

Comparisons.

Comparisons between Europe and North America

Occasionally there are calls for a comparison between European and North American VHF/UHF and MICROWAVE Band Conditions, Reports and other Activities. It is extremely difficult to make any comparisons at all considering the following facts, Geography, Weather, Attitudes or Social Idiosyncrasies.

Geography. Only a minute part of Mainland US lies at Latitude N49.xxx Degrees in the State of Minnesota, EN 29, and just a few Square Kilometers. The rest of Minnesota and all States to the West thereof lie below Latitude N49.00 Degrees. Going to the East from that point in Minnesota US Territory recedes to the South, around the Great Lakes, to Latitude N42.xxx Degrees or EN92 and from there goes to a northern point at Latitude N47.xxx Degrees in the State of Maine, FN57.

In the South, one finds the Florida Keys are the southern most point of the US at Latitude N24.xxx Degrees in the East and Latitude N32.xxx in southern California, DM12.

A comparison of North America and Europe, **without Canada**, would be incomplete. There is a fairly large Ham Population in the eastern part of Canada particularly around metropolitan areas, VE3 Toronto, VE2 Montreal and Quebec, VE1, VO1, VY2 the Maritime Provinces. Provinces west of VE3, Ontario, have a considerably lesser population density with the exception of Vancouver, VE7, British Columbia. However, the largest segment of the Canadian population lives below Latitude N50.xxx Degrees and points East from VE4.

When one extends the N50th Latitude from West to East, from the Pacific on the North American Continent thru Europe and east, one can see at first glance that a comparison cannot be made. There is no comparable human population on the northern part of the North American continent, consequently, the entire Ham Population, north of Lat. N50.00 Degrees in Europe, IO, JO, KO, LO and .P's, must be excluded from comparison.

In the southern part of the North American Continent we have a problem of another nature. Everything south of Latitude N33.xxx Degrees is in fact far south of the Mediterranean Sea and therefore south of the European Continent. To make comparisons we would have to exclude large parts of the southern US States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. W4, W5, W7 and W6. Mexico and all Caribbean Islands, normally considered part of North America, lie far beyond the most southern points of Europe.

With the above we have now established boundaries suitable for comparisons, **with a part of Europe and a part of North America**. The next situation to consider is the predominant weather conditions on each continent.

Weather. The Gulf Stream and effects of the Mediterranean Sea north to the Alpine regions largely determine European Weather. **This is for areas considered for comparison only.** On the North American continent the weather is determined by the Gulf of Mexico to the South, southern Atlantic Ocean in the East and the Pacific Ocean in the West. The Appalachian Mountains in the East and the Rocky Mountains in the West traverse the continent North South. This fact creates weather conditions unlike in Europe especially in the central States from the South all the way North. Along with weather conditions we need to allow for Solar Conditions. Although we consider or compare conditions along same Latitudes we cannot forget **the time difference** between Europe and North America. The time difference from **Central Europe** to the **East Coast** is six (6) hours. A solar impact event at a specific point in Europe has not the same effect on the American point six hours removed. For an exact comparison the same weather conditions, temperatures, would have to be present.

American Philosophy. There is no question that there are more situations responsible to disallow comparisons. The attitude towards the Hobby, personal priorities, personal interests, opportunities, available equipment and personal knowledge or desire, all play a role. Fear of ridicule, when reporting unusual occurrences, or indifference when reported is not uncommon. While there seems to be considerable activity at times few reports get written for obvious reasons. Reports never get acknowledged by editors, or published for lack of space or worse no place to report to. A definite lack of communication in a society of communicators is evident. It does not take much effort to discourage possible contributors. Mail from Hams to other Hams, **Editors**, gets lost consistently for mysterious reasons. There is no question that one or the other continent, and the Ham Activities therein, is considered to be irrelevant by some on both sides. A long time observer will come to the conclusion that the European and American Philosophies towards intercontinental info exchanges are at least “An Atlantic” apart.

The writer hopes to have shed a little light on the question of Conditions and Reports “Europe versus North America.”

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