

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE    Week ending 9th October 1983.

There has been very little listening done during the week, and consequently there has been very little heard. However, listening has taken place at times when something usually does occur, and a "blank" has still been drawn. Central Radio International say that they were "testing", but were not heard. Very few stations have been heard this weekend, in spite of regular searches, and below is a complete summary of local activity observed:-

RADIO ELEANOR appeared on 1449kHz at scheduled 10am on Saturday. They ran their usual schedule, except for continuous music during the "Tony Reeve Show", as the latter was indisposed, due to illness. This station was not heard at all on Sunday, even though Jim Brown of Central Radio sent them an "on air" report that signal was well down on Saturday, and even weaker on Sunday

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL/LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO

News from these stations is that things have not yet been sorted out. LPR will shortly be on the air with a new Tx on 1242kHz. Central Radio have shed some of their DJs (notably Jon Brand, Mike Doyle, Dave Rhodes, Mark Bazaar, etc) and still plan to be on the air on both 221m and 209m within the next few weeks. The Tx for 1242kHz and "209m" have not yet been delivered, so in the meantime, both stations are sharing the 1359kHz Tx, with LPR using it on Saturdays, and Central Radio International using it on Sundays. This arrangement seems to work very well, as the same DJs are employed by both stations.

Reception is not very good between 11am and noon, but improves rapidly after this time. As the afternoon wears on, splatter from Manx Radio becomes increasingly evident. Later the channel suffers co-channel QRM from Radio Berlin International, but really becomes unusable when France, Nancy, starts to get through on 1350kHz. France, Nice is also on 1350 kHz, and both are listed with 100kW. At close-down, it is often noted that co-channel RBI is also suffering from very strong co-channel unidentified QRM.

Heard this weekend on 1359kHz was LPR on Saturday. First noted at 11:15am with a "taped" Jeff Stone Show, giving out the wrong time checks. This was corrected later. By 6:20pm, the station was still on the air, but unreadable, and I understand that they closed down at about 8pm. On Sunday, Central Radio International were on frequency. Heard were:- 11am Jim Brown; Noon Phil Davies; 1pm Jeff Stone; 2pm Mark Evans; 3pm Steve Turner; 4pm Paul West; 5pm Phil Davies; 6pm Jim Brown with the phone-in requests and dedications and 6:10pm close-down.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL had their carrier on air at 10am, but did not commence broadcasting until 11:35am. Heard today were:-

11:35am Phil James; 12:35pm Pete Heaton, 1:30pm Kevin Palmer, 2:30 John Freeman; 4:30 Tom Lodge, 5:45pm Dave Wilson guest appearance, 6:45pm Eric Monaghan, 7:45pm Kevin Palmer with the phone-in request and dedication show. The latter went off the air suddenly at 8:25pm before all the phone-ins had been acknowledged. Although they announced that only 13 calls had been received, they proved to be impossible to contact when the lines were open

News from Tom Lodge this week is that Peanut Kenny's new station is well advanced. Studio and office have been decorated, and equipment has been installed. The station also has a very well-equipped record library. The new transmitter has been delivered, but is a part short. The missing part is due for delivery on Wednesday of next week, and the Tx will probably be tested next Sunday. It was said that whilst not exactly being in kW, it was the most powerful transmitter on Merseyside, and is considerably stronger than MFR's 250W Tx.

Tom Lodge also said that he had managed to get some information out of Radio Caroline, but was sworn to secrecy until further notice. He hinted that much stronger signals had been heard recently in the North West by people who had been listening after 2am. There was no news of MAR, but Tom Lodge seemed to think that this station was now defunct. Dave Wilson mentioned that a station would soon be heard on 227m (Skyline Radio?), so I guess that he is involved in some way

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PS. THINK JOHN FREEMAN MAY BE LEAVING STATION "M" BUT NOT SURE WHETHER IT WAS JUST A JOKE. - ERIC MONAGHAN SAID THAT HE WAS GOING FROM LIME STREET STATION ON TUESDAY, IF ANYONE WANTED TO SEE HIM OFF - ADDED THAT J.F WAS "LEAVING THE COUNTRY, TO GET AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE TO WHOM HE OWES MONEY!" J.F HAS BEEN OFFERING PRIZE MONEY TO THE TOTAL OF £15 EACH WEEK AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT BECAUSE HE HASN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH CORRECT ENTRIES FOR HIS COMPETITION!! ie £5 first correct answer; £4 second correct answer, £3 ... and so on. NOT SURE WHETHER HE IS LEAVING MERSEYSIDE, OR ALL ONE BIG JOKE.