

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 20th July 1987

This week has been a very bad one for the local stations. Between 1pm and 2pm on Monday, the DTI attempted to raid Radio Mersey Waves. They then followed up with a successful raid on Radio Atlantis at 4p. Still not being satisfied, they successfully raided Radio Mersey Waves on Friday lunchtime. For large parts of the weekend there hasn't been much to listen to, and apart from Atlantis, most of the local signals are weak and only heard over a limited area. There isn't a lot of chance of them being found by a tune along the band.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES: 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L49 7UW. On Monday, this station opened at 7am, as usual, and proceeded with their normal format till some time between 1pm and 2pm, when they went off the air because of an attempted raid by the DTI. They were back with announcements shortly before 6pm, when normal programming began. The late night schedule was subject to some changes but the details weren't noted. On Friday, they opened late at about 7:30am, when Mark Palmer announced that after just one weekend back on the air after a six week suspension for breaking one station rule, Dave Collins has been suspended for breaking yet another! The usual format was followed till the DTI raided the station. The time of the raid varies from source to source, but the best information to hand is that it occurred some time between 12:20pm and 12:45pm, with 12:30pm being the most likely. The station went off the air completely after this raid and no carriers or "tests" have been noted on the frequency. Noted have been:-

Mon: 7am Dave Collins; 11am Jeff Starr;5:53pm "Test" music and anncts: 6pm Mark Palmer(?); 7pm Steve Coltrane; 9pm Peter Thomas; then announced 11pm Mark Wright; 12:30am T.P.Toppick; 3am Dave Collins; 5am close down, but noted was 11pm Tony Hollis who was still on the air at 12:30am.

Fri: 7:30am Mark Palmer; 10am T.P.Toppick; Noon Jeff Starr; 12:30pm(??) DTI raid..

RADIO ATLANTIS 936kHz: 150, Rake Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW. This station opened at 11am on Monday and operated normally till the DTI raided during the 4pm playing of the Theme Tune. They were back on the air by 11am on Tuesday to inform listeners of the previous day's events. Not un-naturally, the format was mostly old tapes, with the occasional announcements by Steve Bishop, who said that the station would be closing down till Friday. Announcements at the weekend say that the station has now reverted to Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon operation, with slightly shortened hours on Sunday. They also said that they would be "testing" on FM next week, but no frequency was given and they weren't sure of the days, but suggested that Tuesday would be the best bet.

Noted this week were:-
Mon: 11am Rick Dane; 1pm Andy Davies; 2pm Steve Bishop; 3:58pm DTI raid.
Tues: 11am Continuous music and old tapes with the occasional announcements and details of the raid by Steve Bishop
Fri: 11am Steve Bishop; 2pm Andy Davies; 3pm Rick Dane; 4pm Andy Davies(repeat tape); 5pm close-down
Sat: 11am Steve Bishop; 1pm Andy Davies; 2pm Rick Dane; 3pm Steve Bishop; 4pm Andy Davies; 5pm close-down
Sun: 10am FREE RADIO SHOW; 11am Steve Bishop; Noon Rick Dane; 3:20pm Steve Bishop; 4:12pm Andy Davies; 5pm close-down.

During the free radio show, Steve Bishop announced that Mersey Waves had been raided on Friday and he also said that Storeton Community Radio will definitely return to the air in a couple of weeks time.

HORIZON RADIO 105.3MHz: 11, Massey Street, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 4JU. This station was noted on Tuesday from 7pm with continuous music and the occasional announcement by Neil Bishop that the broadcast was a "test to get the decks working". From 8pm, normal programming commenced with Tony Hayes (ex Radio Atlantis) in the "hot seat". The DJ from 9pm was heard but appeared to be very shy, as he never gave his name. The format after 9:50pm wasn't noted, nor was close-down time. They were back again on Wednesday night with a full schedule, and noted were:-

wed: 7pm DJ CREZZLEY; 8pm Tony Hayes; 9pm Neil Bishop; 10pm DJ Trix; 11pm TONI West; Midnight close-down.

On Radio Mersey Waves recently there have been a few mentions of the "female" Tony West, who I guess was mentioned above. The other point noted was that the "original" Andy Davies, now doing a lot of the "commercials" and the occasional programme for Radio Atlantis, also does the "jingles" for Horizon Radio. On Wednesday, the station announced that Toni West had been on the air on Tuesday, but she wasn't noted here.

CONCEPT RADIO 104.3 MHz: 13, Kipling Avenue, Rosk Ferry, Merseyside L42 2DH
 This station was noted at 12:40pm on Sunday, after apparently signing-on at Noon.
 The announced schedule, which was apparently adhered to, was::
 Sun: Noon Tom Webb; 12:30pm Jim Lowe; 1pm Tom Webb; 1:30pm Jim Lowe; 2pm close down by Tom Webb.

Personal circumstances on Sunday made listening between 1:55pm and 5:50pm virtually out of the question. This week's report is generally based on the few "spot checks" that were available, so apologies in advance for false impressions that may have resulted between these times.

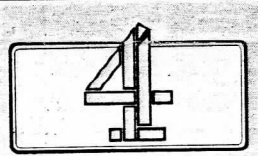
RADIO VERONICA 104.7MHz: 81, Lark Lane, Liverpool, L17 'up.
 If it hadn't been for a "tip off" from the crew at Concept, this station wouldn't have been heard at all. The signal was extremely weak and only found as a result of knowing that they were actually on the air. They were first noted at 1:05pm, with Neil Frazer in the "hot seat" he was still on air till 1:46pm, when he closed the station down. I should have added that this broadcast was noted on Sunday.

RADIO VERONICA INTERNATIONAL approx 106.2 MHz - no other details
 Shortly before 9pm on Saturday, Phil Davies rang to say that for the past hour and a half, he had been listening to a station calling itself RVI somewhere between the frequency of Radio Julie and the top of the band. The signal was getting a lot of interference from the emergency services. The signal disappeared from the air as Phil was speaking. He says that they were announcing the broadcast as "a test transmission on 297m Medium Wave with a power of 30W from Liverpool". No signal was found on MW at that time. This presumably is a low powered station with limited coverage as I tuned around the band a few times before Phil rang, and heard nothing at all. This station appeared to have no connection with the Radio Veronica reported above.

NETWORK 9: 90.2 MHz
 This station was omitted from last week's notes. It was reported by Steve Bishop on his Free Radio Show, but not noted here. This weekend, Jim Browne said that they were on the air on Sunday afternoon but were playing continuous music with no identification. There was no sign of them in the Liscard area, where they are completely obliterated by the BBC's National networks.

SLAC-OFF INTERNATIONAL 105.3MHz: 132, Norwood Road, Poulton, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 4EG
 This station was noted from approximately 3pm on Sunday carrying mainly continuous music with the occasional announcement. They closed down at 6:20pm with Mike Hughes announcing that the broadcast had been a "test transmission"

13 JULY MONDAY



11.00
The Eleventh Hour
THE BLACK & WHITE PIRATE SHOW
 Pirate radio has been a feature of British broadcasting since 1963. This programme explores the history of pirate radio from the Sixties to the Eighties through archive and contemporary coverage, interviews and music. Ex-Radio Caroline DJs Tony Blackburn and Johnny Walker and former owner Rowan O'Rahilly talks about the response the stations

generated among young people and their impact on the BBC; and founders of the Dread Broadcasting Company Lepke and Rankin' Miss P explain why black music stations were established in the Seventies and Eighties. The programme includes film of a government raid on a station, and Tony Blackburn and music writer Paul Gilroy debate the issues raised by pirate radio in the Eighties.
 Birmingham Film & Video Production