

BIRMINGHAM SOUNDWAVES



ISSUE .TWO

Stop Press ! :

SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE/B'IRMINGHAM SOUNDWAVES NUMBER TWO WINTER 83

Hello there & welcome to edition2 of B'ham Soundwaves published by Sounds Alternative, the second city's most popular free radio service. The winter months put a few shivers up the spine of many a free radio operator, erecting antennas in the freezing cold or snow, but we hope to continue broadcasting throughout the winter on 255m/1188 khz.

In this edition lots of info, both legal & otherwise, I.B.A. & Community radio news, a short wave round up, Radio Caroline + other interesting snippets & oddments.

But first on with the Sounds Alternative news.....

The last couple of months have seen quite a few changes on the station, many of which are little known to you the listener. At the begining of October we reluctantly decided to adjust frequency/wavelength from 1179khz to 1188khz ---253m, although we still announce as 255meters. We realise this may reduce our transmission range inog distance, but we still cover our target area. Why move ?

This is due to our friends at the I.B.A. allocating the new I.L.R service for Stoke-Signal Radio on 256.4m-1170khz.

During the winter months radio signals traver, further due to 'skip' conditions & had we continued on 1179khz there would have been a possibility, however remote that we may create interference to adjacent stations e.g Signal 1188khz.

Our new channel of 253 is unallocated, the nearest stations occupying this wavelength are in Dublin. It is unlikely that Sounds Alternative can be heard in Eire .

You may have noticed that our music format has changed slightly. We find that our audiende prefer more Heavy Rock & Metal music during the afternoon, leaving room for more oldies & commercial album music during the morning. If you have any views on the subject why not write to us at; Sounds Alternative, Dept 255 190 Monument Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8 UU.

Two new members have joined the on air staff, Bob Barton who hosts the Metal machine show 2-3pm and former County Radio presenter Mike Richards with the midday till one slot.

We have recieved several letters informing us of the fact that Norman Nelson is a nutcase. We know that.....
The original 'moddie oldie' hosts the new Rock n Roll slot fortnightly between 1 & 2pm. Norman is the station manager of a short wave station Radio East Coast Commercial more info about their activities elsewhere in the magazine.

In order to continue & expand our operations we always welcome new staff & most important new broadcast locations. If you can assist with a site (do you live in a tower block hint hint or on high ground) why not write to us it would be most appreciated.

Listener/reader enquires

Sounds Alternative has recieved a number of questions from you regarding the legal position of broadcasting. How do you get licences & how does the 7 days pirate station gets away with it? I'll try to answer briefly.

The only stations allowed to broadcast are allowed under licence from the I.B.A or the BBC., but first decisions have to be made regarding the areas & towns that will eventually have its own station. The Home Secretary decides (no doubt with a few suggestions from broadcasting organisations) which areas will be allowed a station.

As regards commercial radio the I.B.A. advertise for someone to tender for a franchise and the I.B.A. will issue the licence to the company who comply 100% with the complex rules, red tape and regulations as exist in the authority. All stations are owned & operated by the I.B.A who also attend to all of the technical aspects of broadcasting on behalf of the station.

This style of broadcasting is very costly running into many hundreds of thousands of pounds. An unnecessary waste of money. A commercial radio station can be operated quite cheaply without little or no difference in broadcast quality. American radio operators find it difficult to believe that U.K. commercial radio is so costly.

In addition to BBC local radio there are low power stations operating to Universities and Hospitals via airwaves or by cable. Several experimental Cable Community radio stations exist under special Home Office licence. In Telford the cable station W.S.M. cost £30,000 to equip, modify and install material in the house from which it operates. A through air station would of course be cheaper as many pirates prove.

Sunshine Radio in Ludow broadcasting 7 days a week 12 hrs a day cost £3000 approx to set up (and rumour has it that they are slowly driving Radio Wyvern the legal I.B.A. station bankrupt) and provide an excellent community radio service to South Shropshire. Transmitter power 260 watts.

Free radio stations, pirates, community etc call them what you want are illegal and face a maximum fine of £1000 if caught & convicted. At the current time equipment cannot be legally confiscated if someone claims ownership. Catch 22 if one claims ownership it is likely that one will be summonsed for illegal broadcasting, however a summons could take upto 6 months to arrive for operating an illegal station. It is only after a conviction has been recorded that equipment can be legally confiscated.

This situation applies only to am/short wave and not illegal c.b. also possibly not F.M. pirate stations.

Several radio stations (pirates) operates 7 days a week awaiting summonses and meanwhile making a fortune in advertising e.g. Sunshine Radio & Radio Jackie (London) are two examples

Jackie have recently bought two large shops and do on occasions broadcast from the shop window. Radio Jackie broadcast 227m 24hrs a day 7 days a week.

In Leicester Radio Nova operate 7 days a week on 212m

Within the next year various changes in the law will make it extremely difficult for many pirates to operate due to the new Telecommunications act.

According to the Proposed Telecommunications act 1983
Section 69 , Clause 3 the inspecting officer can seize
and detain any apparatus or any other thing which
appears to have been used in connection with the
offence.....

A search warrant will not be required and the
inspecting officer on this occasion will be a
police officer as the proposed bill would allow a
policeman to seize and detain any equipment which
he thinks has been used in connection with
an offence contrary to the 1949 Wireless Telegraphy
Act. Let us hope that this section in the bill
will be scrapped. It is however unlikely that this
section of the bill will be applicable until
the Police Criminal Justice Act becomes law.
This could take up to twelve months until its
on the statute book.

Big Brother is watching you and listening to you.
Confusing is it not. Any enquiries

Sounds Alternative 253m 1188 khz

Schedule fortnightly Sundays from 10 am onwards.

Transmitter power maximum input 80 watts.

Antenna, Usually Quarter Wave Long Wire .

Current on air staff; Keith Rogers, Rick Marks, Bob Barton,
Mike Richards, Norman Nelson, Dave Marshall, Steve Munne
and Andy Duncan.

Any assistance appreciated, particularly sites &
permanent phone line for on air use (announcements).

With Xmas approaching we plan to be active over the
holiday period. Plans are not yet finalised but
tune to 253m from 10 Or 11am Xmas & Boxing day
and into the new year. We will most likely be there.
Happy Listening & Seasons Greetings.

Sounds Alternative Winter 1983.



To
 Time
 S.I.N.P.O.
 DATE
 FREQ



Radio East coast Commercial is one of the many and one of the most popular short wave free radio stations broadcasting to Western Europe (and sometimes beyond) every Saturday. Reception in the U.K. varies but is usually audible on 7317 khz.

East Coast operate on two channels alternatively with the following schedule;

1st & 3rd Saturdays 7317khz 41 metre band

2nd & 4th Saturdays 11586khz 26 metre band

Any 5th Sat that occur will be taken as a rest day

One of the most popular shows is the DX programme hosted by Norman Nelson & Jill Peters and can be heard on the 1st & 2nd Saturdays of the month. The regular DJ line up is; Steve James, Norman Nelson, Pete Edwards & Dave Silver.

Both transmitters are of the self oscillating type with a 2 stage modulator driving the 807 valve up bieng; ECC81.616. Outout is approx 12watts with the antenna bieng a half wave Inverted V Centre Fed Dipole.

During the winter months Eats Coast can be heard further away, reception reports recieved from the U.S.A. and Argentina.

Free Radio - A Brief Introduction

Free or "Pirate" radio stations are to be found broadcasting mainly at weekends across the whole spectrum of the radio broadcast bands if only radio listeners will take the time and trouble to tune away from their beloved BRMB or Radio 1 .

Free radio stations fall into two categories :-

- (a) Stations which are operated completely voluntarily and are run on a hobby basis providing enjoyment to both presenter and listener .
- (b) Stations which have been set up as commercial ventures with a view to possible future legalisation and which intend to raise operating finance through advertising .

Stations aiming for a local audience will be found alongside their legal big brothers in the medium wave and vhf FM broadcast bands whilst those stations aiming for an international audience will opt for the short wave bands .

Most of the short wave stations operate in the European 48 metre band although there are some stations that prefer to use the European 41 metre band and a very small number which operate in the 31 , 26 and 19 metre bands .

Over a period of years these short wave stations have carved out their own small section of the 48 and 41 metre bands using the regions 6200 kHz - 6320 kHz and 7295 kHz - 7400 kHz respectively .

Broadcasts from the commercially based stations such as Radio Jackie, Radio Sovereign and Skyline Radio in London , Radio Nova in Leicester and Sunshine Radio in Ludlow can be heard 7 days a week and operate in the medium wave band to achieve the maximum possible local coverage area .

Over in Ireland the legal situation enables most major Irish towns to have their own local independant radio station and Dublin in particular is home to four large illegally operating Super Pirates

Radio Nova , Sunshine Radio , Radio Dublin and KISS - FM .

However it is amongst the hobby stations that perhaps the widest variety of entertainment is to be found from the weekend stations that may put out as little as just one hours programming once a month to the station that has the staff and capability to produce and air ten or more hours each and every week .

There are even stations that have sufficient transmitter availability to appear with parallel outlets and often broadcast on a series of frequencies in the medium wave band or short wave band or use a combination of both medium wave , vhf FM and short wave .

Free radio stations are by no means unique to Britain or Europe , there are stations in North America , Australia and New Zealand and occassionally during the winter months a few of these stations will attempt broadcasts aimed at acheiving European reception over the short wave bands .

Similarly there are a number of European stations that make test broadcasts in the early hours of Sunday mornings hoping that there are a few dedicated listeners and radio enthusiasts getting reception over the other side of the Atlantic in North America .

The majority of free radio stations operate on Sunday mornings although there are some exceptions of stations that broadcast at other times on Saturdays and some on weekday evenings .

The free radio scene has grown considerably over the past 5 or 6 years from a situation when here in Birmingham one was lucky to hear 5 short wave stations broadcasting each Sunday morning , let alone a medium wave station , to that which exists today when up to twenty or more stations can be heard on the various bands .

Way back in the 1960's when the offshore stations were at their peak no one even entertained the idea of establishing a commercially orientated Pirate station on land and yet today there are people prepared to take that risk to set up a 7 day-a-week station .

In London there are possibly as many as twenty stations broadcasting through the week , fifteen or so on Merseyside and here in the West

Midlands - well there are just five :-

Sounds Alternative
County Radio
EST - Electronic Sound Transmission
UK Radio
and Sunshine Radio - the Ludlow based commercial Community
Radio Station

Short wave stations operate mainly from Ireland , Holland and the United Kingdom although there are a few stations scattered through France , Belgium , West Germany , Denmark , Italy , Norway and Sweden.

Since the majority of the stations are hobby based there is always the possibility that things will go wrong so it is important to be patient and understanding when tuning across the bands to check if your favourite station is on air or when tuning around to find if there is anything new .

Most stations succeed in keeping to their announced broadcast schedule and all stations will be more than pleased if you take the time to write to them with suggestions , dedications , record requests and reception reports .

Remember that all these stations are operating outside of the law even though most would prefer that this was not the case and that they run the risk of prosecution . Budgets do not provide the vast financial resources that are available to organisations like the BBC. When you write to a free radio station always remember to enclose return postage in the form of mint stamps or a stamped self addressed envelope if the station is based here in Britain or International Reply Coupons if the station is based overseas .

International Reply Coupons can be purchased at most Main Post Offices and currently cost 30 pence .

To illustrate the wide range of stations that can be heard here in Birmingham we have produced a survey of the free radio stations that have been heard on medium wave , short wave and vhf FM during the months of October and November .

Good Listening and Stay Happy

Neal West

Survey of Medium Wave , Short Wave and VHF FM Free Radio Stations
.....

Radio Time
P.O. Box 79
Scandicci
Firenze
I - 50018
Italy

7105 kHz 41 metre band short wave
every Saturday and Sunday morning

Radio Milano International
Via Locatelli 6
Milano
I - 20124
Italy

7295 kHz 41 metre band short wave
every Saturday and Sunday morning

Radio Victoria
P.O. Box 1214
Bad Homburg
D - 6380
West Germany

relays are carried each Saturday and
Sunday morning by both Radio Time
and Radio Milano International

Radio East Coast Commercial
32 Victoria Road
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP1 3NG

7317 kHz 41 metre band short wave every
1st and 3rd Saturday morning
11584 kHz 26 metre band short wave
every 2nd and 4th Saturday morning
Programmes are on air between 0800
and 1330 UTC

Radio Dublin
58 Inchicore Road
Inchicore
Dublin 8
Ireland

6910 kHz 44 metre band short wave and
1188 kHz medium wave Daily

Radio Lynda International
RLI (use initials only)
P.O. Box 13
Falkirk
Scotland

broadcasts most weekends on Sunday
mornings and occasionally on Saturday
mornings in either 48 or 41 metre bands
short wave . Frequencies include
6230 kHz 48 metre band and between
7315 kHz and 7330 kHz 41 metre band

Sunshine Radio
8 - 11 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

531 kHz medium wave Daily

Radio Nova
19 Herbert Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

819 kHz medium wave Daily

Sunshine Radio
P.O. Box 299
Ludlow
Shropshire

1017 kHz medium wave Daily

Radio Brigitte
P.O. Box 10
Rouveen
7954 ZG
Holland

broadcasts usually once a month on
6295 kHz 48 metre band short wave on
Sunday morning
Logged : 2 October 1983

Radio Del Mare
P.O. Box 36
Antwerp
B - 2050
Belgium

6205 kHz 48 metre band short wave every
Sunday morning and early afternoon
Radio Del Mare often relays other
stations on Saturdays or Sundays such
as Free Radio Service Holland and
Radio 49 International

Radio Caroline
P.O. Box 69504
Los Angeles
California
CA 90069
United States of America

963 kHz medium wave Daily

EST
Electronic Sound Transmission
Box 943
190 Monument Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham B16 8UU

94.3 MHz FM every Sunday between 11 am
and 2 pm and relayed in 41 metre band
short wave every 1st Sunday
7375 kHz and 7350 kHz have been used
so far

Free Radio Service Holland
P.O. Box 41
Dedemsvaart
7700 AA
Holland

can be heard every 1st Sunday morning
in the 41 metre band on 7315 kHz and
relayed in 48 metre band by Radio Del
Mare on 6205 kHz

Radio Krypton
134 Eastworth Road
Chertsey
Surrey KT16 8DT

every Sunday morning from 1100 UTC on
6261 kHz 48 metre band short wave
(announced as 6265 kHz)
This station is very reluctant to reply
to listeners letters

Radio Madison
P.O. Box 41
Dedemsvaart
7700 AA
Holland

a new station heard recently in the
48 metre band
Logged : 2 October 1983 6267 kHz
30 October 1983 6308 kHz

Radio Caroline International
P.O. Box 1
Brandon
Suffolk

was heard for the last time on 6310 kHz
48 metre band short wave on Sunday
30 October 1983

Weekend Music Radio
42 Arran Close
Cambridge

broadcasts on a variety of frequencies
in the 48 metre band short wave
Logged : 2 October 1983 6240 kHz
23 October 1983 6240 &
6265 kHz

Radio Europa International
P.O. Box 1
Perinaldo Imperia
I - 18030
Italy

9420 kHz 31 metre band every Sunday
morning

County Radio
P.O. Box 319
Edenbridge
Kent TN8 6QE

every Sunday afternoon and evening on
94.4 MHz FM between 12 noon and 11 pm
appears at Bank Holidays with relays on
1323 kHz medium wave and short wave 48
or 41 metre band

Radio 49 International
c/o 3 Rosewarne Cottages
Rosewarne Downs
Camborne
Cornwall TR14 OBE

has recently started relay broadcasts
via Radio Del Mare on Saturday mornings
on 6205 kHz 48 metre band short wave
Logged : 8 October 1983
29 October 1983

UK Radio
P.O. Box 144
Wolverhampton WV3 OUL

broadcasts every Saturday evening on
94.2 MHz FM from 7 pm and occasionally
on Sunday mornings on 7353 kHz 41 metre
band short wave

Radio Pacific International
c/o 3 Rosewarne Cottages
Rosewarne Downs
Camborne
Cornwall TR14 OBE

a recent addition to the short wave bands
having commenced relay broadcasts via
Radio Ireland International on 6298 kHz
and more recently 6310 kHz 48 metre band
short wave
Logged : 9 October 1983
23 October 1983

Capital Radio International
North Street
Swords
County Dublin
Ireland

every Sunday morning on 6268 kHz
48 metre band short wave

World Music Radio
P.O. Box 4078
Amsterdam
1009 AB
Holland

6910 kHz 44 metre band short wave via
Radio Dublin every Sunday morning
between 0545 and 1000 UTC for European
reception and again on Monday between
0200 and 0615 UTC for worldwide
reception

Sounds Alternative
Department 255
190 Monument Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham B16 8UU

every other Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm
or 7 pm on 1188 kHz (this may revert
back to the former 1179 kHz)
appears regularly at Bank Holidays
with broadcasts on both Sundays and
Mondays

Premier Radio International
139 Ballyfermot Road
Dublin 10
Ireland

every Sunday morning on 6218 kHz 48
metre band short wave

Radio Ireland International
103B Dublin Industrial Estate
Glasnevin
Dublin 11
Ireland

every Sunday morning on 6298 kHz 48
metre band short wave or more recently
6310 kHz

Eastcoast Radio International
24 Joyce Road
Drumcondra
Dublin 9
Ireland

used to broadcast every Sunday morning
on 6210 kHz 48 metre band short wave
but is closed down at present

Britain Radio International
32 Victoria Road
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP1 3NG

every 4th Sunday morning (and 5th
Sunday when one occurs) on 6225 kHz
48 metre band short wave but has lately
suffered from other music stations and
SSB/QSO stations occupying this channel
resulting in BRI having to move to either
6220 kHz or 6228 kHz to escape interference

Radio Atlantic 2000 International
P.O. Box 41
Dedemsvaart
7700 AA
Holland

every 2nd and 4th Sunday morning usually
in the 41 metre band short wave between
7315 kHz and 7340 kHz

Radio Free City
17 Glendevon Road
Edinburgh
Scotland

has only recently returned to short wave
broadcasting and gives schedule as 2nd
and 4th Sunday mornings on 6275 kHz 48
metre band short wave

KLA Radio
16 Windmill Lane
Long Ditton
Surrey

is another station that has just moved
back to short wave broadcasting and is
announcing a two weekly schedule on
7335 kHz 41 metre band short wave

Radio Mi Amigo International
P.O. Box 627
Hengelo
7550 AP
Holland

broadcasts very irregularly on 6225 kHz
48 metre band short wave
Logged : 23 October 1983

Bulldog Radio
65 Poplar Avenue
Gravesend
Kent

broadcasts very irregularly on 6270 kHz
48 metre band short wave

Radio Gemini
10 Apsley Grange
London Road
Apsley
Hertfordshire

broadcasts only 3 or 4 times a year
usually between 6230 kHz and 6240 kHz
in the 48 metre band short wave
Radio Gemini can be guaranteed to have
an Anniversary broadcast in late October
or early November having first started
broadcasting in November 1972

Radio Freedom International
Department R
67 Elm Row
Edinburgh EH7 4AQ

broadcasts regularly in the 48 metre band
short wave on 6230 kHz and has been
announcing parallel outlets on 97.5 MHz
FM for local reception in Edinburgh and
also 15040 kHz 19 metre band

Radio Apollo International
P.O. Box 319
Edenbridge
Kent TN8 6QE

broadcasts every 6 to 8 weeks with
programmes in either 48 or 41 metre band
short wave
Logged : 6 November 1983 7330 kHz

Radio 48
32 Victoria Road
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP1 3NG

broadcasts every 3 months or so in the
48 metre band short wave
Logged : 6 November 1983 6240 kHz

Radio Xanadu
42 Northcote Road
West Croydon
Surrey

broadcasts irregularly usually on
6300 kHz 48 metre band short wave
Logged : 6 November 1983

Mi Amigo Radio International
North Street
Swords
County Dublin
Ireland

broadcasts every Sunday morning on
6285 kHz 48 metre band short wave or
more recently 6245 kHz

Westside Radio International
53 Chaleston Road
Ranelagh
Dublin 6
Ireland

every Sunday morning on 6280 kHz 48
metre band short wave and occassionally
11463 kHz 26 metre band

Radio Enterprise
P.O. Box 1190
Dublin 10
Ireland

every Sunday morning on 6317 kHz 48
metre band short wave but has been
missing some Sundays recently

WLS
World Listening Service
14 Queens Drive
Narborough
Leicester

every 1st and 3rd Sunday morning on
6225 kHz 48 metre band short wave

Radio Enoch

no address known
or desired

this is Britain's one and only
clandestine right wing political
propaganda station which appears from
time to time in the 41 metre band short
wave usually in the region 7315 kHz -
7340 kHz

Radio Walvisbaai International
P.O. Box 41
Elburg
8080 AA
Holland

broadcasts very irregularly
Logged : 23 October 1983 7325 kHz

KBC Radio
P.O. Box 725
Arnhem
Holland

broadcasts irregularly on either 6262 kHz
or 6225 kHz 48 metre band short wave

There are a number of other stations that can be heard here in the West Midlands when reception conditions are good and providing the receiver is used in conjunction with an efficient aerial such as a long wire or medium wave loop antenna .

Boyneside Radio
Donnaghy's Mill
Trinity Street
Drogheda
County Meath
Ireland

1305 kHz medium wave Daily

Eastside Radio - ERI
117 Patrick Street
Cork
Ireland

1305 kHz medium wave Daily

South Coast Radio
40 St Lukes Cross
Cork
Ireland

1566 kHz medium wave Daily

Radio Jackie
West Molesey
Surrey

1323 kHz medium wave to South West
London Daily

Radio Nova
21 Amanda Road
Leicester

1404 kHz medium wave to Leicester
..... Daily

Community Radio Fingal
Castle Shopping Centre
Swords
County Dublin
Ireland

1575 kHz medium wave Daily

Treble TR Radio
Apollo Cinema
Harty Avenue
Walkistown
Dublin
Ireland

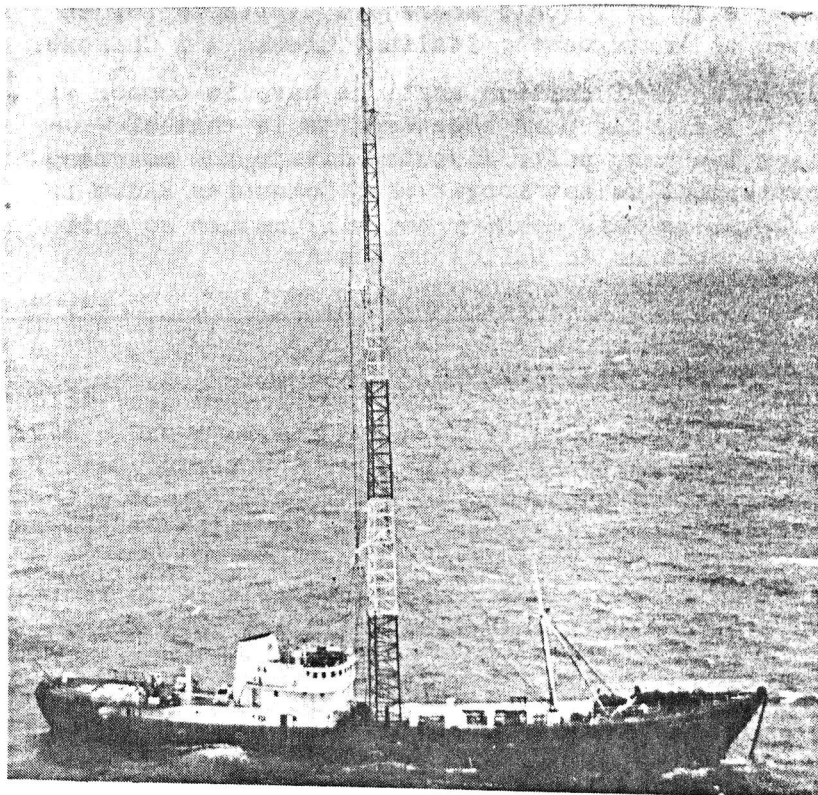
945 kHz medium wave Daily

Radio East Coast are a fun station who take things seriously and be contacted at;
Radio East Coast Commercial, 32 Victoria Road, Salsbury ,
Wiltshire, England SP1 3NG.
Thanks Norman for the QSL card.

Radio Caroline still continues on 963 khz 0600-0200 and programming continues to improve, not too much disco music and a few more album & occasional 'heavy rock ' track. The planned commencement of advertising from Oct 1st did not materialize but transmitter power has increased from its original 17kw. For more Caroline info why not buy the latest edition of Monitor magazine no 25. An excellent publication with details and over 15 photos of the new ship , studios etc. Monitor is available from;

31, Avondale Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 1EH

For 40pence including postage



Community Radio News.

Following the first meeting of the community radio association in B'ham last May, a second gathering was arranged for the 25th Sept. in Manchester. People involved with the movement had enthusiastic hopes for this meeting, so it was dissapointing to find that less than 20 people attended., according to C R A secretary Simon Partridge, "The turnout was dissappointing but I don't think it was counter productive.

It is now unlikely that the C R A will meet again until the next community conference to be held next April in Leicester.

The Community Radio Association can be contacted at
92 Huddleston Rd, LONDON N7 OEC.2 Tel. 01 263 6692.

On the international scene, last August 600 delegates from 31 countries, attended a week long conference in Montreal, Canada, on the subject of community broadcasting. Stations attending ranged from the recently legalised operations in France, low power in Belgium and Scandinavia outfits to high power 100KW stations in Minnesota U S A, serving over 200,000 listeners!! Britain doesn't have anything to equal the community stations in Canada, e.g. in Toronto where are available for the ethnic minorities of Portuguese, Italian, Greeks and Chinese.

The only thing that British stations have in common with its European & North American counterparts is that of enthusiasm, two many petty disputes divide the movement in this country. Let us not forget that Community Radio is still illegal in this country and will remain so while the population continue to wallow in apathy

Sporadic? E Layer Disturbances

This is the term used to describe freak FM/VHF radio conditions on your T.V. & Radio set. Did you notice anything strange over the period Oct 21, 22, 23? Interesting things happening in B'ham, & District with BBC T.V. signals almost dissapearing due to interference from Belgium T.V. on the 21st Oct.

On the radio scene it was pleasing to be able to receive so many stations between 97-108mhz. On oct 23rd French &

Begum whoops Belgium stations blasting through on a10 FM transistor radio. Listening on the HiFi at 0830 hrs to a Flemish pirate station Radio Maeva in stereo ,i couldnt understand a damm word but the music was interesting.....

On the T.V. scene without any real difficulty in tuning we recieved between 0930-1130 approx German tv programmes complete with subtitles and nuerous test cards from Dutch PTT NOS in Holland. At the time Central T.V. were showing an awfull paint along progra mme, so a tune to Germany for a sunday morning arts show. Pacinating.

Also during the following week several Isrish pirates were audible including Radio Nova on 88mhz FM & Sunshine 101mhz. It makes me wonder exactly what could have recieved with a good antena system.

News & Jottings.....

Good news for all I.B.A. supporters. Leicsters commercial station Center Radio on 238mx has gone bankrupt..... Apparently the station spent £600,000 out of a total of £750,000 on the studio+ building complex. The I.B.A. are now advertising for a new contractor & have rejected a bid from two ex directors for a take over bld. It was decided to relay Radio Trent from Nottingham on 238 until a new station commences. However this created trouble with the broadcasting unions ,all asuggestions were scrapped until agreements had been reached. Currently 238 is still a ctive with a high pitched test tone..... Meanwhile parts of Leicster can recieve the pirate Radio Nova 7 days a week best of luck to them.

B'ham Soundwaves no 2 Winter 1983. Available free to listeners to Sounds Alternative .20p p'us sae to non listeners.....

I.B.A. Meeting in B'ham.

On October the 24th. a public meeting was held by the I.B.A. in B'ham Town Hall, the purpose of which was to consult the public about the future of B.R.M.B. radio. It's franchise was advertised and faced competition from only one rival group, a consortium calling itself Radio Heartland.

Heartland proposals were interesting, their idea was to break the stranglehold of chart music, disc jockeys and phone ins, and intended providing programming different from the sound alike stations that exist in most major cities. The music format would be of a sweet sound (easy listening) at suitable times of day and night, and would not play music that would exclude one section of the audience.

Presenters would be allowed to play some of their own choice of music, while sticking to the format and the music would play a large part of the stations output. Heartland's submission suggested the splitting of the medium wave and F.M., with minority language programmes and 'heavier' music aired in good listening hours on F.M. only.

News and Information would be delivered not in a ponderous way, but at speed consistent with understanding. Bulletins would contain what was interesting and informative, and rumours and gossip would be ignored.

However there were several omissions from the Heartland summary, one of which was no mention of sport, (this seemed odd as one director happened to be Doug Ellis, Chairman of Aston Villa F.C.) Certain elements at the Town Hall had great pleasure in pointing out this fact, which no doubt pleased the I.B.A. committee.

B.R.M.B.'s reapplication consisted mainly of details of the stations achievements over the years, such as the 'Susan Friend' charity appeal, the success of which the station owed to the generous B'ham public who contributed thousands of pounds, to this very worthy cause.

The meeting was a forgone conclusion in 90 minutes, I only heard one voice that did not support the continuation of B.R.M.B. Several councillors felt that a change of station would be undesirable and against the interest of community relations, and the people of B'ham, positive resistance to change, commonplace in radio circles.

At the time of writing the I.B.A. are considering both applications, but on evidence of the public meeting, it seems that B.R.M.B. will be allowed to continue for another eight years.

KEITH ROGERS.

NOVEMBER 1983.

Local B'ham & surrounding areas activities.

Sounds Alternative 255m fortnightly Sundays, from 10am.

County Radio 94.4mhz fm every Sunday with a top 40 music format from 1300 hrs until 2300 hrs.

County Radio address P.O. Box 319 Edenbridge, Kent.

Sunshine Radio 299m 12 hours a day, 7 days a week broadcasting to South Shropshire with 260 watts of power. Sunshine were in court in September to face charges, the case was adjourned, next date unknown.
Address, P.O. Box 299, Ludlow, Shropshire.

In Walsall plans are afoot for an FM service to the town on an as yet unannounced channel. Several staff involved are ex Sounds Alternative presenters. More details in the next (hopeful) edition of B'ham Soundwaves.
Next issue available Spring 1984.

Many thanks to all our contributors including Neil West, Norman Nelson and all other sources of info', many of which wish to remain secret at the request of the mselves.

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