

Quite a lot happening this week, so straight in with the news:-

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO were heard "testing" on Monday night on 1512kHz, with continuous music, and occasional announcements by Tom Lodge. They operated beyond 9pm, but close-down time was not noted. There was no trace of QRM to either Radio Merseyside or Radio City, and no QRM to NCCR from Wolverton, Belgium, which is usually very strong on the frequency during the early evening.

CHANNEL FIVE were on the air on Monday night when I got home from work. Reception conditions were very bad. Initially, Channel 5 were heard accompanied by a French-speaking station and a terrible "het". As time passed, Community Radio Fingal became predominant on the frequency, but they were accompanied by a Spanish-speaking station, the French-speaking station and a nasty "het". Next time that Fingal faded in, they were accompanied by the French station, which was ever-present, and a Portuguese speaking station. Lest anyone should doubt, I learnt Spanish at school and can easily distinguish it from Portuguese, which sounds completely different. Later, when listening on a box-loop, Channel 5 seemed to have closed down, and all that I could find on frequency was the French station and Radio Fingal. Channel 5 were noted on 1584kHz from quite early on Saturday, but apparently with continuous music. DJ Pete Williams was heard briefly, around 2:10pm, but the signal seems to have gone off the air by 6:20pm. Whenever heard, the signal was good with no trace of QRM. On Sunday, they were first noted at 10:49am with a nice clear signal. Steve West ID'ed the station as Channel 5, gave the DJ run down as Steve West, Pete Williams and Gary Smith, with Nick Catford as the station's technical engineer "who has not yet appeared on the air". He was also announcing this as "the last week of broadcasting on this frequency". They say that next week they will be on 241m, 1242kHz, a frequency guarded very jealously by "others" in the past. During the day, reception varied from good to poor, but checks showed that whenever reception was poor, Radio Fingal were coming through well, and vice-versa. Checks on a communications receiver showed that whenever the reception was poor, Channel 5 could be well heard by tuning up to 1586kHz, and Radio Fingal was well heard by de-tuning down to 1580kHz. No other station was heard. When reception was good, Radio Fingal was not heard at all. So far as I could determine, there is no QRM to this station which is deliberate. All the regular DJs have been heard today, and the station seems to have gone from the air at approximately the 8pm close-down time announced.

STATION "M" have not been heard again this Sunday, and the staff seem to have lost interest, pending the opening of North Coast Commercial Radio, although I am surprised that DJs like Peter Heaton have not already found slots on other stations.

RADIO JACKIE NORTH have not been heard, or have they??

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL opened at 12:08pm after a short continuous music Tx warm-up. There was no Mark Evans Show, although we are assured that he will be back again next week. Jim Brown did the 12:00pm to 2pm slot, but the rest of the DJ line-up was not determined. Jim Brown announced that early in the new year a new combined Central Radio/Jackie North station would be on the air weekdays only. It will be a commercial station, with Central and Jackie going their own separate ways at the weekends. The new station will be on AM and FM. News from their phone-in is that they hope to be on 92.5 MHz next week. This week, the signal has improved to S1, but Jim Brown says that the antenna has not been SWR-ed correctly, so further improvement can be expected soon. I'm not sure whether he didn't also say that the station was still operating on its stand-by Tx. Just before 4pm the reception was poor and heard was on old Mike Doyle show, complete with an outdated mailing address announcement. Very few minutes later reception was quite good, with the Steve Tyler show. Around 5:20pm, Rick Dane was heard with the 5pm to 6pm close-down show, but he was announcing the station as Radio Jackie North. The station seems to have closed-down very close to the announced 6pm.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO continue to put out a very strong signal, with a nasty heterodyne, which, fortunately can be looped out. The station's main failing is a complete inability to adhere to any announced DJ line-up.

This week, they are announcing a new mailing address of:-

30, Bridle Close, Ford Estate, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 9UU.

They seem to have operated their announced 10am to 3am schedule, but I'm not so sure that the presenters were those who should have been in the chair at the announced times. On Friday night they appear to have run another all-night session. They were heard on Saturday morning from 8:05am, with the Norman Ward Show until 8:30am, when they closed down to let



the Tx cool down. The station re-opened at 10 am with a very tired Miss Chris Sinclair saying that she had been up all night, but might be on the air until 4pm, as no one else had showed up. This was not the case, as a male voice was heard at 2:15pm. The station was still on the air at bedtime. On Sunday, they were not on the air by 11am, but at 12:19 pm the carrier was on the air without modulation. Although the carrier seemed to have been on the air all the time, modulation was first noted at 2:52pm, when the Chris Sinclair show was in progress. From announcements, the whole crew seem to have had a good night out on Saturday. The day's schedule was not noted, but JOHN SWIFF (not John Smiff, as reported last week) closed the station down at mid-night.

RADIO ELEANOR operated on both Saturday and Sunday with their extended 10am to 7pm schedule. On both days, the line up was:- Paul Rogers opening up at 10:am, then hand-over to Tony Reeve until Noon. Barry Cullen until 2pm; Nick James till 3pm, Mark Wright till 5pm and Paul Rogers till 7pm close down. On Saturday, the station held what I believe to be their first ever phone-in programme, which seems to have been very successful, with the results being announced during the first part of Paul Rogers' Show. A repeat on Sunday was a bit of a disaster. After the first couple of calls, British Telecom apparently intercepted the calls, and from a listener's point of view, the telephone was ringing out but not being answered. On Sunday, Nick James took over the first 1/2 hour of the Paul Rogers Show, and acknowledged the three or four calls that did manage to get through.

FREE RADIO WIRRAL ???? On Monday night, a strong signal was heard on 161kHz. This was believed to be the same station that had ID-ed as Radio Veronica the previous weekend. They were heard around 7pm, but had gone from the air shortly after. The station was playing continuous music, with fairly long gaps between records. The same station was heard again on Saturday morning, from quite early on, and was still on the air with continuous music at 2:15pm, but had gone by 6:20pm. On Sunday, the station was back on the air by 10:38am, but they were relaying Radio Nova, Ireland, but they had gone again by 11am. They were heard again at about 4pm, again with continuous music until 6:03pm, when the Tx was switched off, only to resume a few minutes later. Shortly before 8:30pm they were operating with DJs, and at 8:30pm CHRIS WHITE was heard to hand-over to DAVE McCOY. The station "jingles" are for 186m, which is OK, and for "Radio Free Wirral". Dave McCoy is ID-ing the station as Radio Free Wirral, but announcing the mailing address as:- Radio Free Liverpool, ... Rake Lane, Wallasey, Merseyside. The number of the address was picked up as 150 Rake Lane (L45 1JW), but at the last reading it sounded more like 115 Rake Lane (L45 5DH). Hope to pick up the correct address next week. The above named personnel are the only ones mentioned in announcements as station staff.

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Barry  
These continuous music stations are a real "pain in the elbow". They are very time-consuming, and one misses all that is happening on the other stations. Certainly DJ line-ups can not be established. Steve West seems to be talking through his hat when he says that Channel 5 is being "jammed" - Sure it's Community R. FURCAL doing the damage. Do you know the current operating hours for C.R. FURCAL. I have heard them well outside the 06:00 - to 18:00 listed in World Radio and TV Handbook ??

Bob.