

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 30th October 1983

Nothing has been heard during the week, but late arrival home from work each day has just about guaranteed that anything operating during the daytime would have already closed down. There has been no sign of either Radio Wallasey or Radio Free Wirral that were reported last week. Heard this weekend have been the following:-

RADIO ELEANOR were noted on 1449kHz at 11:11am on Saturday, after apparently signing on at 11am. They apologised for signing-on an hour late, and said that this was because of "holidays". Tony Reeve is said to be in Germany, but will be back by next weekend. They also apologised for being off the air for the past few weeks due to serious problems of local interference caused by their transmitter. Hopefully, all is now sorted out in this respect, and contrary to Paul Roger's comments, they were indeed "missed". The signal is now S3½ at my QTH, but the signal isn't nearly as clear as it was on 1413kHz. They seem to be getting quite a lot of "disturbance", rather than interference from BBC Radio Merseyside on 1485kHz. On both Saturday and Sunday, the line-up was:-  
11am - Noon Paul Rogers; Noon - 2pm Barry Cullen; 2pm - 4pm Mark Wright; 4pm - 6pm Paul Rogers; 6pm close-down.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO(?) At 1:26pm on Saturday, on 1246kHz, "Atlantis" by the Shadows was heard very faintly on a communications receiver. I presume that this was Liverpool Pirate Radio, although no identification was heard. Reception was the worst that I have ever heard it, and was almost completely buried under local interference on the frequency. After a couple of "Beatles" records, the station was completely swamped, and was not heard for the rest of the weekend.

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO On Saturday, from about 10:50am, a station playing continuous music, with a few "no name" jingles was heard on 1512½kHz. Presumably this was Peanut Kenny's new station. Signal was S3½, but reception was very variable. Initially, Radio Merseyside's country music programme was dominant on the frequency, and every word of their 11am news was heard. A little later, Peanut Kenny's station was dominant, and remained so until close-down a few minutes after noon. Maybe they increased power some time during the broadcast, as the signal strength was not measured until just before close-down. At 11:14am on Sunday, the station was once again on the air with continuous music, but at 11:32am it was announced as "an engineering test transmission from NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO". This station closed down at 12:00noon.

1242kHz At 10:35am on Sunday, a station was heard testing, or playing continuous music on 1242kHz. Suspect that this was Steve Bishop playing with a few tapes, but no speech was heard, and the station left the air suddenly at 10:49am. It was not heard again.

1125kHz At 11:09am on Sunday morning a station playing old tapes ("Here comes the mirror man" vintage) was heard on 1125kHz. No identification was heard in spite of a prolonged listening spell, and the station had gone by 12:30pm. Dave Wilson announced on Station "M" that a station would be testing on "267m" tonight, but by 11pm the frequency is still empty. I suspect that the station may be M.A.R. reverted back to its former channel.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL came on the air a few minutes after the station on 1512kHz closed down. Heard today were:- 12:03pm Phil Davies; 1:02pm Pete Heaton (with "one of his last shows for Station "M"); 2:03pm Kevin Palmer; 3:03pm John Freeman; 5:00pm Dave Wilson; 6pm Marty Collins; 7:19pm Phone-in requests and dedications with Kevin Palmer; 8:07pm Eric Monaghan; 9:06pm Tom Lodge with station close-down. Tom Lodge did not do a programme today as "he was busy doing other things". Most of the news came from John Freeman, who said that Peanut Kenny's new FM/AM station will be on the air in a couple of weeks, with a 7 day per week operation. He said that he has inspected the new set-up and it is most impressive. It seems that Andy Davies has patched up any grievances with Tom Lodge, and John Freeman played a couple of records for Andy, to "thank him for all the engineering work that he has put in on the FM side of the new AM/FM station". Marty Collins reminded listeners that Station "M" is two years old next week, and Dave Wilson said that a station would be testing on 267m later on Sunday night, but this is still not on the air by 11:15pm. During the phone-in show, John Freeman kept asking for reception reports for the new transmitter. During the acknowledgement show, it was said that the new Tx had been running at about ¼ power, which would be increased to ½ power by next week. Signal strength was up by ½ S-point in Liscard, but telephone reports from as far afield as Lytham St Annes all indicated above-average reception. Quality dropped a little when Radio Luxembourg started to come through, but the station was still well heard.

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