MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 31st March 1985

Activity in the Merseyside area seems to be on the increase this week.

COMMODORE RADIO 103.8MHz: 2a, Woburn Place, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

On Monday, shortly before 4pm, a signal was heard on approximately 103.8MHz with a record for someone in the Birkenhead Park area. The station closed down a few minutes later without any ID being heard. On Friday a signal was heard on approximately the same frequency around lpm. It was playing continuous music with fairly long gaps between the records. Once again it closed-down without any ID being heard. Later, some time around 8:30pm, it was noted again. A few minutes later, the station closed-down. In the closedown announcement they ID'ed as Commodore Radio and said that evening broadcasting is a "waste of time, as nobody ever listens at that time" and that in future they would only be operating their Monday schedule. It seems that they had been on the air for 50 mins but only received one telephone call. The DJ heard sounded very inexperienced and somewhat impatient. 50 minutes isn't much time for a listener to "discover" a new station: Also, although they are asking listeners not to put the name of the station on envelopes, no DJ names for listeners to write to were heard. The station announced that they would shortly be on 6.3MHz on the short wave band, and were hoping to "test" the transmitter later on Friday night. These tests were not noted. Sign-off time on Monday appears to be 4pm, so this station will probably not feature in future notes.

KISS-FM 102.7 MHz

On Sunday, at 3:20pm, a station calling itself Kiss-FM and broadcasting to Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales was heard on approximately 102.7 MHz FM. The presenter was Colin Sayer, who was apparently on the air until 6pm, when the station closed down. From the announcements heard, it would seem that the station has been on the air for the past few weekends but checks for Southside Radio on 103 MHz have failed to reveal them. It is understood that they have been previously operating on 108.25 MHz.

Reception today has been superb, with Colin Sayer sounding very professional. No mailing address has been noted, although the 6pm close-down announcement was missed.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz

Although numerous checks have been made around 103 MHz FM and 1026kHz medium wave, nothing has been heard of SCR. On Sunday, however, one of the Merseywaves DJs (think it was Mark Newman) sent greetings to the crew of SCR and said that their carrier on 1026kHz had been noted earlier in the day.

RADIO MERSHYWAVES 1242kHz: 18, Mallard Way, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7SL.

Announcements coming from this station are still somewhat erratic and make reporting a bit difficult. The schedule is still announced as Mid-day to Midnight on Saturdays and Sundays. This weekend, the station was already on the air when checked at 11:07am, and had apparently opened at 11:00am. Schedule was announced as:- 11:00am-Noon Jim Lowe, Noon-lpm Tom Webb, who said that he might be on the air for longer, and was heard until 2pm, 2pm-4pm Paul Henderson, 4pm-6pm Paul Henderson; 6pm-8pm Tara, who seems to have been on the air till 9pm; 9pm-10pm Martin Miller, who said that he wasn't supposed to be on the air at all that day; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman. Only the first part of this show was heard, but it seems from announcements made on Sunday that the transmitter developed a faultshortly before Midnight, when a slightly inebriated Steve Jones took over. The latter apologised on Sunday both to listeners and to Burt Williams. On Sunday, the station seemed to come on the air at 11:30am with the Steve Jones Show. He said that he didn't get to bed till 5:30pm, but it isn't clear whether the station was on the air till then The schedule for Sunday was: - 11:30am-2pm Steve Jones; 2pm-4pm Burt Williams (who said that he had turned up at 2:30am to sort out the transmitter problem, and that he had not been on the air on 24th due to illness. He also said that the station had not been on the air on 17th because the Tx developed a fault while he was out of the area and unable to get back to sort things out); 4pm-6pm Paul Jay; 6pm-8pm Mark Newman; 8pm-10pm Martin Miller; 10pm-Midnight Paul Henderson. The latter signed-off at midnight, but left the station playing continuous music, which was still running at 12:22am. Latest announcements say that the station will be signing-on at 8am next Saturday.