

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 30th August 1987

The DTI have been active again this week. They successfully raided Radio Atlantis at noon on Friday and possibly attempted to raid other stations over the weekend. Chester Community Radio weren't heard for their announced broadcast, but the Bank Holiday weekend has seen the return of a few other stations.

RADIO ATLANTIS 936kHz: 150, Rake Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW.

On Monday, this station extended its hours and at close-down they said that they would be on the air again on Tuesday "testing form a new location in preparation for a return to 7-day operation". On Tuesday the first part of the programming was mostly continuous music. On Friday the station went off the air in mid-record and has not subsequently been heard. Heard this week were:-

Mon: 11am Steve Bishop; 2pm Andy Davies; 3pm Rick Dane; 6:30pm Steve Bishop; 7:43pm c/d
Tue: 11am Continuous music with occasional announcements by Rick Dane; 1pm Steve Bishop
5pm close-down

Fri: 11am Steve Bishop; 11:57am Sudden off in mid-record.

Later in the evening, Anoraks UK confirmed that the station had, indeed, been raided
DTI-FM 106.2MHz: 23, Stoneby Drive, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 OLG

On Tuesday, this station was putting a very good signal (and some nice music) but by Wednesday the equipment had developed some equipment problems. There was a five minute break in transmission at 9pm and the modulation level for the next hour was so low that they signal was barely heard and I haven't noted whether things improved later. On Sat, the signal was back to normal for the whole of the broadcast. Noted were:-

Tue: 8pm DJ Phil; 9pm DJ Dave; 10pm Burt Who; 11pm close-down
Fri: 8pm DJ Phil; 9pm DJ Dave; 10pm Burt Who; 11pm close-down
Sat: 8pm DJ Dave; 9pm Lisa; 10pm DJ Phil; 11pm close-down

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

This station made a brief return to the airwaves this weekend. They were first noted at 9:55pm on Friday, "testing" with a tape of a Paul Jay show (the same bit played over and over). I understand that they were on the air all night with parts of taped shows by other DJs, but when first noted here on Saturday morning at 8:30am, they had reverted to Paul Jay again. Programming began at 10am, with Mark Palmer. All DJs said that the show was live but being taped for re-broadcasting on Sunday. On Sunday morning, nothing was heard, but I understand that the station were on the air by 7:30am but that they had disappeared again shortly after 8am. It isn't known why they went off the air. It is probably just as well that the Saturday tapes didn't go out again as, with so many date/time/weather checks and mentions of where the DJs would be working on the wrong night, the Sunday output would have been a real shambles. Noted were:-

Fri: 9:55pm Intermittant test broadcast with parts of tapes....
Sat: ...8:30am Intermittant tapes; 10am Mark Palmer; 11am John Cecchini + Dave Ralphs;
1pm Mark Wright; 3pm Paul Woods; 5pm Peter Thomas; 6pm Dave Benitez; 7pm KtC;
9pm Paul Jay; 10pm Tony Marshall; 11pm Tony Hallis; Midnight Don La One; 2am c/d

RADIO VERONICA 104.7MHz: c/o 81, Lark Lane, Liverpool L17 8UP.

This station was noted from 11am on Sunday and existing quite comfortably side by side with Slag-Off Int when the latter was playing continuous music, but suffering severe splatter whenever speech was noted on Slag-Off. At 2:30pm, the latter seems to have moved down in frequency, obliterating Radio Veronica, who were closing-down at that time anyway. Noted were:-

Sun: 11am Lou Clarke(?); Noon Neil Frazer; 1pm Dean Bartlett; 2pm Neil Frazer; 2:30pm close-down.

CONCEPT RADIO 104.3MHz: 13, Kipling Avenue, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 2DH.

On Sunday a strong carrier was noticed on 104.3MHz at 4:45pm. Almost immediately an announcement that Concept Radio was leaving the airwaves was heard followed by a short tape of Keith repeating the same thing over and over. The modulation ceased at 4:48pm and the carrier was switched off at 4:51pm. This "test" was obviously in preparation for a Bank Holiday Monday broadcast.

NORTH COAST RADIO 104.7MHz: 18, Downham Drive, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside L60 5RF.

Shortly before 6pm on Sunday, a station apparently relaying Asian music from one of the legal stations was noted on this frequency. The BBC locals, Manchester and Lancashire, didn't seem to be broadcasting any Asian programmes at this time. When checked later, the DJs were the old Radio Julie crew with the noticeable absence of Neil Bishop and the more noticeable addition of Dave Collins. At 8pm, Slag-Off Int came on the air and reception was difficult. By 9:30pm, no trace of North Coast Radio was heard but I am told that Dave Collins closed the station down at 3am. Announced or heard were:-

Sun: 5:50pm Cont music; 6pm ??; 7pm Mark Ross; 8pm Ritchie "C"; 9pm Tony West; 10pm DJ Crezzey; 11pm Carl "W"; Midnight TONY SCOTT (new DJ); 1am Dave Collins; 3am c/d

SLAG-OFF INT 105.3MHz: 9, Newell Road, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 1AD
This station is said to have been on the air for a while on Saturday afternoon but was not picked up here. They were noted with continuous music from approximately 12:30pm on Sunday until 1:50pm, when the Mike Hughes show started. The station disappeared from the air in mid-record at 3:15pm but was back on the air by 8pm, again with the Mike Hughes show. Close-down time wasn't noted.

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BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
Details will be included in next weeks notes, but stations heard were:-
Concept radio: 10:30am to beyond midnight
DFI-FM: 10am to beyond 10pm
Liverpool Pirate Radio: 10:45am(approx) to 2pm
Slag-Off : 10am to beyond 10pm, but off air 1pm to 6:45pm.
Mersey Waves: Very noisy carrier noted from 5:20pm, playing relays of various legal stations. Unmodulated but very noisy later

DAILY MIRROR, Monday, August 31, 1987

Fury over bogus radio call

FURIOUS coastguards are hunting a sick prankster who nearly sabotaged a tricky air-sea rescue display in front of Bank Holiday crowds

A helicopter was hovering above a yacht about to winch up a casualty on a stretcher when a fake radio message was broadcast saying: "Abort the operation."

The mock rescue, put on for seaside crowds at Falmouth, Cornwall, could have turned into a disaster.

Mistake

"If the pilot had made a mistake in the confusion there could have been a terrible tragedy," said Coastguard District Controller Tom Coppin.

The bogus radio message appeared to come from a harbourside car park.