder how humans and animals have been able to adapt their life to such extremes in the millennia. Life is here all the time, though one may think the opposite because of the cold: but foxes, birds, squirrels are there and they love to be fed.



Of course, add startling skylines and the northern lights, which DXers do not love though for their negative effects on radio reception.

<http://www.space.com/32610-amazing-auroras-northern-lights-pictures-2016.html>

That is why this time we took great care in having the proper photographing devices not to miss

anything.

<http://www.aurora-service.eu/aurora-forecast/>

<http://services.swpc.noaa.gov/images/animations/ovation-north/latest.png>

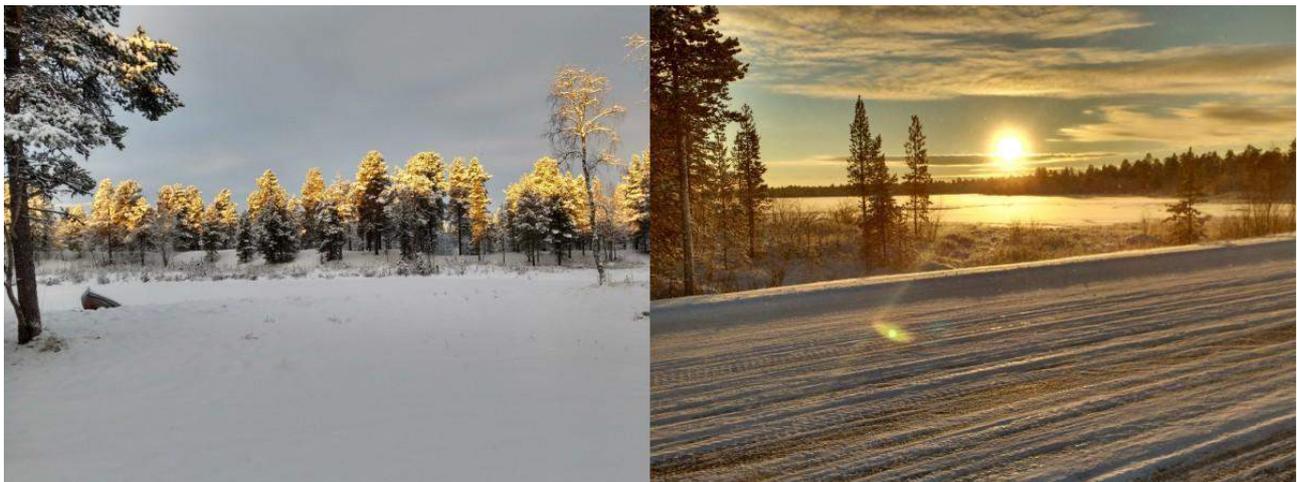
But only at Kirkenes (Norway), on our arrival, we could spot an aurora borealis: nothing special, though. Better luck next time.....



SIIDA Museum - Inari - @ Jorma Lutha

The weather didn't allow us such wonderful visions, but the local **Jorma Lutha's** SIIDA Museum at Inari offers the opportunity to see them, though not live.

<http://www.siida.fi/contents/exhibitions/changing-exhibitions-2010/wanderers-photographs-from-upland-fells-of-northern-lapland-by-jorma-luhta>



A1H65 and propagation

To predict the freaks of propagation, updates have been as usual the following well-known websites.

<http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/Solar/1/4>

<http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/index.html>

<http://www.solen.info/solar/>

We admit our knowledge about it is a bit lacking, considering that many years have passed since our stay in **Parkalompolo** (Sweden) ten years ago... and what we experience at **Piancada** (North-East Italy) is a different cup of tea when compared to Arctic locations!

We accepted suggestions and ‘*have good conditions*’ wishes from many a quarter and we even risked some empirical assessment as far as we could. Have a look at the following **STAR Alvestad** to get a hint:

Solar and geomagnetic data

Date	Measured solar flux 2.8 GHz	Sunspot number			Planetary A index			K indices (3-hour intervals)		Solar wind speed range (km/s) (SOHO)	Number of flares		
		Magnetic (SDO)		NOAA	STAR <i>ap</i> avg	Pots- dam WDC	Daily <i>ap</i> range	Planetary (WDC)	Boulder		C	M	X
		2K	1K										
20161127	82.6	80	57	31	7.6	8	3-12	23222122	23332211	476-627			
20161126	81.2	43	27	13	9.3	9	6-15	32222322	23332221	568-687			
20161125	80.9	66	46	12	27.4	27	9-48	45534442	36535342	567-712			
20161124	79.0	16	14	12	19.5	20	9-39	32335343	32345433	378-539			
20161123	77.7	12	11	11	9.5	10	5-22	43311121	44332221	376-549			
20161122	77.3	11	11	0	10.0	10	3-27	11122334	11122223	356-496			
20161121	75.0	0	0	0	4.9	5	3-9	11111122	12122221	322-369			
20161120	76.4	24	12	11	2.4	2	0-4	00111001	00112210	294-384			
20161119	76.8	16	13	22	1.6	2	0-4	00000110	00011211	285-355			
20161118	77.6	33	26	28	1.9	2	0-7	20000100	2100*310	311-385			
20161117	78.6	47	43	27	2.6	3	0-5	10010011	00111241	350-386			
20161116	80.9	50	42	18	3.6	4	3-6	11111122	01100212	415-461			
20161115	76.5	71	63	29	7.1	7	2-18	32222100	32123210	455-599			
20161114	77.3	48	31	26	10.0	10	5-15	12223323	12342213	558-733			
20161113	77.8	52	31	38	21.4	21	15-39	44333354	44443243	572-800			
20161112	78.4	52	37	38	17.9	18	9-27	34244333	23244323	420-823			
20161111	78.4	38	26	26	11.4	11	6-32	42222223	42121222	435-528			
20161110	80.2	42	37	13	14.4	14	6-39	22223533	22334423	333-532			
20161109	79.9	45	38	12	6.0	6	0-12	00222133	00232222	270-357			
20161108	76.7	34	11	0	1.9	2	0-4	00011001	00011210	270-298			
20161107	76.5	23	11	24	3.0	3	0-7	21111100	11001210	271-358			
20161106	76.2	26	23	23	4.3	4	2-7	10112012	01213211	274-420			
20161105	76.7	26	24	24	1.9	2	0-3	10110000	11101210	333-399			
20161104	76.7	65	51	25	3.9	4	0-12	32110010	22221210	346-426			
20161103	75.6	56	37	23	16.5	16	7-27	33443324	33543213	362-463			
20161102	76.0	41	36	0	14.3	14	4-32	42124324	32124323	364-495			
20161101	76.5	13	12	12	10.5	10	7-22	22233224	32234323	441-510			
20161031	76.7	37	36	12	8.3	8	3-15	33221221	23332212	447-557			
20161030	76.2	15	12	12	16.4	16	7-27	43324332	44434322	477-641			
20161029	79.1	29	25	16	26.6	27	9-48	55534232	55542322	520-747			
20161028	79.2	49	44	14	16.4	16	12-32	33333334	33433324	458-670			

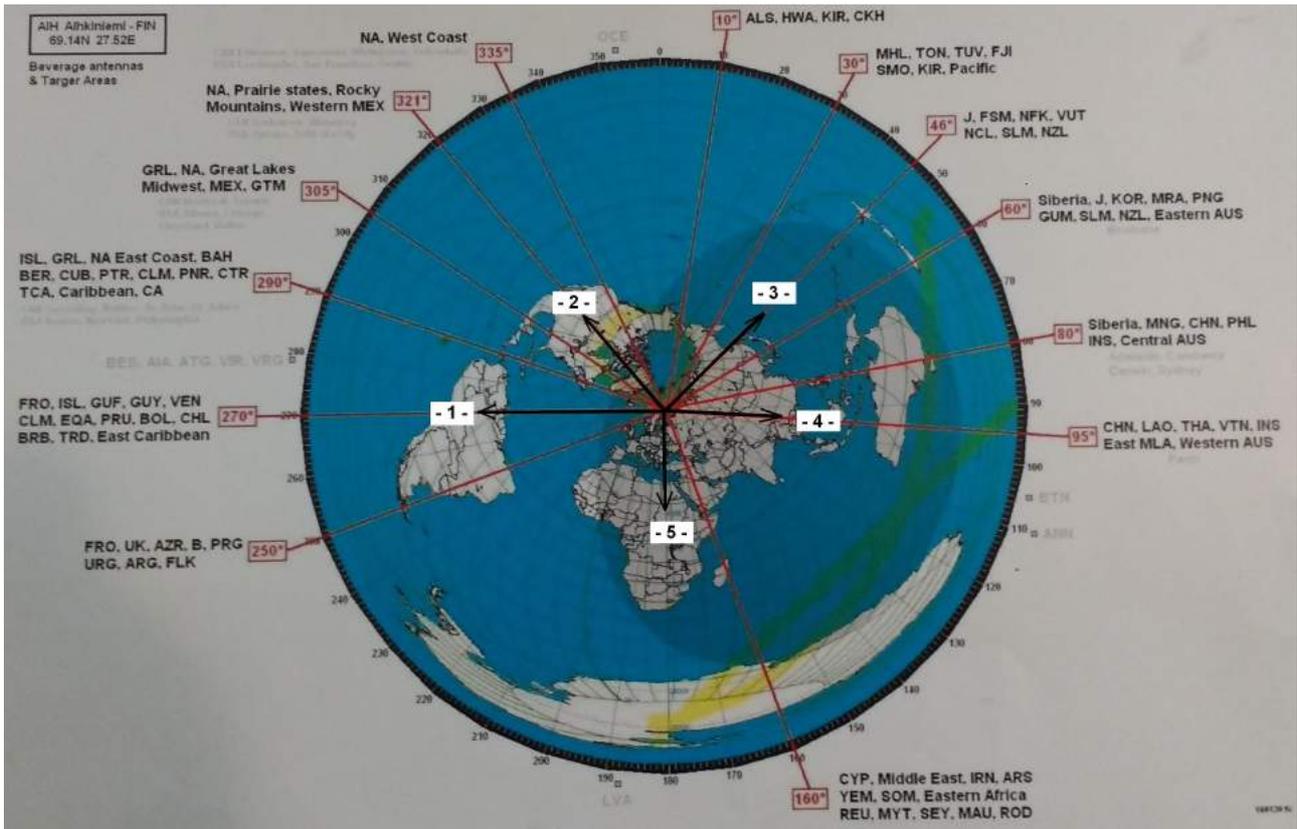
As for **QSL.Net\Propagation** and **IPS** see as follows (with our very empirical remarks):

Propagation data according to IPS Australia and QSL.Net\Propagation									
Date	Time UTC	Bz	SFI	A	K	WindSpeed	WindDensity	LiveNotes	
6.11	0930	-3	77	3	1	332.4	5.1		
6.11	1950		77	3	1	316.5	3.3	Asia superb	
7.11	0735		76	5	1	315.7	7.4	No signals in the morning (Pac)	
8.11	2035		77	4	1	290.8	2.1	Good Brazil	
9.11								Very good signals from 10° NA/AK/HI	
10.11	1630		80	7	3	384.6	14.0	Only Brazil	
11.11	1115		80	14	2	458.3	6.5		
11.11	1945		80	14	3	450.7	8.5	Poor general conditions	
12.11								AK better on 335°	
13.11	1045	2.0	78	19	4	691.0	1.8	Poor general conditions	
13.11	2120	-4	78	23	4	638.8	2.2		
14.11	0945	-2	78	21	3	645.2	1.5	Poor conditions. Good ARG at 290°	
14.11	2000	2.0	78	21	3	597.0	1.5		
15.11	0710	-1	77	11	2	590.4	1.5	Fair general conditions	
16.11	0700	1	77	7	1	498.6	1.8		
16.11	2030	-3	77	7	1	418.9	2.5	Good AUS from 60°/80°	
17.11	0700	2.0	81	4	2	403.9	6.2	Good B/ARG & PRU from 250/270°	
17.11	1745	-3	81	4	0	379.0	4.4	Good Brazil at night	
18.11								Good general conditions. Best ARG & B	
19.11	0330	0.0	78	3	0	355.3	1.4	Good general conditions	
19.11	0800	2.0	78	3	0	330.0	6.2	Good Pac in the morning / AK & HI after	
19.11	2030	2.0	78	3	1	312.9	5.6		
20.11	0300	-1	77	3	1	317.5	4.3	Good AUS from 80°	
20.11	0815	2.0	77	3	1	333.5	13.5		
20.11	1330	2.0	77	3	1	359.3	10.6		
21.11								Good ARG & B after 0300	
In bold, good (general) conditions according to IPS Australia.									
AIH65 General Notes (LogLive)									
NA	Good in general, WestCoast in the late morning, AK sometimes early afternoon								
CA	Good GRD 1400, AIA 1610 & PTR 1660, no MEX (only 1470 & 1570 almost always)								
SA	Good B and ARG early evening or after 0300, URG OK at 250°, no CLM or VEN (only 750 & 1290)								
Pac	MHL 1098 good (several times), HI few times under AK, no NZL or Others								
AUS	ABC Adelaide 891 and Rete Italia in the X-band only, nothing more								
Asia	Always good, from late morning until evening								
M-East	Always good too, from the afternoon onwards								
Africa	In the standard, between 160° and 250°, according greyline								
Europe	Often present, especially in the days of NoConditions.								

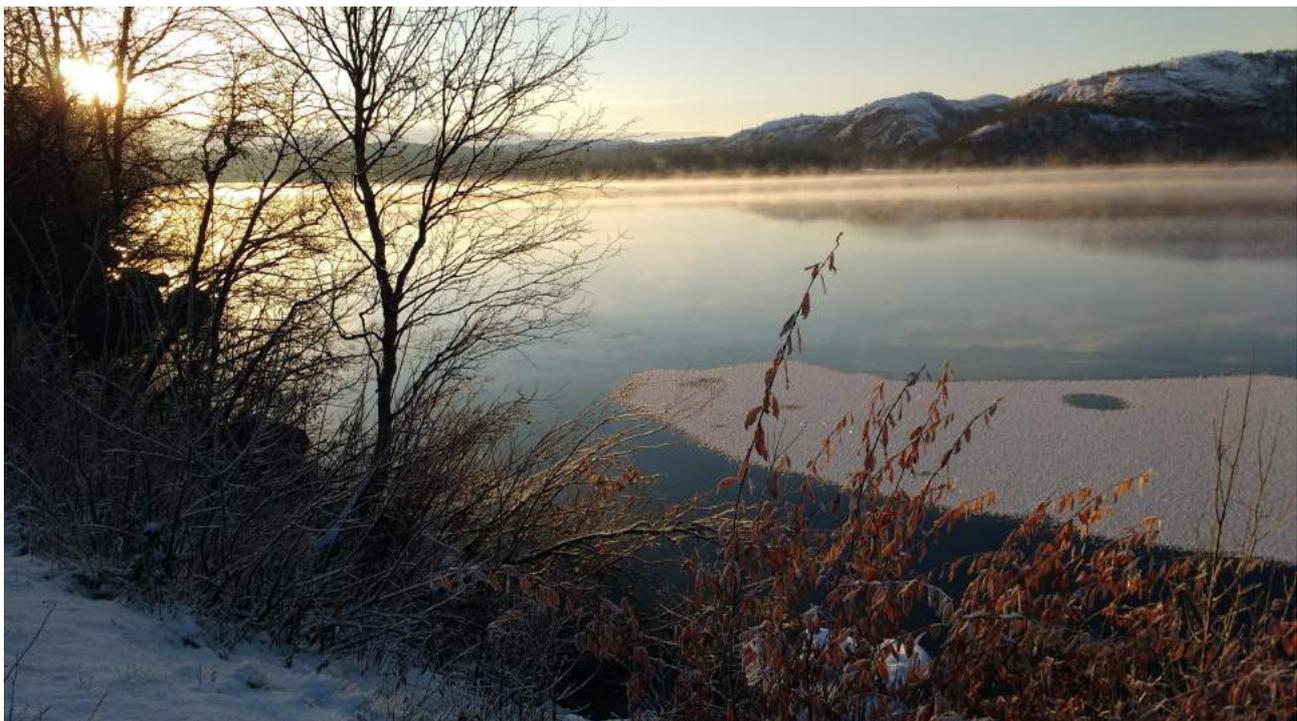
Another point to be taken is to get our hands on useful equipment such as azimuthal maps, which avoid frustrating experiences and waste of time to get the best from all propagation conditions. Real-time software such as **DX Atlas** (<http://www.dxatlas.com>) has resulted extremely important too.

In particular, our experience resulted into 5 main paths (both equator ones and trans-equator ones), which were the following:

1. NA, 2. SA, 3. Asia, 4. Pacific, 5. Oceania.



It's so peculiar that after nearly 15 days of tireless listening we still have so many things to say along with so many doubts! All of them though may bring to new ways for better and better DX experiences.



AIH65 and our catches

We are certainly going to listen to the TBytes we brought back home, in due time you will be able to read a sort of 'official log', listening again and reporting will be a double pleasure for us, we are sure it will bring back the taste, feelings of discovery and of mutual help as well.

Aihkiniemi is really one of the very few locations where to enjoy all this.

AIH65 5.11.2016 - 20.11.2016

We have enjoyed stay here, away from people, during two memorable weeks. We enjoy the place, the cabin, inspire feelings. With funny squirrels, arctic birds and reindeer. We saw the reindeer number 65 crossing the way but unfortunately we was not able to take a picture...

The listening room is organized in a rational way and comfortable also is the room for the night. We found very useful the manual and all instructions you gave us. Very useful and comfortable even the apartment for sauna. We like the whole Lapland. Lapland is lovely and the forest is magical.

Google translation says:

Lappi on kaunis - metsä on maaginen.

Näkemiin.

Ilho Tiia
EF

MCDXT
PIANCADA - ITALY

Francesco Ferencik
FC



Thanks for reading so far!

AIH65, EF & FC
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@MCDXT – <http://www.mcdxt.it> - Jan. 2017.