MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE Week ending Sunday 23rd November 1986

Radio Veronica are reported to temporarily be off the air due to an increased level of DTI activity in the general area of their location. Not too many stations have been noted at my location this week although other reporters say that other stations have been on the air at various times.

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW. This station closed at 7pm on Monday in order that all DJs could attend the Under-18s Night-Out at Ma Baker's. On Saturday night they announced a 5am close-down (which wasn't noted) but different line-ups of DJs. The most likely line-up was that shown. They say that from next weekend they will be re-introducing Friday broadcasting, but they won't be on the air till 2pm. Noted this week have been:-

MON: 8am Dave Collins; 10am Jeff Starr; 1pm DJC; 3pm Peter Thomas; 6pm KtC; 7pm c/down SAT: 8am Dave Collins; 10:30am Mark Wright; Noon Barry Noble(last show for RMW); 2pm Paul James; 4pm KtC; 6pm Mark Palmer; 8pm Tony Hollis; 10pm Dave Benitez; then (announced) Midnight Mark Palmer; 2am Dave Collins; 3am Mark Palmer; 4am

Tony Hollis; 5am c/down.

SUN: 8am Dave Collins; llam Wayne Scott; lpm Paul Jay; 3pm Mark Palmer; 5pm DJC; 6pm Dave Benitez; 8pm Don La One; l0pm Tony Hollis; Midnight Dave Collins; lam(?) close-down

CONCEPT RADIO: 104.3MHz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool Lll 2TD I'm told that this station remained on the air till 3am last weekend and that they did, in fact hold a link-up with KDA Radio on 92.1MHz. This weekend they dropped their first "slot" and after some very nice warm-up music, they opened at 8pm. The full schedule wasn't noted, but it is believed to have been:-

SUN: 8pm Jim Lowe; 10pm Tom Webb; Midnight(?) c/down or Webb and Lowe Show.

The station say that from 14th December they will begin their special Christmas broadcasts, which seems to imply that they will be on the air for at least a part of every day.

RADIO SUPREME 105.5MHz

Jim Browne reports that this station operates Sats/Suns till 5pm. No other details are knownexcept that the station, which uses a telephone number in the Stoneycroft area of Liverpool, hasn't been noted here.

COMMODORE RADIO: 105.3MHz

On Sunday, a very weak and largely unreadable signal was noted on approximately 105.3 MHz from 8:20pm. At 9:30pm, the station, which is believed to have been Commodore Radio, appear to have been holding either an outside broadcast or a "live" phone-in, but the strength of the signal made identification and programme details all but impossible.

RADIO CAROLINE NORTH 18, Glynne Street, Orrell, Bootle, Merseyside L20 6DF. Although not heard here, Jim Browne says that the station was on the air for most of Sunday, but suffering equipment problems. They were on 1611kHz from 3pm to 5pm, then, having resolved a lot of previous problems, they moved to 1395kHz for the last hour to 6pm close-down.

CENTRAL RADIO: 1404kHz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2TD
This station was heard on Saturday with a reasonably strong, but poor quality signal.
Much of the speech was lost under a series of loud buzzes, put down to an intermittant earth connection and there was some slight distortion on music passages. On Sunday, the fault was even worse and after opening with the Charles Browne Show, the signal deteriorated to short, intermittant "test transmissions". The station said that they were having problems with an assortment of their equipment and all efforts to bring things under control appear to have failed. In the end, they appear to have given up and weren't noted after 2:30pm or so. Heard were:-

SAT: 10am Jim Lowe; 1pm Phil Davies; 4pm Tom Webb; 6pm Chris Peters; 7:30pm Jeff Thompson; 10pm c/down

SUN: 8am(?) Charles Browne; 10:30am intermittant apologies; ?? c/down.

RADIO SUBURBIA: 1449kHz: No mailing address as yet.
On Sunday, from 1:23pm, a station calling itself Radio Suburbia was noted on 1449kHz.
Reception here was pretty grim, due to splatter from EBC R Merseyside on 1485kHz and

R. Luxemboug's German programme on 1440kHz. The DJ, DAVE DARE, said he used to work on Station M International, but the voice wasn't recognised. The station say that this was their second weekend of operation, though I'm told that last weekend, they operated for a while on 1404kHz, the old Station M frequency, unaware that Central Radio would be returning with a superior signal. The station say that they will be increasing power to 30-40W next week, and within the next few weeks hope to increase this ten-fold. Only one DJ was heard and in spite of announcements that he would be on the air till "3pm, or possibly 4pm or 5pm", the station wasn't found after 3pm.

OTHER NEWS

Jim Browne reports that both Mersey Sound and Mersey FM were on the air during the week, but neither station was heard here.

On Tuesday, BBC R-A were due to broadcast a programme about PCRL, a Birmingham illegal station which had been set up in the local parish church, and who were claiming "Sanctuary" from the authorities. The broadcast wasn't noted in any of the anticipated programmes and it seems likely that they were "instructed" to "drop it".

On Thursday night, from 7:50pm, BBC-2 TV's "OPEN SPACE" programme featured "On the Air", which was billed as a report on the illegal Afro-Caribbean station, PYRAMID RADIO, which operates in the London area. The station was billed as a "Community Radio" station, but the emphasis was entirely on "Community" and "Radio" was ignored entirely. The programme featured lots of "excerpts" of other stations and the inevitable interview with TONY BLACKBURN on LBC.

On Friday evening, during the EBC's "CHILDREN IN NEED" appeal, one of the DJs from the Atmosphere Club in Birkenhead pledged money via EBC R Merseyside, if they would let him present a programme on the air. After a short delay, presumably to clear things with "the Powers that be", the station seems to have acquiesed to this request. In the past, some of the Radio Mersey Waves DJs worked at Atmosphere and never failed to say so at the slightest opportunity. However, when one of the local stations attempted to hold a "Night-Out" at this club, it was cancelled at the last minute and transferred to MA BAKER's. Mersey Waves are currently advertising an "Over 18s" Night Oout at the Atmosphere Club on 15th Dec, so it remains to be seen whether or not a well-known voice appears on local "legal" radio in the near future.!!!!".