MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE   Week ending Sunday 25th May 1986

It has been a strange week for reception in this area with Radio Mersey Waves not being heard after Monday, leaving the Medium Wave without a local station for the first time in a very long time. By way of contrast, most of the FM stations have extended their hours (and personnel) and are putting out better signals.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW. The station opened slightly late on Monday, when the line-up noted was:- 9:48am-11am Peter Thomas; 11am-1pm Barry Noble; 1pm-3pm DJC and "guests"; 3pm-5pm John Ceccini(?); 5pm-7pm Jeff Starr; 7pm-9pm KtC. The latter was still on the air at 10:40pm but closed the station down at 11pm, saying that he would be back at midnight. Within a few minutes of KtC closing the station down, Mark Newman, Peter Thomas, Tony Coltrane and others turned up to put it back on the air. Heard were: 11:10pm-Midnight Mark Newman; Midnight-1am KtC. It isn't known whether Peter Thomas did a 1pm-3pm slot. This was the last that was heard of the station, who failed to come on the air on Fri, Sat or Sun.

S.O.INTERNATIONAL 103·6MHz: 67 Birchcliffe Road, Rock Ferry, Merseyside L42 1NP This station was first noted at 10:22pm on Tuesday with a better signal than last week. Heard were Steve Mason till 11:05pm, then Mike Hughes till 1(?)am. They were noted again from 10:53pm, with Steve Mason announcing the phone-in results. Close down time or DJ change-over times were not noted. On Thursday they were noted from approximately 9:10pm and heard were:- 9:10pm-9:20pm Phil Smith; 9:20pm-11pm Steve Mason; 11pm-?? Mike Hughes. On Friday, continuous music was noted on the frequency at 8:30pm, but the signal had gone by 9:24pm. The station was not noted on Saturday or Sunday. This station consists of the ex-Commodore Radio crew who are now IDing as S.O.International or Slag Off International. There doesn't seem to be much effort to run the thing as a serious station and the crew say they don't particularly care what others think of them. In fact they seem to have already upset some of the other FM stations and there are allegations that they have said too much over the air about other station's locations. From my own observations, the whole crew seem to be in the studio for most of the time, which leads to a lot of silliness and bad language going out over the air. All good fun for the people concerned, but I can't see the DTI allowing them to continue for very long.

RADIO JULIE 104·85MHz: 15, Pitch Close, The Crofters, Greasby, Wirral L49 2RR This station was noted from 8:30pm on Friday, with Dave Collins in the "hot seat". By 9pm the signal was weak and intermittant, back to normal by 9:20pm. Noted were:- 9:20pm-9:30pm Dave Collins; 9:30pm-Midnight Larry James(ex SCR). From Midnight, the whole crew were in the studio, with the inevitable "fooling around" during what should have been the Tony West Show. The signal disappeared abruptly at 12:43am. They were back on the air on Saturday at 8(?)pm, when the DJs noted were:- 8:38pm-10pm Larry James and 10pm-?? Dave Collins. Close-down time or further DJs weren't noted. Heard Sunday were: 7:49pm New set of station jingles spoken by Paul Jay of RMW. and continuous music. At 8:13pm a "live" announcement said that they would be featuring continuous music till 10pm 10pm-Midnight Joe Williams(not the same DJ as on SCR) and Midnight-?? Dave Collins.

CONCEPT RADIO 104·4MHz: 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF. The station signed on at 8pm on Sunday. They say that they featured a link-up with WFM during the Webb and Lowe Show last week and were hoping to do so again this week, but neither was noted here. Heard were:- 8pm-10pm Tom Webb; 10pm-Midnight Jim Lowe and Midnight-?? Webb and Lowe show. Each Sunday, this station puts out a very useful report on the other local stations heard during the week at their location and they often feature short taped extracts of the weaker stations that can not be heard over a very wide area.

106·3MHz
On Sunday, around noon, a very weak signal was noted on a (very) approximate frequency of 106·3MHz. It was carrying continuous music, but closed down just a few minutes later. No ID was heard, but Concept Radio reported hearing South Wirral Radio on "106 point something". Date and time of their reception isn't known

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MERSEY FM say they are temporarily off the air till they can sort out a new FM frequency. They hope to return in a couple of weeks time, when they should have a parallel outlet on 1071kHz MW.

CENTRAL RADIO are still looking for a new location.