

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE    Week ending Sunday 19th January 1986

The FM stations that appeared on the air over Christmas seem to have now disappeared without trace. WFM were not heard on Tuesday or Wednesday, Commodore Radio were not heard on Saturday and neither C-104 nor Mersey FM were noted on Sunday. The MW stations both seem to have had a few problems.

CONCEPT RADIO 104.4MHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF.

The station say that they have now had their frequency reported on a receiver with a digital frequency read-out, and it was measured at 104.42MHz. They were noted on Saturday between 10am and noon, when Tom Webb said that they were testing their new higher power transmitter. In spite of messages for Jim Lowe to acknowledge reception of the station at the Central Radio location, no such acknowledgement was broadcast. On Sunday, the station relayed Central Radio from 9:30am to 6pm, when they changed over to their own programming. The operators still seem to be a little uncertain as to change-over times, which still seem to be a bit uncertain. Heard were 6pm-9:10pm Tom Webb and 9pm-beyond 12:15pm Jim Lowe. A number of announcements said that the usual Tom Webb/Jim Lowe show would probably not take place, but this was unconfirmed.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW.

The station was on the air Monday from 5pm and the announced line-up was:- 5pm-7pm Dave Collins; 7pm-9pm Tony Coltrane; 9pm-Midnight Tara; Midnight-1am KtC; 1am-2am Mark Newman. The announced line up seems to have been kept, except that 1am-2am would have appeared to have been a joint Mark Newman/KtC joint show, with the emphasis being on some of the station's more notable "cock-ups" (records running out while the DJ had gone to the toilet and Burt Williams working till 6am to move the transmitter to a new location, then to turn up at the old location later that day for his programme). They were not on the air on Tuesday, but it wasn't apparent whether the hurricane winds had brought down the aerial or whether the station had discontinued their midweek broadcasts. They were not heard on Wednesday, although continuous music was noted on the frequency from 8:25pm on Thursday. The latter transmission seems to have ceased at 8:30pm. In view of the quality of reception on Thursday, it came as a surprise when carrier only was heard till after 7pm on Friday, although later announcements said that Dave Collins had been on the air since 7pm. Heard were:- 7:25pm-10pm Dave Collins; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman; Midnight-1am close-down

KtC. The Saturday line-up was 8am-10am Dave Collins; 10am-Noon Mark Wright; Noon-2pm Barry Noble; 2pm-4pm DJC; 4pm-6pm Paul Woods & KtC; 6pm-9pm Tara; 9pm-Midnight Mark Newman; Midnight-1am close-down KtC. On Sunday, things seem to have gone wrong from the start. Heard were 9am-11am Mark Newman standing in for Dave Collins. At 11am Wayne Scott hadn't shown up, so Mark held the fort, but when checked at 11:30am the frequency contained the carrier only. They were heard "fading-in" at 1:34pm with the Paul Jay show, which signed off at 4:06pm. After that, Mark Wright, who was supposed to be standing-in for Burt Williams 3pm-5pm was noted. Mark seems to have been on the air till 5pm, when the station reverted to the announced schedule of 5pm-7pm KtC; 7pm-10pm Peter Thomas; 10pm-Midnight Mark Newman; Midnight-1am KtC and 1am-2am Mad Mike. The break between 11:30am and 1:34pm was put down to "difficulties" of an un-specified nature.

CENTRAL RADIO INT 1404kHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF

This station was on the air Monday with excellent reception but shortened hours. Heard were 8am-10am Charles Browne; 10am-Noon Jeff Thompson; Noon-2pm Jim Browne and 2pm-4pm close-down Phil Davies. When they re-appeared on Friday it was "back to square one" with muffled speech, needles sticking in record grooves and intermittent or "broken up" signals. These problems persisted throughout the whole of the weekend. Heard Friday were 10am-Noon Charles Browne; Noon-3pm Phil Davies; 3pm-5pm Charles Browne; 5pm-7pm close down Jeff Thompson. On Saturday it was announced that from next weekend the station would revert to 1386kHz. Heard were 10am-Noon Jim Lowe; Noon-2pm Jim Browne; 2pm-4pm Phil Davies; 4pm-6pm Tom Webb, 6pm-8pm Charles Browne; 8pm-10pm Jeff Thompson. The latter appears to have extended his hours by one hour and signed-off at 11pm. Sunday saw 8am-8pm operation, with Charles Browne, Jim Browne, Tom Webb, Phil Davies, Jim Lowe and Jeff Thompson doing two hours each

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