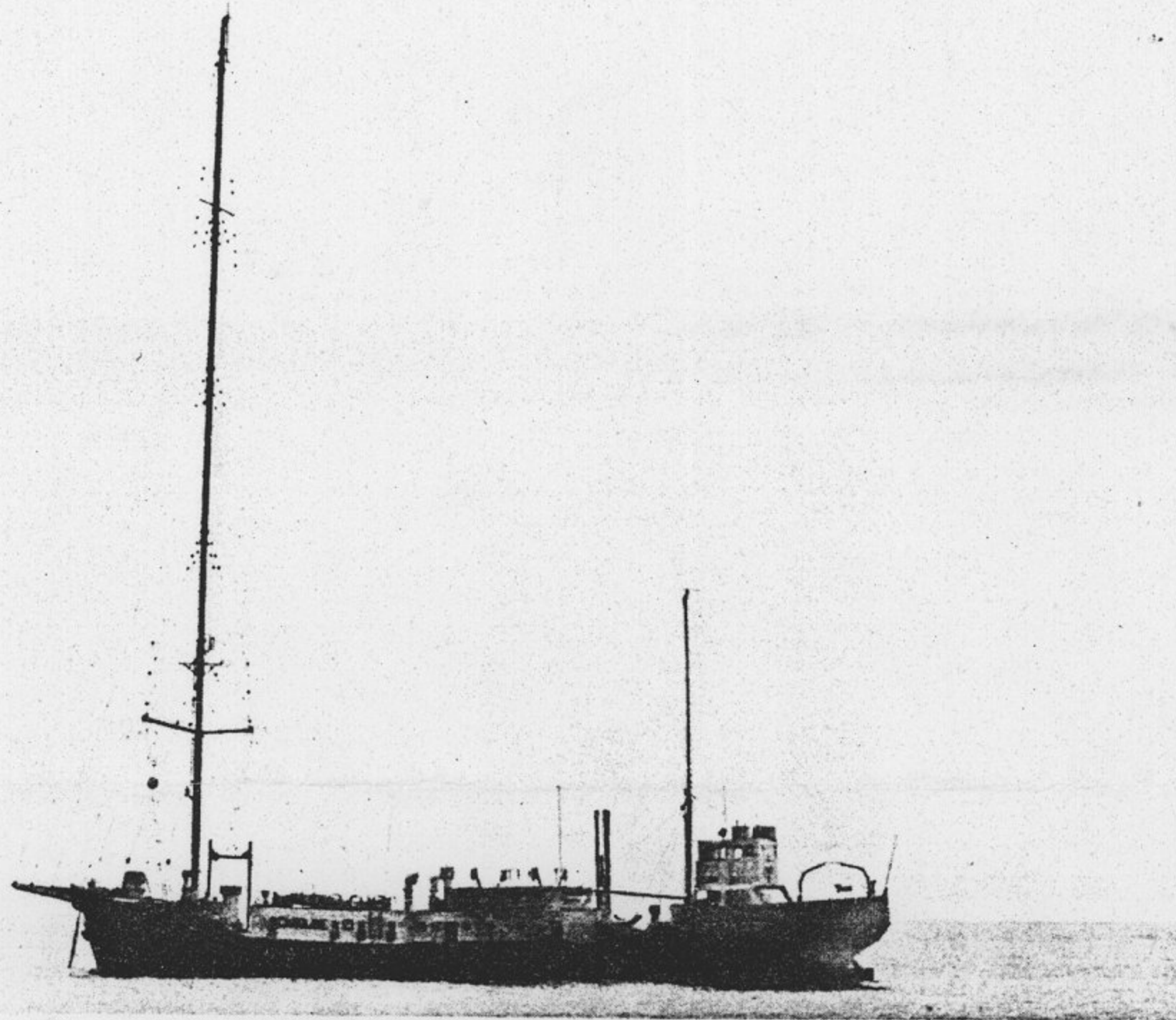


Free Radio Campaign, Ireland.

'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'

THE ONLY IRISH FREE RADIO MAGAZINE.

MAG No 10



RADIO CAROLINE SINKS IN FIERCE GALE SEE INSIDE

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FEBRUARY/ MARCH

1980. (NEWS EXTRA!)

DEAR MEMBERS,

WELCOME TO THE TENTH EDITION OF 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' - STILL IRELAND'S ONLY FREE RADIO MAGAZINE! THIS IS OUR FIRST ISSUE OF THE EIGHTIES AND HOPEFULLY THERE WILL BE MANY MORE. WE INTENDED GOING TO PRESS IN EARLY MARCH, BUT OWING TO THE SAD ENDING OF RADIO CAROLINE, IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD OVER PUBLICATION IN ORDER TO COVER THE FULL STORY - THE DETAILS APPEAR BELOW IN OUR LEADING ARTICLE. SAD NEWS ALSO ABOUT ALTERNATIVE RADIO DUBLIN WHO CLOSED DOWN AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, GOOD NEWS THOUGH AS WE HEAR THE CITIZEN'S BAND RADIO IS TO BE LEGALISED. WE ALSO FEATURE THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED FOR RADIO CAROUSEL IN DUNDALK, THE FINDINGS ARE MOST INTERESTING. WE ALSO HAVE OUR COMPREHENSIVE 'TUNE IN' GUIDE TO ALL THE IRISH FREE RADIO STATIONS ON THE AIR. FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW OUR READER'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT SINGLE COPIES AND BACK ISSUES OF 'S.A.' ARE NO LONGER BEING SOLD. THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS TOO COSTLY FOR US TO GET SINGLE COPIES PRINTED. AS ALWAYS, WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS AND COMMENTS ON THE MAGAZINE AND INDEED ON ANY ASPECT OF FREE RADIO.

Kieran Murray, EDITOR.

RADIO CAROLINE SHIP SINKS IN FORCE 9 GALE.....

Radio Caroline which has been broadcasting for the past 16 years, sank in the early hours of Thursday 20th of March. The station's ship, the MV Mi Amigo was swamped by waves 13 miles off the coast of Essex, just shortly after a lifeboat had rescued its crew of four including two British Disc Jockeys. The Mi Amigo had been in difficulty all night after breaking away from her mooring near Southend, and drifted onto a sandbank. The four crewmembers were taken by lifeboat to Sheerness where, after being treated to tea at the police station, they were released. However, they were told that they would be reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions under the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act 1967, the legislation originally intended to silence Radio Caroline and the other pirate stations.

None of the crew was injured; they included Nigel Latko of Bournemouth, Timothy Lewis of Suffolk, Nigel Tibbles of Rayleigh Essex and Ton Lathoower from Amsterdam. Mr. Tibbles said later that those on board had worked the pumps until coast guards insisted they left the ship. After they left a mountainous wave lifted the ship and she sunk to the bottom quickly in 25 foot of water.

"We don't think it is holed. It was just swamped by the size of the waves", remarked a Dover Coastguard spokesman. Mr. Charles Bowry, coxwain of the lifeboat, said: "The operation to get the crew off took twelve hours. It was the hairiest rescue I have ever done". An RAF helicopter from Manston flew back over the ship in daylight and reported the ship's transmitting mast towering over 100 feet out of the water. The spot where the ship sank - 30 miles south of Clacton - is in a tidal wash and the depth of the water varies between 10 and 25 feet.

Caroline's owners and backers in Spain and Holland indicated that broadcasts would be resumed as soon as possible, in a new ship, to serve its estimated 500,000 listeners in Britain & the Continent. The station began broadcasting at Easter 1964 and for many years, stationed off the British coast, attracted an audience of millions listening to a 24-hour output of pop music.

FRC-IRELAND first learned of the disaster on 'The News at One' from Ulster Television/ITN which was followed by extensive reports on 'The News at 5.45' and 'The News at Ten'. BBC's main news bulletins also carried the story as did RTE's radio and TV news service. Radio Caroline was the original pirate station, the innovator of all-day 'pop radio', and more recently set a precedent by becoming Europe's only 24-hour album music station.

HARSH PENALTIES IN STORE FOR THE PIRATES.....

The Minister for Posts & Telegraphs Albert Reynolds is expected to introduce the new Bill on Independent Local Radio in the coming months and certainly before the end of the year. What will happen once legislation is finalised, and it has many stages to go through, is that an Independent Local Radio Authority will be formed. The ILRA will have complete autonomy and will issue licences at its own discretion. In the meantime, a Bill has already been introduced which will, when passed, deal severe penalties - £10,000 fines and prison sentences to those who continue to make unlicensed broadcasts. However, the Minister has decided to exempt CB Radio operators from this bill and it is widely believed that Mr. Reynolds intends licencing CB radio (See article on CB radio).

COMMUNITY RADIO FOXROCK.....

CRF is the community radio station for the Foxrock area of Dublin. The station transmits on 98 MHz VHF and has a radius of about 2 miles. The service is also available through certain cable Radio/TV systems and reception is satisfactory. They aim to cater for the local community in a non-commercial way. The musical content is divided as follows: 60% pop, rock and semi-rock music, 20% classical country and western and ceili music, and the remaining 20% is devoted to local news, chat and outside broadcasts. The station Broadcasts every Sunday from 10.00 to 7.00pm and relays from 10.00 to 12 Noon the FRC-IRELAND SHOW. CRF's telephone line is: (01) 89 46 31.

3 END OF A TWO YEAR REIGN FOR ALTERNATIVE RADIO DUBLIN 257 METRES.....

ARD (or Alternative Radio Dublin) one of Dublin's and Ireland's best known local commercial radio station, closed down for good on 31st of December 1979. On 'The Final Hour' of ARD, Station Director Bernard Llewellyn came on the air to explain his reasons for closing the station. In an emotive message to the listeners, Mr Llewellyn explained that it was necessary to cease operations in order to prepare for an application for a licence, the idea being that the station would stand a better chance of receiving such a licence if it were not in operation at the time of application. Let us take a brief look back at the eventful history of ARD starting in 1976: The first transmission from ARD was in July 1976 on 217 metres MW, transmission quality was good, but output power was poor. Transmissions were at weekends only for about four hours. Then in 1977 Doctor Don, after parting ways with Eanonn Cooke (Radio Dublin), offered ARD a permanent location in his house in Cabra (a north Dublin suburb) and the station moved to 257 metres. In January 1978 the station moved to a prestigious four-storey Georgian House in Belvedere Place. Until this time, local radio in Dublin had meant low budget, poor quality and occasional broadcasting. January 28th 1978, saw ARD forging ahead with plans to cover the Budget Debate due on February 1st, with Howard Kinlay recruited to report from the Dail (Irish Parliament) and a panel of experts to comment in the studio. March 1978 saw the commencement of 'Community Programmes' such as 'Local Line' with Peigin Doyle, 'Live Issue' with Brian Trench, 'Consumer Checkpoint' with Mary Harding and 'World of Sport' with Tony Reid. October 1978 technical problems which had bedeviled the station, causing uneven reception and poor quality signal, were finally overcome and a new, custom built transmitter gave the best modulated, most even and strongest signal of any Dublin station. June 1979 sees ARD's finest hour as a local radio station when the only count by count reports on the European and Local Elections were given on ARD.

Autumn 1979 sees another visit by Bernard Llewellyn to Capital Radio in London leading to a changed format for the station, which results in ARD becoming clearly the most popular radio station in Dublin City. November 1979 ARD moves to a new studio, but its not a big move as the studio is next door. December 1979 the Directors announce that ARD is to close on 31st of December 1979 bringing a highly exciting and successful two-year reign to a close.

However, the same can not be said for the opening of Radio 257. Only those in the radio circle knew that the plan was to open a new station on 257 metres which would incorporate all the old ARD staff, transmitter and sound equipment, but without Bernard Llewellyn participating or using the name 'ARD'. However, on the 1st of January 1980, when ARD's transmitter was switched off, Radio City which up until then had been transmitting on 260 metres, made a swift change in frequency to 257 metres. Radio 257 also began transmitting on 257 metres and the result was severe interference to both stations. Clearly, one or other of the stations had to move, and after much heated discussion and Radio City's intransigence, Radio 257 moved to Radio City's old frequency of 260 metres. Relations between the two stations are very sour with one making allegations against the other. Allegations of aerial cutting and transmitter sabotaging continue. More recently, relations between Radio Dublin and Radio City have deteriorated arising out of complaints of interference to the former by the latter in certain parts of Dublin City.

----- RADIO CAROUSEL SURVEY.....

One of the most successful Commercial radio stations ever to come on the radio scene, recently commissioned Irish Marketing Surveys Ltd. to conduct a survey to find out how many people listened to RADIO CAROUSEL within a 35 mile radius of the station, situated in Dundalk. The audience survey was carried out over a seven day period between January 12th and 19th, during which seven hundred people were interviewed. The results show that: 1) 69.8% of the population in the Dundalk area, or seven out of every ten people, listen to RADIO CAROUSEL on a daily basis. This figure compares with 11% for RTE Radio 2. 2) In Northern Ireland, 22% listen to RADIO CAROUSEL. This compares with 9% for RTE Radio 1 and 4% for RTE Radio 2. 3) RADIO CAROUSEL is 12½% ahead of Downtown Radio in the surveyed area. 4) One in four people listen to 'Late Night Radio' on RADIO CAROUSEL. This is 2½ times more than Radio Luxembourg and almost three times more than RTE Radio 2. 5) RADIO CAROUSEL has a balanced audience. The age bracket is as follows: 15 - 24 31%, 25 - 34 33%, 35 - 49 36%. 6) The biggest single category of listener is the housewife. 7) The most listened to programme on RADIO CAROUSEL is 'Country Call' between 12 noon and 1.00pm daily. 8) 88% of the population in the surveyed area has VHF radio; RADIO CAROUSEL also broadcasts on VHF Stereo, 98.4 MHz, in conjunction with Medium Wave 265 metres/1134 KiloHertz.

RADIO CAROUSEL commenced broadcasting on May 20th 1978, and since then the station has gone from strength to strength. The results of the above survey substantiates this. Next May the station will celebrate its second birthday. Everyone at FRC-IRELAND wishes them every success for the future. N.B. FRC members may like to note that there is DX Spot on RADIO CAROUSEL, Saturdays at 9.45am, dealing with listeners reception reports, presented by Kieran Murray (FRC).

CITIZAN BAND RADIO TO BE LEGALISED IN IRELAND-AND THAT'S OFFICIAL!!!!!!

Ireland's Minister for Communications Mr Albert Reynolds appears to have reversed policy in **4** the Department of Posts & Telegraphs towards the operation of CB radios. The Minister recently confirmed that he is to legalise CB radio despite the advise of his top Civil Servants. Details of the Minister's plans are not yet available but he has ordered an investigation in his department into the implications of such a move.

An interim report has shown that the risk of interference to RTE and other users of existing radio services would be minimal. But final decisions on frequencies must await more detailed information about developments elsewhere. As he saw it - CB radio, if it was forced to use definite wavebands, was not a hazard to TV reception. Mr Reynolds said in a recent newspaper article that he was in favour of licencing CB radio, but he had to consider the situation in Europe before deciding on what band to allocate to CB's. In European countries, where CBs are permitted, the 27 MHz frequency is used, whereas US users have been moved to the 35 MHz frequency. Mr Reynolds added that he was satisfied that the CB people were policing themselves pretty well and operators who used offensive language, for instance, were isolated from other members.

In February of this year, the Minister received a long distance telegram of congratulation for agreeing to legalise the use of CB radios. The kind words came in a message from the Swiss CB Club, Region 62, Muttentz, which praised him for his "Democratic far sighted decision to legalise Citizen Band radio in Ireland."

Latest news we have is that the Minister for Communications intends deleting severe penalties from the Broadcasting & Wireless Telegraphy Bill which were to have been imposed against owners of CB radios. Finally, the Minister concluded that CB radio was a help to truck drivers to people in rural Ireland who felt isolated, and drivers caught in bad traffic congestion.

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In And Around Waterford ...

**VIDEO HASN'T QUITE KILLED**

★ THE RADIO STARS ★

**SUIRSIDE RADIO**

★ 257 m. MW and ★  
98.7 Mhz. VHF ★

Advertising Mick Daly (051) 75304  
Station - (051) 74148

★ **Sound of the Eighties** ★

**RADIO**

**265 MW**

**98.1 VHF Stereo**

**CAROUSEL**

**FRC - IRELAND RADIO PROGRAMMES.....**

Listeners in Ireland and the rest of the world have a choice of two FRC shows every Sunday, both of which are available on a number of frequencies. the details are as follows;

**SOUTHSIDE RADIO (Bray);** the programme runs from 10.00-13.00 hours and is transmitted on 300m/1000KHz Medium Wave. The Short Wave relays are on 11463\_KHz (25mb)courtesy of Radio Condor and on 6280 KHz (48mb) courtesy of Westside Radio. The programme is compiled and presented by **MARC BOLAN.**

**BIG D RADIO;**the programme runs from 10.00-12.00 hours and is transmitted on 273 m/1116 KHz Medium Wave and on 98 MHz VHF courtesy of Community Radio Foxrock. This programme is relayed in the last Sunday in every month on Shortwave 11463 KHz (25mb) by Radio Condor. The programme is jointly presented by **Kevin Murray and Bernard Lyons.**

If you have any interesting pieces of radio information which you would like to have mentioned on either FRC show, then write to us at; FRC Show, Southside Radio, Bray County Wicklow, OR FRC Show, Big D Radio, 85 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2. Remember, a lot of preparation goes into these programmes, so do support them by tuning in every Sunday.

# Tune in

BY

K. MURRAY.

Please note that this list includes only the stations that are known to be active at the time of going to press. If you know of any Free or Commercial stations currently active, and not included in this 'Tune-In' section, please write to the Editor supplying full details - Thanks.

| STATION NAME                 | WAVELENGTH             | DAYS & TIMES OF BROADCASTING                           |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| BIG D RADIO (Dublin)         | 273 metres             | 24 hours per day.                                      |
| BIG L RADIO (Limerick)       | 196 metres             | 06.00 to 02.00 hours, non-stop at weekends.            |
| BIG M RADIO (Monaghan)       | 228 metres             | 09.00 to 21.00 hours, Mon-Sat. only.                   |
| BRAY LOCAL BROADCASTING      | 365 metres             | 11.00 to 23.00 hours daily.                            |
| BOYNESIDE RADIO (Drogheda)   | 225 metres             | 08.00 to 21.00 hours daily.                            |
| CAPITOL RADIO (Cork)         | 227 metres             | 08.00 to 02.00 hours Non-Fri., non-stop at weekends    |
| CAPITOL RADIO (Dublin)       | 226 metres             | 08.00 to 01.30 hours daily.                            |
| COMMUNITY RADIO FOXROCK      | 98 MHz FM              | Sundays 10.00 to 19.00 hours. (Carries FRC Show).      |
| COMMUNITY RADIO YOUGHAL      | 199 metres             | 11.30-13.30/ 16.30-18.30 (Mon-Fri), 10.00-19.30 (Sat.) |
| CORK BROADCASTING COMPANY    | 215 metres             | 08.00 to 24.00 hours daily.                            |
| CORK CITY LOCAL RADIO        | 197 metres             | 07.00 to 17.00 hours daily.                            |
| INDEPENDENT RADIO DRUMSHAN.  | 186 metres             | 19.00 to 22.00 hours (Mon-Fri), 14.00-16.00 (Sun.)     |
| INDEPENDENT RADIO SLIGO      | 257 metres             | 08.00 to 02.00 hours daily.                            |
| INDEPENDENT RADIO THURLES    | 230 metres             | 11.30 to 23.30 hours daily.                            |
| KILDARE COMMUNITY RADIO      | 230 metres             | transmits daily.                                       |
| KILKENNY COMMUNITY RADIO     | 217 metres             | 07.30 to 22.00 hours (Mon-Fri), non-stop weekends.     |
| KERRY COMMUNITY RADIO        | 188 metres             | 08.00 to 19.00 hours daily.                            |
| LIMERICK BROADCASTING CMPNY. | 270 metres             | transmits daily.                                       |
| NORTHERN RADIO (Omeath)      | 232 metres             | 09.00 to 21.00 hours daily.                            |
| NORTH EAST RADIO (Dundalk)   | 251 metres             | 24 hours per day.                                      |
| RADIO CAROLINE DUBLIN        | 199 metres             | 10.00 to 24.00 hours Sundays.                          |
| RADIO CAROUSEL (Dundalk)     | 265 m / 98.4 FM Stereo | 07.00 to 24.00 daily.                                  |
| RADIO CITY (Dublin)          | 257 metres             | 24 hours per day.                                      |
| RADIO CITY (Sligo)           | 230 metres             | transmits daily up to 24.00 hours.                     |
| RADIO DUBLIN                 | 253 m/91.8 FM          | 07.00 to 03.15 hours (Mon-Fri), non-stop at weekends   |
| RADIO LIMERICK               | 216 metres             | 08.00 to 24.00 hours daily.                            |
| RADIO TRALEE                 | 255 metres             | transmits daily.                                       |
| SOUTHSIDE RADIO (Bray)       | 300 metres             | 07.00 to 02.00 hours daily (FRC Show Sun, 10.00-13.00) |
| SUIRSIDE RADIO (Waterford)   | 257 m/98.7 FM          | 07.00 to 24.00 hours daily.                            |
| WATERFORD LOCAL RADIO        | 252 metres             | 08.00 to 21.00 hours daily.                            |
| WESTSIDE RADIO INTERNATIONAL | 6280 KHz               | 10.00 to 13.00 hours every Sunday (Carries FRC Show)   |
| RADIO CONDOR INTERNATIONAL   | 6243/11463 KHz         | 10.00 to 13.00 hours every Sunday (Carries FRC Show)   |

## STATION ADDRESSES:

Big D Radio, 85 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2. Big L Radio, 13 Ellen Street, Limerick. Big M Radio, Bree, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan. BLB, 8 Goldsmith Terrace, Quinnsborough Rd., Bray, Co. Wick. Boyneside Radio, 14 Mill Lane, Trinity St., Drogheda. Capitol Radio, 51 Oliver Plunkett St., Cork. Capitol Radio, 36 Bachelor's Walk, Dublin 1. CRY, Youghal Co. Cork. CBC, 36 St. Patrick's Quay, Cork. CCLR, 2A French Church St., Cork. IRD, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. IRS, 15 Lord Edward St., Sligo. IRT, 29 Matthew Ave., Thurles Co Tipperary. KCR, St Martin's, Naas, Co. Kildare. KCR, Ballycallan Road, Kilkenny. KCR, Church St, Tralee Co. Kerry. NER, Earl St., Dundalk, Co Louth. RCD, c/o Disk-It, Finglas Village, Dublin. Radio Carousel, Dundalk Shopping Centre, Dundalk, Co Louth. Radio City, Capel Arcade, Capel St., Dublin 1. Radio Dublin, 58 Inchicore Road, Dublin 10. Radio Limerick, Abbey Advertising, 47 O'Connell St., Limerick. Radio Tralee, c/o Keily's Record Shop, 4 The Mall, Tralee, Co Kerry. Southside Radio, c/o In The Mood Records, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Suirside Radio, 50 Patrick St, Waterford. WLR, Waterford Shopping Centre, Waterford. WRI&RCI, c/o 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6.



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