

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 11th October 1987

Apologies to Liverpool Pirate Radio for omitting them from last week's notes when I should have reported that they were on the air on Saturday 3rd Oct for an hour long "test broadcast". Phil Davies tells me that he has been advised not to turn up in Court on 14th Oct, as his solicitor will be getting the case adjourned to a later date.

The good news this week is that Radio Mersey Waves returned to the air and both Radio Atlantis and North Coast Radio got enough staff together to make themselves sound more like radio stations than they have over the past few weeks. The choice of Medium Wave frequencies used by the latter two stations make for some pretty grim reception, specially between 6pm and 8:30pm. 1197kHz carries the Voice of America programmes from Munich with 300kW, while 1350kHz carries French stations in Nancy and Nice, each with 100kW.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW
This station was back on the air on Sunday but weren't noted here till 10:20pm, with Don La One till 11pm, followed by Mark Wright. Close-down time wasn't noted. Others tell me that they heard the station from approximately 5:15pm and they themselves were told that the station had been on the air all day.

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO 105.9MHz: 24, Wilkes Avenue, Leasowe, Wirral, Merseyside L46 1SA.
This station was noted at 11am sign-on on Sunday to 11:15pm. They were announcing an 11pm close-down during the day, but when the time came, Phil Headroom announced that he would be on the air for an hour or so, but at 11:17pm, he closed the station down. The crew of this station is a collection of DJs previously heard on Radio Julie, Mersey Waves, Slag-Off and DTI-FM, and is obviously the station calling itself Wirral CR who made a "test" broadcast on 26th Sept. Noted were:-

Sun: 11am Sergeant Bilko; 1pm Phil Smith; 3pm Phil Headroom; 5pm Chris Jones; 7pm Phil Smith; 9pm Mark Phillips; 11pm Phil Headroom; 11:15pm close-down (till next Sun)

RADIO VERONICA 104.7MHz: 81, Lark Lane, Liverpool L17 8UP
This station continues to be well heard in a decent receiver but not on a pocket portable in the absence of nearby Wirral stations. Noted this week were:-

Sun: 11am Adrian Cooke; Noon Neil Frazer; 1pm Dean Bartlett; 2pm Neil Frazer; 2:35pm c/d.

NORTH COAST RADIO 1350kHz: 18, Downham Drive, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside L60 5RF.
This station have had a few problems this week. They opened at 9am on Monday and were still on air at 1:30pm. When next spot-checked at 4pm, they were not on the air, and weren't heard again till 7pm. On Friday they weren't on air at 11am and weren't found till 12:27pm after apparently signing-on at noon. The weekend schedule seems to have gone as planned except for a few DJs not turning up and a bit of re-shuffling of the format.

Mon: 9am Dave Collins; 11am Dave Dee; 1pm Andy Rogers; 1:15pm 7pm Tony Hollis; 9pm Dave Moore; 11pm Kevin Burnett; 1am(?) close-down

Fri: Noon(?) Tony Scott; 2pm Lyn James; 4pm Tony West; 6pm Mark Ross; 10pm Dave Collins; Midnight Dave Moore; 2am(?) close-down.

Sat: 9am Dave Dee; 11am Tony Hollis; 1pm Tony Scott; 3pm Neil Bishop; 5pm ??; 7pm Mark Ross; 9pm Dave Collins; 11pm Andy Davies; 1am(?) close-down:

Sun: 11am Kenny Gee; 1pm Tony Coltrane; 3pm Joe Williams; 4pm Bob, The Lone Ranger; 6pm Kevin Burnett; 8pm Tony West; 10pm Kevin Burnett; Midnight(?) Lyn James(?); 2am(?) close-down.

RADIO ATLANTIS: 1197kHz: 96.25MHz: 150, Rake Lane, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW.
This station also seem to have had a few problems this week with a break in transmission on Monday evening and early close-down on Friday. Saturday also saw them close down earlier than announced, but Sunday showed them on the air with some new DJs. The repeat tapes make an accurate schedule difficult to determine, specially when the format is virtually continuous music at times. Spot checks have shown:

Mon: 11am Cont Mx; 1pm Steve Bishop; 3pm ??; 4:15 Dave Ross; 4:50pm not found; 5:40pm Steve Bishop; 7:43pm not found

Fri: 11am Cont Mx; 1:30pm Steve Bishop; 2:15pm Rick Dane; 4pm Steve Bishop; 6:34pm Steve Bishop; 7pm Mike Hayes; 8pm close-down.

Sat: 11am Steve Bishop; 2pm Dave Ross; 4pm Mike Smith; 6pm Rick Dane; 8pm close-down

Sun: 11am Cont Mx; 2pm Steve Bishop; 3pm Gary Palmer; 5pm Marko Young; 7pm Dave Ross; 9pm Steve Bishop; 10pm close-down

MONDAY 12th October

I understand that in the 7am newscast, ILR RADIO CITY reported that a local pirate radio station had caused havoc to the emergency services all day on Sunday 11th October, with North West Gas being hardest hit by the broadcasts. A spokesman for the DTI said that they had so far been unable to pin-point the station concerned, but promised action on the matter in the near future. Later in the day, Radio Atlantis were off the air for a while due to DTI activity in their location, though they weren't responsible for the complaints!