

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 6th December 1987

This week has been quite eventful, with both Radio Mersey Waves and North Coast Radio being off the air for various reasons.

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

On Monday the carrier was already on the air by 8am, but programming wasn't noted till 11:18am, after an 11am(?) sign-on. The station wasn't found at 3pm, but was back on the air by 4pm, with the Alan Bates show. On Thursday evening the transmitter was on the air around 10pm and though no DJ's voice was heard, the music had a distinct Brian Johnson flavour to it. On Friday morning, in announcing the format for the weekend, Mark Palmer said that Marty "R" would be standing-in for Brian Johnson till further notice and hinted that reasons might follow later. However, around 11:45am the signal suddenly disappeared from the air. A carrier was noted briefly around 2pm, but it wasn't till 11:30pm that a continuous carrier was noted. This carrier seems to have been on the air all night, till the start of Mark Palmer's show at 9am Saturday, when it was announced that the aerial had been cut down at approximately 11:40pm on Friday and that the station had been unable to erect another till after dark. Marty "R" failed to stand-in for Brian Johnson, so Phil (Marathon Man) Davies did an 11pm to 9am slot and seemed very pleased to have a programme which started at a time when at least someone might be listening!. Noted this week were:-

Mon: 11am(?) Paul Woods; 1pm Dave Cole; 3pm not found; 4pm Alan Bates; 5pm Peter Thomas; 7pm DJ Sidney; 9pm Don Adams; 11pm Paul Jay; 1am(?) Tony King; 3am(?) close-down

Thur:10pm Continuous rock music.....; (?) close-down

Fri: 9am Mark Palmer; 11:45am off; 2pm Carrier only; 3pm off;11:30pm carrier only....

Sat: 9am Mark Palmer; 11am Jeff Starr; 1pm Mark Wright; 3pm Steve Coltrane; 5pm Paul Woods; 7pm Peter Thomas; 9pm Paul Jay; 11pm Phil Davies (till 9am)(Nothing but Rock till 8am, then an hour of "Oldies" announced)

Sun: 9am Mark Palmer; 11am Wayne Scott; 1pm Pete Cetrine; 3pm Burt Williams; 5pm DJC; 6pm Tony Marshall; 8pm Don Adams; 10pm Marty "R"; Midnight Kevin Jordan(?); 2am(?) DJ Sidney(?); 4am(?) close-down.

NORTH COAST RADIO 1350kHz: 18, Downham Drive, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside L60 5RF.

This was another station beset with problems of one sort or another. On Monday they opened at 3pm(?) although the carrier had been on the air since before 8am. At 5pm, only the carrier was found, but the station was back again by 5:18pm, with Ritchie "C" still in the hot-seat. On Friday they opened at 9am but at both 11:30am and 12:30pm, the frequency showed carrier only, Shortly after this, Tony Scott apologised for breaks in transmission "which were nothing to do with us". In spite of announcements of 24-hr operation over the weekend, later announcements said that they would close-down at 2am. On Saturday they seemed to operate normally till 5pm, when each successive DJ announced a different "line-up" and none was followed by the person announced by the previous DJ. At one stage, Tony West announced that there were quite a few DJs present and that any comments that went out over an open mic should be ignored by listeners. Roy was said to be "sick" and was to have been replaced by a "stand-in", but he was on the air from Midnight, and still on the air at 1:25am last check. On Sunday, the frequency showed a blank carrier all day till 7:59pm. when the station suddenly produced intermittent station identifications and "test transmission" announcements, followed by Roy's programme, standing-in for Tony West. Normal programming was to have been re-commenced at 10pm, but when the time came, Tony West and Kevin Burnett were heard with a joint show, which was not in accordance with previously announced format. The former said that the station had been off the air dur to problems encountered with a change in the mode of modulation used by the station. Noted this week were:-

Mon: 8am carrier only; 3pm(?) Tony West; 4pm Ritchie "C", 5pm carrier only; 5:18pm Ritchie "C"; 6pm Roy; 8pm Mark Ross; 10pm Tony West + Lyn James; Midnight(?) Roy(?); 1am (?) Andy Rogers(?); 2am(?) close-down.

Fri: 8am Ritchie "C"; 10am Dave Dee; 11:30am carrier only; 12:30pm carrier only; 12:40pm Tony Scott; 2pm Tony Scott(for Andy Rogers); 4pm Tony Scott (for Ritchie "C"); 4:25pm Ritchie "C"; 6pm Mark Ross; 8pm DJ Cressey; 10pm Kenny MG; Midnight Dave Moore; 2am(?) close-down

Sat: 9am Dave Dee; 11am Tony Hollis; 1pm Tony Scott; 3pm Derek Jones; 5pm DJ Cressey; 7pm Andy Davies(?); 8pm Tony West 10pm Lyn James; 11pm Lyn James + Tony West; Midnight Roy; 2am(?) close-down

Sun: ...carrier only...: 7:59pm intermittent music, IDs and announcements; 8:30pm Roy; 10pm Tony West + Kevin Burnett; remainder of broadcast not noted

RADIO ATLANTIS 1197kHz: 150, Rake Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW

This station was on the air on both Saturday and Sunday, but parts of the format were

not noted. Evening reception remains very difficult due to continental interference. heard this weekend were:-

Sat: 10am non-stop music; 11am Steve Bishop; Noon non-stop music; 1pm Steve Bishop; 2pm Rick Dane; 3pm non-stop music; 4pm Rick Dane; 5pm non-stop music; 7pm Andy Davies; 8pm Gary Noble; 10pm Steve Bishop; Midnight Rick Dane; 2am(?) close-down

Sun: 10am non-stop music; 11am Steve Bishop; 2pm Rick Dane; 5pm non-stop music; 8pm Gary Noble; 10pm Steve Bishop; Midnight(?) close-down

CONCEPT RADIO 104.25MHz: 13, Kipling Avenue, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 2JH
This station was "missed" on Sunday as they were on the air earlier than I had expected. Tom Webb tells me that the format was:-

Sun: Noon Jim Lowe; 1:30pm Tom Webb; 3pm close-down

RADIO VERONICA 104.75MHz: c/o 81, Lark Lane, Liverpool L17 8UP
This station was on the air on Sunday from 3pm, though the format between 4pm and 5pm wasn't noted. However, I am told that Adrian Cooke filled this spot. Noted were; Sun: 3pm Neil Frazer; 4pm Adrian Cooke; 6pm Dean Bartlett; 8pm Neil Frazer; 10:16pm close-down.

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO 1404kHz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green
After an even longer stint with Mersey Waves this weekend, Phil Davies had LPR on the air by 10:45am or so. The signal was very weak but generally clearer as the continental stations were also much weaker. On the hour, they were buried under some horrendous interference which strangely only lasted for a few minutes each time. Phil Davies closed the station down at 2pm, but said that he would be relaying Radio Veronica from 3pm. The relay wasn't noted as monitoring of the latter station was done on FM

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