

# LEM482 – DX-expedition to Lemmenjoki, Finland

October 21–November 4, 2023

Participants: Hannu Niilekselä (HN) and Hannu Asikainen (HAS, Oct. 21–28)

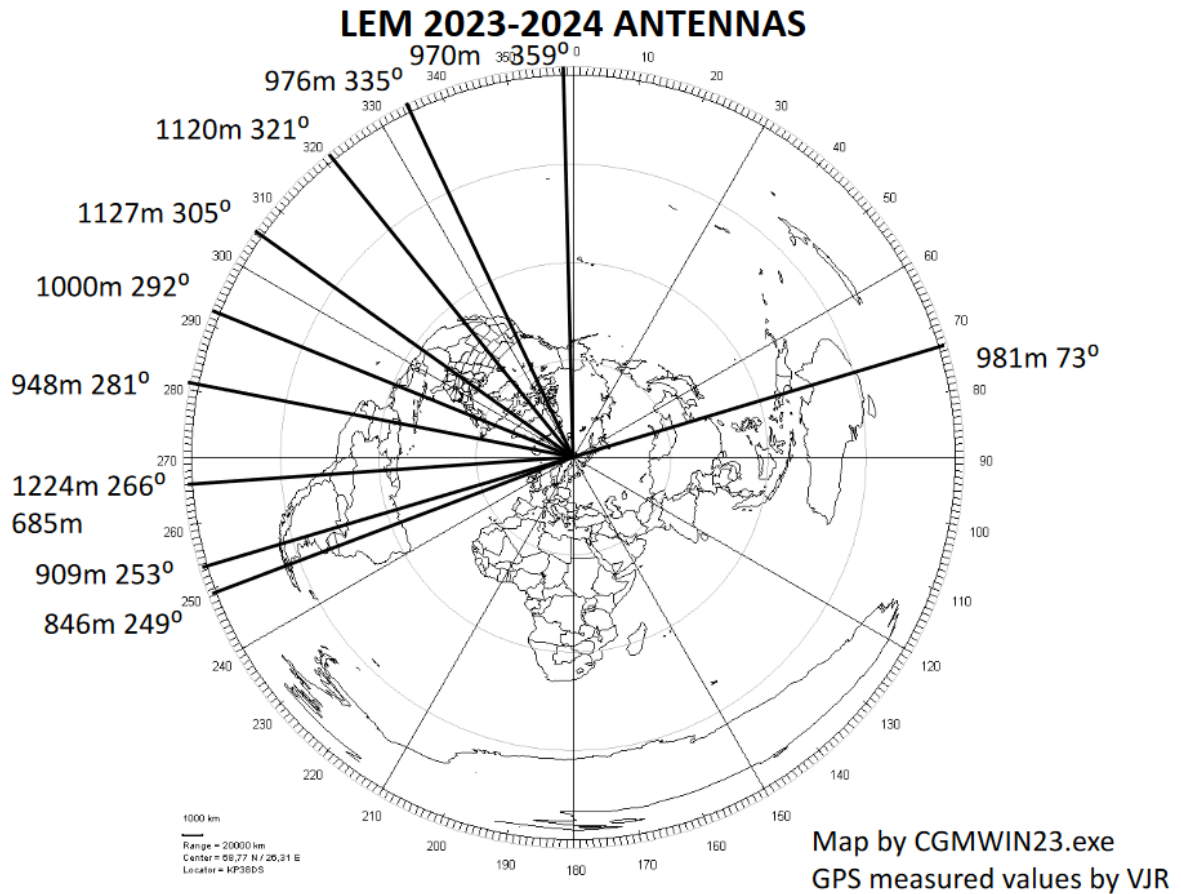
For those readers of DXing.info who are not exactly familiar with the [Lemmenjoki](#) DX site, first here's a bit of background.

The site is located in the northernmost part of Finland, a bit less than 300kms north of the Arctic Circle (68:46:17N, 26:18:57E). The activity by a group of DXers over there started in the beginning of the 1980's and LEM482 indicates that including this time there have been 482 one- to two-week expeditions to the site by members of our group. For me personally this was my 67<sup>th</sup> expedition, having spent altogether 655 days on the site.

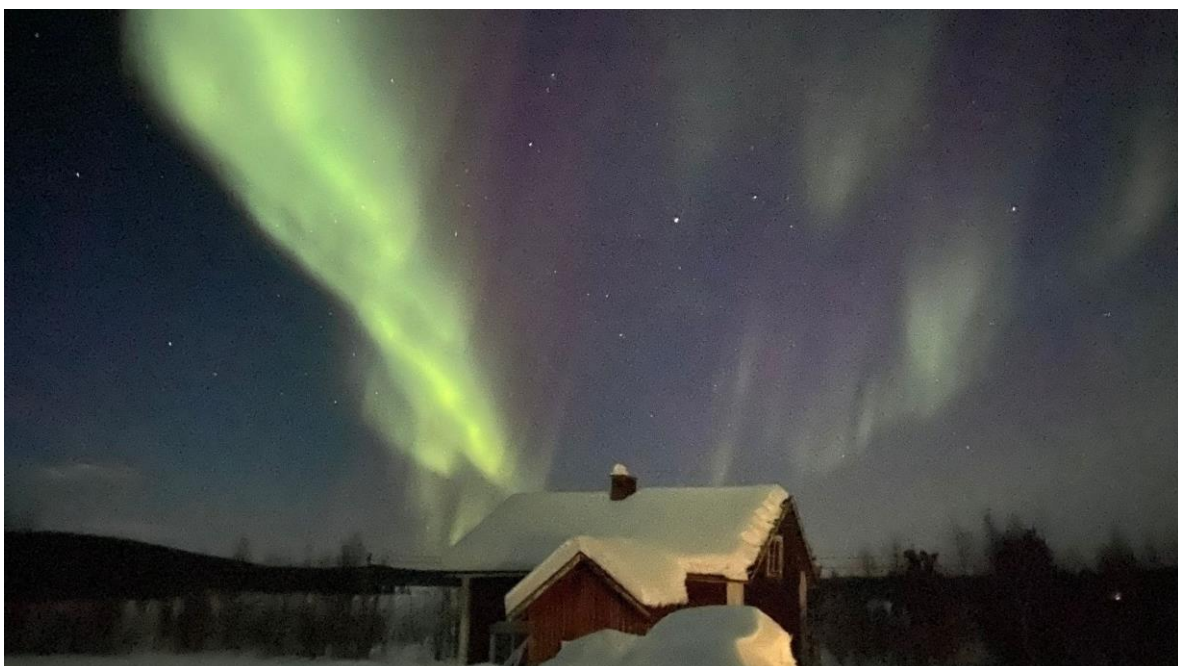
The site is an old reindeer farm, where we currently have the luxury of ten permanent antennas on private land, as shown on the map:

The main interest for most DXers in our group is the Americas, which is also evident when looking at the direction of our antennas. The 73-degree antenna is for those of us who also have an appetite for the east, covering big parts of Asia and Eastern-Central Australia.





The last week of October and the first week of November turned out to be a lucky choice for us in terms of geomagnetic disturbances caused by solar activity. Since we are heading towards the maximum of activity in a 11-year solar cycle, expected next year, all kinds of disturbances tend to be more frequent and at any moment the propagation of signals on medium waves across the Atlantic can be severely affected.



We arrived in Lemmenjoki in the evening of October 20<sup>th</sup> and already the next day enjoyed perfect propagation conditions to the western parts of the U.S. with several new stations reported. The interesting selection of stations is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that having previously 155 stations heard and QSLed from the state of California, on the first day I personally got 6 new ones...



This good situation, with the peak area being Northern California and Southern Oregon, lasted for a couple of days, the scope then becoming a little more widespread.

This time of the year local sunrise at Lemmenjoki is close to 06 UTC and sunset around 14 UTC, leaving about 8 hours of full daylight. Still, when the propagation conditions are good, stations from the Western Hemisphere are heard throughout the daylight period – and without practically any interference from the Europeans, which are in full daylight. On a clear day it is awesome as stations from the U.S. are being heard with excellent signals while the sun is high up outside!

The more interesting reception was for the most part limited to the upper section of the medium wave band, even if some unusual stations were also noted on lower frequencies. Some of the more interesting stations during the first days included: KBOW-550, KSAZ-580, KIHU-1010, KXPD-1040, KBGN-1060, KFOY-1060, KPRL-1230, KHSN-1230, KSJK-1230, KZHC-1230, KCVV-1240, KMBY-1240, KPOD-1240, KSUE-1240, KCSF-1300, KATA-1340, KPYV-1340, KBBR-1340, KCQL-1340, KLOC-1390, KNNR-1400, KMYC-1410, KHMS-1420, KSTN-1420, KJAY-1430, KVON-1440, KOBO-1450, KEST-1450, KHIT-1450, KCNR-1460, KION-1460, KRRS-1460, KENO-1460, KIID-1470, KRKC-1490, and KSFN-1510.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> of October offered one of the most stable and longest lasting

opportunities to hear some of the Travelers Information/Highway Advisory/Emergency Alert stations from the Pacific Northwest. The best frequency for us over here to hear some of these stations – with just 10 watts of power – from the western parts of the U.S. is 1610 AM, since on that frequency the standard broadcast stations are all located in the eastern part of the continent often leaving the frequency free after local sunrise.

But this time also 1650 AM – a bit surprisingly – produced a couple of stations. Most of these stations – as well as those in the standard medium wave band during these two weeks – were heard both in Lemmenjoki and [Aihkiniemi](#), located about 100 kms NE from Lemmenjoki, where our fellow DXers [Mika Mäkeläinen](#) and [Jim Solatie](#) were experiencing the same excellent conditions. However, the stations typically surfaced at slightly different times and not every station was heard at both locations.

Stations identified at Lemmenjoki on 1610 AM were WQPW217 Neah Bay WA and WQWS230 Beaverton OR. On 1650 AM interestingly at Lemmenjoki WQHK904 Vashon Island WA was heard, but at Aihkiniemi it was WQHF574 Snoqualmie WA, which was not noted at Lemmenjoki...



Later in the week and during the second week also some little peaks more easterly to the Midwest were noted and on a few occasions even to the upper parts of the very eastern parts of the U.S. However, signals were not anymore audible throughout the day due to the increase in solar activity and a more disturbed geomagnetic field.

Some interesting stations from those days included WNNW-800, KBHB-810, KNUJ-860, KOKP-1020, WILB-1060, WLLV-1240, KMMO-1300, WTLB-1310 (right after CIWW left the fq), WTSL-1400, WWWS-1400, WENI-1450 and KESJ-1550.

In all, DXing in these more challenging periods of the 11-year solar cycle has become interesting thanks to the introduction of the SDRs where everything is recorded for later inspection. In the “good old days” DXing in such disturbed environments was a true challenge as you had to be running all over the MW dial trying to find an interesting signal – only too often to realize that it was gone before you had a chance to identify the station.

As with this expedition, a huge amount of time is spent examining files of recordings after the trip. Results are very much relative to how much time and effort is being put in the search – some of the goodies may still be waiting to be found!

[Hannu Niilekselä](#)

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