

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER 1983

First off this week is an apology to Chris Sinclair, who was the person met at the last local meeting, and not Jill Sinclair as stated. I'll get my knuckles rapped for this at the next meeting. Next a correction to last week's notes. Liverpool Pirate Radio have not yet got their new Tx. Last week's broadcast used the old Tx from a new location, and to make matters worse, SCR are back on the air with their "best ever" reception and Martin "C" has excelled himself with his latest Tx.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO were heard from about 5:50pm on 1296kHz on Tuesday night. DJ was Paul Woods, who handed over to Jill Sinclair from 6pm to 8pm.

It was clear that Jill Sinclair's usual spot is 2pm - 4pm and this was a one-off prog. Paul Woods said that SCR were back with all but one of their old DJs. I thought that the missing DJ must have been "Uncle Ern", who appeared on MERSEYSOUND RADIO last week with Steve Bishop, but later announcements made it clear that the missing presenter was Chris Sinclair. The station has a mailing address of:- SCR, 35, Sidney Gardens, Lower Tranmere, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 5NF., and is putting a rock-solid S3 1/2 signal into Liscard. Later on Tuesday evening I met John Smith, who told me that the station line-up is:- Noon - 2pm John Smith, 2pm - 4pm Jill Sinclair, 4pm - 6pm Paul Woods. However, the station was not heard again until Friday night with an extended format. Paul Woods 4pm - 6pm; Brian "C" 6pm - 8pm; John Smith 8pm - 11pm; Neil Powers 11pm - Midnight. This was followed by a "guest appearance" of Phil Davies, of Liverpool Pirate Radio, who did a marathon slot from midnight to 6am. After a two-hour break to let the Tx cool down, Phil was back on the air for the 8am to 10pm slot. John Smith 10am - noon; noon - 2pm "Uncle Ern"; 2pm - 4pm Jill Sinclair; 4pm - 6pm Paul Woods; 6pm - 8pm Brian "C"; 8pm - 10pm Norman Ward and 10pm - midnight Neil Powers seems to have completed the line-up. The Tx was on the air continuously from noon on Friday to midnight on Saturday, except for a two-hour cool-off, and it showed no sign of distress. On Sunday, the station was already on the air by 11am, but line-up was nothing like the one announced. Heard today has been:- 10am - Noon Neil Powers; Noon - 2pm "Uncle Ern"; 2:25 John Smith; 3:06 "Uncle Dunc" and John Collier; 5:12pm Paul Woods; 6pm - 8pm Brian "C"; 8pm - 10pm Norman Ward, 10pm Martin "C" with announcements. He said that Neil Powers will be along at about 10:30pm to take the station up to midnight close-down. Schedule is being announced as 10am to midnight, but apologies have been made for today's format not complying with the announced schedule. The station is also saying that next week's format will not be the regular one, due to some of the presenters being unobtainable at their scheduled times. The latest news on this one is that Neil Powers will be on the air from 10:30pm to 11:30pm, then Chris Sinclair will take over until about 3am when the station will close-down

CHANNEL 5 RADIO At the last local meeting, Steve West told me that Wallasey Community Radio, would shortly be changing its name to CHANNEL 5. This seems to have occurred this weekend. They have been announcing "test transmissions", with grand opening next week. DJs are Steve West, Pete Williams and Gary Smith. Mailing address is:-

72, Palatine Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside L62 2DZ, as for Wallasey Community Radio. The station is obviously using VFO, as the frequency was 1576kHz on Saturday, but 1582kHz on Sunday. Heard on Saturday was Gary Smith 4pm - 6pm. He handed over to Steve West at 6pm, but at 6:28pm check, the station had closed down. Pete Williams was heard earlier, but the time was not noted. On Sunday, the station was already on the air by 11am, with Gary Smith in the chair. He apologised for the late start (scheduled for 10am) and said that the station antenna was pulled down at 9am. Pete Williams did a 3pm - 6pm slot, and Steve West the 6pm - 8:16pm close-down. Signal at my QTH is S3 but a ferrite rod has to be pointed in exactly the right direction or the signal is lost altogether!

1602kHz On Saturday, a very weak signal, obviously "pirate" was heard from about 2pm on 1602kHz. Signal strength was only S1/2 and the station was playing continuous music. The records seem to have been in a pretty poor state, with the needle often sticking in the groove. There were no announcements or jingles, and the station left the air without warning at 4:44pm. Over the past weekends, Radio Free Wirral has been heard on 1582kHz, and Radio Wallasey on 1602kHz. The later are now CHANNEL 5 on 1582kHz, but who is now on 1602 kHz.??

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL have moved frequency slightly to 1385kHz, but are still only putting an S1/2 signal into Liscard. Suspect that they may still only be operating on low-power, but have not heard any announcements to this effect. Heard on Sunday were:- Noon Mark Evans; 1pm Jim Brown; 2pm Steve Turner; 3pm Paul West; 4pm Steve Tyler; 5pm Rick Dane. The station had apparently closed down at 6:04pm check.

For parts of the day, Central Radio were getting splattered by Station "M", who seem to have problems with their Tx. At about 5:35pm, I was listening to Central Radio while Station "M"s modulation was off. When it was restored, Station "M" was splattering all over Central Radio for a few minutes, but this was soon sorted out. I look forward to Central Radio getting back to full-power soon, and putting out a signal similar to that before they were raided.

RADIO ELEANOR were another station with problems. They were not heard at all on Saturday, and signed on at Noon on Sunday with Barry Cullen's pre-recorded tapes thanking Tony Reeve "for the past two hours of music", which had not been broadcast. From Noon - 2pm Barry Cullen; 2pm - 3pm Continuous music with announcements by Paul Rogers, who said that the station was having "technical problems". He-apologised for the non-appearance of the station on Saturday, and the late start on Sunday. Tom Lodge was thanked for "virtually re-building the whole transmitter over the weekend" These problems played havoc with the station's "History of Radio Eleanor" which was to have been broadcast over the weekend, on the station's third birthday. The history was to have been broadcast in two halves, with Part 1 on Saturday, and Part 2 on Sunday. Part 1 was broadcast this Sunday between 3pm and 4pm, but the whole thing is to be repeated next weekend on Saturday and Sunday, as planned, but one week behind schedule. The station has plans to make copies of the studio tapes available to listeners, and from what I heard today of part 1, the tape will be a valuable addition to anybody's collection of Merseyside pirate tapes. Part 1 contains many cuts of stations that only lasted for one or two broadcasts when various DJs broke away to form their own stations. I look forward to hearing the full tapes next week, and hope that the station's technical problems are sorted out in time.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL were another station with apparent problems, but nothing by way of explanation was heard over the air. The station carrier was on the air at 12:15pm, but gone a few minutes later. About 12:26pm, the station was heard carrying the "MART WARNER SHOW" section of a Radio Apollo International relay, but this was replaced by a high-pitched whistle at 12:39pm, and the sign-on of the Dave Wilson Show. Operation has been a bit erratic, and listening has been limited (not like me, as I usually give preference to Station "M" on Sundays!!). Most DJs, but there were not very many of them, seemed to have done two-hour stints. Heard were:- 12:38pm Dave Wilson; 2:39 John Freeman; The next listen had the end of the long-awaited feature on Radio Caroline, but the time was not noted. Transmission was a bit intermittent around 5:07pm, when a message was broadcast for Tom Lodge to come to the studio, as John Freeman was locked in!! Think that this occurred during the Eric Monaghan Show. The latter show was not very good, as the music was quite loud, but the speech could hardly be heard without turning the volume control up, when the music was too loud. This show signed-off at 6:37pm, when Kevin Palmer came on the air, announcing a two-hour show. The name of the DJ that followed Kevin Palmer was not heard, but I think that it was Marty Collins, who signed off at 9:41pm, and was followed in turn by continuous music. At a 10 21pm check, the station had gone from the air. The Marty Collins Show was even worse than Eric Monaghan's show. Music was loud and speech hardly heard, but after 9pm there was also a lot of interference from a station just up-frequency, and probably Heusweiler, Germany, on 1422kHz

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO News from Phil Davies is that LPR will be off the air until the station gets its new Tx in a few weeks time

MERSEYLAND ALTERNATIVE RADIO were supposed to be coming back on the air this weekend, but have not been heard.

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BARBIE JOHNSTON  
ANDRASKA L.K.  
P.O. Box 533  
LIVERPOOL  
LANCS