

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE WEEK ENDING SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 1984

Listening during the week has once again been limited, and listening on Saturday even more so. In spite of this, and the things that have been missed, a number of other developments have been noted

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO are now operating with DJs during the week, and over the past couple of weeks, I have omitted to note that the whistle that previously accompanied the signal near to sign-off time has disappeared, although the station still suffers a certain amount of side-band splatter from BBC R Merseyside. On Saturday, a new, but indefinite line-up of DJs was announced, but at 3pm, the station seemed to be having a few problems, and in the Moreton area, the signal was poorly modulated and playing old SMI tapes. At sign off, Tom Lodge announced the line-up as Andy Davies/Kevin Palmer/ John Freeman/Marty Collins/Phil James/Tom Lodge. It would seem that the first two did a two hour stint, while the latter four did one hour each. On Saturday, Andy Davies was heard to say that the station no longer had a mailing address, as the GPO had failed to honour their "PO BOX No." agreement, but a later DJ announced that the mailing address was now:-
71, Ashville Road, Poulton, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 9EF, which should be familiar to regular readers. The station line-up varied again on Sunday. At close-down, Tom Lodge apologised for the 9am start, and announced the line-up as: Andy Davies/Kevin Palmer/John Freeman/Eric Monaghan/Phil James and Tom Lodge. The latter two DJs did one hour apiece, while all the others did two-hour stints. The late finish may have been due to the late start, and apparently, Phil James had been announcing the wrong mailing address during his programme. I hope that any misunderstanding in the mailing address will be corrected by next weekend. Letters received from outside this area say that they have neither received any reply from the station nor had their letters returned by the GPO, so the situation is a bit indeterminate for now.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO were only heard through the week on Wednesday night, and then, only with John Sniff closing the station down in a manner guaranteed to attract the attention of the DoTI. They were not noted on Saturday until 3:26pm, when Jill Sinclair was heard. At 8:04pm, John Sniff announced that SCR was on its "first day back on the air, after a break-in at the studio" Later, at 9:34pm, an unidentified DJ, thought to be Brian "C" played a record for Miss Chris Sinclair, and said that hopefully she would soon be back on the air after her stay in hospital. At 10:07pm, the station had disappeared, but it was back again by 1:30am, with an unrecognised DJ. On Sunday, SCR was on the air at 11:20am. He announced that Phil Davies and Jeff Stone of Liverpool Pirate Radio had done guest appearances, and kept the station on the air all night. Another boob. The DJ was "Uncle Ern", who is announcing his regular "spot" as 10am to 1pm, extended this Sunday until 2pm, when Martin "C" would be along. Paul Woods and Keith the Chief were on the air at 2:40pm, but I am fairly sure that the programme was a "repeat" tape. At 7:41pm, SCR was featuring John Sniff, but by 9:52pm, Phil Davies was on the air. At 10:56pm, he announced that he would be on the air for another two hours, when he would be handing over to Paul Woods and Keith the Chief for an hour, before taking over again until 6am. It was nice to hear Phil again, but it would be even better to hear him again on his own station! Latest is that Paul Woods and Keith the Chief will be on from Midnight to 1am, not as above. The problem with SCR remains the inability to adhere to an announced schedule, and to rely on whoever turns up to do a programme.

RADIO ELEANOR were not noted on Saturday until 3:02pm, when the NICK JAMES SHOW was in progress. They were announcing a "phone-in" programme. Later announcements said that they would be on the air until 8pm, but they were still on the air at 8:30pm, although close-down time was not noted. On Sunday, they were announcing a 10am to 10pm schedule, with new DJ, Pete Davies, doing the final two hours. They seem to have stuck to their normal line-up, and Pete Davies was heard at about 8:20pm. However, shortly before 10pm, the station had disappeared, when I tried to check their close-down announcements. Today they held another short "phone-in". It was announced that the phone-ins over the holiday period had gone quite smoothly, but the Saturday "phone-in" had produced problems.

CHANNEL FIVE were first noted at 3:41pm on Saturday, when the Steve West Show was in progress. At various times, either Steve West or Nick Catford were heard, up to 1:30am on Sunday. The same thing seems to have applied on Sunday, and at 3:29pm, a very tired Nick Catford announced that both he and Steve West had operated the station by themselves, as neither Gary Smith nor Pete Williams had turned up. The sign-off time was not noted, but the station had gone by 8pm. Significantly, the station have been advertising for new DJs this weekend.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL were heard with a very poor signal on Saturday. At 3:18pm they were first heard with a variety of "bits" of old tapes "thanking Eric Monaghan for his help", "IDing as Radio Caroline International" and "skitting Bert Williams during a Phil James Show. In short, not at all what I have come to expect from a very responsible radio station, so I was surprised when, at 3:25pm, Jim Brown announced the broadcast as a test transmission from Central Radio. He apologised for the poor quality of modulation, and closed the station down for the day. The station was heard with quite a weak signal and poor modulation. Starting at noon, were heard Mark Evans/Jim Brown/Jeff Stone and Steve Tyler, on Sunday, and by 7:15pm, Mark Evans was reading out the last of the phone-in requests and dedications. At 7:26pm, Jim Brown apologised for the poor modulation, saying that the station engineer would be sorting it out tomorrow, and that the station would continue to broadcast for a while. They could not be found at 8pm check.

KGW RADIO Reports from outside the area indicate that KTW Radio were heard on 738kHz on both Saturday and Sunday, but was not heard at this QTH. This Sunday, a station run by Dave Simpson, and presumably the KGW Radio that was announcing its "first day of transmission" on 10th April 1983 (but on 954kHz) was heard at 11:34am on 738kHz, announcing "399m". The modulation was so poor that many of the records could not be identified, and speech was unreadable for most of the time. The DJ line-up was given as:- Dave Simpson, Bob Lewis, Henry Henderson and Buzz Carter. The mailing address was not heard, but the final word was "Mersey-side", which was not the same as for previous broadcasts. The station went off the air at 11:59am, at the end of the Dave Simpson Show. At 1pm, there seems to have been an un-modulated carrier on 738kHz, but this was gone shortly afterwards, and the station was not heard again.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL were first heard on Sunday at 1:13pm, with DJ Ray Rockford. DJ at 2:59pm was Dave Wilson. Ray Rockford was heard again at 5:15pm, but he was just about to sign-off. Roger Dee was in the hot seat at 7pm, but by 8pm the station had gone. The signal remains very weak and difficult to find at times. Also, some of the DJs who appear to have been "regulars" seem to have emigrated to other stations

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CENTRAL RADIO SAID THAT THEY CLOSED EARLY AT CHRISTMAS BECAUSE THE TX "BLEW-UP" AND WERE MISSING LAST WEEKEND BECAUSE FORCE 9/10 GALES KEPT BRINGING DOWN THE ANTENNA.