

## Hans Knot International Radio Report Autumn 2022

Welcome to this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Two months have gone since last edition was published and more stories from the past came in, sad news too and more interesting items to share. First a few e mails:

'Hi Hans, thanks for a great report as usual. I bought your excellent 'Laser 558' book recently and took it down south with me for a couple of weeks for some holiday reading. I couldn't put it down, and have now finished it. Wonderful reading and a super insight into the 'behind the scenes' activities of that wonderful radio station! Glenn J Arnold.'

Thanks Glenn and good to read you couldn't put it down. Advice is to take it with you again next summer when going on holiday. Now time for Mary and Chris Payne:

Radio London Press Release, August 2022.

Offshore Radio Collection launched on YouTube

In partnership with Ben Meijering, Radio London is proud to announce the creation of a new YouTube channel, Offshore Radio Collection. There were three major Offshore Radio events that were not open to the public, but hundreds of photos were taken and are available on the internet.

Now, we bring you video taken at these very special events. For your extra viewing pleasure, we have launched the three videos at a specific time on three different days, culminating on Sunday 14th August in probably the most momentous event, Offshore 50, which took place in 2017. 3pm is a special time in any offshore radio enthusiast's mind, so we have arranged that the start time of two of the videos ensured that you could hear Paul Kaye's immortal words at exactly 3pm. (The Celebration of Offshore Radio started at 3pm as Paul Kaye isn't featured.)

On 10th August 2.45pm this one was official opened:

35th Anniversary Offshore Reunion - Doggett's, London, 10th August, 2002.

<https://youtu.be/yVH6WPjv-rs>

12th August 3.00pm started: A Celebration of Offshore Radio - Sugar Reef, London, 4th August 2007.

<https://youtu.be/tjt-aXiEH14>

14th August 2.44pm was the start of

Offshore 50 - Tattershall Castle, London, 14th August 2017.

<https://youtu.be/J-DH6kq3uRo>

The Offshore Radio Collection home page is:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_sRkoze28RRNqckg74VruA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_sRkoze28RRNqckg74VruA)

See photo reports of each of these events via the links below:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157635203349314>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157638807799403>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157685259279643>

## OTHER EXCITING NEWS

Radio London is delighted to announce that, in collaboration with BOOM Radio, the Final Fab Forty was aired for the first time on a UK national radio station! On Sunday, August 14th, BOOM Radio had scheduled a special day of programmes to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the MOA.

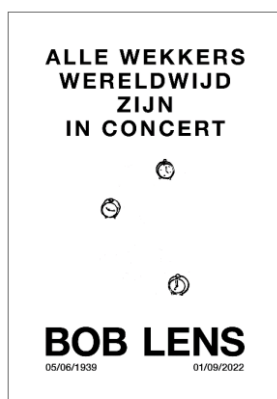
# BOOM radio



Between noon and 1400, BOOM's chart expert, John Peters, presented the Final Fab Forty as broadcast from Big L on August 6th, 1967. Ex-pirates Johnnie Walker, Roger Twigg Day, DLT and Keith Skues were all presenting shows on BOOM and Keith chatted to a number of other Watery Wireless DJs.

Photo: Radio London site.

For more latest news see: [www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk)



On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of September, we received the following sad message from Paul van Gelder, known in offshore radio circles as Harky on Radio 227 in 1967. He wrote: 'I heard today that

my former Radio 227 colleague Bob Lens has passed away. He was the only real hippy aboard our ship the Laissez Faire and also the only one playing an instrument every day, a harmonica.

Not too long ago, I emailed with him about the past, during which he indicated that he himself had resigned from Radio 227 at the time. In June 2021, he thought about making programmes for Radio Emmeloord. Unfortunately, it did not materialise. Much strength I wish his family. He was a fascinating human being. '

Bob Lens lived to be 83, and was a versatile artist. The site below gives an impression of his work.

<https://www.haagsekunstenaars.nl/cv/475>

Next e mail came from England and Robert 'Robbie' Owen, who wrote:

'Dear Hans I hope you are well. It is always great to read your Radio Report. It was my pleasure to interview Ron O'Quinn for a third time - this time to talk through the wonderful Swinging Radio England and Britain Radio photobook put together by Ray Anderson.

Listen here: <https://www.mixcloud.com/robbie-owen/the-jukebox-drive-in-for-26th-june-2022-hr3-live-pirate-radio-special-with-ron-oquinn/>

It's my hope to do the same for the RNI 1970 Photobook with Roger Day.' Thanks for the update Robbie and somewhere later this year we're together in one of your programs. Best wishes, Hans.

Next an article I wrote for this edition of the report:

### [The first female voice on Radio Veronica.](#)

Her name was first reported in some newspapers in April 1960. The reason was that test broadcasts could be heard from Radio Veronica, which were aired at different times. The Leeuwarder Courant reported on 26<sup>th</sup> of April of that year that the tests were broadcast 'on the 180 to 200 metres' with Max Groen and Ellen van Eck lending their voices to Radio Veronica.

"You are listening to a technical test broadcast of Radio Veronica, Here is Radio Veronica". According to the newspaper's correspondent, the lady had a voice with a slightly English accent. She was described as the announcer of the Dutch-Liechtenstein commercial Radio Veronica. That name had just come into use instead of VERON, as had been the case in earlier publications.

The journalist reported to the readers that Veronica's programme was broadcast from a former 'fire ship', Borkum Riff, anchored four and a half miles off the coast near Noordwijk and flying the Panamanian flag. Of course it was a former light vessel. It was also stated that the announcements were not broadcast live but had been recorded beforehand in a stately studio on the Keizersgracht in Amsterdam.

This was the building of the Netherlands Laboratory for Film Technology, where there were three small studio cells for making tape recordings. Here, the journalist was introduced to Ellen van Eck and Max Groen, where he was told that her real name was Mrs. Hubbeling, but that she wished to be called by her pseudo by everyone in the team. How she came to the idea of working at the station was because she got into a conversation with her mother while they were busy, in October 1959, buying a television set. That happened in the shop of one of the VRON shareholders. Ellen's mother told the man that her daughter had gained experience in radio work both at a commercial radio station and in Curaçao.





## Veronica's first vessel. Name maker unknown.

Ellen had 'roamed' the world since the age of four. Some years she lived in Italy, but also in Switzerland, the US and the Caribbean. In America she received her training at the radio school of RKO in New York at an early age. Subsequently, she worked at WOV AM New York, where she was involved in the Dutch-language and French-language programmes of Max Tak.

In Curaçao, she worked for the commercial radio station Curom and Caribe as a programme assistant. Furthermore, the above-mentioned newspaper reported that in 1960 Ellen van Eck was also active as a declamatrice in sound pictures and radio plays. When asked how often she would appear in Veronica's programmes, she stated: "The intention is that I will appear in front of the microphone as little as possible, also because I have an important part in programme management. Moreover, I do not like to appear too much in the foreground. I believe that women's voices get bored faster on the radio than men's voices. Sometimes I have the feeling that the listeners think 'oh man, go away'. Finally, I am well aware that a radio voice is just an uninvited intruder into the listener's family life. And if they let me into the living room, I have to behave modestly.'



Max Groen, Ellen van Eck en director Oswald in studio Amsterdam.  
From the Max Lewin collection in the SMC Archive.

About her tasks within the programme management, she stated that she had to keep an eye on the studios, the staff, the programme composition and a thousand and one other things within the organisation of the then still fresh and young radio station. In the *Volkskrant* from May 3rd 1960, Ellen van Eck once again came up with a few more details: "Our test broadcasts, which will soon make way for commercial programmes, are recorded on tapes here on shore. At regular intervals, these tapes are sent to the broadcast ship. Two technicians on board are allowed to play records of their own choice, with my and Max's recorded announcements of the test broadcasts in between. It's a great time for those guys. They are relieved every other week, just like the seven sailors on board. The ship 'Veronica' manifests itself on 185.2 metres medium wave and keeps its head above water at eleven kilometres from Katwijk."

Tony Vos had meanwhile been taken on as Studio Manager and Ellen and Max had one technician at the time, Rolf van de Velden. On board were father and sons Hermann, who took care of the transmitter, but were technically assisted by an engineer, Frans Termaat. In 1960 he went to live with Ellen van Eck.

In the meantime, Max Groen's short stay at Veronica was over, as he also had business in Flanders. From that moment on Ellen van Eck's responsibilities included the entire programme management of Radio Veronica for a period of time. She stated: "I want to put together two types of programmes. One with commercials of 15 to 30 seconds maximum, framed by music. In addition, programmes that can last a full hour, which are entirely under the name and supervision of a company as an advertiser. Numerous reactions from listeners arrived in the mail, such as just this morning, take a look...".

Not much later, Tony Vos was appointed programme leader and studios were set up at Zeedijk 27a in Hilversum. Ellen van Eck could

still be heard occasionally in a programme. During her time as programme leader, she still hired Tineke as presenter, who has gone down in history as the 'queen of Dutch radio'.



Time for another e mail from England: 'Next a photo I came across of the lady at BBC, who was responsible for making the Doctor WHO theme tunes... Good archive picture showing the old type of equipment in use then! Greetings John Bolton in Milford Haven.'

Time for the ever appearing Emperor Rosko in the report from Los Angeles: 'Greetings maestro of all things offshore and radio! Not a lot to offer this month except a few "well done's " on great stories in the last issue of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. I found a picture of the Mi Amigo 60's studio board, your readers who collect and keep track may enjoy. It has been made by **David Kindred and comes from the Rosko collection. Rosko**'.

Thanks Rosko and I truly hope the condition of your eyes I far much better now after some specialist did an intervention on those.





Mike Terry did send me information about a special radioprogram. 'Absolute Radio Pirates celebrated the music and personalities of the pirate radio stations of the 60s with a one day take over from Absolute Radio 60s on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August from 10 am to 4pm.

The special broadcast marked the 55th anniversary of the Marine Offences Act which made it illegal for any British subject to have anything to do with a pirate radio station - whether it be presenting on air, a crew member on board, being an advertiser, promoting the stations, or supplying them with music.

The pirate radio stations closed down on 14 August 1967, to avoid breaking the law, although Radio Caroline continued to broadcast.

Welcoming a number of well-known presenters and archive content, the pop-up station featured a line-up including Tony Blackburn, Johnnie Walker, Leona Graham, Shaun Keaveny, along with archive broadcasts from the likes of Kenny Everett and Tommy Vance.

Tony Blackburn talked about his love of Wonderful Radio London. Tony presented the first soul music programme in the UK and developed the Fabulous 40 format which combines the best new music with greatest hits. He told tales of climbing masts and doing aerial repairs so he could broadcast.

Johnnie Walker chatted about falling in love with pirate radio while working as a car salesman in Birmingham. There was archive content from when he remained on air after the ban came into force at midnight on the 15 August 1967.

Listeners heard also archive broadcasts of Kenny Everett and his chaotic reports from touring with The Beatles in 1966 alongside Tommy Vance's final Fabulous 40 from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1967.

In 1966, a feud over money between two rival fort-based pirate stations - Radio Atlanta and Radio City, resulted in the murder of Radio City's owner Reg Calvert. Susan Calvert joined the station too to talk about the life of her dad - and how his passion for music took him on a journey into the world of the pirates.

Leona Graham was joined by her dad to talk about their love of music radio which all started with the DJs on the pirate ships.

Radio historian David Lloyd shared a detailed history lesson, to show the evolution of music radio from the 1950s to the present day. Shaun Keaveny shared his love of music and broadcasting - and the impact and legacy of the pirate radio stations. Jordan and Perri from KISS Breakfast talked about continuing the pirate traditions on KISS FM.



Tim Blackmore - the man who helped to launch Radio One before becoming part of Britain's first land-based commercial music station, Capital in London - shared what he learned from listening to Radio London and how it influenced his 50 year career in radio.

Absolute Radio Content Director Paul Sylvester said: "Modern radio wouldn't exist without these titans of broadcasting who introduced British audiences to the likes of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Aretha Franklin. We're proud to pay tribute in a typically unique Absolute Radio way, disrupting the airwaves with an incredible soundtrack, legendary voices, compelling archive and the recreation of vintage news bulletins and ad-breaks. If you loved Absolute Radio 40s, well, we've fast-forwarded a couple of decades for another appointment-to-listen day of radio."

<https://ontheradio.co.uk/2022/07/tony-blackburn-and-johnnie-walker-to-join-absolute-radio-for-one-day-celebration-of-radio-pirates/>

In August Jana and I visited the broadcast ship museum in Alkmaar. The photos are included in the gigantic photo archive on Flickr that is managed by Martin van der Ven.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720301146901>



There is a story behind this photo. The Radio Scotland record was the very first record about offshore radio that I bought around 1970. The record ended up in the collection that I used in the hospital

broadcasting company in Groningen. In 1971 the group West Point started a sticker campaign and the Radio Scotland lp also got a sticker on it. Years later I received another record like this one from a collection that was given by another person and so one of the copies could be sold on one of the many RadioDays we've organised.

I was always busy with the total organisation and others occupied my sales table. So I never knew to whom the lp with the sticker was sold to. More than half a century after the sticker had been applied, I came across the LP again, in the Radio Ships Museum in Alkmaar, where it is one of the many objects on display from the works and collection of Hans Hettelder.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157635223769121>

Susan Moore commented on face book on Friday August 12th about the earlier mentioned special programs on Absolute Radio. 'They are running a feature programme about 1960s Pirate Radio. I was interviewed a couple of weeks ago (spent a lovely day in London), and am looking forward to hearing it. Tony Blackburn was in the studio before me. There are so many myths about 'pirate' radio. They were not 'pirates' but perfectly legal stations broadcasting from outside the 3 mile territorial waters.

My father, Reg Calvert was so excited when Radio Caroline first began to broadcast, Easter 1964, that he started his own station 'Radio Sutch' with Screaming Lord Sutch. Reg discovered abandoned wartime forts in the Thames Estuary, and after a summer of fun, Sutch returned to land and Reg changed the name to Radio City and put the station on a professional footing. He was the only individual to have a profitable station.

June 1966, the station was hijacked and two days later my father was shot dead. My mother insisted on continuing - even though her

life was threatened. The only woman to run a pirate station. All the witnesses at the Hearing and Trial were cancelled. When the government closed the 'pirates'.



Susan K Moore showing her books  
Photo: World of Radio

For years, I did not talk about these events but instead archived diaries, office files, photographs, news editorial etc. It took me more than 5 years to research, interview people and write, not one book, but what became a trilogy. 'Life and Death of a Pirate'. More information [www.regcalvert-plays.co.uk](http://www.regcalvert-plays.co.uk)

Of course for those who haven't ordered their copy I think it is a must to buy this excellent work from Susan.

On search for another subject in the SMC Archive this document also came in sight. I think it was around 1976 this petition was made. Who does remember more?



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLY WHITELAW, M.P.  
HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA, ENGLAND

This is a petition of protest against the successful prosecutions by the State against JOHN JACKSON-HUNTER, who was eventually imprisoned, RONALD DOYLE, who was fined £100 and ordered to pay £500 Court Costs, both of which were found guilty of displaying Radio Caroline stickers. This is also in protest of the successful prosecution against DAVID HUBON, who was fined £25 for displaying a Radio Caroline badge.

We, the undersigned, are against the waste of tax-payers money for the use of bureaucratic dictatorial interference by the British Home Office into Radio Carolines operations and petty harrassment of her fans and supporters. We feel that the law relating to this should be ammended and that the forthcoming prosecution against MUSIC RADIO PROMOTIONS concerning the infringement on Free Press should be dropped upon the return of a Conservative Government. We also feel that RADIO CAROLINE should be allowed to continue broadcasting from the high seas without Government interference and that the Home Office confiscation order on the ship the Mi Amigo, on which Radio Caroline operates, should not be enforced, should the ship drift into British territorial waters.

Finally we, the undersigned, would like an official announcement made, on behalf of the Conservative Party, as to what their policy is, relating to Radio Caroline and the above.

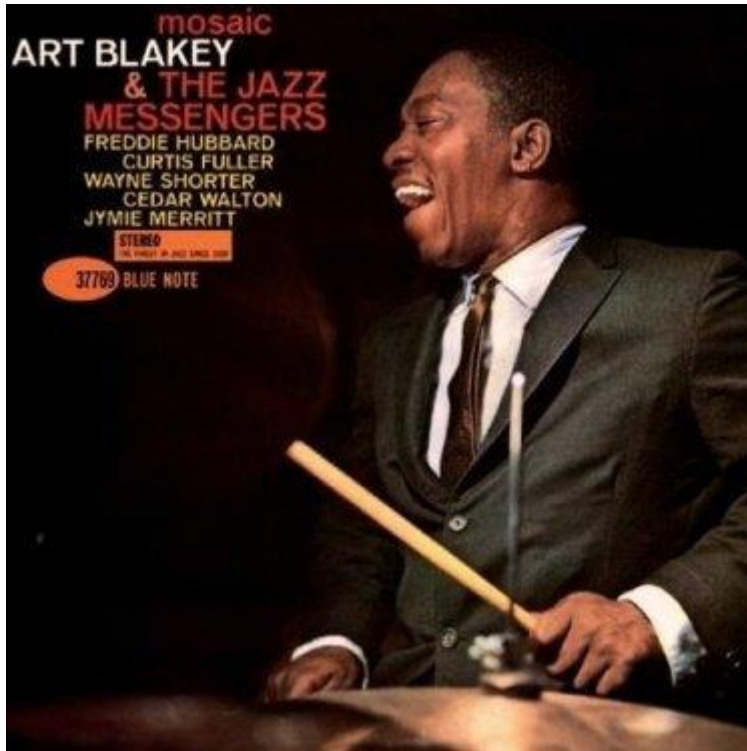
NAME (SIGNATURE)	ADDRESS

Reflections on the document are welcome by writing to  
[HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Just to know: It was on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of February 1962 that several newspapers in the Netherlands reported that Radio Veronica would broadcast the first part of the concert by jazz musician Art Blakey between a quarter past two and a quarter past three in the afternoon the following Saturday. Art had performed with his band on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February in the City Theatre and Veronica technicians had recorded the concert for broadcast in two parts.

Initially, the concert was offered to the public broadcasters at the time, but they did not have the financial possibilities of Veronica. The

whole thing was offered to Veronica by Paul Acket's Agency for 1500 guilders, a lot of money in 1962.



Jeff Martin is next: 'I just wondered if you would be kind enough to give a plug to my Radio Rollback Podcast in your brilliant report please? It covers the Offshore Stations mainly but celebrates the great days of music radio 60s 70s 80s. With chat clips and interviews with the people who were there to create all that great radio. The link is

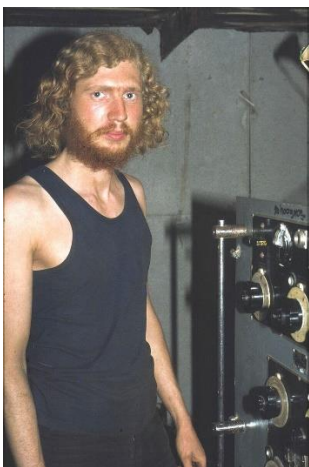
<https://radiorollback.podbean.com/>

Available on almost anywhere people get there podcast from including Spotify. Also on smart speakers "Play Radio Rollback Podcast". Thank you for you help. I really appreciate it, Jeff.'

I want to go back to 1962 for, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May that year, the Vrije Volk, a long-abolished newspaper in the Netherlands, reported that advertising via a radio station from Finland had been banned. It was, as it were, a predecessor for the anti-mission law that was only

introduced in the Netherlands in 1974. For people who intended to advertise through offshore radio stations or helped to maintain commercial stations would be guilty of a criminal offence. This would be the case if a proposal to introduce a new law came into force. The statement on this proposal came from the Finnish Ministry of Transport. Other Northern European countries were also working on such legislation. Representatives of Denmark, Norway and Sweden had agreed with those of Finland at a conference held in Helsinki in March 1962. By the way, Finland never got an offshore radio station off its coast in international waters, despite the rumours about it.

Marcel Kort wrote: August 21st, it was already 44 years ago. The story of a bite to eat and a lot of fun. On 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1978 the first broadcasts from the Aegir on 192 meters went on the air. Earlier, the Aegir had been stripped of its contents by the Radio Control Service, but Gerard van Dam and his boys managed to anchor the boat off the coast of Goeree and to bring more transmission equipment on board.



Johan Rood Photo: Leen Vingerling

House, garden and kitchen equipment, but what an enthusiasm. Actually, the transmitter was not a broadcast station at all, but a Marconi communication transmitter purchased at the army dump. With a lot of skill and effort, technician Johan van Hee (the late Johan Rood) managed to squeeze something like 800 watts out of the transmitter and to get it on the old Veronica frequency of 192



meters. Listeners loved it, only the sound of the transmitter was a problem.



Radio Delmare studio Photo: Collection Marcel Kort

Unfortunately it was not to last long, because on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 1978 the ship got off her anchor and almost ran over the rocks. The engine did not work (anymore) and a real ship-to-shore connection was not available. The may-day calls could be followed on the 192. A panicking René de Leeuw thought his last hour had come. The adventure seemed over but Gerard van Dam bought a new ship and after a harsh trip to the *Mi Amigo*, a generator was transferred on the *Caroline*-ship as well as a few Delmare boys.

Broadcasting from the *Mi Amigo* would unfortunately remain a dream for the Delmare boys. After a near-sinking experience of the *Old Lady* in 1979, Radio Delmare seemed further away than ever. Especially after their new ship, the *Epivan*, was confiscated. The late Gerard van Dam managed to arrange another old cutter, the *Martina*. Again an attempt was made to broadcast on 192. But the party was not allowed to last long. Employees left the station and finally only Johan van Hee stayed on board.

Finally Radio Delmare has broadcasted 100 days and had lost 4 ships and 1 supply ship. No other organization succeeded in breaking these records in offshore radio.

Next one came from Jan Sundermann in Germany who wrote: 'Hello Hans, a recent visit to Scheveningen drove me naturally also into the harbour. The pavilion of Rederij Trip makes a poor and lost place impression. Later in afternoon there was one person inside by name of Bart Roos, and he is a cousin of Dick Roos. The founder of Rederij Trip is still alive and Bart remembered going out to the MEBO II with his uncle on the Trip Tender as a young boy. Dick had sold his whole company many years ago to neighbour Rederij Vrolijk.



**Trip office in 2022 in Scheveningen. Photo: Jan Sundermann**

Trip Junior PIAY and Eurotrip are the only ships left here. Where the Eurotrip is in use for the burials of your ashes at sea. Trip Senior PIBA is operating in Spain. So it was probably Vrolijk who had sold later the Trip Tender to a group of people, thought to have been from Egypt. The Trip Tender is thought to be still in Alicante on the chain



of authorities. But Shipfinder does not show it. Meanwhile very probably out of registration.



50 years Radio Trip plaque in 2012 Photo: Jan Sundermann

Greetings Jan Sundermann.' Excellent always informative are your contributions. Now we go to Florida in the USA. August 20<sup>th</sup> message from Rick Crandell, who was of course Rick Randell on Swinging Radio England and more: 'My final week in the Live & Local Hour on Sunshine 96.7 FM in St Pete begins this week. "Retiring" (again) as I turn 80 to tackle an art project (my mother's portraiture) and bringing some of my old radio programs on cassette and reel tapes into the digital age.'



Rick Randell from his own collection in 2022

Good luck Rick and for soon a happy birthday and hopefully some souvenirs will be on mp3 available at a later stage.

Yes time for a story which brings us back 50 years and which I wrote in Dutch 25 years ago: On 28<sup>th</sup> of December 1975, Hilversum 4 was finally introduced in the Netherlands with the aim of bringing classical music more to the attention of the listening public. The very first hour on the classical station was also the first programme hour of the then new broadcasting company, the Veronica Omroep Organisatie. This was done in a hilarious presentation by André van Duin and Tineke de Nooij.

A special classical radio network in Hilversum had finally become a reality. Many composers and musicians advocated the establishment of such a network, including the setting up of a special foundation, the organisation of a benefit evening and the 'equipping' of a broadcasting ship, which for one day drifted for a few hours on the North Sea off Scheveningen.

Classical music and offshore radio stations, do they go together? Yes, they certainly do. Once, the violinist Theo Olof - the figurehead of the Netherlands Music Foundation, which was working for the establishment of a classical music station - was tempted to step aboard a broadcasting ship at the request of the VPRO radio. I found a photo of this and linked it to the remarkable story about Radio Stereo Petat and the Netherlands Music Committee.



Lenny Len, Sjef van Oekel and Theo Olof Photo: Nationaal Archief  
Nederland

Some three decades ago I visited the Broadcasting Museum in Hilversum. During the second part of my visit, I decided to dive into the photo archives with museum curator Arno Weltens to see if there were any suitable photos that might be considered for publication. That particular Monday, sometime in December 1995, yielded a number of photos that I had either never seen or had seen a very long time ago. I came across a photo with, among others, Sjef van Oekel and Lenny Len, at the time working for the VPRO. With his body wrapped in a warm fur coat and his face hidden under a bunch of long hair, this Lenny Len was a stranger to Arno at the time. But, after I told him that it was none other than Jan Lenferink, who later became very famous, the stories started to flow and I realised that the photo belonged to the story of Radio Stereo Petat.

The story of Radio Stereo Petat took place almost over 50 years ago, so it is time to look back. Back to 1973. On Monday April 9th of that year, a week after the Veronica vessel, the Norderney, had run into the beach of Scheveningen, the MV Morgenster came out of the Tweede Binnenhaven of this fishing village. On board was not only the crew, which was paid by shipping company Vrolijk, but also a team of radio workers and musicians, whose goal it was to provide radio programmes from the North Sea.

In other words, the Morgenster was a 'broadcast ship' at that time. It was not a broadcasting ship like we were used to from stations like Radio Caroline, Radio Noordzee and Radio Veronica, which transmitted sound waves all over the Netherlands with powerful transmitters at that time. No, on board the Morgenster, which under normal circumstances was used daily for sport fishing on the North Sea, there was a small relay transmitter. Through this transmitter, the signal to be broadcasted was sent to a NOS switchboard, which was set up near the port of Scheveningen. Via a radio link, the same signal

then went to the various FM stations in the Netherlands, from where it was distributed to the listeners. It concerned a VPRO programme that could be heard every week under the title of VPRO Monday.



Photo National Archive Netherlands 926-3324

The programme of this one-off sea-broadcasting event was opened with the well-known syntax of Dolf Brouwers, already known at the time as Sjef van Oekel in the Barend Servetshow: "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this station ... Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this station of today and tomorrow. Ladies and gentlemen, right, what's it all about? Can we? Yes, shall we begin? There's classical music coming up now, in a moment. Now, what is that all about?" With the above historical words, the one-day director of Radio Stereo Petat, Sjef van Oekel, opened the then new offshore radio station with the aim of spreading classical music throughout the Netherlands.

At that time, classical music was still a type of music that was not covered on a special station like today's Radio 4, Concertzender or Classic FM. Sjef van Oekel again: "We are now going to listen to a series of musical works that the dogs don't want to hear. The initiators had rented the MV Morgenster for the day from Rederij

Vrolijk for the sum of NLG 300, but old Jacques Vrolijk was sensible enough to go along himself. He did not fully trust the purpose of the trip and moreover he was afraid that the ship would be dropped on the beach.

In those days he often rented out the ship for other purposes than sport fishing and invariably he went along. In those days, I myself also hired out ships, in cooperation with Rob Olthof of the later Media Communications Foundation, with the aim of taking supporters of the broadcasting stations to their beloved offshore radio vessels, and the pipe-smoking Vrolijk was always present on these trips. At eleven o'clock in the morning, the *Morgenster* left the harbour with on board, as it was officially called, the Netherlands Music Committee, supporters, journalists, photographers and young musicians who would perform some classical works live on deck later in the broadcast.



Jacques Vrolijk Photo Rob Olthof SMC

The committee included Theo Olof (violinist) and the writers and journalists R. Kousbroek, W. Jungman and K. Poll. They were the first to be interviewed by VPRO employee Lenny Len about the objective of the project, all of this broadcasted live in the total programme VPRO-Monday. As stated before, Lenny Len was a nick-name for Jan Lenferink.



The *Morgenster* did not really go offshore, in international waters like the other broadcasting ships, because otherwise it would have lost contact with the radio carriage in Scheveningen harbour. However, before anchoring off the beach in Scheveningen and starting the broadcasts, the crew passed Veronica's Norderney, which was still anchored high up on the beach near the pier.

The musicians were renamed the 'Morgensterretjes' for the occasion and in the programme they made it clear in words and music that it was time for a classical music station in the Netherlands. An appeal was also made to the Dutch government for special broadcasting time for the benefit of Holland Music. Sandwiches, coffee, hot sausages and 'snert' (pea soup) put many of those present in a good mood, although not everyone felt really at ease, as the sea was quite rough.

Theo Olof reported that he had been looking for his sou'wester but had unfortunately not been able to find it. Dolf Brouwers, too, thought the weather was not too good, as his words testify: "I bought tablets against seasickness. I can never stand it, eh. Well then, I'll just have to get really sick. By the way, it would really be something for me if my text papers were to be blown away now." Presenter Lenny Len announced yet another golden oldie, followed by the overture of 'The Wedding of Figaro'. In the programme, the ship's expression changed from bakboord to Bachboord while Dolf Brouwers, green in colour, rushed to the stern of the ship to get really pissed off.

A survey at the time showed that 18% of the Dutch population was in favour of a purely classical music station and that 16% would definitely listen to such a station regularly. The aim was also to encourage listeners to pick up the phone and respond to the purpose of this temporary 'offshore radio station'. During the broadcast, the VPRO received 70 telephone responses, most of which were positive. Olof also reported that the campaign for a separate station, which had started a few weeks earlier, had resulted in six thousand

expressions of support. Eventually, they hoped for more than 100,000. For the reactions, a postbox number had been opened: postbox 71000 in Amsterdam.



Theo Olof on the Morgenstern. Photo National Archive 926-3321

A few weeks after the VPRO action, the management of Radio Veronica announced that it wished to provide a full programme on the future Hilversum 4, about which some things had been said in the Lower House. The government would then be able to use Radio Veronica's vacant wavelength, the 538 metres, for broadcasting a classical station. Members of the Lower House Geurtsen and Van Dijk submitted written questions to the Minister of CRM, former KRO chairman Harry van Doorn. The latter replied that he did not feel interested in using the 538 metres for a classical station to be started, since the '538' had not been officially allocated to our country but had been swallowed up by a station operating outside national territory.

Moreover, the Minister considered the imposition of a classical station on the Hilversum broadcasting companies at that time to be an interference in the programme policy, which went beyond what the Broadcasting Act allowed. This Act only prescribed that one of the radio networks had to broadcast a programme of a broadcasting nature. There was no provision for serious classical music. Van Doorn also reported in his reply that an average of 72 hours of serious programmes were broadcast each week in Hilversum, which seemed sufficient to him. It was not until the end of 1975, the Sunday after Christmas, that the then Hilversum 4 was opened as the Netherlands' classical radio network, with Veronica ironically being the first broadcaster on this new station.

But not everyone was happy with the broadcasts of Hilversum 4. Hundreds of written and telephone complaints were received by the NOS. There were also letters from Germany and Belgium. Most of the complaints concerned the fact that several hours of spoken word were programmed. There was also disappointment about Hilversum 4 disappearing from the airwaves at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and there were also complainants who regretted that it could only be received via FM. Half a century later, it is better to listen to your own classical CD collection than to tune in to NPO Radio 4.

Copyright Hans Knot



He has done it again, Hans Hettelder, informed me that after a long hot summer he managed to get the model of the radio ship Laissez Faire ready. It was a lot puzzeling with the rigging but he managed to do so. Of course this new model will be part of his exclusive 'Zeezenderschepen Museum' in the city of Alkmaar.

### Pirate Radio Exhibition in Felixstowe 2022

Between Friday 5th and Sunday 7th August 2022, a Pirate Radio Exhibition was held in a 200 year old Napoleonic Martello Tower in Felixstowe, overlooking the North Sea. The Tower is owned by East Suffolk Council and occupied by the volunteers of National Coastwatch Institution, and used for the Exhibition with both their permissions.



Morris 1000 van

Spread over two floors, Chris Dannatt displayed his Flashback 67/Pirate Memories material, Ray Anderson showed much of his Pirate Radio Museum display from Clacton, while Chris Brisland (Wireless of the Week on Facebook) and Felixstowe and Offshore Radio combined for a display of vintage radios. On the Saturday, Dave and Rob Cragie from Southwold brought their Morris 1000 van, with a display of vintage radios inside!

Read more and see all the photos here:

<https://hansknot.com/features/Pirate%20Radio%20Exhibition%20in%20Felixstowe%202022.pdf>

Also

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72177720301555726>

And <https://offshore-radio.de/>

On 31st of August 1974 at 2 minutes past six, Radio Veronica was forced to cease broadcasting from the North Sea. Because of this historic event, there was a reunion at the original Hilversum 3 DJ studio on the Gooische Brink in Hilversum on 31 th of August 2022, organised by Beeld en Geluid and 192Radio.

Old and new Veronica employees jointly celebrated the start of "Vintage Veronica" which continued at 2 minutes past 6 PM with Rob Stenders and Ad Bouman.

The celebrations started at 3pm, where Leo van der Goot was then already busy with a broadcast from the Hilversum 3, DJ table. From 5pm to 6pm there was a special commemorative hour about 14 Years of Radio Veronica, on 192Radio, and Vintage Veronica (DAB+)

The video edit by Alex van den Hoek is online. With Ad and Leo and as guests Cees van Zijtveld, Nico Steenberg, Juul Geleick, Marc van Amstel, Dick Klees, Francis Bouman, Tineke and Ben Cramer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7v2VOcmSyo>

Let's go to Jon from the Pirate Hall of Fame

'New this month:

- we have some excellent photos taken on board the Radio Caroline and Laser ships by Mark Stuart;



- we hear from a long lost Radio Seagull DJ;
- there is a Top 50 chart from June 1967 issued by the Dutch pop station Radio 227;
- and Brian Nichols of the Felixstowe & Offshore Radio Facebook page reports on their recent exhibition of pirate memorabilia.

Many thanks to all the contributors. Back next month. All the best,  
Jon.'

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

Recently I published a newspaper cutting from autumn 1967

The Times 6-9-1967 ARCHIVES: <https://www.offshoreechos.com>

## CAROLINE TO PAY FOR LIFEBOAT

### Swim boast criticized

FROM OUR NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT—  
Ramsey, I.o.M., Sept. 5

The action of two Radio Caroline disc jockeys who broadcast their intention to swim ashore for a bet while gale warnings were in force was described here today by a lifeboat official as "utterly irresponsible and thoughtless".

Ramsey lifeboat was at sea for two-and-a-half hours in a force eight gale last night after Mr. Ronan O'Rahilly, founder of the Radio Caroline organization, had telephoned coastguards and the lifeboat station from London asking them to prevent the two men from making the attempt.

Mr. O'Rahilly agreed to pay the full cost of the launch—it will be at least £50—and the boat was sent out with a seven-man crew to deliver an urgent message to the pirate radio ship ordering the disc jockeys to call the stunt off.

Today Mr. Bernard Swales, the Royal National Life-Boat Institution's honorary secretary at Ramsey, said: "I was genuinely worried and wanted this stunt stopped at all costs. Since there was the possibility of the men already being in the sea with their lives, at risk, the lifeboat obviously had to be launched. It is always better to have a false alarm rather than be too late.

"The disc jockeys who put these announcements out were quite irresponsible, in my opinion. They apparently never thought of the trouble they could have caused to other people, even risk to other people's lives."

#### They meant it

Mr. William Cottier, lifeboat coxswain, said his crew were "not very pleased" at the job. When he had checked that there was no one in the water he boarded the ship and handed the message over. "The captain of the Caroline apologized for the trouble that had been caused", he said.

Mr. Don Allen and Mr. Mark Sloane said on the air today that they had seriously meant to make the swim, wearing rubber suits and aqualung equipment, but called it off because of the weather.

Today Radio Caroline went off the air for four minutes, and again later for three minutes, while disc jockeys were reporting that the ship was in the worst gale experienced for two and a half years.

Golgo Brone reflected with 'The power of self-promotion! Positive or negative press, it has mattered not for many of DJs seeking

attention in radio broadcasting for years. More often than not it has served it's purpose by driving more listeners to tune in!

Even if not carried out, it makes it even more brilliant in that it provoked a press report that brought attention to it. I would not put it past Ronan to have been in on the stunt. Just goes to show the power of a couple of knuckleheads behind a microphone in a box, floating in a raging gale! Brilliant!



Fredericia collection Kenny Tosh

Andy Cadier, aka Martin Kayne reflected with: 'This was really a poorly conceived hoax that few would have taken seriously. Nobody on board, including the two suspected DJs, were sufficiently competent swimmers to attempt the four miles ashore in calm waters let alone a gale. No time or date was broadcast for this supposed event which was supposed to test the Marine Offences Act and the authority's response to it.

The captain of the MV Caroline would need to give consent to this, which wouldn't have been forthcoming. Perhaps political or other reasons the Coastguard was unable to contact the vessel on the ship

to shore radio, thus requiring the launching of the RNLI lifeboat. I remember the captain giving the RNLI crew a bottle of spirits, possibly brandy, as a token of his appreciation. The cost to the RNLI may have been written off as a training exercise if not entirely covered by Ronan's previously mentioned donation.'

Mark Sloane:

'Hi Andy I believe this was a PR exercise to show us as irresponsible and a liability. As you say, no one in their right mind would believe that we would be attempting to swim to Ramsey, also why didn't Ronan give the two DJ's a Bollocking and claim his money back?'

Ending this edition of the report with a video from 2015. Diving to the Voice of Peace shipwreck. The ship went down in October 1993 when Abe Nathan, the station owner, decided to sink the ship so no one else good use her for others subjects than his fight for Peace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTKFC8J4CyU>

Next report will be an early December Christmas report. Messages, questions, memories and more? Please feel free to send to

[Hknot@home.nl](mailto:Hknot@home.nl)