

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 27th September

Rock Steady Eddie, of Radio Merseyland is due in Court on 30th September, and Phil Davies, of Liverpool Pirate Radio is due in Court on 14th October, both hearings to be in Liverpool. The latter is staying off the air till the results of the case are known. In the meantime, it has been rather a strange week, radiowise. North Coast Radio were only on the air for about two hours on Friday and have not been heard since. Radio Mersey Waves haven't been heard at all and Radio Atlantis has played little else but repeated tapes. In contrast, Radio Veronica was heard on clear channel, and a new station, Weekend Music Radio, has appeared on 1134kHz with a very powerful signal.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW. This station wasn't on the air last weekend and hasn't been heard at all this week.

NORTH COAST RADIO 104.8MHz and 1350kHz: 18, Downham Drive, Heswall, Wirral, M'side L60 5RF. This station closed down early last Sunday and wasn't heard at all on Monday. They were first noted at 12:20pm on Friday after apparently signing-on at noon. At that time, the DJ appeared to be Dave Collins, but around 12:50pm, Richie "C" interrupted to say that it was supposed to be the Tony West show and he didn't know why the latter was playing a Dave Collins tape. At 12:55pm, Tony West came on the air himself and announced that Dave Collins had left pirate radio altogether because of recent events and he apologised to Dave for putting out the tape, which he promised wouldn't happen again. The tape was supposed to have been made in 1985, so it is strange that it contained many North Coast Radio identifications! At 1pm, Roy of security was on the air and he was still there at 1:40pm. He was due on the air till 2pm, when Lyn James was to have taken over. However, when checked at 2:23pm the station had gone from the air and it hasn't been heard since. The reason for them going off the air isn't known at this time.

RADIO ATLANTIS 96.25MHz & 1197kHz: 150, Rake Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, M'side L45 1JW. This station seems to have operated with old tapes with many of them being played many times over. Heard have been a Steve Bishop tape, an Andy Davies tape, a Dave Ross tape and a tape of continuous music/adverts/jingles with no DJ on it. On Monday they opened at 11am and closed-down at 5pm. This broadcast went out on 976kHz, but near to close-down, Steve Bishop was "live" on the air announcing that from Friday, Radio Atlantis would move to 1179kHz and also operate on 96.25MHz. They would also extend their hours to Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon from 9am to Midnight, with DJs Steve Bishop, Rick Dane, Andy Davies, John Vaughan, Dave Ross and Mike Smith. On Friday, they weren't noted till 10:53am with transmitter warm-up music and apparent sign-on at 11am. Dave Ross was heard 2pm-4pm, but the remainder of the transmission, which was still on-air beyond 10pm, was all Steve Bishop. The FM broadcast can't be heard at my location and the evening reception on MW is poor due to Radio Sweden operating on the same frequency with 600kW. On Friday the broadcast held up quite well, but was far from hi-fi. On Saturday they opened up again at 11am and featured repeat tapes. Evening reception on MW was very, very poor and they seem to have closed down at 9pm. Sunday saw another 11am sign-on and more repeats of the same tapes. Around 5pm, Steve Bishop announced that the extended hours would now take place from Friday 2nd October. Later, he said that they were having problems with both transmitters and that they wouldn't be on the air until 3pm or so on the following day as they would be off the air for essential maintenance. The reception on Sunday evening was also very poor after dark.

WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO 1134kHz: No other details

Thanks to a tip-off from Concept Radio, a very strong signal was noted on Saturday from 3:30pm. It was carrying continuous music with just one station identification being heard. It closed-down without announcement at 4:15pm. It was noted again on Sunday at 11:35am, after apparently opening up at 11am. The format appeared to be the DJ giving his name after his own personal theme tune, then playing continuous music interspersed with the occasional station identification, and finishing up with something like "this is the last one from me" without any names being given. The only names noted were Steve Collins and Tony Johnson. Although little spoken word was heard, all the DJs on this station had very pleasant and presentable voices, so it is to be hoped that the weekend's format was only a "test" transmission. The station didn't announce their times, days or hours of broadcasting, which is believed to be Sat/Sun from 11am to 4pm

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

For a change, this station was heard on a clear channel on Sunday, when noted were:
Sun: 11am Adrian Cooke; Noon Neil Frazer; 1pm Dean Bartlett and Lou, 2pm Neil Frazer;
2:18pm close-down

Finally, a couple of items that may or not be of interest. Radio Finland are due to have stopped using 558kHz (the frequency of Radio Laser and more recently of Radio Caroline) and to have moved to 963kHz with an increase in power to 600kW. Recent reports in the various magazines say that the move has been delayed, due to difficulties with the link between Helsinki and Pori. However, when tuning to 976kHz, Radio Finland has been noted very close to the frequency, which suggests that the move may already have been made. They may have also increased power on 1404kHz, but the strong reception on Sunday may have been caused by unusual propagation conditions. Had Liverpool pirate Radio used this frequency, they would almost certainly have been "wiped-out". On 1413kHz, where Radio Veronica International should have been, all that was found was a very nasty heterodyne whistle.

Below are the local "free" newspaper reports of the Radio Merseywaves court case, which came too late to catch their deadlines:- THE NEWS, 23 September, 1987 23

RADIO Merseywaves, Birkenhead's pirate radio station, ran into trouble — because of a complaint by Radio City.

Ten people were summonsed at Wirral Magistrates Court following inquiries by the Radio Investigation Service of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Nine cases were adjourned but, in the tenth, Colin David Humphreys, aged 24, of Mountwood Park, Woodchurch, admitted using a station for wireless telegraphy without a licence.

Miss Christine Bradley, prosecuting,

Radio pirates scuppered after City tip-off call

said the Radio City complaint followed newspaper publicity given to the pirate set-up. City also maintained that their own transmissions were being interrupted.

The department was very concerned at overlapping of frequencies caused by pirate stations and interference to emergency services.

Miss Bradley said Radio Merseywaves transmitted over a 30-mile radius. It was a powerful radio, well organised and not run for a hobby.

Investigators went to a block of flats at Weatherby and discovered music being transmitted on 1242 KHz on the Medium

Waveband. When they knocked on the door the transmission ceased. Humphries opened the door. He used the DJ name of Dave Collins.

Miss Bradley said there was a studio in the flat and various items of equipment. Humphreys said it did not belong to him. He was a visitor to the flat and was only recording.

Later he admitted: "Okay, I was broadcasting." The transmitter was discovered inside a bed settee suite on which Humphreys had been sitting.

EQUIPMENT

Officers seized all the equipment and also 119 single records and seven cassettes.

Mr Ken Spectre, defending, said Humphreys and others involved did not make a penny out of their activities. He was unemployed like many others. The organisation broadcast music and advertised charities. It was a worthwhile cause and a way to

relieve boredom when living on the estate. The broadcasts had now ceased and there was no need to pillory the accused.

The magistrates agreed to confiscate all the equipment but returned to Humphreys the records and cassettes which Mr Spectre said were a lifetime collection and important to him.

Humphreys was conditionally discharged for two years but had to pay £231 costs.

PAGE 6 - WIRRAL GLOBE - THURSDAY, 24th September 1987

Jobless turned to pirate radio to relieve boredom

A group of people, mostly unemployed, broadcast on the pirate Birkenhead station Radio Merseywaves to help relieve boredom from living on the estate at Woodchurch, commented Mr. Kenneth Specter, defending, at Wirral Magistrates' court.

Department of Trade investigators made inquiries after publicity about the station and a complaint from Radio City who said their own

transmissions were being interrupted.

Colin David Humphreys, aged 24, of Weatherby, Mountwood Park, Woodchurch faced the court. He admitted using a station for wireless telegraphy when not a licence holder. Nine other people were summonsed on various matters but their cases were adjourned.

Miss Christine Bradley, prosecuting, claimed the station was well organised and not run as a hobby. It had a thirty miles radius. There was concern at

overlapping of frequencies by pirate stations who did not pay a fee and also concern at interference to emergency services.

Humphreys had been broadcasting when investigators went to his flat. They confiscated all the equipment found and also 119 records and seven cassettes belonging to Humphreys.

Mr. Specter said the station broadcast music and advertised charities. Humphreys did not make a penny out of it.

Broadcasts had now ceased and there was no need to pillory the accused.

The Magistrates agreed all the equipment be forfeited but they said the records and cassettes which were a lifetime's collection by Humphreys would be returned.

He was granted a conditional discharge for two years but had to pay costs of £231.