

FEATURE: RADIO RAG

Amongst the usual pile of stuff that makes up the average Spectrum postbag was a letter from Duncan in Manchester. In this he gave a history of Radio Rag, the annual station run by Manchester students which must be one of the oldest continuously-running free radio stations in the UK.

Well, by continuous we mean on every year at the same time: Radio Rag is a Rag Week station run by the students at Manchester University for three weekends of the year around this time in aid of charity.

Radio Rag began, it is thought, back in 1968 on 225m/1551kHz. Since then it has broadcast every year without fail except for 1976 when it closed due to lack of interest. In 1980, an FM service was introduced in mono in addition to the MW service. In 1981, the FM service (on 94.5MHz with 40W) went out in stereo for the first time, and last year used 88.6MHz with 60W. MW power during this time was 100W.

This year the station proposes to go out on 225m, 90.2MHz FM mono with 60W, 102.6MHz FM stereo with 100W (into a 4-element beam antenna) and 6225kHz with 500W. Transmission times should be 0900-1400 on 19/2 and 20/2 and 2100-0900 on 25/2.

During the last night of the station, the students hold the 'Bogle Stroll': a 55-mile walk to Chorley and back, and an O.B unit is set up with a link back to the studio for interviews etc during the first half of the walk: should prove interesting. MW and FM range is claimed to be about 10 miles on the average tranny, although this is a rather conservative estimate. No problems have been experienced with the local H/O yet -probably due to the short broadcast times- and the station format has been described as 'pretty good': Pop, Chart Music, Jingles, and Rag Week adverts.

Any letters, reports etc should be sent to the stations address at P.O.Box 88.

Radio Rag

225m/1332 KHz/87.5 VHF
Weekends 10 pm - 2 am
P.O. Box 88, Manchester