

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 25th January 1987

Some big changes have taken place this week, even though only three stations have been heard on the air.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES: 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW
This station was noted at 8:05am on Friday with a "test transmission" of continuous music till 11:30am. At 10pm on that day they didn't have a DJ available, so after a brief announcement by Burt Williams, they played continuous music till Peter Thomas turned up. On Sunday they disappeared from the air around 4:45pm and with Radio Julie having disappeared half an hour earlier, things began to look ominous. However, the carrier was intermittently on the air around 5:15pm and broadcasting began again at 5:30pm. They say that technical problems had kept them off the air for half an hour or so. They have also extended their Sunday evening broadcast with Paul James and "B" doing a 2am to 4am slot. Noted this week have been:-

Mon: 8am Dave Collins; 10am Jeff Starr; 1pm DJ Sidney; 3pm Mark Palmer; 5pm Peter Thomas; 7pm KtC; 9pm Mark Palmer; 11pm Mark Wright; 12:30am DJ Sidney; 3am c/down

Fri: 8am(?) Cont. music; 11:30am Mark Palmer; Noon Dave Collins; 2pm Paul James; 4pm Peter Thomas; 6pm Mark Palmer; 8pm DJ Sidney; 10pm Cont. music; Midnight(?) Peter Thomas; 2am(?) c/down

Sat: 8am Dave Collins; 10am Mad Mike; Noon Mark Wright; 2pm ??? standing-in for Paul James; 4pm Mark Palmer; 6pm Tara; 8pm Don La One; 10pm Paul Jay; Midnight Roy & Billy (Security); 2am(?) c/down

Sun: 9am Dave Collins; 11am KtC; 1pm Tony Coltrane; 3pm Mark Palmer; 4:45pm off air; 5:30pm Mark Palmer; 6pm Dave Benitez; 8pm Don La One; 10pm Dave Collins; Midnight Tony Hollis; 2am(?) Paul James and "B" (?); 4am(?) c/down.

CENTRAL RADIO LIVE 1404kHz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2TD.

All doesn't seem well at this station, with grievances beginning to surface over the air. On quite a few occasions during his show, Tom Webb announced that the station would be closing down on Sunday 25th January for a period of four weeks, and that Dave Moore would be joining the station when it returned to the airwaves. He was immediately followed by Phil Davies who said that now the station was putting out a good signal and getting back its lost listeners, there was no way that the station would go off the air unless it was raided by the DMI. Furthermore, he told Dave Moore over the air that if he failed to turn up this week, he needn't bother turning up in the future as the station was looking for reliable DJs. He then sent out a warning to those concerned that a constant watch would be kept on the stations equipment to ensure that none of it was transferred to the other side of the river. Noted were:-

Sat: 8am Mike Smith (strong carrier but virtually no modulation level before 8:50am when someone realised that he was doing something wrong!); 10am Jim Lowe; 1pm Phil Davies; 4pm Tom Webb; 6pm Garry Palmer; 7pm Tony Price; 8pm Price & Palmer; 10pm Jeff Thompson; Midnight c/down

Sun: 8am Mike Smith; 10am Tom Webb; 1pm Phil Davies; 1:30pm Jim Browne; 2pm Phil Davies; 2:10pm Mark Evans; 2:30pm Phil Davies; 4pm Jim Lowe; 6pm Garry Palmer; 7pm Tony Price; 8pm Jeff Thompson; 10pm c/down

Dave Moore failed to show up for the third week on the trot and on Sunday, Price and Palmer didn't cover for him.

RADIO JULIE FM 104.8MHz: "Casita", 78 Barnston Road, Thingwall, Wirral, Merseyside L61 7XW

This station were the surprise of the week. After announcing "Sunday only" operation, they were noted shortly after 8am on Thursday morning. Station announcements made it clear that they are now operating a 7-day, 24hr schedule with just four DJs and a couple extra at the weekend. The regular DJs are Andy Davies, Tony West, Phil Smith and Steve Mason with Feona Beswick and Neil Bishop (always in the studio but never on the air) at the weekend. This Sunday they disappeared from the airwaves sometime between 4:05pm and 4:25pm but were back again at 6pm, saying that they had had technical problems. After this, they seem to have been announcing their schedule as 24hr, Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon. My pocket-portable, on which I rely for weekday reception, won't pick up indoor reception of Radio Julie, either in Wallasey or Liverpool, although outdoor reception is quite good in the latter location. This makes it impossible for me to check the station's schedule. However, Steve Mason says that the station's schedule is rarely adhered to, so it isn't worth printing announced names and times. Other sources have told me that this station actually started their 24hr, 7-day schedule last Monday.