

MERSEYSIDE FREE RADIO SCENE

Week ending Sunday 3rd January 1988

The New Year period took over where Christmas left off, with few stations completing their announced schedules and most of them suffering from equipment problems. Radio Atlantis had severe equipment problems. Someone broke into the studio and stole it!!

RADIO MERSEY WAVES 1242kHz: 9, Meadfoot Road, Moreton, Wirral, Merseyside L46 7UW
On New Years Eve, a noisy "has" was noted on this frequency from 7:10pm. The signal was intermittent, but featured Tony West (tape?) at 7:49pm. By 8:52pm the signal was carrier only, which had gone a short time later. This is the only time the station has been heard this week.

RADIO VERONICA 104.7MHz: c/o 81, Lark Lane, Liverpool, L17 8UP

This station was on the air on Sunday with its signal back up to its former level.

They featured a listener's All-Time Top 30 Albums programme and noted were:-

Sun: 3pm Neil Frazer; 4pm Adrian Cooke; 6pm Dean Bartlett; 8pm Neil Frazer; 10pm c/down

CONCEPT RADIO 104.3MHz: 13, Kipling Avenue, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 2DH

This station was noted from Noon to 7pm on New Years Day, and were back on the air again at noon on Sunday. However, the announced 1am close-down never materialised. By 6:26pm, the signal was carrier only, but when checked a short time later, Jim Lowe, who closed the station down at 8pm, was in the "hot seat". Heard or announced were:-

Fri: Noon Tom Webb; 2pm Phil James; 3pm Tom Webb; 5pm Dave Collins (tape); 6pm Dave Moore (tape); 7pm close-down.

Sun: Noon Tom Webb; 2pm Jim Lowe; 4pm Dave Moore; 6pm 4FWS(?)... 7:30pm Mike Smith;

10pm Jim Lowe; Midnight Keith; 1am close-down

RADIO ATLANTIS 1197kHz: 150, Rake Lane, Liscard, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 1JW

On Monday and Saturday this station closed down at 5pm on 1197kHz then opened up again on 1621kHz a few minutes later. On Monday, the signal wasn't too bad except for a variable level, variable pitch "het" from the BBC Merseyside signal on 1485kHz. On Saturday they possibly moved to 1612kHz as the signal was very weak and largely unreadable. On Sunday the old theme tune was noted on 1197kHz around 1:14pm but the signal was very intermittent. Continuous music was noted from time to time during the afternoon but the signal power was very low. At 5pm, Steve Bishop opened the station for the day with an announcement that someone had broken into the studio and stolen all the equipment. They had worked all day building another studio at a different location. Noted were:-

Mon: 9:30am non-stop music; 10am Steve Bishop; 1pm Rick Dane; 5pm c/down on 1197kHz..
open up 1621kHz Steve Bishop; 9pm close-down

Fri: Noon Rick Dane; 2pm Steve Bishop; 5pm close-down

Sat: 10am Steve Bishop; 1pm Rick Dane; 5pm 1197off/1621 on Steve Bishop; 8pm Rick Dane;
10pm Steve Bishop; Midnight c/down

Sun: 5pm Steve Bishop; 8pm Rick Dane; 10pm Steve Bishop; Midnight non-stop music; 1am c/d

NORTH COAST RADIO 1350kHz: 18, Downham Drive, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside L60 5RF.

This station was on the air on Monday but weren't found on Tuesday or Wednesday. On New Years Eve the carrier was noted from 5:45pm with continuous music from 7pm. When checked at about 9pm, the signal had gone. On Friday the carrier was on the air all day but programming didn't commence till 5pm. At 9:17pm the signal disappeared from the air and when it returned a couple of minutes later it was very distorted for a while. Around 10pm there was a lot of silliness going out over the air, but by 10:30pm they featured continuous music. Close-down time wasn't noted. On Saturday from 6pm or so, most of the output seemed to consist of instructions to the "DJ" who were trying to arrange a "live" phone-in, which didn't come out too well over the air, and didn't seem to attract many calls. The format after 9pm wasn't fully heard. Noted have been:-

Mon: 11:30am Kevin Burnett; 2pm Phil Davies; 4pm Ritchie "C"; 6pm ??; 8pm Mark Ross;
10pm Andy Davies; Midnight Tony Hollis; 2am close-down

Thur: 5:45pm carrier only; 7pm continuous music; 9pm not heard.

Fri: 8am carrier; 5pm Ritchie "C"; 6pm Mark Ross; 9pm Cressey; 9:17pm sudden off;
9:18pm Cressey; 10pm Cressey + Friends; 10:30pm continuous music: ?? close-down

Sat: 9am Dave Dee; 11am Tony Hollis; 1pm Tony Scott; 3pm Derek Jones; 5pm Cressey;
7pm Tony West; 9pm Dave Collins; Midnight Tony Hollis + Mark Ross; 2am c/down

Sun: 9:40am Tony Hollis; 11am Kenny Gee; 2pm Joe Williams; 4pm Bob - Lone Ranger;
6pm Tony West; 9pm Ritchie "C" + Kevin Burnett; 11pm Kevin Burnett; 1am(?) c/down

LIVERPOOL PIRATE RADIO 1395kHz: 30, Elkstone Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2TD

This station was not on the air on Sunday, and their absence made it possible to try to determine the frequency they normally use and the station that usually "hets" with them. The latter turned out to be Radio Carousel from Navan in Eire on a frequency of 1386kHz. This part of the MW band was unusually quiet on Sunday, so it is a pity that Phil chose to stay inactive.

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PLEASE NOTE

Having single-handedly produced Merseyside Free Radio Scene every week, without a break, since 7th August 1983, the ~~the~~ time has come for me to "hang up my pen" and this week's issue will be the last. Over the past few months it has become increasingly difficult for me to do any listening Mon to Fri during working hours and at other times the output of some of the local stations has deteriorated to an extent where I don't care to listen for sufficient time to establish a complete format.

Over the years, it has been my hope that one or other of the local stations would "Make the Big Time" but no sooner does a station establish itself, than it disintegrates, putting everyone back to "Squ^Are One".

It is in this atmopshere of dis-illusionment that I have decided to "drop out"