

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week Ending Sunday 7th August 1983

The Merseyland Alternative Radio (now Central Radio) listener's night out is to be held from 7:30pm on Wednesday 10th August at the Oakfield Hotel, Oakfield Road, Liverpool, near to Liverpool's football ground.

RADIO VERONICA 1413kHz

Were heard before 6pm on Monday 1st August with continuous music, which was presumably a Tx warm-up. Programming proper started at the scheduled 6pm with the PETE WILLIAMS' Show, and so far as I can tell, they adhered to their announced DJ line-up for the evening. Pete Williams began by thanking Radio Eleanor and Station "M" International for making the broadcast of Radio Veronica possible.

MERSEYLAND ALTERNATIVE RADIO 1142 kHz

This station appear to have solved their antenna problem, and are back on full power this weekend, but have not been much listened to. The "three-in-a-row" format is killing the natural talent of some of the DJs, but it is also preventing them from coming onto the air and saying things that they should not be saying in public. All-in-all, I am disappointed with the format, especially as some of the DJs use extra-long recordings, and three-in-a-row is an awful lot of music without a break. DJs are following the station instructions to the letter, and speech between the records is minimal. In the past, Radio Alpine are the only station that managed to successfully deal with the pile of letters received from the "school-kid" population of Merseyside, and I wish that a few more would play through their old recordings to see just how Radio Alpine did it, and how they managed to keep the letters coming from the very same people, even though the latter had not had their letters read out over the air. M.A.R. seem to have stuck to their announced schedule, so Good Luck to them, no matter what format they choose to adopt. One thing that I have noted, is that they still seem to have managed to attract only one "sponsor", and this is the advert for Road Runner Taxis, which goes out on the hour, every hour, complete with some very good jingles.

RNI

I wish that this station, run by ROGER DEE, would think up a name for themselves. In the past, it has been referred to by Roger Dee as RADIO NEMESIS INTERNATIONAL, but one gets the impression that this name is just one big joke. They were nearly missed on Friday, because, in spite of announcing 1413kHz, they were actually found at 7:13pm operating on 1359kHz!!!! Biggest news from this station is that they are now using a new mailing address, which is: RNI, 71b BRIGHTON STREET, SEACOMBE, WALLASEY, MERSEYSIDE L44 6QJ. This station signed off at 8pm, and still manages with two DJs, although JOHN FREEMAN of Station "M" International did a "guest appearance" on Friday, and threatens to do another one next week.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1296kHz

Seem to have been on the air most nights, but "heavy" music format and not-very-presentable DJ voices make it a station that I do not care to listen out for. Over the weekend they seem to have been having a lot of Tx problems. On Saturday, they seem to have started very late. During the afternoon, they were always absent, or putting out a very good signal marred by "1,2,1,2,1,2 testing. Aah, that seems to be a lot better". Listening was mainly done in the Moreton area, where the signal should have been much better, but was actually worse! At 10:38



pm on Saturday night, they closed down, with apologies for the intermittent signal, and promises that they would be back to normal on Sunday 7th August. On Sunday 7th August they were even more intermittent. They signed on late, and had problems all day. It seems that the usual DJs are to be "dropped" each Sunday, in favour of the top disco presenters at some of the local clubs, but today, problems with the Tx over-rode everything else. At 2:39pm, the DJ sent a message to Steve Sound, if he was listening, to say "The Tx is completely knackered, and there is no chance of us going on the air tomorrow". Later it was announced that "this is our last transmission for a while, and we will be closing down at 4pm". At 4pm the station duly closed down for an indefinite period, but I do not think that it will be very long before they 'bounce back'.

CENTRAL RADIO (ex MERSEYLAND ALTERNATIVE RADIO Mk.3) 1355kHz, or thereabouts

Seem to have had a few problems on Saturday 6th August, although most of the listening was done in the Moreton area, where the signal is poor at the best of times. At 1:45pm, the frequency was occupied by a succession of howls and whistles that all lit-up the IFTD tuning indicator on the SONY ICF 400 pocket portable. A few minutes later, they were putting out a very good signal. Later, from the Moreton area, the signal was very poor with the usual RF feedback hum on the transmission. The JON BRAND Show, scheduled for 2pm - 3pm was actually heard at 5:15pm, so I guess that that the station must have been having Tx problems. Sign-off time was not noted. On Sunday 7th, I did not listen until 11:15am, and was just in time to hear the start of the JIM BROWN SHOW at 11:16am. Initially the modulation was extremely poor, with the usual RF hum, but it improved rapidly. Mike Doyle apparently turned up without the tapes of the MIKE DOYLE and JON BRAND Shows, but they managed by moving the STEVE TURNER Show forward one hour, and filling in at the "top-of-the-Hour" with a few phone-in dedications and requests. They said that they would cut today's programmes by one hour, if necessary, but I picked up the programmes as:-

11:16am to Noon JIM BROWN; Noon - 1pm MARK EVANS; 1pm - 2pm PAUL HUNT; 2pm - 3pm STEVE TURNER; 3pm - 4pm a "live" combined Mike Doyle/Jon Brand show; 4pm - 5pm PAUL WEST; 5pm - 6pm DAVE RHODES; 6pm - 7pm STEVE TYLER; 7pm - 8pm MARK BAZAAR; 8pm onwards is the phone-in dedications and requests programme, which signed off at 9:35pm. The latter is a disgrace to "local" radio, and liable to bring the GPO/Home Office. All the station DJs get together in the studio and there is a lot of 'cross-talk' and horse-play. Dave Graham of MAR summed it all up when he announced MAR as the "MORE music station, where 3 or 4 DJs in the background are not broadcast when the guy running the programme forgets to switch off the mic."

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL

Signed-on programming today with their usual high standard at 11:30am. During the "TOM LODGE SHOW" it was announced that on Monday 1st August, PEENO KENNY of LBC appeared in court on charges connected with the raid on LBC, which took place on 27th Jan 1983. According to Tom Lodge, Peeno Kenny was fined a total of £120, but the former was disgusted that none of the members of the station went to the court to give moral support to Peeno Kenny and asks listeners to write in to say what they think about the situation. He also mentioned the



rumours about Radio Caroline International returning to the airwaves. He says that he has heard so many rumours in the past, that he is now very sceptical about those concerning Radio Caroline. However, during the past week he has heard a very powerful station testing on 499m and 432m. He believes that this is an Irish land-based pirate station, but is keeping an open-mind, and will broadcast details when replies to certain letters are received.

RADIO JACKIE NORTH

Were heard "testing" on both 1395kHz and 963kHz on Friday night at 6pm, and it seemed obvious that they had been on the air for quite some time, as Rick Dane was giving thanks to those who had phoned-in with reception reports. After 6pm they continued to experiment, and asked listeners to tune in on 1395kHz and watch the S-meter when the station turned off the 963kHz Tx for a few minutes. Personally, I could not see or hear any difference whether or not the 963kHz Tx was on the air. The station operated on both Saturday and Sunday on both frequencies, but 1395kHz was all but buried under Radio Eleanor and Station "M". Sign-off time on Friday, Saturday and Sunday was not noted.