

C H E S H I R E F R E E R A D I O O R G A N I S A T I O N

(Cheshire Branch of F.R.C.)

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Your CFRO Number:-

W 50

YOUR LOCAL FREE RADIO GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION - Latest Events in Brief

Hello there! It seems that every time we set out to write a new newsletter, there is more and more information to cram into these pages! It appears that there has been more activity during this first half of 1972 than there has been during all of 1971 - this surely must show that there has been quite a substantial increase in interest in free radio, which can't be bad. Talking of this term "Free Radio", perhaps we can clarify exactly what is meant by this, as there have been a lot of questions as to what we are really aiming to do. Well, in our opinion, "Free Radio" means a form of broadcasting which is, in effect, free from all monopoly. We do mean free enterprise radio, but not to such an extent that if it be commercial, it is not stifled by excessive advertising or jingles. We believe that some of the land-based pirates who operate at present, such as Radio Jackie and Radio Free Liverpool, have very professional programmes, and, that given the chance, they could operate their stations quite well if they were legal. As "Free" radio stations they have proved that they can make the grade, and given the chance they could provide a good service, such as did Radio Caroline, to the public.

This does not mean to say that we wish to give a free licence to broadcast to every amateurish Tom Dick of Harry that might be able to set up his own station. In fact, if we were to examine carefully the programmes broadcast by these land-based stations, I expect we would find that there is only about 20% worth commenting:- 'Now that's a really professional station'.

CFRO would like to say here that it supports land-based stations, as equally as it does RNI, but only to the extent where these stations can really show that they are doing something constructive in the fight for so-called "Free Radio". On the other hand, continual abuse towards the authorities and the G.P.O. is certainly not what we would like to see, and we believe that this sort of exhibition is not in the interests of our campaign, and can only give "Free Radio" supporters a bad name.

Anyway, now to the latest events, and quite a lot of them there are too:- "Radio Liverpool" has suffered several raids by the G.P.O.; "Radio 225" has now begun transmissions again, now calling itself Radio Merseyland; Radio 222 has improved its programme quality; A new station has recently arrived on the scene.

These are just a few, but we would rather complete the introduction here, and tell you about

WONDERFUL RADIO FREE LIVERPOOL (R.F.L., 217 metres M.W.)

This was the heading given to an article (on the front page), which the paper 'Liverpool Free Press' gave, after having talked to myself and the people behind RFL. Yes, RFL has really hit the headlines recently, and no wonder really, because the G.P.O. and Police activity have been concentrated on the station for the last few weeks now.

Since our last newsletter, in which we gave a full report on RFL up to the 9th April, things have been happening for this station.

On the 16th April, RFL went on the air as usual at 12.00 (Sunday), and some reception reports were gleaned by CFRO, all showing that popularity of the station had certainly not decreased. We even had an ex-DJ from "Radio Merseyside" to commend the efforts of RFL! The 23rd also proved equally successful, with broadcasting commencing at 12.00 noon, for the usual three hours until 3.00 p.m.

The 30th April passed as another good week, with more requests coming in from such places as Newton-le-Willows, Wallasey, Prenton, Aigburth and Barnston.

Unfortunately, owing to reasons which will later become more plain, CFRO could not allow RFL to use the CFRO telephone number any longer after the 30th April. It was, however, arranged so that another telephone number could be used for requests and reception reports on 7th May. The person concerned agreed to take the calls because he was interested in free radio, but was not actively involved in RFL. Several requests were received at the new telephone number on 7th May.

On 14th May, these requests were all ready to be played. RFL was, however, late to come on the air this week, and did not begin broadcasts till 1.25 p.m. However, things went well on the station and requests were being played up to around 2.20 p.m. Then, - for the first time, RFL saw the inevitable intervention of the G.P.O. Halfway through "Telegram Sam" by T. Rex, RFL suddenly went off the air. The silence made listeners think that there may possibly have been a technical fault, but, in fact, G.P.O. officials had arrived on the scene and the station operators had to make a run for it. They managed to escape but lost all their equipment in the process.

This was the start of the trouble. The following week, RFL went out to attempt a transmission, but owing to technical problems with the aerial, were unable to commence broadcasts. So the 21st May was the first week that no broadcast was heard from RFL.

On Sunday, 28th May, the signal of RFL came through loudly again at 12.04 p.m., and after some minor technical fault completed their three hour show successfully. The DJ apologized for no broadcast the previous week, and told listeners briefly about the G.P.O. raid the week before.

The 4th June broadcast lasted for almost four hours, ending at about 3.50 p.m., but the station had noticed some suspicious people around the spot where transmissions were taking place.

On 11th June, the broadcast lasted for three hours, commencing at 1.00, with no problems at all. The broadcast began at 12.20 on 18th June, and went also without hitches.

On 25th June, the broadcast began at 12.04, but, at 1.37 p.m., during "Fire Brigade" by the Move, the airwaves went dead. RFL had suffered another raid, again losing all their equipment.

Things really did look grim now. RFL had lost two sets of equipment, the station was also not receiving as many requests. It was decided to abandon the phone number which meant that there would be no more requests, apart from interested people who would contact CFRO, who could pass them on to RFL. It was a difficult decision to know how best to avoid a clash with the authorities again, but RFL's operators were determined to keep going.

On Sunday, 2nd July, the broadcast began at 1.35 p.m., and lasted right through till approximately 4.45 p.m. Listeners assumed that this had been a trouble-free week, but little did they know that, after the show G.P.O. officials suddenly appeared around the transmitter, whilst the operators were keeping a look-out in the other direction. The operators escaped after a dash, and managed to keep clear of the G.P.O. and Police who had arrived on the scene. Of course, all the equipment was lost again.

On the 9th July, a half hour show was planned, and was transmitted between 1.00 and 1.30 p.m., with no trouble from the G.P.O. The DJ explained that the G.P.O. had been the previous week, and at the end of the show, said that because the G.P.O. were probably on their way, RFL was going off the air. Of course, the G.P.O. did not pay RFL a visit this week.

However, on 16th July, there was more trouble. The transmission began at 1.45 but after five minutes, was broken because of an equipment fault. PFL returned at about 2.30 and continued to broadcast till 3.20, when the G.P.O. and Police arrived. Needless to say, the operators has a rush to grab their equipment and escape. Luckily, everyone was able to get away, and some of the equipment was salvaged.

The following week (23rd July) RFL went to a location and intended to broadcast but owing to Police presence at the spot, and adverse weather conditions, no broadcast took place.

At the time of writing, RFL has had several raids behind it, and intends, as far as we know, to continue. All we can say is that we wish RFL the best of luck with the broadcasts in the future, despite the fact that they seem to be dogged by interference rather excessively at present. We must also say that we admire the operators for having the nerve to keep going.

RADIO 225/MERSEYLAND

The Wirral's oldest land-based pirate, RADIO MERSEYLAND, alias RADIO 225, has been making some regular transmissions recently. During June, the station was making nightly broadcasts from around 6.00 p.m., and most of the shows featured a DJ, and the station invited listeners to ring in to a telephone number for reception reports and enquiries. This is rather astonishing, after we had reported in our last newsletter that it was due to close.

Broadcasts are still scarce at present, after regular nightly transmissions ceased in late June. We are told that broadcasts are going to continue, as usual with the strong, clear signal, but times of broadcast will not be regular. Keep listening, and you will probably hear some good oldies on 225 metres. There were some excellent Caroline/Radio 390/270 jingles and highlights played by the station in June - CFRO would recommend that this is excellent programme material.

RADIO 222 - "MAKE LOVE - NOT WAR"

Since our last newsletter, Radio 222 has moved location, and has used a new format for its shows. With DJ Terry Davies, the station does some good evening broadcasts around 7.00 p.m., and uses the "Caroline" theme song. Lots of CFRO members have, in fact, thought this was Radio Caroline.

The station seems to have improved now considerably since the last newsletter, when we mentioned that the programme material was unsuitable. We're sorry, we don't mean to offend you people at 222, but we feel that some constructive criticism might be of some help. It seems as if it has been. CFRO would invite Radio 222 listeners to give in their comments, as Radio 222 have given us some publicity recently, and we have had already a few enquiries about the station.

227 RADIO RHONDA - ??????????

We have not heard a thing about this station recently, perhaps because it is so close to Radio 225. If the DJ DAVE TERRELL, who used to run "Radio Rhonda" on 243 metres in 1969 is still around, could he please contact us at the CFRO address.

RADIO BROADWAY 214

On the 16th July, at 12.00, a broadcast was received on 214 metres, of short duration (five minutes approx.). The DJ announced that this was Radio 214, and the station then closed down. The 23rd July came, and the same signal was heard on 214 metres at approximately 12.30. The signal was received until about 12.40, when a DJ then announced that this was the first broadcast of Radio Broadway on 214 metres, but shortly after went off the air. We might have some more information on this station for the next newsletter, but meanwhile, keep tuned in. We may hear yet another addition to the other local stations.

LIBERTY RADIO - 6.815 MHZ S.W.

Liberty Radio is run by amateur radio enthusiasts dedicated to Free Radio. Programmes are recorded in England and shipped to a location, which, for security reasons, must be kept secret.

Liberty Radio started broadcasting with its first scheduled test transmission on 25th June, 1972. Programmes consist of a "History of Off-shore Radio", featuring many of the now defunct off-shore radio stations broadcasting to Europe; news of existing off-shore stations, and proposed off-shore stations; news of land-based 'pirate' stations, and the people and organisations actively involved in the fight for Free Radio.

We are always pleased to receive letters from our listeners, especially from those who run 'pirate' stations. If you fall into this category, and can supply a tape of your station which we can broadcast, we would be most grateful. We will, of course, return all tapes sent to us.

Liberty Radio broadcasts with a home-built transmitter, with a power of 30 watts, on Sunday mornings from 10.00 a.m. GMT onwards. Our broadcasts are low-powered, and a communications receiver is required to receive the broadcasts in most parts of the United Kingdom. Liberty Radio is an independent organisation, not connected in any way with any other station or organisation. We hope that you enjoy our broadcasts and will lend your support to our project.

CFRO/NWFRC AMALGAMATION

As you will realise, CFRO began as a branch of the FRC (Free Radio Campaign) for Cheshire, back in January, 1971. Since then, several other branches have been set up all over the country, including the "FRAM" - Free Radio Action Movement, of Romily, Cheshire. They operate a very similar organisation to CFRO and we have had quite a fair amount of contact with them recently.

Now the time has come for some sort of unification, and FRC have suggested that for better effects, CFRO and FRAM should join together to form the NWFRC - North West Free Radio Campaign.

Meetings have been temporarily arranged between CFRO and FRAM, but no final conclusions have been made yet. Obviously, CFRO can be improved considerably, and we hope to do something much better as NWFRC. We will, of course, be glad of YOUR suggestions and ideas, and if you can write to us and let us know of any good improvements we can make, drop us a line. We will also be needing some help to write and compile the next newsletter, so please send your articles in NOW for the Autumn newsletter:- CFRO NEWSVIEWS, 141 SINGLETON AVENUE, PRENTON, BIRKENHEAD, CHESHIRE, L42 9JW.

CFRO OFFERS

RNI MINI STICKERS -- Red, produced by FRC - 4p each PLUS S.A.E.

LETTER RNI STICKERS -- Blue, with Slogan: 'Tune in Now to RNI - 220 Metres M.W. - 2p each PLUS S.A.E.

BACK COPIES OF SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER:- 5p each PLUS S.A.E. (We are sorry, but all the previous newsletters from last year have gone).

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CFRO ADVERTISEMENTS

F.R.S. (Full Round Sound) Tower of Power Discotheque -- with Light Show and Stereo Sound -- For Your Parties and Dances. Contact CFRO for details.

LIVERPOOL FREE PRESS -- For the news you're not supposed to Know!!

IF YOU require 807's, we at CFRO will be able to help you get in touch with several supplies -- Give us a ring at 051-608 4826.

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN admirers -- Please contact Phil at CFRO address.

Please contact CFRO about your advertisements, and and we will let you know about what we can do.

SIRA MAGAZINE is out now. PACKED with all the latest in Free Radio News -- 25p from -- 91 PARK STREET, HORSHAM, SUSSEX.

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LOCAL LAND-BASED RADIO LISTENERS CLUB -- We can pass on requests is you are interested, to the local stations mentioned in our newsletter, and also convey any queries you have about them. Please use the following list to write about the station concerned

RADIO FREE LIVERPOOL 217	--	BOX RFL
RADIO 225/MERSEYLAND	--	" RM
RADIO 222	--	" RT
RADIO BROADWAY 214	--	" RB
LIBERTY RADIO 6.815 MHZ	--	" LR
RADIO FREE CHESHIRE 221	--	" RFC
RADIO RHONDA 227	--	" RR
RADIO VENUS NORTH	--	" RV

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we hope that the Free Radio Stations mentioned will help to bring about notice to the fact that an alternative radio system is required, and, as does RNI, will make us realise what we have missed since Radio Caroline.

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From Phil Price

*Dear Alfred, I hear about your loss of equipment, and I would like to know exactly what happened. Please give me a ring.
Phil Price*