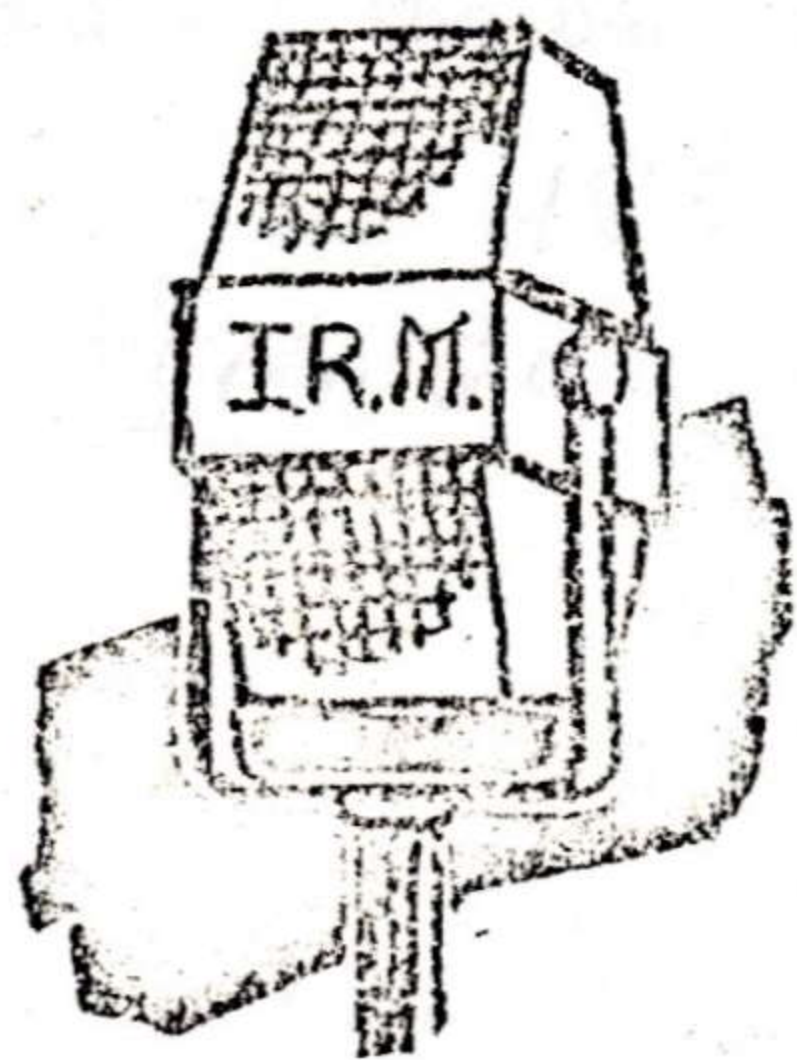


ALL FREE RADIO
AND
DX NEWS



Latest Free Radio News

RNI will have a meeting of its Dutch (Basart NV) and Swiss (Mebo Ltd.) owners this week (15th December) to discuss the future of the Mebo II. Topics to be discussed are the medium-wave TX (now running at only 35 kW) the oil situation and the Dutch Marine Offences Act. One thing is clear - RNI is here to stay for the next 6 months anyway.

Meanwhile despite rumours to the contrary, the Caroline Club is operating once again. Hans Parker (alias Jan Verbaan) is club secretary. At the office we have received a sample of projected Mi Amigo notepaper. Mi Amigo will broadcast from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. followed by Seagull. On 389 Caroline is due to return one month after Mi Amigo. Radio Atlantis which also used the Mi Amigo has now given up its attempt to use the Radio Condor ship.

American Fundamentalist minister Ralph McIntyre's offshore station, Radio Free America is heading into stormy weather with the Federal Government and an American M.O.A. is imminent.

The Peace Ship will soon sail to Amsterdam via Marseilles and Rome on a fund-raising trip. So listen in to 195 metres around Christmas.

Radio Gemini on 6.230 MHz is having trouble with trackers - pity because this station is the best thing since WMR.

Veronica launched another campaign at the end of November to go onto land although Dutch minds seem more set on the Middle East at the moment for this to be successful.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the I.R.M. in any way since its foundation in July, and we wish you all the best for 1974.

STOP PRESS: CAROLINE now testing on 1187 kHz
under names of RADIO MI-AMIGO and SEAGULL.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

In this, the first newsletter of the Irish Radio Movement, a few words about the working of the I.R.M. would not be amiss. The Movement operates on the principle of consensus - that is to say, as opposed to voting on a "show of hands" basis. The idea behind this is to avoid as far as possible causing dis-sension. And, in this respect, the President of the I.R.M. acts not only as figure-head, but also as a sort of general co-ordinator. We feel that he should keep continually in contact with the members in order to sound out their opinions on various topics. We feel that this is vital, for unless it is done, there is a danger that the thing will fizzle out after a while.

The I.R.M. was described on RTE radio as "The brain-child of a group of young people". And like every child, it needs to be looked after. In any organisation, the secretary is usually the motor force. But it would be unfair for us in the movement to expect any one person to do all the work. Therefore, member-participation is essential. Any active aid will of course be much appreciated. And, in addition, we welcome letters and articles from our readers on all aspects of radio, whether you agree with us or not.

A fundamental question is: what is the purpose of the Movement? Well, we hope to cater for all shades of interest as best we can in THE MEDIUM. Some of our members are very enthusiastic about off-shore commercial broadcasting, such as Radio Nordsee and others. On the other hand, our President stresses the role of community radio, as he feels that this has a much greater chance of being licensed in Ireland - certainly in preference to commercial radio.

So there it is, friends! The Irish Radio Movement, once a concept, is now a reality. A group of people, with a common interest in radio, have joined to form an organisation, which, though small at present, could well develop into something more significant, provided we all pull together. And with the I.R.M. itself, its newsletter should grow and improve. To quote the famous media expert, Marshall McLuhan, "The medium is the message."

Several years ago I was introduced to medium wave DX-ing by an English friend with whom I had been corresponding. Before that I had concentrated on the short wave bands assuming that they contained all the interesting DX, and I did not realise at all the fact that the medium wave band contained some really exotic DX!

Some of the very first stations I heard when commencing MW DX-ing were CBA in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, on 1070 kHz, WHDH in Boston on 850 kHz and CJON in St. John's Newfoundland, on 930 kHz. These stations, and many more North Americans are relatively easy to log, and it is not necessary to possess expensive communications equipment before seeking out these stations. One of the first receivers I had was simply a portable model which contained 9 transistors. With this inexpensive set and a loop antenna I logged literally dozens of North American stations.

Just now, as winter sets in, conditions on the MW band continue to improve, but one of the most intriguing aspects of the medium wave band is its unpredictability! Some nights may produce no worthwhile DX catches, but a few nights later the band could probably be described as "alive with DX" - stations from Canada, the U.S.A., Brazil, Netherlands Antilles, Leeward Islands, Bermuda, etc. coming in loud and clear!

The experts tell us that we are now approaching the peak of good conditions on the lower frequencies, and you know, of course, that the medium wave band is located in the lower frequency range. The short wave bands are on higher frequencies and conditions on these bands, again according to the experts, are steadily declining and they will continue on this trend for another year or two. The eleven metre band, for instance, is now almost "dead" and is used by only one or two stations.

Medium wave signals propagate best over a path which is covered - or almost covered - in darkness. Consequently, the long winter nights see the peak of the MW DX-ing season.

The best time to commence listening is probably around 2300 hours G.M.T., but several stations can be logged before that time depending on conditions which, as you know, are constant-

varying. I have already mentioned three of the easier stations to log - CJON may be heard very early some nights, even from around 2130 hours!

Other "easy" stations are WINS, New York, on 1010 kHz, CKEC, New Glasgow, on 1320 kHz, WNBC, New York, on 660 kHz, WNEW, New York, on 1130 kHz. There are literally scores of other stations which can be heard, and, depending on the reaction to this article, the writer can supply a detailed list for the next edition of this bulletin.

A very good "catch" is WOAI in San Antonio, Texas, on 1200 kHz. Another station to watch for is WCAU in Philadelphia on 1210 which can often be heard very close to Radio One on 247 metres (1214 kHz), and it first manifests itself in the form of a heterodyne with the Radio One carrier.

Radio Paradise in the Leeward Islands has been heard on 1265 kHz and this station is best identified by first noting a heterodyne with Deutschlandfunk on 1268 kHz.

Radio Victoria broadcasting from the island of Aruba in the Netherlands Antilles may be heard sometimes on 925 kHz. This can be located by carefully tuning LF of CJON on 930 kHz after the close-down of Wavre, Belgium, which transmits on 926 kHz.

Those of you who use transistorised sets will achieve best results by using a medium wave loop antenna. Also, this type of antenna will not produce "overloading" when connected to a transistor set, as is often the case when an ordinary long-wire is connected to a transistor set. The loop, being directional, will also help to eliminate much of the interference from European stations; it can also be very effective in separating DX stations on the same frequency - for instance, CBA in Canada and Radio El Mundo (LR1) in Argentina, both on 1070 kHz, can be effectively separated simply by rotating the loop antenna.

Supporters of free radio will also find many things to interest them in the medium wave band. A number of land-based free radio stations may often be heard on the frequencies around 1320 to 1350 kHz. The writer has been fortunate to log stations here broadcasting from many parts of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and also from Dublin and Cork. The best time to watch out for these stations is after midnight at weekends, but, of course, it is not necessary to wait until midnight to commence the vigil for free radio

broadcasts. The writer has logged two Dublin stations, Radios Caroline and Empathy, during their afternoon transmissions - the signals, in the process, travelling over a distance of 60 to 70 miles at least. Another Irish station, Radio Caroline North, has been logged several times on Sunday afternoons on approximately 1128 kHz. As the name implies, this station is located in the north of the country - perhaps well over 100 miles from my location in south County Carlow.

Back in the 1960s there were many British off-shore stations to satisfy the musical tastes of many listeners - many of you will probably remember listening to these stations - alas the British off-shore stations are now but a happy, pleasant memory.....gone, but not forgotten...

The same fate appears to be in sight for the Dutch off-shore stations, and very soon we may be without Radio Nordsee International and the other Dutch off-shore stations.

This will leave only one high-powered off-shore station in Europe - "The Voice of Peace" which operates on a frequency of 1540 kHz from a location in the eastern Mediterranean. It is very difficult to log this station, but the best time to try is around 2000 or 2100 hours G.M.T. when it may be heard weakly between Deutschlandfunk on 1538 kHz and Radios Bristol and Teeside on 1546 kHz.

If I were asked now to state my most interesting or historic medium wave log this would be a difficult one to answer, but into this category somewhere I would put my logging of Radio Free Prague during the days after the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in August, 1968. Radio Free Prague broadcast under what could only be described a "difficult" conditions during the week after the invasion, but still they managed somehow to broadcast in several languages - including English. It was noted that Radio Moscow home service programmes were transmitted on 1286 kHz in order to jam the broadcasts of Radio Free Prague.

My equipment here now consists of a Trio 9R-59DS communications receiver and a National Panasonic RF-5000, but let me stress again that one does not need such expensive equipment to take part in the fascinating hobby of medium wave DX-ing.

Good luck with these medium wave logs, please write and let us know about your medium wave DX-ing....

We now have pleasure in printing a very interesting article written specially for this bulletin by the operators of Radio Caroline International (Dublin)

We, at Radio Caroline (Dublin), when looking for a name for our station, decided on CAROLINE, not because it was original (which it was not!) but because implicit in the name was our idea of what pirate radio should be.

1968 and '69 were bad years for pop radio and the "all day radio freak" was confined to enduring the likes of daytime BBC Radio One and night time Radio Luxembourg. Atmosphere, and the feeling of participation, which had been part of the pirate radio scene, had disappeared overnight and was replaced by "pulp".

The demand created by this gap was filled in part by the birth of Radio Caroline (Dublin). Initially a technical project, it gathered momentum and enthusiasm until its signal was being transmitted by a 100 watt transmitter on 227 metres in the medium wave band. The audio equipment developed parallel to this until it now has a professional-standard studio. Programmes for the first few months were transmitted live, but this later became impractical and now all programmes are, and will be, recorded. Change of locations has become necessary lately due to the restless activity on behalf of the listening taxpayers by the P.O. engineers.

Response from the listeners was good. Dublin people were slow to write, but foreign DX-ers seemed quite excited at 100 watts coming from Dublin, and reports were received from Poland, West Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Britain. These reports were verified by QSL card.

We used to broadcast on Friday nights, Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons, but due to the P.O. activity we then had to cut down on broadcasts and change location more frequently. This meant more planning and more work.

For various reasons the feasibility of MW broadcasting is in doubt. We would like to continue, but it looks like we will opt for a VHF/FM broadcasting station instead. We are now testing a 50 watt transmitter on 99 MHz and if these tests are successful we will broadcast in this mode in the future. The prospect of short aerials and possible mobile broadcasts seems too good to miss. Initial tests were most satisfactory with a range of about six miles and erratic reception was re-

...rted up to ten miles... This is more than enough to cover the city, but, of course, this is at the expense of our many foreign supporters.

If you wish to write to us, and we would especially like to receive your comments on our VHF / FM transmissions, please send your letters to the following address:

Department D4, B.I.R.M., 63, Gleton Avenue, Hove, Sussex, BN3 8LN, England.

The above article has been printed verbatim, and, at this point, the editor wishes to place it on record that the views expressed by contributors to this bulletin are the views of the contributors, and they do not necessarily concur with the views of the editor or any other official of the Irish Radio Movement.

Articles will be accepted from any individual or organisation, and the only stipulation is that they should deal with matters pertaining to the radio hobby. These articles will be published at the discretion of the editor who will accept no responsibility for the views expressed by the contributors.

As your President has stated, this Movement will operate on the principle of consensus - therefore, we will have many divergent views. All are free to express *their* views, and we look forward very much to hearing from YOU in the very near future.

LONDON BROADCASTING, Britain's first independent commercial radio station, commenced broadcasting at 6.00 a.m. on Monday, 8th October, 1973, over two frequencies - 97.3 MHz VHF and from a temporary transmitter situated at Lots Road, Chelsea on 417 metres (719 kHz). The station will eventually change to 261 metres (1151 kHz) and will broadcast then from Saffron Green with directional aerial using four masts.

Here in Carlow, London Broadcasting has been heard at 8.00 a.m. on 719 kHz and a reception report has been verified by a full QSL card.

The address of London Broadcasting is: P.O. Box 269, Communications House, Gough Square, Fleet Street, London, EC4P 4LP.

The Irish Radio Movement strongly recommends the following which are some of the more consistent free radio and off-shore radio publications in Britain:

NEWSWAVE: This very fine magazine is published bi-monthly by the Brighton Independent Radio Movement, and it includes news about dozens of land-based free radio - and other interesting - stations. The cost is only 15p plus postage (3p English stamp.) Address: B.I.R.M., 63 Gleton Avenue, Hove, BN3 8LN.

NEWSCASTER: Published by the F.R.C. in London, this magazine is recommended for its accuracy and the quality of its articles. It covers off-shore and independent radio stations. The price is only 5p plus postage and a copy may be obtained from: Mr. Roy Brooker, BM-FRC, London, WC1V 6XX.

SIRA MAGAZINE: The S.I.R.A. (Southern Independent Radio Association, 91 Park St., Horsham, Sussex) publish the BIGGEST free radio magazine (with well over 30 pages per issue) four times a year. The cost is 25p plus postage per issue and those sending for their copy now can ask for the Winter Edition which will contain many articles of interest to both the DX-er and free radio supporter. The magazine is also noted for the good quality of the printing and the good reproduction of photographs.

SCRIPT: A very professional magazine which is great value for only 15p from the following address: 35 Glenmore Road, London, NW3 4DA.

FREE RADIO NEWS: Great value at 2½p plus postage per issue. This publication may be obtained from Mr. D. Robinson, 22 Mallow Way, Weeds Wood Estate, Chatham, Kent. Mr. Robinson also sells many fine American and off-shore radio tapes.

DEEJAY: This deals with all aspects of radio, although in the past few months free radio has gradually taken it over. At 25p per copy, it is the only colour glossy publication catering for free radio listeners.

These are just a few of the many publications which are recommended by your secretary, Mark, who also states that news of other free radio magazines may be found in the free radio advertisement columns of Record Mirror and Disc.

We'll have more news for you in the next issue of this bulletin about interesting DX and free radio publications.

World Music Radio has been finally closed down by the Post Office in Holland, following representations to the Dutch authorities by the B.B.C.....Kenny Everett, working for Capital Radio in London, has revived the "Kenny and Cash Show" with Dave Cash..... Although rumoured to close down on the 31st December, 1973, Daffy Don Allen, R.N.I.'s programme controller, says the station will stay on the air.....The Don Allen Fan Club magazine also states that nothing definite regarding the future of R.N.I. has been decided, and Don warns people not to pay too much attention to all these rumours going around.....Radio Condor, the religious off-shore station off the Dutch coast, has closed and the ship has been sold to Radio Atlantis.....The Voice of America relay station in Colombo, Sri Lanka, can be heard opening in English at 0100 GMT on 7110.....The Tinang relay station of the Voice of America can be heard in English at around 1300 GMT on 15345 kHz. Hear this one and get the Philippines verified!..... Arnold Layne is now working for United Biscuits Radio in England.....The Irish Radio Movement now has a personal representative in Holland (Andre Steen, Verellaan 233, Maassluis) and your secretary, on behalf of all the members of the I.R.M., thanks Andre most sincerely for all his help, and for all the phone calls with all the news.....CONTACT, the monthly bulletin of the World DX Club (11 Wesley Grove, Portsmouth, PO3 5ER), reports that Radio Free Russia ceased broadcasts on November 4th after 25 years of transmitting programmes to the Soviet Union from Bavaria..... The Soviet Union has now stopped jamming broadcasts from the BBC, VOA and Deutsche Welle. The jamming of broadcasts from Radio Liberty continues, and there is ample evidence of this if one tunes through any of the international broadcast bands..... The Medium Wave Circle, 7 The Avenue, York, YO3 6AS publish a monthly magazine during the winter MW DX season called MEDIUM WAVE NEWS. The articles are of a very high standard and the logbook section, for instance, is made up of 99.99% non-European DX items.....One afternoon recently a test was heard from the Birmingham station (new IBA local station) on 1151 kHz..... The Caroline Club is now well and truly defunct (it never really started, did it!? - JD) and rumours that Chris Cary alias one Spangles Muldoon has left Caroline are true. Your editor was one of the people who lost £1.50 by sending in a subscription to the so-called "Caroline Club".....Radio Valleri, broadcasting from Dublin, has been heard loud and clear in Paris on 6317 kHz. Dozens of reports have been received by the station from DX-ers

All over Britain, but only a few have been received from Irish listeners! The station is on the air from around 1200 GMT on Sundays....."The Voice of Peace" is currently off the air and reportedly is in urgent need of volunteers and finance. The Peace Ship is said to be gone ^{to} port for repairs and it will then set sail for Western Europe to embark on a fund-raising campaign.....John Dowling must be the first and only person in Ireland to have heard the Voice of Peace (Mark wrote that one - not I! - JD).....Hearing the Peace Ship is one thing, but obtaining a verification is another! Your editor has almost given up hope of receiving a reply to a reception report sent a few months after the station commenced broadcasts.....RNI's electronic jingles made by DALTRON, Dallas, Texas, for only £50 - not bad!.....The I.R.M. has received a very nice letter from Radio Veronica with promotional material.....Radio City on the air on Sundays from 1100 GMT on 6240 kHz - has also been heard at 1500 hours - JD.....Radio Venus North also heard on Sundays on approximately the same frequency - heard at 1345 GMTRadio City's address is c/o S.I.R.A. and Radio Venus North is c/o B.I.R.M. - the full addresses of these organisations can be found elsewhere in this magazine.....WNYW, New York, has been taken over by Family Stations Inc., and the call-letters have been changed to WYFR.....Radio na Gaeltachta on 539 kHz (Connemara) has been heard broadcasting commentaries of matches on Sunday afternoons. These are not advertised and are carried by this transmitter only. Reception in south Carlow is good.....Georgetown, Guyana, has been heard on 760 kHz quite often from around midnight.....Best reception of Capital Radio (London) on 557 kHz is noted at 0100 hours GMT.....Don Allen used same Nashville interviews three times - on BBC Radio Merseyside, on R.N.I. and on Manx Radio's Country Music programme - nevertheless, he's still Mark Tee's idol, along with Ronan... ..Radio Kathmandu can be heard in the early afternoon on a frequency of 5000 kHz with Indian-style music.....The Technical Department of Austrian Radio, P.O. Box 200, A-1043, Wien, Austria, publish a very good frequency-list which can be obtained regularly simply by writing to the station and asking for it. The list gives details of stations which broadcast to Europe in the 11, 13, 16, 19, 25, 31, 41 and 49 metre bands. Your editor strongly recommends the list.....Delta Radio has been heard in the early morning on 6225 kHz - address c/o SIRAEnglish readers can ring Free Radio Information Service on 01-670 9328 (Sundays only).....That is all from this section for this time.....Cheerio from Mark Tee and John Dee.....

IRISH RADIO MOVEMENT PERSONNEL:

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THE OFFICIAL ADDRESS OF THE CLUB IS: 406, MOURNE RD., DUBLIN, 12

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ENGLAND - F.R.C., BM-FRC, London, WC1V 6XX.

BELGIUM - F.R.C., Hogeweg 219, 9110 Sint Amandsberg.

GERMANY - F.R.C., P.O. Box 461, D-76, Offenbergl, F.R.G.

HOLLAND - Andre Steen, Verellaan 233, Maasslvis.

IRM PUBLICITY MATERIAL (OBTAINABLE FROM OUR SECRETARY):

RNI posters available at 5p each. We hope to have more publicity material in the near future, and in the meantime we hope you will like the items included with this magazine.

We also hope to have special IRM reception report forms available shortly - more details in the next edition of "The Medium".

F.R.C., P.O. Box 9460, The Hague, Holland, offer a very fine set of slides of the radio ships. Send IRC for details to the address given.

The IRM will be pleased to publish small advertisements free of charge (space permitting), so if you have anything to sell, or if you have anything to swap, or if you want to buy something, please send us details - these ads. must be connected with radio.

We had hoped to publish some more DX News and Views in this first edition of "The Medium", but space does not permit. However, it will appear in the next edition, and our editor looks forward to receiving news and views from all members of the Movement for the next edition of YOUR magazine - "The Medium".
