Free Radio Campaign, Ireland.

SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE

THE ONLY IRISH FREE RADIO MAGAZINE.

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SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE

(ISSUE NUMBER THIRTEEN)

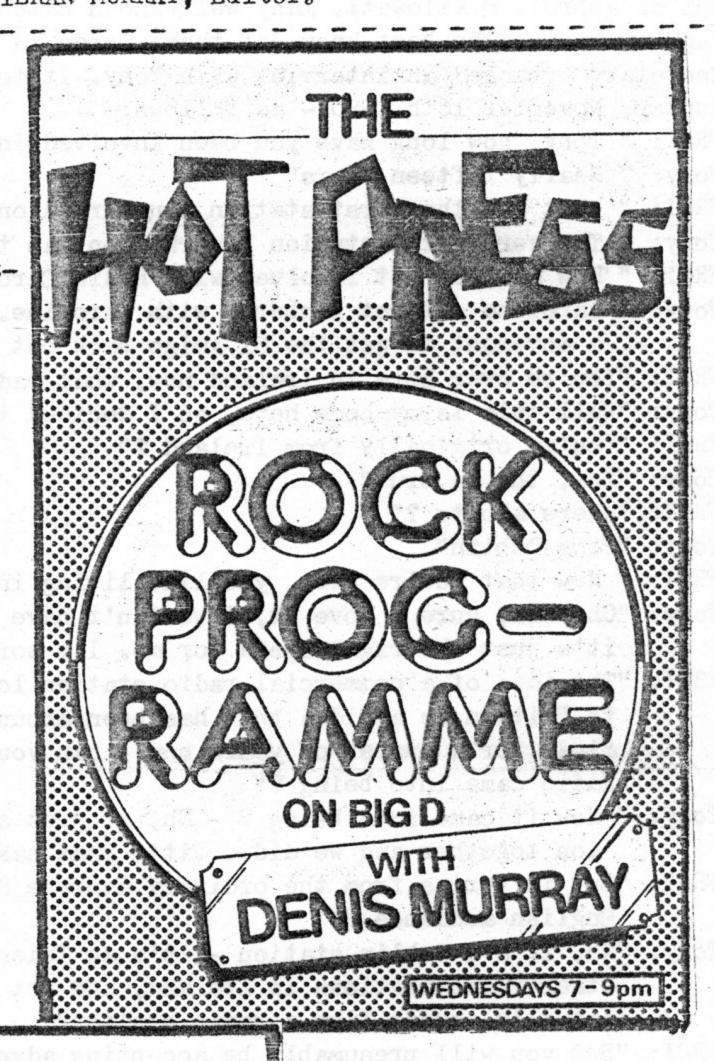
HELDOW MEMBERS,

WELCOME TO EDITION NUMBER THIRTEEN OF 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' - THE MAGAZINE THAT TAKES YOU BEHIND THE SCENE OF IRISH FREE RADIO. IN THIS ISSUE WE FEATURE AN INTERVIEW WITH TONY ALLEN (EX. RADIO CAROLINE), OUR USUAL COMPREHENSIVE 'TUNE-IN' SECTION, PLUS NEWS ON RADIO MI AMIGO AND EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO. ONE POINT THOUGH, WE WOULD LIKE MORE NEWS AND IMFORMATION FROM MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE DUBLIN AREA. THIS IS IN ORDER TO MAKE 'S.A'S COVERAGE MORE COMPREHENSIVE. MAY I WISH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR! KIERAN MURRAY, Editor.

RADIO MI AMIGO (DUBLIN).....

Radio Mi Amigo began broadcasting on November 14th 1979, using at first the callsign Radio Caroline South. Soon after this, the station used a new 165 foot aerial longwire. However the transmitter used was giving immense technicial problems. Radio Mi Amigo got the loan of a new better powered transmitter. This was in March 1980. However, this tx. had to be returned to its owner and Radio Mi Amigo ceased transmissions shortly afterwards. An engineer managed to fix the original tx. and the signal was much improved. The staff decided to go fulltime on the station at this time. Radio Mi Amigo was causing interference to a stereo system nearby. The station offered to the stereo system so that it would not pick up the interference, but the the stereo owner refused, and threatened to take legal action. Radio Mi Amigo had no choice but to but to close. That was on 7th September 1980. Radio Mi Amigo was broadcasting from Dun Laoghaire in south County Dublin. Wavelength used was 220 m Power output was 40 watts. The transmitter used a 6146-B valve among others.

We were sorry to see the closure of this station which was obviously set to provide a community service in its coverage area. We hope to to report their return sometime in the new year. Eamon Bohan/Kieran Phillips.



BANDSTAND (MONTHLY)

C.B. RADIO GIVING MORE COSTING LESS...

Bandstand is a monthly magazine which reports on the never ending fight for this legalisation. Its pages contain Parliamentary debates and questions on this subject, newspaper cuttings from all over the UK on the present illegal use of CB radio, articles from countries where this form of two-way radio is legal showing its many uses, which include the saving of lives, instant help in bad weather conditions, instant traffic reports, and its social implications for combatting loneliness of the housebound and its important use to the long distance lorry driver and motorist, to combat boredom.

BM BANDSTAND LONDON WC1V 6XX If you would like to know more about this subject, why not write to us and obtain a copy of our monthly magazine. Just send a 37p postal order or cheque made out to Bandstand at the following address: BM BANDSTAND, LONDON WCLV 6XX.

ALL ABOUT CB-TWO-WAY RADIO

PLEAS	E CUT AROUND THIS LINE ,
Send to: BM BANDSTAND	LONDON WC1V 6XX
MY NAME	*************************
MY ADDRESS	·······

Please use block letters	$SA/_{12}$

V.H.F. FOR QUALITY..... The good news for Free Radio fans who want quality in their listening as well quantity, will be glad to note that at least five stations now broadcast on VHF/FM band. In Dublin City

(1) ARD/Radio 257 99.0 MHz

(2) Big D Radio 98.6 MHz

(3) Radio Dublin 90.2 MHz In Dundalk you have Radio Carousel on 96.8 MHz In Waterford you have Suirside Radio on 98.7 MHz. This is indeed a very good trend and one which we hope many more stations will follow.

FRC~IRELAND INTERVIEW WITH:-

TONY ALLEN.

■ SUNSHINE RADIO 539M■

In late September 1980 a new commercial radio station took to the airwaves. It was the sound of 'SUNSHINE RADIO'. Located in the Sands Hotel, Portmarnock, North Co. Dublin and using a power output of approx. 8 KiloWatt. Many well-known names from the world of Offshore Radio are heard on a regular basis. The best known of those names is probably Tony Allen, and with that FRC-IREMAND'S Secretary arranged an interview with Tony. It took place outside the Sands Hotel at 4.45pm on Sunday, November 16th 1980 - as follows:-

FRCI: " Tony, how long have you been involved in radio ?"

Tony: " Nearly fifteen years"

FRCI: " What was the first station you worked on ?"

Tony: " The very first station I worked on was the BBC World Service"

FRCI: " 'How did you get involved with Radio Caroline ?"

Tony: "Caroline - I got lumbered with Caroline. I was working with Radio Northsea and there was a movement to get the Mi Amigo back out of Amsterdam Harbour so I just got embroiled in it"

FRCI: "You're over here in Ireland now, what made you decide to come over ?"

Tony: "Well this is my home here, so I decided to come back home"

FRCI: "You're originally from Ireland?"

Tony: "Yes, that's true"

FRCI: "Where abouts ?"

Tony: "From Dublin"

FRCI: " Now that you're here, you like living in Ireland ?"

Tony: "Oh yeah, sure I love it, I wouldn't have come back if I didn't . I actually do like the pace,

it's just the right speed for me. I'm sort of very gentle and laid back"

FRCI: "The idea of a commercial radio station located on the East coast of Ireland and being beamed to Britain is an idea that has been around and a couple of businessmen have had it in their minds for a number of years now. - can you fill us in to the backround as to how Sunshine Radio came into being?"

Tony: " How it came into being ? - Eh, it just sort of happened.... they said let's put a Radio Stat-

ion together and we did it's that easy!"

FRCI: "But it varies from the ordinary average Dublin pirate, in that it's beaming towards an English audience?"

Tony: "No, it's a Dublin station - it's an Irish station. Where it differs from the majority of other radio stations in Ireland, and not only the pirates, is that it's professional - it actually sounds like a radio station"

FRCI: "But you will presumably be accepting advertising from cross-channel companies and concerns?"

Tony: "Anyone who wants to advertise....if their advertisement is not immoral or illegal then obviously we can look at the idea and see if it's going to be something that our particular radio station can sell. Obviously, if we have a particular market for a product - why not use the media we have here to promote that product in the market place"

FRCI: "There was a lot of controversy recently about an advert. which you were carrying from Aer

Lingus (Irish State Airline) any comments to make on that ?"

Tony: "Only that Aer Lingus advertise with us"

FRCI: "RTE - the state network were complaining about the advert"

Tony: "I don't know about that, were they ?"

FRCI: "There were newspaper reports "

Tony: "Don't believe everything you read in the newspapers"

FRCI: "You deny that, then ?"

Tony: "I'm not denying anything, I don't know what RTE think. If you want to know what RTE is in to go and ask RTE"

FRCI: "What is the connection, if any, between Sunshine Radio and Radio Caroline ?"

Tony: "None"

FRCI: "Are any of the staff on Sunshine Radio former Radio Caroline presenters?"

Tony: "Yea sure! I mean Robbie (Dale) was on Caroline, and I was on Caroline and Chris Carey was on Caroline, but I mean if you look at Radio One in England half the 'jocks on that were on Radio London and Radio Caroline and I don't think there is any connection between BBC Radio One and Radio Caroline"

(The Tony Allen interview continues on next page ...)

The Tony Allen interview - continued ...

FRCI: "But that is it, there's no other connection?"

Tony: "No! Not at all. I don't see why people should even think there is you know, it's typical of people to try and make some connection because they want a story out of it when there's no story in the first place"

FRCI: "Well possibly because they recognise the voices that used to be associated with Offshore radio"

Tony: "O.K. Fair enough, in that way if that's a proposition that people would put forward in terms of Sunshine madic, then there would have to be a connection between RTE Radio Two and ARD and BIG D because half the 'jocks on Radio Two are pirates. I'm sure there's no connection there really, it's the same thing"

FRCI: " What format does Sunshine Radio take ?"

Tony: "Well were a dance station at the moment. We're very tight, we do very little talking and play a lot of music"

FRCI: "And what do you aim to do in the future?"

Tony: "Don't know - we'll see what happens in the market place. I mean at the moment the market says determines that at the moment the people want a lot of danceable music"

FRCI: "Will Sunshine Radio be applying for a licence as presumably all the other Dublin stations will be doing?"

Tony: "I would think we would probably think about it, yes"

FRCI: "And if you do apply, what do you think your chances would be of getting it ?"

Tony: "Em, it's impossible to say who's got what chances. You know if I were the man that was giving out licences I would certainly think favourably in terms of Sunshine Radio because it sounds good and as a business operation it's well set up. It's not run as a Mickey Mouse outfit—it's not run by a bunch of Cowboys — it's professional, it's legitimate..I would look favourably on them if I were Minister for Posts & Telegraphs — certainly"

FRCI: "One final question Tony, were you aware of any animosity between yourselves and the Dublin stations in the first few weeks when the station was set up?"

Tony: "None whatsoever, let me put it this way, I personally don't have any animosity and if you tune up and down the band you will hear my voice on every station including RTE, so there's not any animosity if the re putting my voice on is there?"

FRCI: "And what about the aerial cutting?"

Tony: "Speculate all you like...as much as you want about the aerial, everybody got their own version of it. It is over and done and best forgotten. It really is. That is just sensationalist nonsense - it was frustrating at the time it happened in as much as it screwed up out time-table, our whole schedule and it was expensive"

FRCI: "That's despite the fact that a Director of Sunshine Radio was alleged to have said in the newspaper that it was a rival Dublin station that had cut it?"

Tony: "Which Director was alleged to have said it ?"

FRCI: "A Director"

Tony: "A Director - who ?"

FRCI: "Phil Solomen, I think"

Tony: "Really ? I never read that. You know, newspapers say a lot of things, newspapers love making up stories"

FREI: "Final question Tony, have you any words of wisdom to impart to FRC-IRELAND members?"

Tony: "Yea, tune into Sunshine because we're the best and, like you know, the more you listen to us the better it is - that's the only words of wisdon I've got"

FRCI: "Incredibly modest! Thanks Tony."

We received some bad news recently from the staff of European Music Radio to the effect that the station was raided on the 19th October 1980. E.M.R. first commenced transmissions in May 1976. Run on a weekly basis, the programmes consisted of music and information. It was not until May 1977 that E.M.R. opened with a full schedule - broadcasting every third Sunday in the month. In September 1978 E.M.R. added a 41 metres service to improve reception throughout Europe. December 1979 saw E.M.R. making successful test broadcasts to America. This resulted in reception reports from All over the U.S.A. and even as far as Russia.

Today, E.M.R's full programme consists of a DX-Programme, a Mail-Box programme, the Free Radio spot and various musical programmes from other countries.

The sad news id that the operators of European Music Radio have been forced to cease operations as and from 19th April 1981. You can catch E.M.R. every 3rd Sunday in the month until then. We at FRC-IRELAND wish to pay tribuite to this station and say a big 'Thank You' on behalf of all our members. A true Free Radio station.



K. MURRAY.

please write to the Editor. TELEPHONE No. (If any) TIMES OF BROADCASTING WAVENENGTH STATION NAME 242 metres daily ASHBOURNE COMMUNITY RADIO 261/265 mts/99.0 FM 373473 ARD/RADIO 257 24 hours per day 273 metres/98.6 FM 784815 BIG D RADIO (Dublin) 24 hours per day 06.00 to 02.00 hours BIG L RADIO (Limerick) 186 metres to 24.00 hours BOYNESIDE RADIO (Drogheda) 08.00 225 metres BRAY LOCAL BROADCASTING 365 metres 09.00 to 23.00 hours (021) 505861 CAPITOL RADIO (Cork) 08.00 to 02.00 hours 227 metres CAPITOL RADIO (Dublin) 742043 to 01.30 hours 08.00 226 metres CORK CITY LOCAL RADIO 08.00 to 20.00 hours 261 metres DUBLIN COMMUNITY RADIO 312 metres regular transmissions KILDARE COMMUNITY RADIO regular tranmissionss 216 metres KILKENNY COMMUNITY RADIO 217 metres 07.30 to 22.00 hours KERRY COMMUNITY RADIO regular transmissions 188 metres LIMERICK B'CASTING COMPANY regular transmissions 270 metres RADIO CAROUSEL (Dundalk) (042) 31164 265 metres/96.8FM 07.00 to 24.00 hours RADIO CITY (Dublin) 257 metres 24 hours per day RADIO DUBLIN (One) 253 mts/6317 KHz 758684 24 hours per day 240 mts/90.2 FM 758684 RADIO DUBLIN (Two) 24 hours per day RADIO NA PHOBAIL (Dublin) 245 metres no details RADIO TRALEE (Kerry) 255 metres regular transmissions SOUTHSIDE RADIO (Dunlaoghaire) 300 metres 853464 24 hours per day SUIRSIDE RADIO (Waterford) 257 metres/98.7 FM 07.00 to 24.00 hours SUNSHINE RADIO (Portmarnock) 539 metres 05.00 to 22.00 hours 460003 252 metres WATERFORD LOCAL RADIO 08.00 to 01.30 hours

STATION ADDRESSES:

A.C.R., Ashbourne, Co Meath. ARD/Radio 257, Croften Airport Hotel, Dublin 9. Big D Radio, 85 Lower Camden St., Dublin 2. Big L Radio, 13 Ellen St., Limerick. Boyneside Radio, 14 Mill Lane, Trinity Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Bray Local Broadcasting, 8 Goldsmith Terrace, Quinnsborough Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Capitol Radio, 51 Oliver Flunkett St. Cork. Capitol Radio, 36 Bachelor's walk, Dublin 1. C.C.L.R., 2A French Church Street, Cork. Kildare Community Radio, St. Martain's, Naas, Co. Kildare. K.C.R., Ballycallan Road, Kilkenny. Kerry Community Radio, Church St., Tralee, Co. Kerry. Radio Carousel, Dundalk Shopping Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Radio City, Capel Arcade, 25 Capel St., Dublin 1. Radio Dublin, 58 Inchicore Road, Dublin 8. Radio Tralee, c/o Keily's Record Shop, 4 The Mall, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Southside Radio, Hotel Victor, Rochestown Avenue, Dunlaoghaire, Co. Dublin. Suirside Radio, 50 Patrick St., Waterford. Sumshine Radio, Sands Hotel, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin. Waterford Local Radio, Waterford Shopping Centre, Waterford. W.R.I./R.C./V.O.I. c/o FRCI, 53 Charleston Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Ireland.

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Next issue: February/March 1981.

WESTSIDE RADIO INTERNATIONAL 6280 KHz

RADIO CONDOR/VOICE OF IRELAND 6243/11463 KHz

If an 'X' appears in the box on the left, then please renew your subscription as soon as possible! Enclose your name and address with payment.

> Thank you! © COPYRIGHT 1980



10.00 to 13.00 hours every Sunday

transmits Sundays

314356

This list includes only the stations

that are known to be active at the

If you know of any Free Commercial

stations currently active, and not

included in this 'Tune-In' section,

time of going to press.