

Free Radio Campaign, Ireland.

«SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE»

THE ONLY IRISH FREE RADIO MAGAZINE.

* **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** *
★ Dublin Transmitter of Independant Broadcasting ① ★

 **222m** QSL

for K. M. O. RAY
date SUNDAYS
time 8.00 & 11.00 AM
freq. 222m MW
aerial INVERTED-V

best of 73's

(SAMPLE Q.S.L.)

c/o 13 The Chase
Crawley
Sussex
RH10 6HW

MAG No1.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER.

1977.



IRISH FREE RADIO IS **ALIVE**

I HAVE a choice of stations, Piccadilly and Radio City, and both station formats sound exactly the same to me. Local commercial radio isn't much better than Radio One, which I find is a big load of rubbish. My contender for the best station is Radio Caroline, which is free of government censorship and was responsible for pop radio in Britain. Without Radio Caroline to listen to, I think I would throw all my seven radios in the nearest lake.
D. Wallace, Horwich, Lancashire.

SKULL AND BONES RADIO SYSTEM.

TO: KIERAN MURRAY (F.R.C.I.)

DATE: SUNDAYS

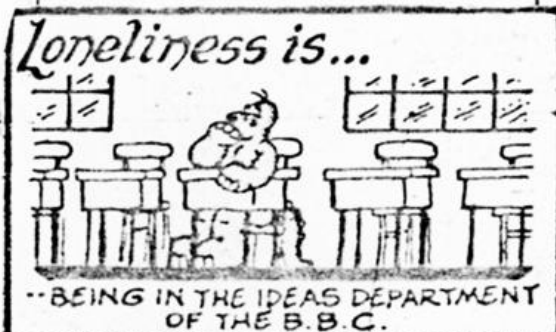
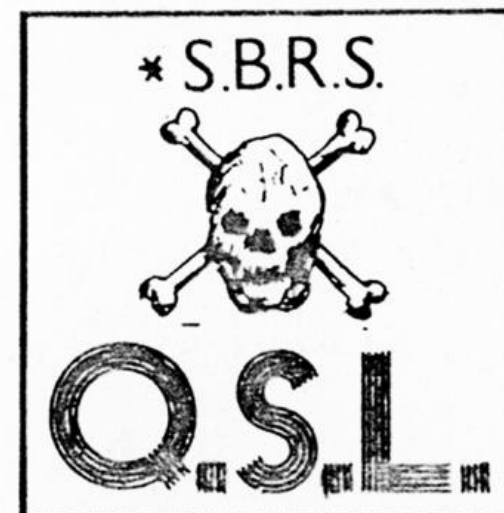
TIME: 10.00pm TO 12.00

FREQUENCY: 6265/6275 KHZ

OUTPUT POWER: 40 WATTS

ANTENNA: (SAMPLE Q.S.L.)

WITH THANKS AND BEST WISHES!



'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' is a quarterly publication of

F.R.C. Ireland, 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.

Annual subscription:- £1.00 (Ireland and Britain), £1.20 (Europe).

HELLO THERE!

WELCOME TO EDITION NUMBER ONE OF 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'. THE NAME WAS SUGGESTED TO US BY FRC MEMBER LESLIE ANDERSON - AND FOR THAT WE'RE GIVING HIM A YEARS FREE MEMBERSHIP! AS YOU CAN SEE WE'RE STILL AT OUR OLD ADDRESS. DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE HAD TO CANCEL PLANS. ANYWAY, THE MAIL STILL KEPT COMING IN AND WE HAVE - AS USUAL - A NEWSPACKED EDITION OF THE MAG. ONE IMPROVEMENT I'M SURE ALL MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS MORE PAGES. THAT, WE SHALL BE DOING, AND IN THE NEXT EDITION (OUT NOVEMBER) WE'LL HAVE 6 PAGES. HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS EDITION AND FIND IT INFORMATIVE. BE SURE TO WRITE AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' AND WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN THE MAGAZINE.

Kieran Murray, EDITOR.



WHAT HAPPENED RADIO DUBLIN ?.....

Casual listeners to RADIO DUBLIN will have noticed a change in the stations presenters, programming and format. Whether this 'change' is for better, or worse, is for you, the listeners to decide. But to get back to our heading 'WHAT HAPPENED RADIO DUBLIN ?' - basically, it was a disagreement over station policy between THE CAPTAIN (engineer) and DOCTOR DON (D.J.) It was a make or break situation, with the future of the station and its chances of legalisation in the balance. DOCTOR DON resigned from the station and with him went PRINCE TERRY and PAUL DOWNEY. That just left THE CAPTAIN. The D.J's from PREMIER ATLANTIS RADIO - JIMMY ST. LEDGER, ALISTER MAC and JOHNNY DAY - came and filled the slots vacated by the former members. A new female D.J. (SYLVIA) joined the station and works full time. The wavelength remains the same - 253 metres/1185 kilohertz - only the address has changed to: 20 RANELAGH, DUBLIN 6.

In July, DOCTOR DON joined forces with ALTERNATIVE RADIO DUBLIN, a station that started exactly one year ago as an alternative to RADIO DUBLIN! A.R.D. moved from its old wavelength of 217 metres to 257 metres/1165 khz. PAUL DOWNEY and PRINCE TERRY also joined A.R.D. and the mailing address is: 1 STREAMSTOWN, MALAHIDE, CO. DUBLIN.

++It's amazing what a bit of ol' competition can do! - Ed.++

FRC-SCOTLAND'S AIR MAGAZINE issue 4. On sale from mid-September, with all the latest news and ideas on Free Radio in the 70's. Send a large S.A.E. plus 40p to:- FRC-SCOTLAND, 52 St Enoch Sq, Glasgow G1 4AA, Scotland.

THE HISTORY OF RADIO SEAGULL.....

Radio Seagull was first formed as RADIO RAHENY in July 1976 with a small transmitter and an inverted L aerial, this gave a range of about 2 miles. Transmissions at that time were mainly of experimental and test nature and consisted mostly of music. The hours and dates of transmission from then until April 1977 were a bit erratic.

In April Radio Raheny changed its name to RADIO SEAGULL, increased its power and changed its location. It was then that the V aerial was erected. It has since undergone modification to increase transmission distance and to improve clarity.

In late May RADIO SEAGULL increased the transmitter power and began to settle to a steadier timetable. In July the gear was modified to reduce transmission hum and to improve the signal strength. By the end of July we had arrived at our present timetable.

Our aim as a radio station is to play mainly album tracks usually of a progressive nature. This includes both old and New Wave music as this is not a service given by the state station. Our call sign is: "This is RADIO SEAGULL broadcasting on 263 metres on the Medium Wave - that's a frequency of 1200 kilohertz." In the near future we intend to use the song 'Sister Seagull' by Be Bop Deluxe as our signature tune.

Transmission time: 10.00am to 8.00pm Sat & Sun. Wavelength: 263 metres. Frequency: 1200 kilohertz. Aerial: 130 feet copper wire V shape, end fed by 75 ohm co-axial cable. Height: 28 feet (approx). Equipment: Single BSR deck with ceramic mono cartridge. Mono domestic cassette recorder. Mono valve reel to reel tape recorder which functions as both modulator and amplifier. Transmitter: Home designed and built, Hartley v.f. oscillator, powered by a 15 volt 2A rectified mains supply. Power output: 15 watts, which, with present aerial, gives SINPO ratings of 54334 at 8 miles.

++This station can be contacted via FRCI's address-Ed++ THE RENEGADE KID and JOHN COLUMBIA, R.S.

Just out! "IRISH FREE RADIO IS ALIVE" mini-stickers. 25p for 30, 50p for 100, 75p for 200, £1.00 for 350 and £2.25 for 400.++OUR SPECIAL RECEPTION REPORT FORMS ALSO AVAILABLE. 5p for 2 forms, 10p for 4 forms, 15p for 6 forms, etc.++Caroline Car Stickers: 3 for 5p plus SAE, Mi Amigo Car Stickers: 3 for 5p plus SAE.++P.O.'s or Cheques should be made out to: KIERAN MURRAY, and sent together with your name & address to: FRC-IRELAND, 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6, Ireland.....

3 FLASHBACK: THE GOLDEN DAY OF FREE RADIO.....

Sunday, September 10th, 1972 must have been the most memorable day for Irish Free Radio. On that day, no less than five stations were on the air - each with its own individual format. 300 metres came alive with the sound of RADIO MELINDA at 11.00am. This station had a good variety of music, from Top 20 to Oldies! At 12.00 midday on 253 metres came RADIO DUBLIN - a heavy rock 'progressive' station. At 1.00pm on 217 metres came RADIO LAXEY - mainly 'Old Time' music. At 2.00pm two more stations opened up:- RADIO VALLERI on 196 metres and RADIO CAROLINE on 227m. This gave us the best Free Radio choice we ever had. However, except for RADIO VALLERI and RADIO DUBLIN, the rest had no 'sticking power' - and unfortunately it's this that counts if you are to survive. (Based on an article that appeared in 'NEWSLETTER' No.1).

"CAPITAL CATCHING UP WITH RADIO ONE.....

London's commercial radio station Capital Radio is fast catching up with BBC Radio One for its city audience, the first national survey of commercial radio stations shows. Capital has increased its audience by 100,000 in the last six months bringing their total number to a staggering 4,212,000, a 23 per cent share of the London radio audience, compared with Radio One's 23.89 per cent. Meanwhile, Wolverhampton's Beacon Radio was found to be listened to by approximately a third of the population." - From Record Mirror, 16-7-77.

THE FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN IS KEEPING FREE RADIO ALIVE IN IRELAND - PLEASE HELP US BY RECRUITING ANOTHER MEMBER, WRITING TO THE PAPERS AND LOBBYING YOUR LOCAL T.D. - HELP US IN ANY WAY YOU CAN.

THE RADIO DUBLIN NEWS RAP.....

So much has been happening on the BIG D scene that rather than try to squeeze it into the Newsdesk section, we've given it a column of its own....New RADIO DUBLIN D.J. SYLVIE doing well for herself with promotion by the SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, SUNDAY WORLD and SCENE magazine....RADIO DUBLIN D.J. FOR VOICE OF PEACE - DAVE C has joined the broadcasting staff of the Peace Ship. DAVE is the first Irish D.J. ever to be on the station. We hope to have a first hand account of his experience in the February Edition No.3. You read it first in 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'.....During the recent elections, RADIO DUBLIN had an 'ELECTION SPECIAL' - a first for any pirate. Also, the programme ran for 24 hours from 10.00pm Friday to 10.00pm Saturday, June 18th, with 1,000 watts. This was another 'first' for the station as no station (either pirate or state controlled) has ever broadcast for 24 hours in this country!.....The Editor had a very good time at the RADIO DUBLIN DISCO on Wed. July 20th. It took place at the Ormond Hotel from 7.00pm to 11.30pm. This was the largest crowd ever seen at a BIG D get-together. Great time had by all, including a visit by KEN RYAN of 'SCENE' magazine...At the end of July, RADIO DUBLIN presented their biggest ever spectacle yet: 'THE AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL' - this show began at 2.00pm Saturday, July 30th, and went right through to 2.00am Tuesday, August 2nd 1977. A total of 60 hours continuous broadcasting was accomplished; while 1,610 phone calls were received! D.J.'s who took part in the marathon include: ALISTER MAC, DEREK JONES (of RADIO VALLERI), SYLVIE, ARNO ST JUDE (of A.R.D.), ROLAND BURKE, JOHNNY DAY, KEN RYAN (Editor of 'SCENE' magazine), JIMMY ST. LEDGER, KENNETH EDWARDS (the original founder of RADIO DUBLIN back in 1966), MARK BOLAND (of WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO), D.J. FRANCIS (of RADIO CAROLINE), PAUL DOWNEY (taped show), BIG GER, PEADER COUGHLIN, BILLY THE KID and KENNETH MURPHY (who is your FRC Editor!)....August 14th was marked on the B ? D by an 'OFFSHORE SPECIAL' - presented by JIMMY ST LEDGER.....

"LOCAL RADIO.....

At a time when the country is in such a shambles, its ridiculous that RTE should be forging ahead with plans to introduce the second channel. We don't need a second channel. One's enough. A much more sensible proposition would be to set up local radio stations throughout the country, - a plan R.T.E. seems to have shelved. Local radio could provide a valuable service to the community by giving a much needed means of expression to local interests around the country."

++Extract from an article by KIERAN FLYNN which appeared in 'SCENE' magazine, June Edition++

SKULL AND BONES RADIO SYSTEM.....

The staff of S.B.R.S. consists of D.J.'s MICK TAYLOR, THE FREAKY PHANTOM, AL STEWARD and myself GARY ST. JOHN. We all wanted to start a station - but a station with a 'wierd' name. Hence: "SKULL AND BONES RADIO SYSTEM", getting its name from the Free Radio symbol. We got two different locations and set up all the gear which consists of four BSR mono decks, two tape decks and two mono 4-channel mixers. We've just commenced transmissions on Short Wave, 6265.5 khz. ++More on this station in our November Edition - Ed++

CAROLINE CAR STICKERS. Monster 23 inch plastic self-adhesive CAROLINE car stickers. Red lettering on white background with the message: "CAROLINE on 319m, the voice of Loving Awareness from the North Sea." Send 20p (Ireland & U.K.) or 3 I.R.C's (Europe) together with an unstamped addressed envelope to: BCM - BRFM, London, WC1V 6XX, England. Mention 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' Ta!

FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN IRELAND - NEWSDESK.....

We get off to a bad start this month by reporting that RADIO CITY (whose article we featured in 'NEWSLETTER') were raided on Sat., 14th May at about 4.30pm. Tx taken.....RADIO NORTHSEA INTERNATIONAL now broadcasting test programmes on 6210 khz from off the coast of Libya.....We were sorry to see that the Living Free Radio Society has disbanded.....Yours truly had the pleasure of meeting D.J. FRANCIS from RADIO CAROLINE. Good to hear you on RADIO DUBLIN - sing out for Irish Free Radio!!.....Compliments to EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO for their very fast and efficient replies. Thanks BARRY, for the photo of your transmitter!.....RADIO CAROLINE which was absent from your dials for some time now, has returned on 312 metres.....and talking of CAROLINE, TONY ALLEN was heard asking listeners to make donations to the station c/o their Rosas address in Spain - or are my ears deceiving me?.....Tune in and turn on to RADIO VALLERI on 6202 khz every Sunday morning at 10.00am for good sounds. D.J.'s are DEREK JONES and MIKE ANDERSON. R.V. is Ireland's ONLY Short Wave Free Radio station.....DOCTOR DON back on the air after a short retirement. He's joined the staff of ALTERNATIVE RADIO DUBLIN, 257 metres. In a statement to the FRC Editor, Don said: "This new station is going to be the biggest thing in the history of Irish Free Radio, for a long time to come." A.R.D. officially recommenced transmissions on Sun., July 31st. As well as the transmission on 257 metres, the station can be picked up on 525 and 207 metres with good strength.....A new station called RADIO PANDORA began official programming on Sun., July 24th. The frequency was 227 metres, power 20 watts.....Contrary to our policy of not advertising State Radio, we're going to make a slight exception here. Tune in to 'THE BEST OF DISCO AND SOUL MUSIC' - presented by ROBBIE VINCENT (ex. RADIO LONDON) on Radio One, 247 metres and Stereo VHF, every Saturday at 5.30pm. The show only lasts one hour but we highly recommend that you give it a listen - you won't find soul anywhere else on the dial.....RADIO CAROLINE now sounds a more HAPPIER station! The concept of Loving Awareness has quickly been dropped and replaced with (for the time being) 'HAVE A 319 SUMMER' - all we need now is the summer!.....S.O.S! Could any of our members who have the following singles: Grunchy Granola Suite/We Love The Pirates, Man of Action (Les Reed Orchestra), Caroline (The Fortunes) and have facilities for transferring them on to good quality cassette, please get in touch with the Editor as soon as possible.....RADIO MANIAC take the prize for excellent August 14th programming. Their signal came in loud and clear on 6250 khz. Top marks also go to ABC England for their Offshore Story. Reception and sound quality also excellent.....Continental listeners will be pleased to know that WESTSIDE RADIO DUBLIN has returned on 6285 khz, Sunday mornings from 10.00a.....A.R.D. marked August 14th with a Free radio show presented by MARK TEE.....Come back 'RECORD MIRROR' - all is forgiven! Their history of Offshore Radio and their report on FLASHBACK '67 was quite good.....Any FREE RADIO NEWS? TELL US, TELL THE WORLD THROUGH 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE'.....

'SCENE' - the Irish rock magazine. Features a two-page article on RADIO DUBLIN titled: "THERE'S ROOM FOR RADIO DUBLIN." Station history, Scene's case for the legalisation of the station plus pictures of all the D.J.'s. Only 20p and its available from newsagents throughout Ireland. If you have any difficulty getting the mag., you can purchase it directly from them. Just send 20p plus 10p postage to: 4 Portobello Place, Dublin 8, Ireland. - Or, send remittance to us, and we'll forward it to SCENE.

BACK TO THIS THRILL-PACKED DRAMA IN JUST A MOMENT, FOLKS! BUT FIRST, SEVEN YEARS TWO WEEKS IN THE PAST, E.C. RYDER HAS BEEN CUT OFF THE AIR BY THE CREW OF THE PIRATE STATION, RADIO CRUTCH.



COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS/SLIDES of the RADIO DUBLIN march (June 1976). (1) Assembly in O'Connell St. (2) March commences. (3) CAPTAIN'S Jag outside Leinster House (Irish Government Buildings). (4) RADIO DUBLIN supporters assembled outside Leinster House. 30p each plus S.A.E. or all 4 for £1.20 including postage. This is cost price. P.O.'s or cheques should be made out to: K. MURRAY, and sent together with your name and address to: FRC-IRELAND, etc...Allow 28 days for delivery.

5 FRC-IRELAND'S new revised PIRATE CASSETTE LIST. We can accept payment by International Money Orders, Cheques or Postal Orders, to be made out only to: KIERAN MURRAY.

- Casst. (1) RADIO DUBLIN Announcing Raid on Capitol Radio 253mts (Dec 28th 1975) Quality B.
RADIO LAKEY - middle-of-the-road music 217mts/1380khz (Sat May 22nd 1976) Quality C.
Each show 30 minutes. Total 1 hour. Only £1.25 including postage.
- Casst. (2) RADIO DUBLIN - Doctor Don Show 253mts/1185khz (Sun Feb 22nd 1976) Quality B.
RADIO DUBLIN - St. Patrick's Day Show 253mts/1185khz (Wed 17th March 1976) Quality B.
Each show 30 minutes. Total 1 hour. Only £1.25 including postage.
- Casst. (3) PREMIER RADIO - First Official Broadcast 219mts/1370khz also - part of the Doctor Don show on RADIO DUBLIN 253mts/1185khz (All Sun June 20th 1976) Quality B.
Total running time is 1 hour. Only £1.25 including postage.
- Casst. (4) ALTERNATIVE RADIO DUBLIN 217mts/1380khz (Sun August 29th 1976) Quality B.
RADIO DUBLIN - Final Nighttime Broadcast 225mts/1325khz (Fri Sept 17th 1976) Quality B.
Each show 30 minutes. Total 1 hour. Only £1.25 including postage.
- Casst. (5) RADIO DUBLIN - Paul Downey & Dr. Don Shows 253mts (Sun Jan 16th 1977) Quality B.
RADIO DUBLIN - Alister Mac 'Beatles Special' 253mts (Sun July 17th 1977) Quality B.
Each show 30 minutes. Total 1 hour. Only £1.25 including postage.
- Casst. (6) The final hour of RADIO DUBLIN 253mts/1185khz (Sun Feb 27th 1977) Quality B
Total running time is 1 hour. Only £1.25 including postage.
- Casst. (7) The History of Irish Free Radio 1965 to 1974. 45 minutes long. Quality C.
The History of RADIO VALLERI 1972 to 1974. 40 minutes long. Quality C.
Total running time is 85 minutes. Only £1.25 including postage.
- Casst. (8) PREMIER ATLANTIS RADIO - Jimmy St. Ledger 88.0mHz (Tue May 3rd 1977) Quality A.
Total running time is 1 hour. Only £1.25 including postage.
- Casst. (9) The new RADIO DUBLIN 251mts/1195khz (Bank Holiday Mon, June 6th 1977) Quality E.
Total running time is 1 hour. Only £1.25 including postage.

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WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO - Landbased in Dublin.....

In 1976 I began transmissions on 97.0 Mhz on F.M. with a power of 300 milliwatts under the name of 007 RADIO, later to be incorporated with F41 AUDIO DUBLIN - a small station that broadcast for only four weeks. D.J. was A.K.H. and programmes went out during the summer on Saturdays and Sundays. The equipment was a Philips music centre and Dynamic mic.

By October 1976, the power was increased to 1.8 watts and three weeks later to 12 watts using a new transmitter. New frequency was 100 Mhz and D.J's were MARK BOLAND, RVM and NVM. Equipment was improved and Trio amps, twin Trio record decks, Trio reel to reel and a Trio cassette deck was added. A mailing address was found:- 13 The Chase, Crawley, Sussex, England.

By now the station was operating from South Dublin for 3 hours on Sunday mornings - 11.00am to 2.00pm. Due to various technical reasons the F.M. service had to be dropped. At present we are getting ready to broadcast on 222 metres/1350 khz on Sunday mornings with D.J's MARK BOLAND, STEVE JACOBS and DAVE CHRISTIAN - with power around 60 watts. Equipment now consists of Trio Hi-Fi as before but we now have a jingle machine with full mixing facilities. We play all kinds of Pop and Country music. Anyone wanting a Q.S.L. should send us a reception report plus return postage costs. Those who just want to get in touch with us can contact us via the address below, and if they wish, they can leave a telephone number and we will 'phone them



immediately and solve any problems or just have a chat about the station and Free Radio in general. Also, anyone wanting a tape of one of our programmes should send us a blank C-60 cassette and we will gladly oblige. Our address is: W.M.R., c/o 13 The Chase, Crawley, Sussex, RH10 6HW, England.

MARK BOLAND of W.M.R.

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That takes us to the end of 'SOUNDS ALTERNATIVE' No.1 - hope you liked it!!! Sincere thanks to RADIO DUBLIN, RADIO VALLERI, S.B.R.S., WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO, RADIO SEAGULL and SCENE MAGAZINE.==++==++==++All contributions, news, articles comments etc should be sent to: FRC-IRELAND, 53 Charleston Road, Dublin 6..... F.R.C.I. is affiliated to the FREE RADIO CAMPAIGN, EM FRC, LONDON, WC1V 6XX, ENGLAND. Other branches include: FRC-SCOTLAND, 52 St. Enoch Sq., Glasgow, G1 4AA, Scotland.++FRC-DENMARK, Hillerødsgade 64, DK-2200 Copenhagen, Denmark.++FRC-GERMANY, P.O. BOX 420 224, D-1000 Berlin 42, W Germany.++FRC-FRANCE, 37 rue Georges Cavel, F-76450 Cany, France.++