

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 18th March 1984

It seems to have been quite an eventful week, and particularly at the weekend, a 'flu bug seems to have taken its toll of station personnel.

ABC RADIO 96.25 MHz stereo FM: 4, Glencairn Road, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 2AL.

For some reason, this station always seems to get forgotten about on Tuesday night! This week was no exception, although I'm told that they did in fact operate with a much reduced signal, and that Eric Monaghan was heard with his off-shore radio news. On Wednesday, in spite of prolonged listening sessions until after midnight, the station was not heard at all.

SPORFON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz: 30, Bridle Close, Ford Estate, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 9UJ.

Whenever heard through the week, the station has adhered to their announced schedule, but there have been changes this weekend. Uncle Ern failed to appear on Saturday, and it was announced that he wasn't too well, although he did show up on Sunday. The station has also announced that Phil Davies of Liverpool Pirate Radio, will be joining the station at the weekends as a permanent DJ. His hours are announced as 5pm-7pm (replacing Jill Sinclair) on Saturdays and Sundays. Also 8am-10am on Sundays, giving Dave Collins the chance for a lie-in!! On Sunday, Phil was heard on the air at 5pm, but a check shortly after 6pm showed that ALAN ROSS had taken over. The latter has not been announced as a station DJ, so this was possibly a one-off "guest" appearance.

RADIO MERSEYWAVES 96.25 MHz FM: No announced mailing address.

This station opened at 6pm on Sunday, and followed its normal Bert Williams/Paul Jay/Bert Williams two hours on/two hours off format. They continue to put out excellent signals on both AM (1197kHz) and FM

RADIO ELEANOR 1179kHz: 16, Stockbridge Street, Anfield, Liverpool L5 6PB

Opened at 10am on the dot on Saturday, but appeared to deviate once again from the announced schedule. Tony Reeve, John Freeman, Mark Wright and Tony Carr did their two hours each, but Paul Rogers or Pete Davies only seem to have done one hour, and the station had gone from the air shortly before 9pm. Everything seemed to be back to normal, and Paul Rogers seems to be including free radio news in his Sunday programme.

CHANNEL FIVE 1242kHz: 23, Rice Hey Road, Egremont, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 0DX.

This station also had problems, and were not noted on Saturday until 3:10pm. Pete Williams announced that the station had had problems, and that many of the staff were down with the 'flu. Pete Williams handed over to Steve West at 4pm, and the latter announced that he would be followed by Nick Catford at 6pm, but after that, particularly between 8pm and midnight, they weren't sure what would happen. They seem to have played continuous music, with occasional announcements by Steve West. Frank Xerox started his programme at midnight, but some time after this, the station went off the air, and were not heard again until 1pm on Sunday. Pete Williams again started the ball rolling, with Steve West taking over at 4pm. Steve said that Gary Smith was not fit to do his show in the morning, due to a really good night out. He also said that 50% of the crew were down with 'flu, and announced a revised schedule, which read:- 4pm-6pm Steve West; 6pm-7pm Gary Smith; 7pm-8pm close-down Frank Xerox. Steve West then closed down the station at 8pm.

STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL 1413kHz: 78, Brunswick Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6LW.

This station signed-on at noon on Sunday. The signal strength in Liscard has gone up from S2 to S3 this weekend, but modulation was generally poor. Between noon and 2pm they seem to have been featuring a new DJ, but speech on his programme was largely unreadable, and I was not able to make out his name. After 2pm, and during the Dave Wilson Show, the modulation had improved drastically, and the signal was good. Just for once, he seemed to be getting on with his programme un-interrupted, which he made a few comments about! By 3:30pm, Roger Dee was on the air, but the modulation had deteriorated badly again, although the speech could at least be heard. Ray Rockford was on the air at 4:35pm, but shortly after this time, the station had gone from the air, and were not subsequently heard again.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL 1386kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

This station were heard "testing" from about 12:30pm on Saturday. Initially Jim Browne was on the air, and he handed over to Jeff Stone and Steve Tyler, who seemed to have kept the broadcast going. Sign-off time was not noted, but it was thought to be at about 6pm. The station have taken on some new DJs this weekend, presumably in preparation for Saturday and Sunday operation, and the station schedule was revised to give them all a chance. The announced schedule was: Sunday: 10am-11:30am Jim



