

by Tim Jackson, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside...Edited by Barrie Johnston, 'Anoraks UK.'

The first meeting of the Merseyside Free Radio Association took place on Wednesday 20th July 1983. Tom Lodge announced on Station 'M' International that representatives were present from Station 'M', Radio Eleanor, R.N.I., R.J.N., M.A.R. Mk.3, M.A.R. Mk.4, L.P.R., Lancashire Free Radio, Radio Veronica and probably one or two more that he had forgotten to mention. He said that some 'others' had failed to show up, like Radio Free Manchester, and the guys from Llandudno, but he obviously 'meant' the guys from M.F.R. also.

Since the association was formed, there seems to have been a deliberate plan to get most of them operating on 1413khz. It seems that they may even be using the same transmitter. Most of the stations still announce their old frequencies, even during 'live announcements'.

R.N.I. operate on 1413khz., on Fridays only. The announced schedule is something like:- midday - 8.30pm., but they rarely seem to fulfill the whole quota. On Friday 15th July, they closed down at 6.18pm., and on Friday 22nd July, they were not heard at all. I do not get much chance to hear this station, as they close down soon after I get home from work. ROGER DEE has always been the DJ whenever I have managed to hear them. Via Station 'M' on Sunday 24th July, the reason given for the non-appearance of R.N.I. on Friday was 'unforeseen circumstances beyond our control'. Roger Dee also did not do a programme for Station 'M', due to 'domestic problems'. The Address for R.N.I. is 49, Gorsedale Road, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 4AJ. This station used to be on 1359khz., with Roger Dee and Mike Day as DJ's.

RADIO ELEANOR take over 1413khz., on Saturdays. They were operating from 10.00am - 7.00 pm., but on 16th July, they aquired another DJ, and extended their hours from 9.00am - 9.00pm. The line-up is now announced as:- 9.00am - 10.00am., continuous music; 10.00am - 11.00am., Paul Rogers; 11.00am - 1.00pm., Clarke(superman) Kent; 1.00pm - 4.00pm., Barry Cullen; 4.00pm - 7.00pm., Mark Wright; 7.00pm - 9.00pm., (close-down), Paul Rogers. This station also failed to come on the air on Saturday 23rd July, at the scheduled time, but was eventually heard at 2.50pm. They announced that they had had a few problems and had opened at 2.30pm. They seem to have reverted to their old format for the day, except to extend the broadcast to 8.00pm., by the addition of a 'guest appearance' by Rick Dane of R.J.N., between 7.00pm and 8.00pm., after which, Paul Rogers closed the station down. Their address is :- 71 Ashville Road, Poulton, Wallasey, Merseyside, L44 9EF.

STATION 'M' take over 1413khz. on Sundays. There have been a few re-arrangements over the past few weeks, and both sign-on and schedule have been erratic. Some weeks ago, Tom Lodge announced that Eric Monaghan and Mike Doyle had been sacked, and anyone who did not like it could go with them. The same day, it was announced on M.A.R. Mk3, at close-down, that Peter Heaton, Mike Doyle and Jon Brand of Station 'M' would be joining M.A.R. from the following week. The following Sunday, Peter Heaton was duly heard on this station, but asked listeners not to send any mail to M.A.R., as he was only doing 'guest appearances! Mike Doyle and Jon Brand were asking for mail via M.A.R. On Sunday 24th July, Tom Lodge said that Eric Monaghan had not left Station 'M' International. He had been sacked from DJing, but had been promoted to station manager. Mike Doyle had left in agreeable circumstances, and was still a regular visitor to Tom Lodge's house. It was hoped that Eric Monaghan would do some more programmes for station 'M', when he had more time to spare. Last weekend, Mike King and Mark Stevens also left the station, but it was stressed that this was nothing to do with internal disagreements, and the hope was expressed that they would be able to return again in a few weeks time. The new address for Station 'M' is :- 78 Brunswick Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L41 5LW. DJ's left at the station are:- Pete Heaton, Kevin Palmer, Phil James, Roy Kelly, Roger Dee, John Freeman and Tom Lodge.

RADIO VERONICA take over 1413khz. on Mondays. Radio Veronica operating from one of M.F.R.'s locations, were raided by the G.P.O. on Cup Final Saturday, and both Steven Bishop and Mike Campbell were caught. Radio Veronica re-appeared on the air on 19th July, but on 1413khz. Announced schedule is Mondays only, 6.00pm till mid-night. Line-up is:- 6.00 - 8.00pm., Pete Williams; 8.00 - 10.00pm., Mike Clarke; 10.00 - mid-night, Mike Campbell. As before, the mailing address is:- 141 Breck Road, Wallasey, Merseyside, L44 3 EQ.

MERSEYLAND ALTERNATIVE RADIO mk.3 were first noted at my QTH on Sunday 10th April, and were a 'Sunday only' station. The signal was extremely weak. DJ's had terrible radio voices, station jingles were un-readable and the transmitter had a nasty hum on it. Recently, they seem to have increased power(supposedly to 250w), but the signal is still very poor and the above faults are simply magnified. Station Manager/Owner is Jim Brown and some of the DJ's are :+ Paul Allan, Paul West, Mike Doyle, Jon Brand, Mark Bazaar. Frequency is 1358khz.

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The mailing address is :- 25 Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside, L20. A couple of weeks ago, the signal dropped again, and they said that their transmitter had blown up, and they were using a borrowed 50w. t/x from L.P.R. They also announced that they would be operating on Saturday and Sunday 'from next week'. On Saturday 23rd July, they had a stronger signal than before. Heard in the afternoon was Rick Dane, calling himself 'Steve Tyler' (or maybe Taylor), and dropping hints that his voice should be well-known from another station that he wished was still on the air. When reading out his mail, he read out 'Dear Rick'.... at the start of each letter. He was announcing the transmission as 'a new station with a heavy rock format', but calling it Merseyland Alternative Radio and using the Glynne Street address, and thanking Jim Brown, the station manager. The DJ's were Steve Tyler and Dave Sanchez. It appears that Rick Dane was only doing a guest spot during the Steve Tyler show. It was announced that the station would close down at 4.00pm., and the proper sign-off was made by Dave Sanchez. However, the station continued for a while, with what sounded like old tapes. This station poses some interesting problems. There is a terrible 'hash' slightly below their modulation, but, I am convinced that the 'hash' is also coming from the M.A.R. T/x. Reception varies from DJ to DJ, and I am convinced that most of the DJ's do not know how to use the equipment properly. Peter Heaton, Mike Doyle and Jon Brand, together with Jim Brown, come across quite well, apart from the 'hash' splash. The other DJ's are pretty useless. On Saturday, both Steve Tyler and Dave Sanchez came through quite clearly, but the DJ's after 4.00pm., were virtually unreadable. Mark Evans and Brian Grant's DJ 'jingles' being particularly bad.

MERSEYLAND ALTERNATIVE RADIO Mk.4. Dates given here may not be too accurate, but they are the best that memory can manage. M.A.R. Mk 4 were heard testing in the week or two before the 2nd July, announcing a new station to commence broadcasting on 2nd July. On this date they came on the air on 1138khz., but announcing 1125khz., 266m., to match their old M. A. R. jingles. DJ's are Andy Scott, Dave Graham, Steven Bishop and John Dwyer. The latter was the owner of the original M.A.R. The station was announcing its schedule as :- Fridays 9.00pm., or thereabouts till mid-night, Saturdays, 9.00am. till mid-night, and Sundays 10.00am. till mid-night. They quickly became the laughing stock of the Merseyland Free Radio scene, by lasting for just one weekend. Rumour has it that there were internal disputes over money. The following weekend, Steven Bishop was back on the air, on 9th/10th July, announcing test transmissions of Radio North West, and giving the mailing address as :- 41 St. Nathaniel Street, Toxteth, Liverpool, L8 7RX. However, the problems at M.A.R. Mk 4 seem to have sorted themselves out by Saturday 16th July, and the station has been on the air for the past two weekends. Schedule is :- (I think), 9.00am. - 11.00am. Andy Scott, 11.00am. - 2.00pm., Dave Graham; 2.00pm. - 4.00pm., Steven Bishop; 4.00pm - 7.00pm., John Dwyer; 7.00pm - 9.00pm., Dave Graham and 9.00pm - mid-night, John Dwyer. Andy Scott is a bit of a mythical creature. I have only heard him speak once, and that was to hand over to Dave Graham at 11.00am. Dave Graham then thanked Andy Scott for the 'past two hours'. All I heard was continuous music. M.A.R. Mk 4 format is at least 'three in a row', with no chat, except the record and artist name in between. Chat is definitely out, and I have not heard them give out any mailing address, or mention any letters received. (They were heard on 1142khz., on Sunday 24th July).

RADIO JACKIE NORTH appear to have closed down for good. Rick Dane has been threatening to close down for some time, with all sorts of excuses, such as, 'lack of listeners letters! being bandied about. On the weekends 9/10th and 16/17th July, R.J.N. went missing from 1396khz., and appeared on 963khz. only. On Saturday 16th July, R.J.N. was on the air from noon till 1.00am., with Rick Dane working almost single handedly, although Steve West did the 2.00pm - 4.00pm. slot (and maybe a stint in the evening). On 17th July, Rick Dane said that this was probably R.J.N.'s last broadcast. A listeners letter suggested that he got a few others to help him out, but he replied that he had been looking for someone for years, and could not find anyone suitable. He also said that he was not fed up with R.J.N., but the station took up so much of his time, that other aspects of his life were suffering, and it was this that he was cheesed off about. He celebrated his first weekend off the air with two guest appearances, mentioned above (under Eleanor and M.A.R. Mk 3).

Storeton Community Radio. Free Radio Storeton have had a pretty lousy signal on 1296khz. for some time now. They are mainly the personel from the one-time S.C.R./Radio Debra. Once again, the dates for this one may not be strictly correct, but are the best that my memory can do. On the week beginning 4th July, they appeared, they appeared on the air with a tremendous signal, but the DJ's do not have very presentable voices, there was a lot of interuptions and interference with one anothers programmes, a lot of bad language, a lot of horse-play, and a lot of DJ chat to persons in the background. Towards the end of that week, Martin 'C', the owner, said that 'from next Monday, the name of the station will be changed to Storeton Community Radio and discipline will be considerably tightened up'. The name change was obviously to get the initials back to S.C.R.

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He said that S.C.R. had split up because of 'incompatibility between some of the DJ's'. He also intimated that all may not have been well at the new S.C.R. at that date, but that all would be sorted out by the following Monday. Some of the 'schoolie' listeners had written in to the station, complaining about some of the things that they had heard. At first, Martin 'C' said that things would be different 'next week', but as he kept talking, he gradually got around to saying that it was their first week of broadcasting (?? on higher power maybe, but not otherwise true), they were only in it for the fun, they made no money out of it, and if any listeners did not like it, they can 'sod off'. Things did seem to be considerably tightened up on the Monday, although there is still a lot of chat to others in the studio background, and some of the DJ's still act childish. However, the station was only heard on Monday and Tuesday of that week, before it went off the air until 17th July. Ian Iredale told me that the t/x was off the air, due to problems with it, but that they would be back on Sunday. Since 17th July, they seem to have been on the air every day, but I am not sure what they are announcing as a schedule. I believe that it is:- 10.00am - mid-night, every day, but they have often closed early (ie. 10.45pm on 26th July). I do not know whether they have any sort of regular schedule, as, when I have listened, they seem to change their minds from minute to minute. For example, on Sunday 24th July, they said that Brian 'C' would be reading out the phone-in names and dedications, but it was done by Danny 'T', although the announcement had been made only one minute earlier. I do not think the programmes are taped. DJ's that I can remember are :- Martin 'C', Brian 'C', Danny 'T', Mark Bremner, Miss Chris Sinclair, Mrs Jill Sinclair, (weekends 'CS' 12.00noon - 2.00pm.; 'JS' 2.00pm - 4.00pm.). The mailing address is :- 10 Parkhill Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L42 9JB.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO keep getting mentioned by Station 'M', as having been heard, and Jim Brown on M.A.R. Mk 3 said that he had done a 'guest appearance on L.P.R. the previous day. Frequency is 1242khz., but I have not heard them, and have no other details.

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO have closed down, and have not been heard for some time. Steven Bishop has moved on to M.A.R. Mk4, Kevin Palmer is now with Station 'M'. Willy Wombât was seen coming out of M.A.R. Mk 4 premises by Tom Lodge, and M.A.R. Mk 4 announced some time ago that he is one of their DJ's, 'but he is not on the air at the moment'. Andy Davies seems to have had enough, and called it a day.

That is all the station news that I can think of for the moment. I hope I haven't missed any out. Most of the 'locals' mention parallel transmissions, but this seems to be a bit of a bluff. M.A.R. Mk 4 announce 92.5mhz., but this has not been heard by anyone. K.D.A. Radio are often mentioned by the other stations. Schedule is supposed to be something like :- Tuesday, 9.00pm - mid-night and Sunday, 9.00pm - 2.00am or so. Station 'M' said a couple of weeks ago, that K.D.A. 'are up on the roof now, fixing their antenna'. Announced schedule was something like :- 94.5mhz., but I heard nothing. As it turned out, the frequency on the night was more like 105.5mhz. It was announced by station 'M' on Sunday last, that K.D.A. are off the air.

M.A.R. Mk 3 have been announcing an F.M. transmission for weeks, but I have never found it. However, from this coming Sunday, they are supposed to be operating a new high power F.M. t/x. The frequency, I think, was 107.something.

Station 'M' are due on F.M. shortly and I think that this t/x will also be used by the other stations that currently share 1413khz. This one will probably be on 104.something mhz.

Sorry that the F.M. frequencies are so vague, but hearing nothing at all, makes it a bit of a waste of time trying to remember them.

From week ending 6/7th August 1983, M.A.R. Mk.3 intend to change their name to Central Radio. Programmes should be as follows:- Saturdays; Mid-day - 1.00pm. Dave Sanchez, 1 - 2 Mike Doyle, 2 - 3 Jon Brand, 3 - 4 Paul Hunt, 4 - 5 Steve Tyler, 5 - 6 Paul West, 6 - 7 Phil Nash. 7.00pm., Close-down.

Sundays; 10.00am - 11.00am. Rick Dean(change of name), 11 - 12 Jim Brown(owner), 12 - 1 Mark Evans, 1 - 2 Mike Doyle, 2 - 3-Jon Brand, 3 - 4 Steve Turner, 4 - 5 Paul West, 5 - 6 Steve Tyler, 6 - 7 Dave Rhodes, 7 - 8 Mark Bazaar, 8 - 9 Dedications from phone-ins taken during the afternoon on 051-933-5524.