

The following stations have supplied information for this newsletter:

- Radio Free Liverpool, 217
- Radio 225
- Radio Rhonda, 227
- Radio 222
- Radio Free Cheshire, 221
- Radio Rag, 225
- Radio Venus North, 199
- Radio Jackie, 227

Your CFRO No.	W	50
------------------	---	----

SPRING NEWSLETTER 1972

INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM CFRO AREA ORGANISER

Hello once again, and firstly, as usual I must apologise for the fact that this newsletter is so late. - The reason this time is, not that we have not had enough time to print this fourth newsletter/association of stations, but because so much news has collected, and so much has happened that we don't know where to begin!

Firstly, I will give you the major developments in this introductory paragraph.

Radio 225, a station which has been operating for some time on the Wirral, has mysteriously closed after a series of strange events; A station which has been on the air intermittently for over two years with a low power, called 'Radio Free Liverpool', has begun regular transmissions on 217 metres every Sunday from the end of February; The students station 'Radio Rag' has made some more transmissions on 225 metres; A new station, Radio 222, has made some test transmissions, at present only of amateurish quality; 'Radio Galaxy', previously on 217 metres, has changed its name to 'Radio Rhonda', and is now operating, at present only with test transmissions, on 227 metres; News has reached us of a new station called 'Radio Free Cheshire', which broadcasts from near Winsford, and has used several frequencies, the main one being 221 metres; The operator of 'Radio North International' has contacted us about his station; 'Radio Jackie' has informed us about their recent escapades, and have gained themselves the reputation of being the most famous land-based pirate who have lost equipment to the G.P.O. worth over £1,500 and have suffered several fines, some of which are fairly heavy.

That is some of the news in brief, but some of these events are outlined in this newsletter later on.

CFRO OFFERS (Please allow a few days for delivery)

RNI MINI-STICKERS - Self adhesive with the slogan "Radio Northsea International - Music Power on 220 Metres M.W." - 2p each + S.A.E.

RNI CAR STICKERS (Red, Self adhesive) (Produced by "Free Radio Campaign")
5p each + S.A.E.

BACK COPIES OF NEWSLETTERS/ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER - 3p each + S.A.E.

(We are hoping shortly to increase the range of items available, but this can only be done when enough people show interest in them. So don't forget to publicise free radio as much as possible, especially to your friends, and ask them to drop us a line if they are interested, and don't forget the S.A.E.! - We cannot hope to meet the demand with the rising postal charges)

"RADIO LIVERPOOL" SENSATION

This year, one of Merseyside's oldest land-based free radio stations, "Radio Free Liverpool", has come into the foreground as being the best station operating in the area.

Even though "Radio Liverpool" has had a good record in the past for professionalism of programmes and clear transmissions, the signal has never been as strong as other free radio stations. However, now that the stations' area of broadcast has increased, it certainly is a really excellent programme and reception.

The first test transmission with the new power was made on 23rd January on 227 metres with DJ Eric Day making a professional programme. On 30th January, the following Sunday, a full three-hour show was broadcast, 12.00 noon to 3.00, using a friend's telephone number so that listeners could ring in reception reports and requests.

After these two Sunday transmissions, which proved to be quite successful, CFRO approached Eric, and it was agreed that the CFRO telephone number should be used for reception reports. On Sunday, 6th February, Radio Liverpool was on the air again shortly after 12.00 noon, using our telephone number. The response was fairly interesting, and successive weeks showed that the station had a very good radius of transmission. Reception reports were received from over 20 miles away, and we even had information that the station was being received in Dublin!

The broadcast on the 13th February, however, seemed to be marred by problems - even though previously good reception had been experienced on 227 metres. A high-pitched whistle blocked out broadcasts on this day, and seemed to be switched on and off at irregular intervals. In some areas, the signal of Radio Liverpool was inaudible. On Sunday, 20th February, this strange whistle was again switched on halfway through the broadcast, again making reception of Radio Liverpool very difficult. Several attempts were made to try to find the source of this "jamming" which was very strong, and appeared to be local. However, rather than try to investigate this further, it was decided that Radio Liverpool should change frequency to 217 metres.

On Sunday, 27th February, Radio Liverpool went on the air shortly after 12.00 noon on 227 metres, but again was interfered with by some strange interference. However, things were about to change for the better. Disc Jockey Eric Day announced that the station would change frequency in mid-programme, and after a short break in transmission the station returned on 217 metres. The results proved favourable: CFRO was flooded with calls to report how much better the reception was on 217 metres. The remainder of this day's programmes went without a hitch, and the broadcast was received here at CFRO very clearly, and the following week, the 5th March, the broadcast began at 12.00 promptly, with no interference at all.

Reception reports on the new frequency made the decision for Radio Liverpool - it would certainly be staying on 217 metres. The 12th of March proved to be a very successful week with calls from places such as Holywell, Preston and Winsford. The broadcast began on that day at approx. 12.05, and it was a record week for requests.

The 19th March went well, also, and calls arrived at CFRO regarding the station, every one saying how professional and clear the station was.

A short test transmission was made on Saturday afternoon, 26th March, and the station asked several listeners to tune in and listen for any interference or distortion in the signal. Based on these reports, several modifications were made to the transmitter, which further improved reception.

The 2nd and 9th April again showed that the popularity of Radio Liverpool had certainly been registered, and that there was a fair section of the Merseyside listening, who listened every week to its broadcasts. Also, there are always many new listeners who are very keen on free radio, and are pleased to hear a free radio station doing so well.

In conclusion, we at CFRO want to say how well organised and professional we think the station is, and we wish Radio Liverpool and its operators/Disc Jockey, the very best of success in the future with it it really makes a change to hear a professional land-based free radio station!

POPULARITY POLL

Listeners to free radio stations broadcasting on the Wirral and Liverpool have had many record requests played, and usually, the stations have tried to play the record which has been requested. However, we have noticed that some artistes are more popular than others, and after a quick survey, we have found that T. Rex and Olivia Newton-John are the most popular male and female artistes.

If you have a favourite group/singer/record, why not let us know, and then we can conduct a popularity poll. You can also drop us a line if you are really keen on either of the above artistes, and tell us what you think of them.

RADIO 225 CLOSURE - SORRY!

After beginning test broadcasts from a new location in Wallasey, the long lived "Radio 225" were raided by the G.P.O. officials, and the aerial removed by them. Fortunately, the operators managed to escape, and even saved their equipment. However, we are informed by "Radio 225" that no further broadcasts will take place in the future.

RADIO RAG -- 225 METRES

We have been informed recently about the annual operations of the Manchester Students pirate radio station, "Radio Rag", which was heard to make some more broadcasts earlier in February. However, the G.P.O. did make some investigations into the station, and the broadcasts ceased. We might well hear them again next year, though, who knows?

"RADIO 222" INNOVATION

A station calling itself "Radio 222" has recently made some broadcasts at week-ends. However, despite the fact that it is a free radio station, the DJ's have not organised their shows very well, and some of their comments over the air leave much to be desired. Times of broadcast have been from approx. 2.00 to 6.15 on Sundays, but some test broadcasts have also been heard. A word of advice to "Radio 222" - if you improve your shows and organise things a little better, perhaps some people will be more interested.

Latest reports about the station now show Post Office investigation to be imminent.

RADIO GALAXY/RADIO RHONDA TEST TRANSMISSIONS

The former "Radio Galaxy", on 217 metres, has changed its name and frequency to 227, and is now calling itself "Radio Rhonda". Some test transmissions have been made, which we have heard were of good reception on the Wirral and in Liverpool. However, even though the new "Radio Rhonda" have not yet begun proper continuous transmissions, we have been informed by the station operators that there are no plans at present for a regular broadcast. However, we shall be patient and see what happens to this new station who seem to be continuing the name that the old Radio Rhonda, (243), used in 1969.

RADIO FREE CHESHIRE, 221, AND RADIO VENUS NORTH, 199

We have received news from the Winsford area about the start of broadcasts from both of these stations, but we have no reception reports or information about their signals at all. However, we do believe that several test transmissions have been made by Radio Free Cheshire on various frequencies, some of these being 222, 280, 266 and 215 metres. However, we now believe that it is using 221 metres permanently, but CFRO would point out here that it is too close to RNI for our liking.

Radio Venus North, we are told, would like to contact "Radio Liverpool", so if you would contact us first, we might be able to put you both in touch.

RADIO JACKIE, LAND BASED PIRATE EXTRAORDINARY

Radio Jackie, the most famous of all land-based pirates has also an excellent newsletter/magazine, and we would like to invite you as CFRO readers to write to them at the following address:-

"RADIO JACKIE",
77 BURLEIGH ROAD,
SUTTON,
SURREY.

and don't forget your S.A.E. for your reply. Membership costs 50p if you would like to join their listeners club.

CFRO Note to Members

In conclusion, we would ask CFRO members to always quote their membership number in reply, and to enclose an S.A.E. We do not charge an annual membership, or anything for the newsletter, and therefore we would be grateful if you wish, if you could send a small donation (i.e. postage stamps) to help meet the printing costs and increased postal charges.

Thank You.

from

PHIL PRICE

-o-o-

Area Organiser.

Dear Alfred, I have heard your new style station "RADIO MERSEYLAND", and I last night I heard you playing excerpts from different stations. I must congratulate you on this new format, and I hope that you will keep it up. Please let me know if you intend to keep the station on the air.
all the best,
Phil Price