MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 15th January 1984

I am reminded this week that I have not printed a current list of mailing addresses for some time. This will be corrected in these notes.

NORTH COAST COMMERCIAL RADIO - 1512kHz

New address:- 71, Ashville Road, Poulton, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 9RF.

Have operated each day, but sign-on time has been erratic when checked, and 8am start does not seem to have been achieved at all. At 6pm close-down, the DJs have been announced as Dave Walker, Pete Henderson and Kevin Palmer. The latter has done the stint up to 6pm, and nothing has been heard of Tom Lodge, except for the close-down announcement itself. On Saturday, sign-on time was not noted, but they seem to have operated a normal schedule at first, but seemed to introduce a new DJ, Steve Jones, from 2:30 - 3:00pm, in the middle of the John Freeman Show. John was still on the air at 3:18pm, and the new schedule seems to have been planned to allow the station to hold a phone-in, the number for which was 678 - 7506, but I'm not sure whether this is a regular number. After this, Phil James was heard to normal 6pm close-down, when Steve Jones took over once again. For most of the evening, Steve Jones was announcing that the station "will be on the air for a little longer yet", He signed-off at 10pm, but I did not note the name of the following DJ, who was still "in the chair" at 11pm, but when checked at 11:45pm, NCCR had gone from the air. The station was not heard at all on Sunday.

RADIO FLEAMOR - 1449kHz

New address:- 16 Stockbridge Street, Anfield, Liverpool L5 6PB
Were heard "testing" on 1449kHz on Friday night, and I suspect that they may have just ererected a new antenna after the morning's force 13 winds. This station also introduced a new DJ, PETE DAVIES. For most of the day they announced a 10am - 10pm schedule with the normal DJ line-up, but Pete Davies doing the additional 8pm - 10pm slot. In the event, Tony Reeve; Barry Cullen; Nick James and Mark Wright did two-hour stints, with Paul Rogers and Fete Davies doing one hour each, and the station closing down at 8pm. On Saturday, it was announced that at least two of the regular DJs would not be on the air on Sunday, and would not be heard again until next weekend. On Sunday, they opened at 10am on the dot, with the Tony Reeve Show, but for most of the afternoon they operated with continuous music. Round about 4:30pm, the station was reading out the requests and dedications made during the phone-in, the number for which was not heard. The station is still on air at 10:37pm after announcing a 10:00pm closes-down. The big news from this station is that from next weekend they will be operating on 254m, "Radio Eleanor's original frequency" although it isn't clear whether this will be 1125kHz or 1179kHz.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO - 1296kHz

Address: - 30, Bridle Close, Ford Estate, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 900. This station seems to have operated each day of the week, except for Tuesday, with a variable DJ line-up. On Tuesday they were not heard until 6:30pm, and it was announced that both the police and station staff had been investigating the previous week's break-in, and that the latter were now almost certain of who did it. They were heard from 9:20am - 1 pm, then with Chris Sinclair until Apm. They were not found after this until Phil Davies of Liverpool Pirate Radio was heard doing a rock-show for them at 8:40pm, He was on the air until 10pm, when the schedule was announced as 10pm-llpm John Sniff; llpm-Midnight Uncle Ern; Midnight - lam Keith the Chief and lam - 6am Phil Davies again. Phil was still on the air until 8:15 am Sunday morning, when the station closed down until 10am, to let the transmitter cool off. The transmitter was back on the air again at 10;0am, when "Uncle Ern" was heard. Shortly before lpm, Chris Sinclair was on air, with Diane, a new DJ, Paul Woods and a multitude of voices in the background. 2pm saw another new DJ, Steve Bradley, who did a programme of reggae music. Also heard were Paul Woods (4:18pm & 6pm) and John Sniff (8:30pm). Dave Collins, another new DJ was in operation at 11pm. I understood that Fhil Davies of LPR was to do another overnight "stint", but he was not heard, and the station was not on the air at 7am on Monday morning. There was a lot of silliness broadcast between 12:30 and 2pm on Sunday, which is a shame, as the station seems to have got everything together very nicely in all other respects. It is also reported that the station is putting out a very strong second harmonic on 2592kHz, right in the middle of the shipping band. It is difficult to check this, as the local stations all put harmonics and images into my converter. 1296kHz lies exactly mid-way between BEC R.1 on 1107kHz and BBC Merseyside on 1485kHz, which, just by coincidence, both happen to be broadcast from BBC R Merseyside's mast in Wallasey cemetary.

CHANNEL 5 - 1242kHz

Address: 3, Palm Grove, Claughton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 1TE.

This station announces their current schedule as 10am Saturday through to 9pm Sunday. Very

nice signal, but often 2, 3 or 4-in-row format, and very tired DJs, which isn't surprising as the whole of the 35-hour schedule is carried out by just four DJs, Steve West, Nick Catford, Gary Smith and Pete Williams, although the first two often do the lion's share of the work. This weekend they signed-on at 11:30am on Saturday, and were probably late because of the gales causing antenna problems. They seemed to have fulfilled their schedule, and were heard at 6pm on Sunday although close-down time was not observed.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL - 1584kHz

Address: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.
This station was first noted at noon on Sunday, when Jim Brown handed-over to Mark Evans. The signal was very weak, and I understand that this was due to the use of a make-shift antenna, erected with much difficulty between 9am and llam that very morning, after the gales had brought down the station's mast. Heard Sunday were Jim Brown/Mark Evans/Brian Grant/Steve Turner/Jeff Stone/. From 5pm onward, all the DJs with the exception of Brian Grant were slowly working their way through the phone-in requests, and doing ½-hour stints. Reception deteriorated slowly from 4pm, and the station was virtually unreadable by 6pm. The QPM was of the "shimmering" type, very much likened to "flutter fading".
News from the station is that their next listener's night out has been arranged for 29th Feb at the WINDSOR CASTLE in Walton Vale. There will be a top-class disco and food laid on. The antenna problem must have been a big disappointment, as I understand that the station had done a lot of work on the antenna, and had tested it out during the week, when the signal was much improved.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL - 1413kHz

Address: 78, Brunswick Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6LW.

This station was first noted at 12:04pm on Sunday, with an extremely weak signal. Heard were Roger Dee (12:04pm & 1:52pm); Dave Wilson (2:44pm & 3:14pm). At 4:32pm, the modulation level was so low that the DJ could not be identified. Roger Dee was also heard again later, presumably to close the station down, after the last show, but sign-off time was not noted.

UNIDENTIFIED - 1343kHz

At about 6:45pm on Sunday night, an S3 signal was noted on 1343kHz. Whenever checked, up to 11pm or so, the station was playing continuous music with no IDs, although from time to time, the record labels were announced by an un-named DJ.

News from other sources is:-

RADIO FREE WIRRAL/RADIO FREE LIVERPOOL - 1612kHz

Address: 150, Rake Lane, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW

The station is reported to have lost its aerial mast during the gales in the week before Christmas. They hope to erect another mast by this coming weekend, weather permitting.

RADIO JACKIE NORTH - 945kHz

Address: 1, Yew Tree Lane, Liverpool L12 9HG.

The station were reported to have operated all day on 945kHz, on Boxing Day, its 7th Birth-day. This broadcast was not heard in Moreton.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL and STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO are announcing operation "soon" on FM, and the latter also say that they will be operating "soon" on the 49m SW band

PHIL DAVIES announced during his broadcast on SCR that Liverpool Pirate Radio would be back on the air in about three weeks time, when he gets his new transmitter.