

CHESHIRE FREE RADIO ORGANISATION

P.O. BOX 11, BIRKENHEAD, CHESHIRE, L42 9QG

Your local and international guide to free enterprise radio

Area Organiser: Phil Price

Telephone enquiries: 051-608 3735

RADIO RHONDA LOUD AND CLEAR ON 235 METRES

Whilst there has been noticeably very little free radio activity locally recently, Radio Rhonda have been making occasional broadcasts recently, mostly of good signals strength, and good quality programmes. In June, a very professional programme was broadcast, the D.J. announcing himself as "The Voice", which sounded very mysterious, but nevertheless, the programme was well produced, with lots of jingles and sound effects. Their latest broadcast, also by "The voice", was received on August 22nd, (At 6.00 pm), and was loud, clear, and up to standard. Even though we don't hear too much of this station, CFRO must commend them on their quality, which seems to be absent in quite a few land-based stations.

RADIO TINA COMMENCES BROADCASTS ON 238 METRES, (1261 KHZ)

Apart from Radio Rhonda, this is the only land-based station on the Wirral at present in operation. As reported in the last newsletter, we were expecting to hear some test transmissions from the station, and we believe that, having completed their transmitter modifications, the station should continue to broadcast quite regularly. Fir st tests were received at the end of July, but were of poor quality to start with. There was very little bass in the signal, and a fair amount of distortion. There were noticeably a few broadcasts from the station around August 14th, the day we all remember so well six years ago, when the British Government passed the "Marine Offences Bill".

Radio Tina have played snippets from Radio Caroline North, including jingles and the closedown theme tune, and have also given out free radio news. We certainly have every confidence that the station could be very popular once the adjustments have been made to improve the audio quality of the signal. Keep tuned in, free radio enthusiasts!

NEWS OF OTHER LOCAL STATIONS

Very little to report on, as you all probably realise, but the main news is the loss of Radio Free Wirral, who have informed us that since their last broadcast on July 1st, when they left the air suddenly at 1.45, they will make no further broadcasts. They used 214 metres, (1408.5KHZ), and also 300 metres, (983 KHZ), when they were on the air.

We understand that there will also be no further broadcasts from Radio 225, Radio Free Liverpool, or Radio Aquarius North, a station which did make some strong test broadcasts on 1389 KHZ, (217 metres), in June.

We have had enquiries about a station called Radio Lancaster, and also Radio Lancashire, both of which we know nothing about. If any of you can help us, please let us know some details of the stations.

Further out in Cheshire, we have also received news about GPO raids on stations recently, resulting in temporary closure of a few stations. We have not heard any tests from Radio Free Cheshire, (221), either.

On short wave, Radio Gemini have now moved from 6220KHZ to 6230KHZ, and there have been several good free radio programmes on short wave, including World Music Radio. We would appreciate wavelengths/transmission times of any short wave stations your radios can receive, and those of you with communication receivers can help us in particular.

Strange carrier wave noises heard recently on 225 metres and 222 metres; Radio 222 now making broadcasts from a new location out towards Queensferry; Caroline/Atlantis/ Seagull on board the "Mi Amigo": how many more? Radio 299 heard making a debut and very distorted broadcast in July; Who is the mysterious "Voice" from Radio Rhonda? -Several of you have guessed already; Anyone having information on Radio Lancaster or Radio Lancashire, please let us know because we have had some enquiries recently; Literally NO news about the Free Radio Rally which was supposed to have happened in London on August 19th-- Did it really happen at all? Big moves afoot recently at CFRO HQ, as most of you will have realised; CFRO have been informed that Radio Free Wirral's transmitter will be used for a new station.

CFRO ADVERTISEMENT SECTION

DELTA DISCOTHEQUES are pleased to announce the completion of their second mobile unit, to bring all the best in the most up-to-date sounds around. For all occasions, with light show, this is recommended by CFRO. For details, telephone:

051- 608 3735 or 051-652 8215

REVERBERATION UNIT required for local land-based station. Please let CFRO know if you have one, and we will put you in touch with the station operators.

SOUNDS ALIVE + UNIT 4 Discos cater for all occasions: Engagements, Weddings, parties, socials, dances. For details, ring: ESTUARY (0244) 692 703.

RUPERT'S CLUB, 68, Argyle Street, Birkenhead, can offer you a great night out. With excellent decor and delectable waitresses, the club also has a fantastic disco, and full light show. Only recently opened, CFRO can recommend this club to all local members. SAE to CFRO for further details.

BACK COPIES of newsletters and some miscellaneous stickers are available from us on request. These are free to members, 5p each to non-members.

CAROLINE, (389), SEAGULL AND ATLANTIS, (252), RNI, VERONICA, and CONDOR

News of yet another off-shore station, Radio Condor, has reached us. The new station, which will use 10 KW of power eventually, will be making tests on 1111Khz and 270 metres, and programmes are expected to last from 8am and 6pm. If any of you hear this station, we would be grateful for your reception reports.

With the possibility of the Dutch Marine Offences Bill becoming law very shortly, some of the other off-shore stations will no doubt be making preparations for somewhere else to use as a base. Some of the free radio organisations have said that they will close if RNI and Caroline leave the air, but we shall have to wait and see.

Radio Atlantis continues to broadcast in Flemish during the day, and Radio Seagull take over in the evening, with some well-known English DJs. Both of these are on the "Mi Amigo", from which Radio Caroline is soon due to start again a 24-hour per day schedule of programmes. Atlantis is hiring the airtime from Caroline, and it is rather difficult to see how the Caroline organisation is managing to keep themselves out of debt, especially with the impending Dutch legislation. However, we shall see, and try to bring you more news on the Dutch scene as it arrives. It seems that RNI and Veronica will close if the Bill becomes law, but again, at the moment this can only be rumour and speculation. Let's all hope that they ALL stay on and try to do what Radio Caroline was trying to do in 1968: to keep free enterprise radio alive.

oo

CFRO SAY "THANK YOU" TO MEMBERS

We would like to say how grateful we are for your help and information recently to the following members/CFRO helpers: Gerry Glendinning; Brian Cullen; Anne Burnett; Chris, Paul, and Ken; SIRA; Tony Davies; Jon Davies.

@#@*#@*#@*#@*#@*#@*

Dear Friends,

This story is absolutely true. When you've read it, you may understand a bit more exactly what it is like to be part of an offshore radio organisation. Don't get me wrong in what I say. To me, RNI is the best we've got, but experience-wise, she caused me a few problems!

Last November, I received a telephone call from guess who? -- Don Allen. I have known Don for quite a few years now, and when he heard of a vacancy on RNI for a DJ, he offered me the chance of applying. For that I am eternally grateful to Don.

Well, I went for an interview to London with RNI hirer and firer- a woman would you believe, and after wining and dining me, she eventually offered me the job, which I took without hesitation. So, the following week, I packed my bags, and off I went to Liverpool Airport, bound for Amsterdam, and loaded down with records, tapes, and brief details of how to contact the tender company. No doubt this all sounds "Too good to be true", but things didn't turn out as planned. To cut a long story short, I never did reach the MEBO II, due to that powerful adversary-- the weather. For one whole week, I was stranded in my hotel room in Scheveningen, waiting for the weather to abate, and the tender company to agree to take me out to the ship. But nothing happened, - You may recall Mike Ross, Don Allen, and Brian McKenzie stranded on board the MEBO II for 26 days last November. That was when I was stranded too---on land!!

So, afterspending my days getting bored, and spending my money on food and telephone calls to RNI HQ, I eventually decided to pack in my escapade. You see, a job as an offshore radio DJ is fine whilst everything is going well. However, during my spell in Holland I reckon I must have had the worst weather possible since piracy on the high seas was ever heard of! Basically, the delay in a strange country, and without anyone who I knew, not even an Englishman, I was really depressed. I weighed up the "Pros and cons", and finally decided to get the next plane home- a decision which did not come easy, I assure you. Obviously, I was disappointed and I wrote to Don explaining the way I felt. He agreed that it takes some doing. I think we should all admire the boys on the offshore ships. In summer, life is lovely, during winter it's *O?&*? awful!

Somehow I feel a little happier on land, listening to the sounds of Radio Northsea International via a radio set.

P.S. Hope you enjoy my programmes on RADIO RHONDA! Thank you , faithful Listeners!

Keep tuned in!!

THE VOICE

NOTE FROM PHIL PRICE

I would like to thank "The voice" for his interesting contribution to this newsletter, and hope that you will listen to his shows in future on 235, Radio Rhonda. I would also like to add that if any of you have any articles which could be considered for the forthcoming newsletters, please don't hesitate to send them in as soon as you can so that we can compile the newsletter.

If you are a prospective new member, then don't forget to fill in the form below, and send it, with 25p, to us.

P.S. News of Don Allen's party on October 6th in the next newsletter!

NAME:..... MR. ALFRED QUILLIAN..... CFRO NUMBER: W50.....

ADDRESS:.....