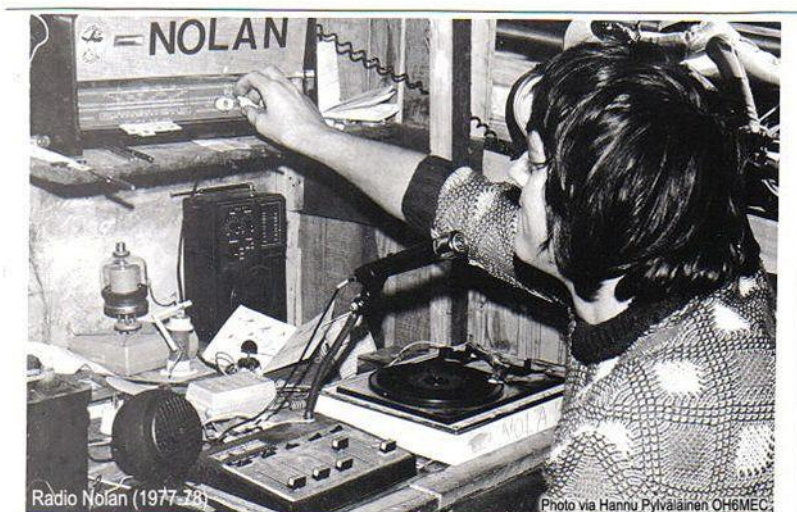


## Hans Knot International Radio Report Summer 2022

Welcome to the summer edition and in this report memories, photo's, questions, little and larger memories and more. First of all sorry for the mistake in the header of last issue. 2020 of course had to be 2022.

In the weekend that last report was published Mark Stafford came with the sad news that Ronny Nolan passed away. He was very well known in pirate landbased radio in the seventies and early eighties. Together with Paul Peters and Will van den Enden we had our monthly Freewave Radio Show transmitted by Ronny on 270 metres as well many other programs from others were relayed. Mark wrote: 'Ronnie Nolan, the man behind one of the most powerful Medium Wave pirate radio stations in The Netherlands, died a few days ago.

Ronnie Nolan (aka Jan) lived and operated Radio Nolan for over 15 years from his home in Vlagtwedde in the North of The Netherlands, just South of Groningen and only a few miles from the German border.



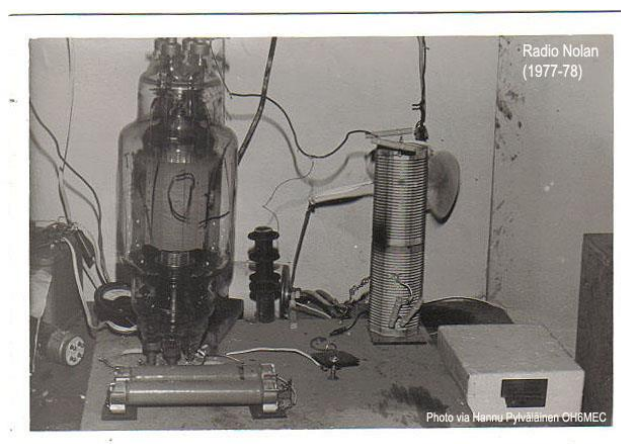
Jan took up pirate radio after the closure of the Dutch offshore stations in 1974. Operating on Medium Wave with powers up to 1KW and also on shortwave. The format was rock based which was unusual

for a high powered Dutch Medium Wave station. Because of the power used Radio Nolan was well known by European radio fans.

I was lucky enough to get to meet Jan a couple of times in Vlagtwedde and he was a genuine good guy. He totally loved radio. Ian Harling and myself were lucky enough to meet up with Jan again in Vlagtwedde (after over 40 years), just before the COVID lockdown. He was fit and well and very happy in life.

He took us up to his very large attic area and showed up a great collection of his old radio stuff. Which had not been used since the 90's. Historically, Ian had broadcast some shows for Radio Nolan back in the 70's and I was lucky enough to get the use of the powerful Radio Nolan Medium Wave transmitter for a relay of my Atlanta Radio station in 1979.

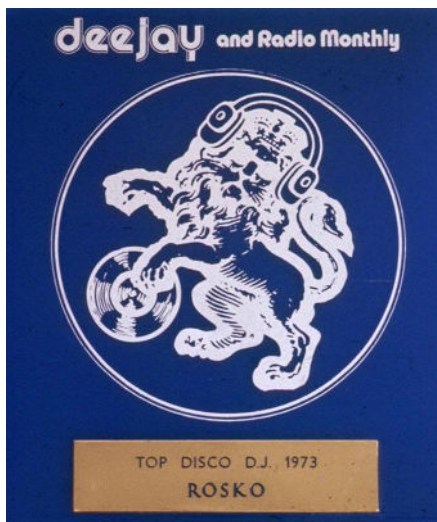
Jan battled against the Dutch PTT for many years and in the end after three convictions for operating an unlicensed station, he became one of the few people ever to spend time in jail simply for operating a radio station. He was a really nice guy. He lived all the last 50 years in Vlagtwedde out in farming country. He inherited the house after his father died. We went to see him just over two years ago in Vlagtwedde. He looked so fit and well so it was a surprise. We think he was 64 when he died. Jan died of a heart attack on the 17th May.



Farewell Jan, I am sure that those powerful Radio Nolan signals are bouncing off the ionosphere and coming down to you in Radio Heaven right now.'

Thanks Mark for the detailed info about the passing of Jan Jacob Nolan. Memories will be surely kept.

Next from LA Mike Pasternak, aka the Emperor Rosko: 'Hi Amigo, I was knocked out by that picture of myself at the beginning of last months report, wow. It was taken on Catalina island and I was there selling my show to the island station and doing some gigs. You do know how to get my attention!



Intermezzo from almost 50 years ago

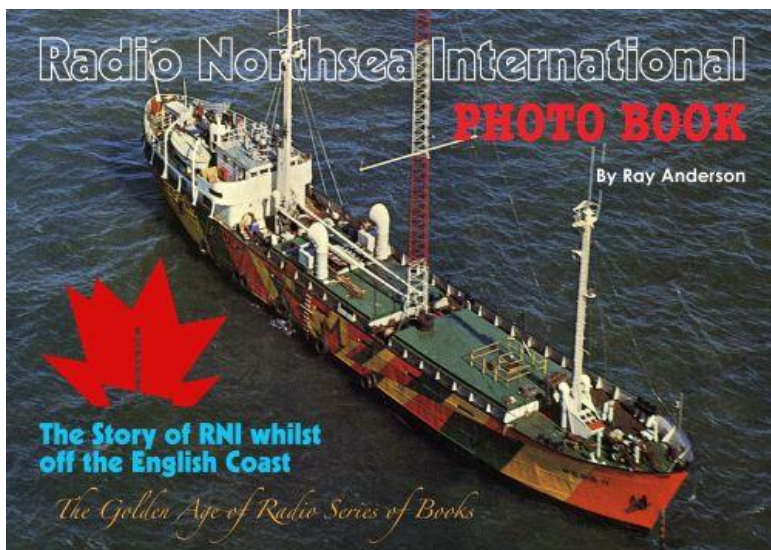
Stories on the Scotch St James club brought back many memories, there was a lesser known club very close who's name escapes me. I think the Krays were part owners, if St. James was full we went right away to that one. I was also blown away by the letter from Viv, who went to the Hammersmith Odeon which had Otis Redding and all the Stax stars that night, to see me, be still my heart. I, on the other hand, was thrilled to see Otis and the gang night after night, those were the days.

Not a lot to report I spend all my time with medical specialists trying to get my back in good shape. I have joined 'Now 70's' on Sky for a video show (that's different for me) and we now cover a large section of Australia. The L.A. Connection and Coast to Coast country are still cranked out weekly and yes you can contact me if you want a sample for your station. The reported gig with the Caroline seventies deejays sounded fun. Time to gather what's left of the 60's guys! Until your next Hans Knot report with regards, Mr. Humble.....Emperor Rosko.'

Thanks a lot Rosko for all the information and I hope your problems with your back will be solved soon.

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Another wonderful pick from the candy jar (Review)



It was a message that struck many over 65 years of age in 1968, after both of Radio Caroline International's broadcast ships had been towed from the sea by order of creditors earlier that year. The Galaxy, formerly owned by Radio London, was to be used as a broadcast ship for Radio Nordsee. However, problems prevented its return. We had to wait longer for the Swiss Edwin Bollier and Erwin Meister to surprise us with the arrival of a miraculously beautiful

new ship, which would broadcast programs in German and English from early 1970. A year in which a new generation of listeners was also tapped into, who had previously not consciously experienced the offshore stations in the 1960s.

A year full of new music, deejays from the past but also newcomers. Change of anchorage from the coast of the Netherlands to that of Essex, England. Election campaign under the name Caroline, jamming by the authorities, back to the Dutch coast, attempted hijacking and after 9 months already off air. But we enjoyed it and what a joy that in February 1971 tests could be heard again and Radio Northsea International returned to the airwaves to let us enjoy both English and Dutch programmes until 31 August 1974.

Half a century later, we can once again enjoy the pleasure of a new photo book in the 'The Golden Age of Radio Series of books', the 'Radio Northsea International Photobook'. The subtitle is 'The story of RNI Whilst off the English Coast'. It is compiled by Ray Anderson for East Anglian Productions and contains 85 pages of photographs, many of which are colourised.

Also an interesting connecting story and official documents as well as letters as sent from MEBO Ltd in Zürich to the British authorities. Nice also to find a number of charts in the photo book, which focuses purely on the period until the end of September 1970. To top it all off, Edwin Bollier was willing to write a kind of foreword that can be found on the back cover of the book. Definitely worth ordering, so we'll have to wait for the next part of RNI's history between 1971 and 1974.

Meanwhile I'm writing the above review, here's the double-cd 'RNI Jingle Collection. A collection of Jingles, Promos, Theme Tunes and Commercials' can be heard over the speakers. What a wonderful

collection Norman Barrington and Ray Anderson have put together. Much familiar material, but also surprising mixes that were never heard before on LP or CD. It is a pleasure, after half a century, to hear these jingles again through this perfect production of both gentlemen for RadioFabCom.



It is best to let Norman Barrington himself speak about the composition of this colourful production. 'Well it's finally ready to ship out. The RNI double CD with 32 page booklet, and the RNI colour book. This is the third joint project between Ray and myself, but you will have guessed that the double CD is my baby, and the book (and booklet) is Ray's.

Regarding the audio quality, there is an interesting difference between the previous CD release for SRE and this one. I only received the studio references of SRE after it had closed. That was the start of my collecting. However by 1970 my collection had already grown considerably, and I was so thrilled that we had the new pirate, RNI that I created a jingle tape as a gift for the station and gave it personally to Larry Tremaine in London.

Later in 1972, myself and a school friend John O'Sullivan, travelled to Holland for a short holiday, and we visited RNI's Dutch language service studio in Naarden. I took a whole bunch of master tapes with

me, these were more modern at the time, and had not been used on air in Europe before. I offered them to dub from but there was a condition that in return they would give us a note to give permission for us to visit the Mebo II on the next tender, John de Mol Jnr (yes he was the junior in those days) gave the OK for that, then we waited whilst they enthusiastically copied reel after reel. We did indeed have a great trip to the colourful ship.

The point of this story is that this time round, many of the jingles heard on these CDs, are actually copied from those very tapes, all of which I still have, prized in my collection. Of course my contribution was only a small part of the English and Dutch language repertoire.

RNI had a very different approach to jingles and production. Whilst there was still a nod towards the PAMS jingles of the earlier pirates, RNI used much more material from other companies. Breaking new ground when Robbie Dale, took an unknown jingle package from Gwinsound, a small Dallas jingle company, editing out the existing American IDs, and had singers record RNI idents over the remaining music beds. This became RNI's mainstay package. More use was made of Pepper Tanner productions, whilst RNI drew from the UBN jingle collection, and John Denny cheekily borrowed the Audio Producers Radio One jingle package.

In 1973, through Steve England who produced a number of sonovox cuts himself, Ken Justiss produced the famed 'Logotronics' and a big top up in 1974. With growing popularity in The Netherlands, Dutch language jingles were not neglected, with numerous professionally produced custom packages. Dutch bands made special signature jingles and DJ sing-overs completed the RNI repertoire.

This double CD, like our predecessors for Caroline, aims to bring this vast collection together, as a more complete and better fidelity archive, than anything you have heard before. I have been careful to balance the English and Dutch material. There is even John de Mol jnr's jingle on there. There have been RNI CDs in the past, but this is a double coming in at just under 160 minutes so you get more than twice the records previously available.

You can now order the CDs (and also view the track listings) here:  
[http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search\\_format=AUDIO&recordid=193](http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search_format=AUDIO&recordid=193)

The Book here:  
[http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search\\_format=BOOKS&recordid=194](http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search_format=BOOKS&recordid=194)

Or if you would like both, then here:  
[http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search\\_format=8&recordid=192](http://www.radiofab.com/itemdetails.php?search_format=8&recordid=192)

We did not experience any problems sending material to Europe for the last two collections, but if you prefer to buy from a source in Europe, these will also be available as before from the Rock Art Museum. I am thrilled to be able to share more of my collection with those who enjoyed those golden days of Radio.'

Well what I have to tell more? Just order and surprise yourself with this excellent updates for your offshore collection as they are all memories and 'You never heard it so good'!

Hans Knot July 2022

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Another reader in the USA is Philly: Hans, old friend! It's wonderful to see another newsletter from you. As you might know, I belong to a antique radio club here -

<https://www.northlandantiqueradioclub.com/>

and today I picked up a real and rare prize. A Panasonic RadarMatic R-1000. I've never seen in my 73 years., a portable radio with autoseek on it!



Here's what it goes for on eBay -

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/202813944389?hash=item2f38a73245:g:l tYAAOSwxjxdvt-I>

I got mine for just \$5.00 USD! And it's in much cleaner condition than the eBay one! And all functions perform like new! Wow! Still doing good over here and I hope you are well there too. Blessings. Phil.'

Excellent Phil and enjoy receiving a lot of interesting stations with the 'new' receiver.

And yes also a third e mail from the USA brings Martin H. Samuel: 'Hello Hans, many thanks for your latest Report, very much appreciated. I'm not sure if it's relevant to your Report, however, have you heard of The Pavek Museum, 3517 Raleigh Avenue St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55416?

The Pavek Museum is one of the best-kept secrets in the Twin Cities. We have over 12,000 square feet of antique radios, televisions, and broadcast equipment. The bulk of our inventory is the original Joe Pavek Collection, but we've added a lot more over the years since we opened in 1988. In fact, thanks to donations from area radio and television stations, the Museum's collection is one of the largest and finest of its kind in the world.

For example, our Minnesota Collection represents more than thirty radio and television manufacturers that did business here in the 1920s. We also have many examples of historic broadcast equipment on display - cameras, consoles, microphones, and more.

One of the unique features of this Museum is the John T. "Jack" Mullin Collection, documenting the history of recording technology. Read more here:"

<https://pavekmuseum.org/history.html>

Also a link to a roundtour at the museum

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=593906281882156>

Also a big thanks to Martin H Samuel for the above topic. Going to another Martin. This time from Germany it is Martin van der Ven. First he made a special page in our offshore radio photo archive called: 'memories to the Borkumriff and Veronica'. It shows photo's from Jaap van Duijn, which we mentioned earlier. Also a collection of photos from the Hermann family, who played an important technical role during the early years from Veronica. And finally photos have been added from the Max Lewin collection in our archive.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720295602205>

Also Martin found two excellent articles about VOA relay stations on submarines during World War II. A new chapter for exploring offshore radio's history: <https://www.radioheritage.com/voice-of-america-relay-station-in-a-submarine/>

<https://www.radioheritage.com/the-second-voa-relay-station-in-the-philippines/>

Next information provided by Theo Bakker for this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report:

### OPEN DAYS ON THE RADIOSHIP JENNI BAYNTON

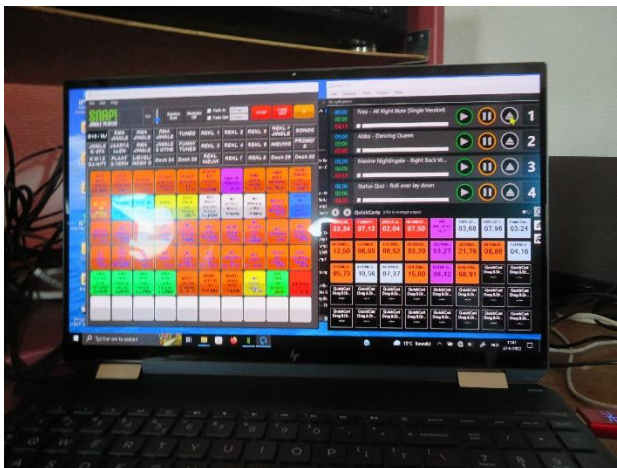
On 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of May there have been 'open days' on the Jenni Baynton, the red radio ship of former Radio Waddenzee and Radio Seagull lying in the port of Harlingen in The Netherlands. It was a nice but rather windy day and we could imagine how the former radio ships had been moving around while deejays were doing their programmes.



Jenni Baynton in Harlingen Photo: Theo Bakker

During the last few weeks the crew worked very hard to get the ship in tip top condition and it really was wonderful to see. Visitors could have a look around on the ship and get an impression of what a radio ship looks like and how it works. Around 100 people visited the ship on Friday which for many people was a day off after Ascension day. They could see the three studios, the aerial, the light tower, the equipment to sail the ship (quite a lot to manage) and much more. The Jenni Baynton is a former British lightvessel and has no engine to propel her, so for moving it to sea it has to be towed.

From the ship's studio One there were broadcasts from Radio Mi Amigo, de èchte (Radio Mi Amigo, the real one). Live radio shows were done by Marc Jacobs, Bart van Gogh and Eric Hofman, all regular presenters of the station. To get the sound 'on the aerial' a lot of equipment is needed. Nowadays it is a matter of computers instead of turntables and jingle machines, so it means quite a different way of making radio for the deejays than during the sixties and seventies when the stations were at sea. They all did a great program with a lot of enthusiasm.



## Scheduling the program

Eric Hofman. Photos Theo Bakker

It was great meeting the crew, of which I am a former member, and other radio enthusiasts, whom I had met before on the Radio Days in Amsterdam. We asked ourselves the question if there would ever be a new RadioDay. The last one was absolutely fabulous and we are all longing for a new one. On Saturday there was a short live broadcast from the ship by the local station Omroep RSH between 11.00 and 13.00. It was about local issues - e.g. the coming sail event Tall Ships Races 2022 which will take place from 14<sup>th</sup> till July 17<sup>th</sup> - together with some music.

On 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September this year there will be new broadcasts from the ship on the 'Vrienden van de Jenni Baynton Dagen' (friends of the Jenni Baynton Days). At this moment the event is being prepared, which is quite a lot of thinking and organizing. Last year it was a great success.

I think that the past few days were a success and hopefully the event will be repeated in future.

Theo Bakker, 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

Of course a big thanks for this Theo and now we move to Wales, from where the next e mail came:

'Hello Hans. I've just read your winter report, which I found some very good reading, superb! It was sad to hear over Ben Bode, because I lived in Antwerp for 30 years since 1989 and very often had a 'pintje' with him in the Keiserlei. I used to meet him in the office he had in Maria Theresa Lei, where he had also a Lp collection and mixing studio etc. It was called 'Probescore' in those days.

After that, well you probably know, he went under the name of MBA Bizznet. He always kept in contact with me every week and I have a

lot of stuff over him and radio stations. I am now living in Milford Haven, Wales for 7 years looking over the harbor with lots of boats!



### **Caroline Studio The Hague 1980 Photo Collection John Bolton**

I have maintained contact with Ben for 30 years. He was good fun and I just cannot get to grips with knowing that he is no longer with us. I ran the company Bijoutronique bvba in Antwerpen and used to design specialized telecommunication equipment for trading rooms in banks and brokers. I even designed equipment for Ben Bode for his marketing operation (see photos here)...



**Designed in Belgium by:** *Bijoutronique*



He had 12 girls for telemarketing on telephones and I designed a card module for a set up for trainees. One of the photo's here is of the module, of which I made 12x of them and placed in a 19-inch Card Case. The idea was to monitor the 12 telephone lines and listen in for the trainees to learn.'

A big thank you John and some personal questions are answered privately.

Well now we go to Kent in England with excellent memories from Andy Cadier, aka Martin Kayne, about how radio became an important role in his life: 'After leaving a boarding school I immediately joined the RAF, a tough initiation but not nearly as bad as the college that had preceded it.

I had lost my father, an RAF officer, to lung cancer in 1953 my mother a hairdresser hadn't the means to take care of my brother and myself, but the RAF Benevolent fund stepped in to educate and accommodate us while under 18. The pay while training wasn't much, but on becoming qualified gradually improved. In the barracks and at the NAAFI (Forces Shop and cafe) the jukebox offered the latest

hits of 1959 and during the evenings Radio Luxembourg was very popular. The Top 20 with Barry Alldis was not to be missed.



**Andy Cadier aka Martin Kayne. Photo from his own collection**

Naturally I wanted my own radio and bought a portable one from Currys (a national chain of electrical retailers). Unfortunately, no transistors back then, two big batteries, one just to heat the valves! It was a few years later while serving at RAF Tangmere, near Chichester, on the south coast, that I bought my first tape recorder, quite a novelty then. Cheap and cheerful it may have been, with a BSR deck and marketed under a Currys Westminster brand, but it ignited my interest in music, speech and recording. I am not entirely sure if then I ever fancied becoming a DJ, but as time passed my interest increased.

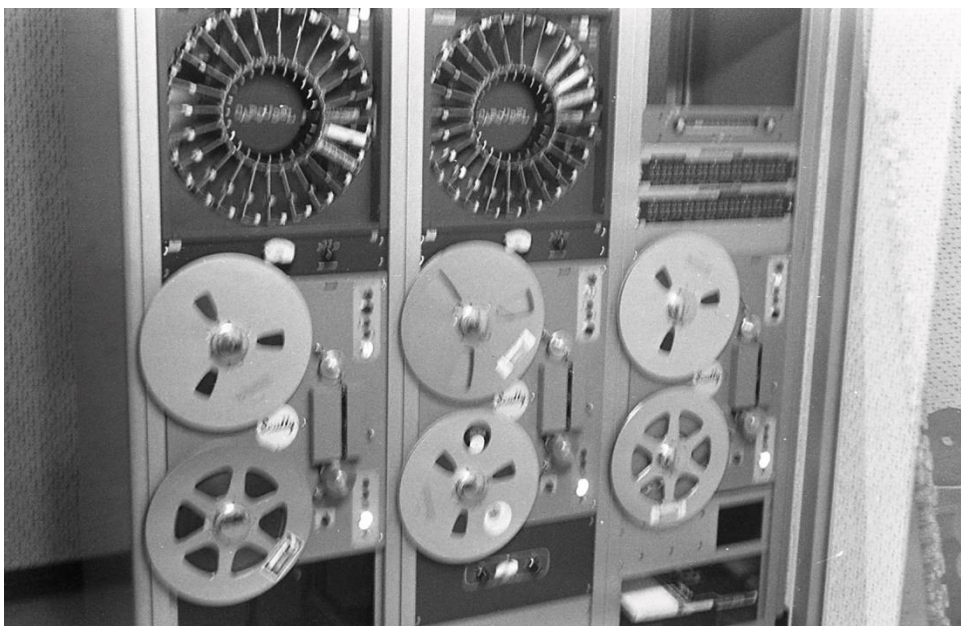
Eventually better radios and tape recorders came through my hands, plus a small electronic mixer allowing the fading and switching between different sources, just the progression of a hobby I suppose. I spent almost three years in Cyprus, frequently tuning my radio around the SW and MW bands with many middle eastern



stations booming in. It was while doing this, laying on my bed, a colleague asked if I wanted to take a trip with the Church of England Padre to the new BFBS forces radio station at Dhelelia as he was going to record a week's worth of 'Thought For The Day' programmes there? The answer was a forgone conclusion as I hurriedly jumped into my summer KD uniform and left with two others in the waiting car.

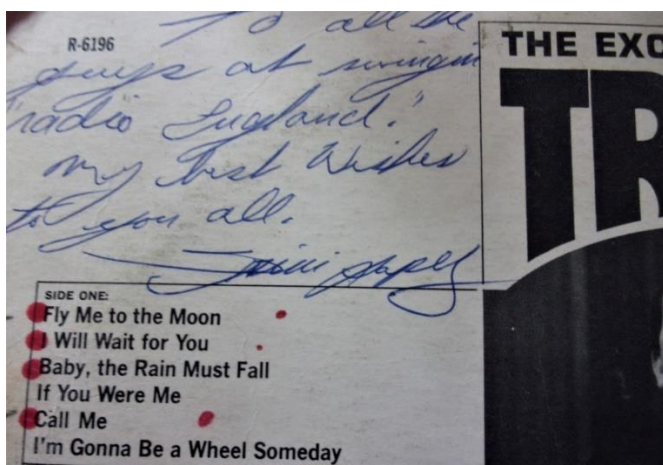
We were given a tour of this brand-new building, complete with a large drama studio, control room and a smaller studio which to my surprise had self-operated turntables but an Ampex tape recorder in the control room so they still needed someone else to operate it and monitor the audio levels. I think it was at this point I thought - "You know I could do this!"

Very interesting Martin and maybe you could write a follow up to this story of what which happened afterwards. Another memory from Martin Kayne came on the SMC Facebook page, when I published this photo from the Joseph Verbeke collection. He was a technician on the Laissez Faire/Olga Patricia and this shows the carousel on board the radio ship.



'All of this audio playback kit could be operated manually from a remote panel above the studio mixer. Three rows of buttons for the tape machines, and a number selector for the carousel carts - If you wanted to play a religious tape like The World Tomorrow you needed to get out of the chair and cue it up manually. The carousel machine ignores any empty cart positions but tends to emit loud clicking noise while doing the selection procedure. Of course for a fully automated radio station this would not have been a problem, which I think had been the original SRE/BR intention. Great memories.'

And after some questions from Rob Ashard more info came from Andy aka Martin: 'the automated system was used during the evenings, certainly after 8pm. Though I do have memories of doing the evening closedown, I would guess at midnight, Policy was to go out with - 'May Each Day' by Andy Williams. Two stations on one ship, technically it worked very well. When RNI tried running separate programming on different frequencies it took a while to sort out the cross modulation. It's was a good atmosphere on the ship. A very cordial relationship when I was there with Radio 355, a great team, unfortunately the MOA got in the way. I think in the SRE days some staff did do shows on both stations. I was a bit overwhelmed to be working for Tony Windsor, who many regarded as the father of UK offshore radio.'



Here is a Trini Lopez album cover given to the guys on SRE. The Red dots indicate in format for easy listening Britain Radio or Radio 355.

The automated programs were hosted by someone we called Derek Burroughs apparently a name devised earlier by Britain Radio DJ Dave MacKay. In reality these pre-recorded tapes used an American presenter but at the time with no published credit.'



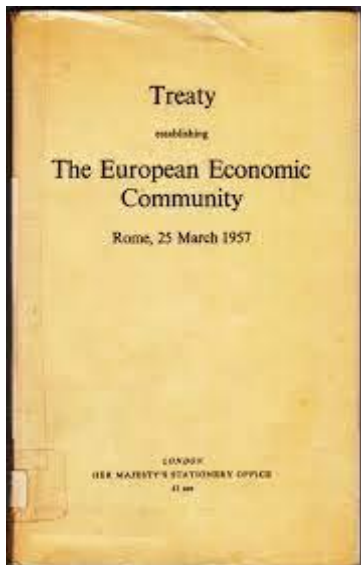
Willem de Bruijn from Rotterdam is the next one with an e mail: 'I've read the Knot Report with interest (as always). The REM, I remember the special antennas, we had at home and therefore we could receive TV Noordzee reasonably well in 1964. I was 11 at the time and still remember the series, Rin Tin Tin, Mr. Ed the talking horse and the Invisible Man. Radio Noordzee from the REM island was a bit of a disappointment. I show you the flyer I've had for years! Also a scan of the newspaper Het Binnenhof from 23-10-1981. The newspaper did not always speak the truth. In the newspaper it was mentioned that the Norderney, the former Veronica vessel, was at a shipbroker in Viane and would be broken up. However in 2022

the ship is still in the Netherlands, during the last years in Amsterdam.'

This week I re-read your book '20 Years of Radio Caroline' from 1984. Also I did read the Mi Amigo book by Ferry Eden. Respect for the people who made it possible to bring so much radio pleasure in those years. But when you read the books you wonder who became happy. With all the convictions, intrigues, bluffs and ill will. Also the fact that not everyone got a decent salary out of it. You wouldn't wish that on anyone. And of course the dangers at sea, especially with the Mi Amigo. It is a miracle that relatively few accidents happened. Not everything was bona fide at sea!

Thanks Willem for your contribution to this edition of the report.

Then there is a message from Herman Content from Belgium in response to the previous report: 'Just a word about being punished when listeners were threatened in 1964 that they would be breaking the law if they listened to Radio Caroline. It was suggested that this would be the case under the British Telegraph Act of 1948.'



I think it was just nonsense because the Treaty of Rome, I thought in Article 4, states that yes you can listen to all non-coded radio broadcasts. But of course, the problem for the authorities was that

the radio ship was outside territorial waters and therefore could never be boarded. This is what they wanted to do in Belgium in 1962 with the Uilenspiegel from Radio Antwerp. Then, due to very bad weather, the ship came loose from its anchors and drifted towards the coast. End of problem.

So, in my opinion, in England they really could not have just punished anyone who was listening to what the government considered to be illegal radio broadcasts. I think the GPO knew that at the time and they did not want to comment on the rumours of possible intervention.

In the Netherlands, there was once a problem with a man who got into trouble because, in the seventies, he wanted to install an antenna on the roof of his rented house. He had to remove the antenna but he also started a lawsuit, with the Treaty of Rome in hand. He won the lawsuit. In an episode of the 'de rijdende rechter' (driving judge) this subject was also discussed because a radio amateur was not allowed to put up his antenna to be able to exercise his hobby. This person was also proven right.'

Thank you Herman for your extensive contribution. The rules were still quite strict in the early eighties, for example, regarding being allowed to mount a dish on the wall of a rented house. In 1983 I personally had to fight quite a battle with the landlord at the time. They did not want to see any dishes anywhere, which drastically reduced the number of signals on offer. At the time, I was already editor-in-chief of the media magazine Freewave, and partly as a result of interjections from the municipality, a year later my request for installation was approved.

Early June I posted a bus decoration on my private fb page, where each Sunday classic cars are shown.



Brian Nichols brought the answer what happened:

I've been in touch with David Baker, who used to work for Ipswich Buses. He says: "The scroll Caroline was first fitted to Leyland Atlantean no. 2 (HDX905N) where it stayed there until the end of the life of the bus. I was made redundant in 2003 but one year later Stephen had a new scroll fitted to single deck bus no. 134. (R134FBJ) The scroll read Caroline 1964 - 2004 to remember 40 years of Radio Caroline. We think the scroll was lost when the bus was repainted and after the sign writer retired.

As for Mi Amigo, this was applied to Suffolk Bus (the country service of Ipswich Buses) on vehicle 164 (JPV 221N) by ex-driver, the late John Fry. This again stayed on the bus probably for the rest of it's life with Ipswich Buses. Veronica was used on Bus 34. but not so sure with the others as my records don't show them.

Here a photo with thanks to David Baker and Felixstowe and Offshore Radio from the bus with the Mi Amigo on the front.



Juul Geleick recently reported to me: 'As a fanatic KG listener, I have been using a beautiful ICOM R70 receiver since 1982. I have already made several improvements to it but now I find a note in my archive from 1983 that in the then magazine "Kurier" (nowadays Radio Kurier) there is a piece about improvements of that receiver.

A thorough search on the Internet did not yield much, but it did yield this. Who can possibly duplicate this article?

<https://www.addx.de/textarchiv/archiv-radiokurier.php>

'Tipps zur modification des Icom ICOM R70 in Kurier 9-1983'

Comments can be sent to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl). You can make Juul very happy with it.

**Next a report about the Radio Day in Erkrath-Hilden 2022**

After a break of 2 years the time had finally come: The 20th Radiotag took place on 11th of June 2022 at the usual location in the Technical Museum QQTec in 40721 Hilden (Germany). First and foremost, this date was the gathering of our scene that many people have been longing for!

Franz Ludwig Pohlmeier [Paul Meier] presented his internet radio Radio Sunrise 202. He described the development of the station over

several decades from illegality on medium wave 202 m to today's international internet station listened to all over the world. The talk was illustrated by numerous photos.

<https://radiosunrise.de/>

Richard H. Cummings (Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, book author "Cold War Radio" and "Cold War Frequencies: CIA Clandestine Broadcasting") was head of security at Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty in Munich for 15 years. He was interviewed by Jan Sundermann and Martin van der Ven and described the exciting time of the radio stations, which merged in the 1970s, during the Cold War with its broadcasts for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

He distinguished between "white" (Voice of America), "grey" (RFE/RL) and "black" (Clandestine) radio stations. The latter are the focus of his current book "Cold War Frequencies". In it, there is a particularly exciting chapter on a planned CIA offshore radio project in 1951 that failed grandiosely (broadcasting yacht Juanita, "Operation Bgfiend").

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=Richard+H.+Cummings+radio>

During a ZOOM conference Mandy Marton briefly reported on the current status of today's Radio Seagull. Alan Beech had prepared a particularly interesting slide presentation explaining today's medium wave transmissions from Radio Caroline on 648 kHz. Numerous photos of the new Harris transmitter illustrated his presentation, which resulted in a lively discussion.

<https://radioseagull.com/>

[https://radiocaroline.co.uk/#648\\_am.html](https://radiocaroline.co.uk/#648_am.html)

Herbert Visser (RadioCorp BV, 100%NL and Sunlite) presented his new radio station Sunlite Radio (soft and easy), which can now be received almost everywhere in the Netherlands on DAB+ and which plays mainly soft pop songs. In parallel, the station can be received on 5955 kHz in the shortwave range. Herbert is particularly proud of this and sees a positive perspective for new radio station alongside his



successful stations 100% NL and Slam FM. He also reported on a support action in connection with the war in Ukraine. More details will be published at a later date.

<https://sunlite.nl/>

Finally, Lion Keezer presented his radio station Radio Mi Amigo International, which can also be heard on short wave (from Kall-Krekel in the Eifel/Germany) and on the internet. There is no competition with the new station "Mi Amigo de echte", which sees itself primarily as a nostalgic station and is primarily aimed at a Flemish audience. In conversation with Lion, it became clear how much heart and soul and commitment he puts into his radio station. An enormous amount of experience flows into his work. Lion was first heard on the Dutch service of Radio Caroline from the MV Mi Amigo as early as December 1972. Lion's e-book about the offshore radio stations has become a Collectors' item and can still be ordered on the internet.

<https://www.radiomiamigo.international/>

Here are 143 photos of the event:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720299737090>

Brian Nichols informed us with: 'We are delighted to be able to announce a Pirate Radio Exhibition (taking place on Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August, between noon & 5pm each day), jointly with Chris Dannatt (Flashback 67/Pirate Memories), Ray Anderson (owner of Radio Fab, & the Spa Pavilion in Felixstowe), Chris Brisland (Wireless of the Week Facebook page) and ourselves, with displays, memorabilia, vintage radios, and more!

Admission is free, with merchandise for sale (note 'cash only' due to poor internet access in the exhibition area). All in an historic Grade One listed 200 year old Martello Tower, which is home to the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) Felixstowe.

Please note that the access into and within the tower is only by wooden stairs, due to the historic nature of the building.

Covid prevention (masks, social distancing, hand washing) are recommended.

The nearest parking is at Martello Park North Car Park, off Langer Road, and the First Bus route 77 Ipswich to Landguard Fort, Felixstowe has nearby stops to the Railway Station and to the Tower.

<https://www.facebook.com/felixstoweandoffshoreradio>



This is totally new to me. The newspaper Algemeen Handelsblad of 12th of June 1961 reported that 'Radio Nord, which is situated off the Swedish coast off Stockholm, has set up a radio station on the island of Cyprus. They will start commercial radio programs there. Radio Nord was willing to start a program for Cyprus, on condition that it would later be given the right to make television broadcasts as well. The Cypriot government has accepted that condition. The new station and studio will be based in the capital of Cyprus, Nicosia.

Who knows more?

Next Jon with the Pirate Hall of Fame update:

New this month:

- we have another of Ray Clark's interviews with former Radio Caroline personnel. This time it is Bill Rollins, the voice of 'Viewpoint 963';
- and we have some photos from a listener's visit to Radio London and Radio Caroline South in 1966.

Back next month with more goodies.

All the best, Jon

[www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

From Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of August onwards, Tineke de Nooij can be heard on theme station Radio Veronica Vintage. Tineke will have two programmes and can be heard on the Saturday and Sunday evenings. Tineke de Nooij: "From Saturday 13 August at 23:00, I will be spinning Dutch pop bands on Veronica Vintage and on Sunday evening at 23:00 until midnight with music that I used to play myself in the 70s and 80s".

The new Veronica Vintage radio station was launched on 1 May and can be listened to via DAB+ and online.

"Veronica's rich music history from the late 1960s and the 1970s and 1980s can be heard on the new channel. The design and music are also from the memorable Veronica era. Veronica presenters from all generations can regularly be heard on the digital station. Sometimes the coryphées will take over the station for a live radio broadcast, but old programmes and announcements provided by the Norderney Foundation can also be heard." Source Talpa.

By the way Tineke decided to stop presenting programs for MAX on Radio 5 at the end of January at the age of 80. However the queen of Dutch Radio decided that to return as she missed making radio a lot. <https://www.radioveronica.nl/veronica-vintage>

Next the introduction to the book 'Radio Golven. De roemruchte geschiedenis van zeezenders Radio Dolfijn en Radio 227'

Radio Waves. The illustrious history of the offshore stations Radio Dolphin and Radio 227'. It has been written by the late Jack Curtiss and here the text he wrote for the excellent book by Look J. Boden. A main part of these memories appeared in the mentioned book in Dutch.

'As the year 1966 dawned in San Francisco sat, unhappily between radio jobs leafing through the pages of the Sunday Chronicle when noticed an article about the largely unheard of (at the time) phenomenon of so-called "pirate radio stations" broadcasting to Britain and the continent.

The article said there were already two recently created stations featuring non-stop rock and roll music pouring forth from ships anchored beyond the established three-mile limit of British territorial waters and that a third operator was about to start operations later in the new year. This newest "pirate" player would change the situation dramatically by airing programs from two distinctly different stations aboard a single radio ship.



Unlike the U.S., Canada, Australia and the rest of the commonwealth where broadcasting flourished as independent commercial enterprise, radio remained the exclusive domain of the government-run British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Though a second television service had started in Britain that entity (ITV) was not under BBC control.

This at a time when British rock'n'roll music was taking the rest of world by storm with such artists as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and others was flooding the airwaves of the early 1960s. But not in London where the BBC labored under 'needle time' provisions of contracts with the British musicians unions that mandated strict limits on the amount of recorded (versus live) music that could be played.

In response to this situation, British audiences were drawn to overseas stations like Radio Luxembourg or AFN (US Armed Forces Network in search of continuous rock music. Thus the climate for more pirate radio was born although the British were getting to game a bit late. A Dutch-language station based on a ship, Radio Veronica, had already begun commercially broadcasting to Holland some years earlier.

At that moment, I put down the newspaper and began writing a congratulatory letter to what I assumed was a group of stout and proper British business lords. I praised their foresight and pioneering enterprise in bringing the English public the proven benefits of free and independent radio.

I did not have proper address and simply mailed it to 'Radio England - London' and forgot about it. Two months later, after I had taken the dramatic step of moving--for the first time in my life--more than a 90-minute drive from San Francisco, I was working at a eminently successful rock and roll station in Roanoke, Virginia and employed by a splendid station owner, Burton Levine, with a sterling reputation. As

a stranger in town, I was able to rent a room in the home of his mother and sister where I was introduced to the glories of Jewish-American cuisine. Happily, I experienced Southern Hospitality in a grand manner.

Into this lovely transition, came word that someone in England was trying to reach me. I felt like complete heel walking out on this true gentleman but Levine assured me he understood completely and wished me well.

Two weeks later, I was on a BOAC airliner flying First Class due a pilot strike that obliged upgrading my tourist fare ticket. In the new London Hilton I met up with Bill Berry, another new American recruit and the next morning we were being conducted on our way to the train station for the ride to the East Anglia port of Felixstowe where we would clear British Customs and board a Dutch tender ship for the short ride beyond the legal grasp of the Royal Navy. Ahead of us, the Panamanian-registered Olga-Patricia, a World War Two-era U.S. Liberty Ship (transport craft).

We were expected to spend a two-week work shift aboard the Olga followed by a week-long break in London (or anywhere else) we could spend our pay as we wished. The only requirement was to be back in Felixstowe for another tender trip back to Olga and two more weeks at sea.

During this period and given the frequently stormy character of North Sea waters, I was pleasantly surprised to find that I was utterly impervious to sea-sickness or any sort of motion-induced nausea. Once aboard I was less than thrilled to learn from the on-board station bosses that I'd be expected to go on the air as 'Bruce Wayne' because Swinging Radio England has purchased a new series of musical jingles (station IDs) based on then hot new TV series 'Batman'. After considering this briefly, I declared that I had no intention after giving up a job that I loved in Virginia and travelling

thousands of miles in order to disappear under a fake name and fad jingle. I would just as soon leave and return to the U.S. (the American staff were promised return fare home after ending their assignments with the company.)

A consequence of this stand was that I was exiled from Swinging Radio England and restricted to Britain Radio the softer more adult music format broadcast twin of Radio England-- all of which suited me fine as I subsequently became program director and operations manager of Britain Radio.



Cartoon made by Alan Black. Jack Curtiss Collection

As perceived ratings and commercial success continued to elude Radio England which was locked in a desperate three-way struggle

with older rivals Radio Caroline and Radio London, a corporate shuffle at 32 Curzon Street (London headquarters of Pier-Vick, Ltd.) produced a situation in which I emerged as General Manager of both Radio England and Britain Radio with the dual assignment of closing down Radio England and setting a new Dutch-language alternative to Radio Veronica. I would begin dividing my time between London and Amsterdam where I was introduced to a South African-born advertising specialist named Basil Van Rensburg. Since I didn't speak a single word of Dutch his assistance would be invaluable as I began the process of interviewing Dutch-language disc jockeys, all of whom had to be proficient speakers of English-- not for on-air use but basic communication with the crew of international shipmates with whom they worked.

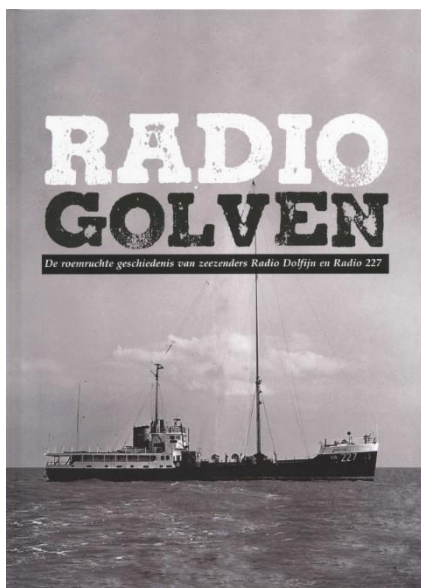
Photo was taken on the Press Conference Radio Dolphin coming on air.  
Collection: Jack Curtiss





Many years afterward I learned that Basil returned to South Africa, became a Catholic priest and trusted associate of Nelson Mandela and revered champion of equality.

We got Radio Dolfijn on the air with a full complement of Dutch deejays and Swinging Radio England receded into fond memory. When Pier Vick hired a former competitor I sensed my own time was drawing near and made certain my airline ticket home was ready for a return to California in 1967. A week after my departure, a violent storm knocked the antenna down and kept the station off the air for two months. Meanwhile, the Harold Wilson Labor Government pressed ahead the Marine Broadcasting Offenses Bill which would eventually choke all the remaining pirates off the air by the end of 1967.



Back in San Francisco, I joined one of the most successful FM Stereo stations, KFOG-FM and became program director later in the year. After programming assignments at a couple other Bay Area stations, I relocated to Puerto Rico for a five year stay that included an introduction to television. I was indeed a (former) Pirate in the Caribbean! In San Juan, I met a French girl who became the first Mrs. Curtiss and by 1974 I was living in Paris and freelancing for CBS News and the Voice of America. Ahead lay Mexico Miami and

Australia. All in all a dandy jaunt for a cheeky footloose San Franciscan.

Enjoy all those beautiful memories in this book. It is a wonderful reminder of those roaring sixties.'

The book, from 2019, is still on sale versus:

<https://www.radio227.nl/>

It will finally happen again in the year that it is already 48 years ago that Radio Veronica disappeared from the airwaves on 31st of August 1974. A real reunion of former employees and it has been eight years since a similar gathering took place.

The Norderney Foundation, in cooperation with Beeld en Geluid (Sound and Vision), wants to bring together all the former employees who are still alive, most of whom are already of advanced age, in order to shake hands, catch up, reminisce and raise a glass. This meeting will take place, how could it be otherwise, on Wednesday 31 August 2022. The meeting will be strictly private.



Photo Norderney Foundation

As a sequel, starting from Friday 2nd September, 192 Radio will broadcast every Friday between 16.00 and 18.00 hours with the cooperation of various former and current deejays. The broadcasts will be made from the original radio studio equipment, from the

collection of Beeld & Geluid, on which all the 'Hilversum 3' radio programmes of the Dutch Public Broadcasting Service were made from 1975 to 1987. This also included the public broadcasts of Radio Veronica.

And there was the 'Spirit of the Seventies' Mi Amigo reunion. At the time of writing I must admit I had several other commitments during the first weekend of July. Reason that I can't share my opinions. All is recorded and will be listened to in the future. Reading a lot of messages it must have been a wonderful success. And those active during the weekend wrote: 'Thank you for tuning in to the 'Spirit of the Seventies' Mi Amigo reunion weekend and for all your wonderful emails and comments - we've had a blast! We're heading home now, perhaps we will return to Ross Revenge again one day and do it all over again!'

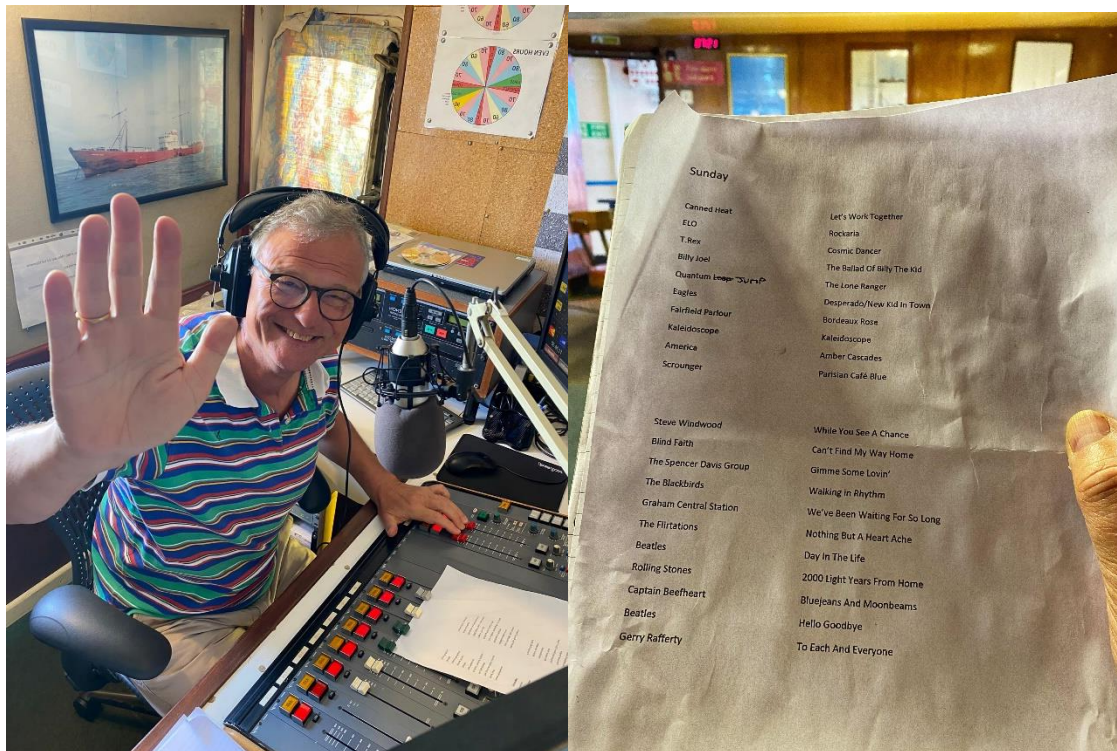


On July 12<sup>th</sup> Kelvin O'Shea was in contact with me. Readers know him under the deejay name James Ross. Part of the contact: 'It was great to see everyone again ... and weird to be playing the tunes we played 45 years ago! A great weekend, but exhausting.'



Here's a postcard from the Ross Revenge. Having a great time, wish you were here! (Picture bottom row: Nigel Harris, James Ross, Mark Lawrence).

Another one of me... and Sunday's playlist! (Obviously, I needed to add a few more tracks ha ha)



Many more photos have appeared on several FB Groups and they are now all together in our massive offshore radio photo archive on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720300527622>

With this we come to the end of the Summer 2022 edition of the International Radio Report. For those who have now the winter period we hope it will be a nice one too. For those in our part of the world enjoy the holiday period and I will be back late September. Feel free to respond, reflect, bringing memories, photos and more and send it to [\*\*HKnot@home.nl\*\*](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)