

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 6th May 1984

The date and venue of Storeton Community Radio's "Under-18s" Night-out has been changed. It will now be held at Ma Baker's, in Conway Street, Birkenhead, and will take place on 21st May. There are a few changes of mailing addresses this week.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL 1350kHz: 27, Rushmere Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2XP. Note the temporary frequency and mailing address. The mailing address will be in force for five or six weeks, but the station has announced that mail sent to the old address over the past week will be received by the station. At the weekend, the station has been operating on 1350kHz, but announcing 1359kHz. They say that this frequency is only temporary, and they hope to soon get onto their planned 1332kHz. The schedule this week has been a little irregular, with both Jim Browne and "Joe, the Engineer" appearing at odd times. The normal format seems to be 10am-Noon Jeff Stone; Noon-2pm Mark Evans; 2pm-3pm Jim Browne; 3pm - Closedown (between 5pm and 6pm) either a joint Jeff Stone/Mark Evans show or continuous music. Schedule next week will probably be even more disrupted, as Mark Evans is on holiday. Ian Phillips joined the crew on Saturday and took over the 3pm to 5pm close-down slot. On Sunday the full Jim Browne/Mark Evans/Jeff Stone/Ken Woolfe/Ian Phillips line-up was used, and the station shut down at 8pm. The weekend choice of frequency is not a very good one, as the station is suffering some sideband splatter from BBC RADIO ULSTER. The planned 1359kHz would probably have been worse, being right on top of MANY RADIO.

RADIO ATLANTIS 1242kHz: 23, Lambeth Walk, Kirkdale, Liverpool L4 1UU;

This station seems to have had a few problems through the week, particularly in the early evening. At times the transmitter sounded almost as though someone was sweeping a VFO back and forth across the broadcast. Presumably this was an equipment fault as the broadcast was intermittantly switched off. The format most definitely is not continual heavy rock, and Steve Bishop was heard at lunchtime on Tuesday with his more usual type of programming.

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

Another station with problems. Most of the DJs were "missing", as are my notes for Tuesday and Wednesday evening. From memory, they operated on Tuesday night between 9pm and midnight with Kevin Palmer/Eric Monaghan/Benny James. On Wednesday they seem to have been playing continuous music up to 9pm, and were probably "testing" the transmitter, as Tom Lodge later said that it was operating on 96.15 MHz. Kevin Palmer was on the air from 9pm to 11pm, during which time he said that "Keith", Phil James and "Mike" would not be appearing. In acknowledging the calls from a letter phone-in, it seems clear that these DJs were in dispute with the station, but that things have now been sorted out, and that they will be back again next week. Tom Lodge was still on the air at 12:39am, and probably closed the station down at 1am. His news section featured comments on Laser's new mast, Sunshine(Ludlow)Radio's installation of a low-power transmitter to be confiscated by the authorities when they arrive to carry out the Court's instructions, Sunshine(Ireland)Radio increase in power, and details of Radio Nova's current frequencies.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz: 74, Big Meadow Road, Woodchurch Estate, Birkenhead, Merseyside L49 9AQ. This station has been heard whenever checked, but are obviously having to "shuffle" their schedule round a bit. They were late on the air again this Saturday, having started at 9am instead of 8am. Alan Ross replaced Uncle Ern for the 11am to 1pm slot. On Friday night, Martin "C" didn't show up for his 7pm-9pm show and "others" filled-in for him. News from the station was that a load of "parts" had been delivered on Friday, and that Martin "C" was busily putting them together. The transmitter is producing a slight "hum" under the programming, and seems to be putting out a huge signal on 2052kHz, its second harmonic.

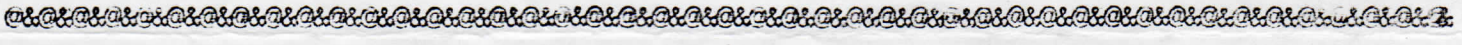
STATION "M" INTERNATIONAL 1413kHz: 78, Brunswick Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 6LW. This station signed-on at noon on Sunday, with a very nice signal. Good modulation and signal strength S3 on medium wave. Roger Dee seems to be operating the station single-handed, as nobody else was heard. He played a few extracts from the various Caroline and other off-shore tapes amongst the other records, and he signed-off his show at 3pm, saying that he would probably be back again later. The station followed this with continuous music, interspersed with a few announcements that it was a test transmission. The station was not found at 4:38pm check, and was not subsequently heard. During the Roger Dee show, he was announcing a parallel transmission on 92.1 MHz FM and asking for reception reports

for both frequencies. The FM transmission was weak, very distorted and barely heard against a noisy background. However, it was later announced that the transmitter power was only 10W, but that this is to be increased by next week. Please note that this station have now reverted back to their previous mailing address.

RADIO MERSEYWAVES 94.8MHz FM & 1197kHz: 23, Birnham Road, Poulton, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 9AY. The station signed-on at 6pm on Sunday, but with not so good an FM signal as usual. There was a fair amount of "crackling" that did not appear to be local interference. They announced a few problems with the link to the AM transmitter, but the reception on Medium Wave sounded very good to me. They followed their normal format and closed-down at midnight.

CHANNEL FIVE 1242kHz: 23, Rice Hey Road, Egremont, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 ODX This station appears to have solved most of its problems, but are still short of DJs for the hours that they are on the air. On Saturday they opened at 12:30pm, with the Pete Williams show. They were heard before noon on Sunday apparently "testing" with a tape of a previous Frank Xerox show. On both days the line-up seems to have been:- Opening - 3pm Pete Williams; 3pm-6pm Steve West; Dave Graham to 10pm then Frank Xerox to Midnight and Steve West to 3am close-down. On Saturday they featured a "new" DJ, Reggie O'Babelon, between 7pm and 7:30pm. A nice "spoof" and quite a change in type of output for the station. Over the weekend, between 6pm and 7pm they also featured a tape of BBC RADIO MERSEY-SIDE's programme on the local hard drugs problem in the Merseyside area.

RADIO ELEANOR 1179kHz: 16, Stockbridge Street, Anfield, Liverpool L5 6PB. Due to transport problems, Radio Eleanor managed to sign-on about 15 minutes late on both Saturday and Sunday, but it was all systems go, after that. There seemed to be a few problems on Saturday afternoon, as the station could not be found for a while, from about 2:40pm. They were back on the air by the next check. Their normal line-up was used on both days, but the station is still advertising for new staff, in order that they can increase their operating hours. Paul Rogers' Free Radio News was a bit skimpy this week and fitted easily into its allocated 1/2 hour, even when "padded" with "non-news" letters about last weeks broadcast.



BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 7th May 1984

RADIO ATLANTIS

Opened at noon and are operating a slightly revised schedule. Presumably this is for the holiday only. The line-up was Steve Tyler/Rick Dane/Steve Bishop, with each of them doing a three hour stint and the usual 9pm close-down

RADIO ELEANOR

Opened at 10:15am with the Paul Rogers show until noon. Other DJs were Mark Wright (noon - 2pm), John Freeman (2pm-4pm) and Paul Rogers (4pm-5:35pm close-down). The modulation stopped at about 3:50pm although the carrier remained on the air. The length of the break was not noted as the station was not checked again until 5:15pm. The station apparently held a phone-in, but during the acknowledgements, Paul Rogers reported that the telephone lines had been sabotaged. One caller rang up about 12 times, but just put the phone down when the station answered. Another caller rang the station, then left his phone off the hook for 15 minutes. In spite of this, they did manage to get some calls through.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL

Opened at 10am and seem to have followed their usual weekday schedule, except that Ken Woolfe and Ian Phillips were available for duty. They seem to have drifted higher in frequency, and Manx Radio were causing splatter problems. Ken Woolfe was heard between 2pm and 4pm, but by the latter time, things were becoming a bit grim. Another DJ, presumably Ian Phillips, was heard a couple of times, but at 5:20pm the station couldn't be found.

RADIO MERSEYWAVES

Opened at 6pm with a Bank Holiday Special and are announcing 6pm-7:30pm Bert Williams; 7:30pm-9:30pm Paul Jay; 9:30pm-10pm close-down Bert Williams. Reception was back to normal, and much better than on Sunday.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO

Have followed their announced schedule for a Monday. Heard have been Dave Collins/Uncle Ern/Stevie Sounds/Paul Woods/Allan Ross/John Sniff. The announced line-up for the rest of the evening is as scheduled.