

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 24th November 1985

The news from Merseyside this weekend is nearly all bad news. Storeton Community Radio are reported to have closed down. They are said to not be too happy either with the quality of the signal or their coverage area. No doubt this will only be a temporary set-back. Central Radio's problems lie in equipment failure. They are off the air this weekend with "blown valves" and no crystal. They hope to be back on the air by next weekend. Radio Merseywaves are thought to have been raided by the DTI at about 4:30pm on Friday. Rumours say that they have lost all their equipment. For the first time in a very long time, there is no local station on Medium Wave on a Sunday afternoon.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW.

This station appears to have had a few problems in fulfilling its planned 7-day operation due to non-availability of DJs. They have opened at 8am each morning and started the day with a half-hour phone-in till 8:30am. No doubt this was aimed at beating the current postal strike in this area. On Monday, from noon to 12:45pm they carried continuous music then closed down till 1pm, when Dave Collins was back on the air standing-in for someone. 5pm-5:30pm saw Mark Newman standing-in for Paul James, 5:30pm-7pm KtC standing-in for Paul James, 7pm-10pm Mark Newman standing-in for Martin Miller. Tuesday was almost back to normal but with Paul James doing 2pm-5pm, 5pm-6pm Dave Collins; and 6pm-8pm Peter Thomas standing-in for Tony Coltrane. Notable on Wednesday was the continuous music from 4pm-6pm although the station completed the rest of its 8am-1am schedule as planned. On Thursday, Dave Collins extended his hours 8am-noon, standing-in for Barry Noble for the last two hours. Barry then did Noon-2pm with Mark Newman 2pm-3pm. The station was then back on schedule till 9pm when Peter Thomas stood-in for Tony Coltrane. On Friday the station opened at 8am but Dave Collins extended his show until 11:30am, when DJC turned up late. DJC then carried on till 1pm, when Barry Noble took over till 3pm. Shortly before 3pm, Barry said that Paul Woods was in the studio sorting out his records and I feel sure that Paul started his show at 3pm. When checked at about 3:25pm, Peter Thomas(?) was on the air asking for Mark Newman or one of the other DJs to turn up at the studio, or else he was going to switch off. As no-one had turned up by about 3:35pm, he switched off, saying that RMW were going off the air, but would be back again at 5pm. They weren't heard at 4:50pm, and haven't been on the air all weekend. It isn't known whether they put the transmitter on the air before 5pm and were raided by the DTI or whether they stayed off the air after the previous announcement.

CENTRAL RADIO INT. 1404kHz(approx); 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF. This station were on the air on Monday but with the transmitter faults apparent in last weekend's broadcasts. They were first noted at noon and heard were Noon-2pm Dave Smith; 2pm-4pm Phil Davies, 4pm-5pm Jeff Thompson. The station closed down at 5pm so that Joe could take the transmitter away for a lot of attention. Last weekend's problems were due to the transmitter being VFO-controlled. On Friday the station were on the air at 10am with Tony James till noon. From noon-2pm Dave Smith was heard, and he also stood-in for Phil Davies from 2pm-4pm. After 3pm one of the decks started to give problems and Joe, the engineer turned up straight from work to fix it. Dave Smith announced at about 3:40pm that the station was going off the air, but that they would be back at 4pm. They were next noted at 4:20pm, with Dave Smith still on the air but the broadcast was intermittent, presumably as further adjustments were made. The station disappeared suddenly at 4:45pm and hasn't been heard since. The station say that the transmitter valves have blown, but they hope to be back on the air next weekend.

C-104 : 104MHz stereo FM: Still no mailing address heard.

This station opened at noon on Sunday and completed their noon-6pm schedule, with Andy Davies/Paul Kay/John Dwyer doing two hours each. The signal is very strong in the Liscard area and heard on a pocket-portable receiver.

CONCEPT RADIO 103.8MHz FM: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF

This station was not noted till 7:10pm on Sunday although they say that they opened at 6pm. They stayed off the air during the day because of the raid on RMW on Friday. The schedule is 6pm-1am or so. Heard have been 6pm-8:30pm Jim Lowe; 8:30pm-11pm(?) Tom Webb. The later line-up hasn't been noted.

MERSEY FM 103.8MHz

A station calling itself Mersey FM was noted from about 8:45pm on Sunday. They were announcing 103.8MHz, but the frequency appeared to drift up and down during the evening. The signal was strong but intermittent and the broadcast seemed to be more of a "test". The

signal and modulation varied constantly from good to distorted to poor and barely above the background noise level. Later the music was loud but there seemed to be an intermittent fault in the mic circuit. Speech was intermittent and either blasting out or barely heard. The mailing address was heard only once during a particularly bad passage but is believed to be 42, Acton Road, Liverpool 8, although there is no trace of such an address in Thompson's directory. The only two personnel heard were Dave Ross and Mike Smith, who say that broadcasting proper will start next week

105.7 MHz

Around 7:30pm a weak signal was heard on approximately 105.7MHz. The station is believed to be Radio Veronica FM, but an ID was impossible to determine with the signal being roughly at the same level as the background noise. The music gets through but speech isn't readable

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Mail boxes in this area remain sealed due the strike at the GPO sorting office in Copperas Hill and seem likely to remain sealed until mid-week at least. The latest reports from the stations say that WFM should be back next weekend for their Sunday broadcast. Central Radio should be back by Saturday, although they are hoping to get back on the air in time for their Friday schedule. If they do, then they will feature two "new" DJs, Eric Monaghan and Samantha Clarke, on their line-up. The latter have been waiting in the wings for the past two weeks, but equipment problems have left them off the air.