

HANS KNOT INTERNATIONAL RADIO REPORT OKTOBER 2011

Welcome to another edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report in which I would like to thank you all for your e mails, memories and other news and as always a selection of what came in. Let's first go to the USA where the first mail came from, after sending away all those reports to you the reader. It is someone who reflects on Mike Spencer his story telling he had a short fling with Laser 576, just before the mast on the Communicator came down in 1987:

'Hello Hans please let Mike Spenser know that 'Europe's Most Eligible Bachelor' himself fondly remembers the *Garage Goodies* Radio Show! 25 years later, I still can't get the theme song out of my head. I specifically remember threading up at least two of those shows myself - which were actually broadcast from the Communicator's production studio, as Laser 576's on-air studio did not have a working reel deck at the time (if ever).

Don't hold me to this, but I seem to remember the programme as airing around tea-time on Sundays (when I think of the *GGRS*, I always think of bangers and mash. Maybe that's it). I would love to hear one of those programmes again someday. Without the bangers and mash. Till next time, D.L. Bogart, Laser Hot Hits 576, Program Director. Now semi-retired and dodging F5 tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri.'

Of course I've forwarded the mail to Mike Spencer, who reflected with: 'Thanks for the email Hans! Sometimes I wonder if anybody actually remembered my shows. I still have the original 1/4" tapes for at least 1 show, possibly 2. I'm back in the US now but I'd like to get in touch directly with D.L. Bogart and send him a copy of the show when I get back to London in a few weeks. I still have the theme song on those tapes! Is there any chance of his email address? Small world isn't it! As soon as I get back to the UK at the end of October I'll dig up whatever 1/4 tapes I got, dust off my lovely valve Levers-Rich machine and transfer to digital so I can send them to the both of you. I remember that Ray Anderson only returned a few of the tapes. I bet the rest went down with the masts way back then! As far

as I can remember about the theme song, we, Bal as the Count and myself as Micky Baron, got either his band, the Stingrays or my mob, the Cannibals, to do the backing track and we just added our vocals. I'd like to hear it as well! It is still swimming somewhere in my mind now as a distant memory.
Mike Spenser.'



DL Bogart Photo: Archive OEM Pat Shea

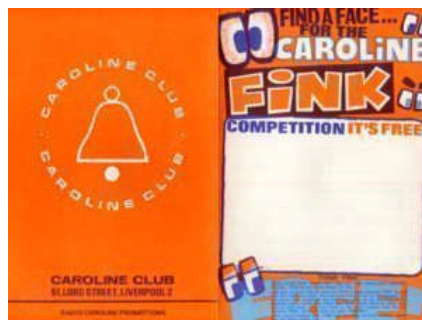
Thanks a lot the both of you and we will be listening to the tape later this year. **And once again The Hans Knot International Radio Report brought people together!**

In last issue there was a question from Chris Edwards from Offshore Echos about the Caroline North office in Lord Street in London in the sixties of last century. Two answers, which I've already sent to Chris, the first one comes from Roger Kemp:

'Hello Hans, thanks for sending the latest report to me. I am still working my way through the backdated reports as well, it's heavy reading, but I'll get there in the end. If you remember I told you about my neighbour Jim Duggan who worked for Radio Caroline, and his brother Kevin who worked there as well. Did your friend (whose name has escaped me at the moment) get in touch with Jim? I am sure he will fill you in with a lot of details of 61 Lord Street, Liverpool, as that was his workplace. Also, you showed a competition entry in one of the reports about naming or finding 'a fink' which I have an original of in my collection. If you study the signature of the

promoter, I am pretty sure it is Jim's. But you will have to ask him about that as well. '

Try to remember the question about the Fink, some two years ago in the report. Someone sent the following Caroline North leaflet for the Find a face for Caroline Fink Competition which is completely new for me. Who can tell me more? Also if you have something to share from in house promotion from any of the offshore stations please feel free to write to HKnot@home.nl



Still above reaction is the only reaction on the question. So if anyone knows more please reflect.

Going back to Chris Edward's question about Liverpool's office for Radio Caroline North a second person reflected with:

'Hi Hans, first of all many thanks for all the work you put into your International Radio Report, which I look forward to reading each month. When I was an Engineer on Caroline North, from 1966 to 1968, I called into the office a few times when I had a few hours to kill between flights to Dublin, while going on leave from the ship. The office was on the upper floor and was run by Jimmy and Kevin Duggan. I don't remember what was in the shop. I hope this is of some help. By the way did you ever make a list of Offshore Engineers who hold Amateur Radio Callsigns? Here are two more to add to the list, 2E0MWJ Steve Merike, Radio Scotland and Radio Caroline South. Bob Read WAOAGF Radio Caroline North late 1966. Best wishes to you and yours. Keep up the good work, Mike Wright, EI2DJ /G4GXN.'



Mike Wright on Caroline North and at ITN Dublin in 2010
Photos: Archive Mike Wright

I know that someone in my readership earlier tried to find out more about the brothers Duggan, but I must honestly say I don't recall his name. So please, you out there, tell us if you find something out! And Mike thanks for the information and of course, not forgetting the two new call signs for the Amateur list, who also had a job in offshore radio. One day I will the updated list in the report. Any who wants to reflect can write to me: Hknot@home.nl

On the last Saturday of August the internet radio station Extra Gold started a special series of Offshore Radio programs. I think that it was another good idea of the team. Not that they only played old programs, now they really made a lot of work of it. As example I will mention the broadcast of the very last Top 50 from RNI, which was never officially published. Ferry Eden, who we also know from several other stations, including Radio Mi Amigo in the seventies, tried to reconstruct this special Top 50 like it should be way back on 31st of August 1974. The show was complete with original RNI jingles and commercials, but also with new jingles in the style RNI used in the seventies of last century, including voice overs from Ferry Maat and Hans ten Hooge. More of the Flashback Top 40 or Top 50's can be heard regularly on Extra Gold, so please visit their site for more information: www.extragold

Next is Helmut (Lee) Taylor from Frankfurt, Germany. He worked, decades ago, on Radio Invicta and still hopes: 'that someone might have taken a

recording of my 'broadcasting to the world', on Radio Invicta, so that I might get myself a copy - of myself! Anyone who has done so can contact him versus my e mail address.

The internet station Surfradio, run by former RNI employer Peter Ford, became 'RNI' for one day. On August 31st the station went back to 1974 and so from 10 in the morning till 20.00 hrs listeners could hear a part of the last day in broadcasting from the classic RNI. Next till 21.00 hrs listeners could hear 'Auntie Grasilda', better known as Graham Gill to my readership. He recorded a special program for SurfRadio in a typical RNI style.



Graham Gill Surfradio 2011

Photo: Peter Ford

When Graham recorded his show, he also recorded several promospots for the station as well for Annoeska's program. She presents programs on several stations, including SurfRadio and the internet station RNI.

SurfRadio nowadays also have programs in English, each Sunday evening.

<http://www.surfradio.nl>

This years RadioDay is coming nearer as we're planning to see each other at Saturday November 12 at the New Vasa 400 in Amsterdam. Here's the programma schedule for that day:

11:00	Opening
11:15	<u>The Story of Radio Netherlands' "Media Network"</u> A dialogue between Jonathan Marks and Andy Sennitt

12:05	Josje de Munck being presented with the prime copy of the <u>Laser 558 book</u> written by Hans Knot
12:15	Het <u>Gerard van Dam</u> interview (delen van de nieuwe video "Actum Agere")
12:30	<u>Het Radio Delmare avontuur</u> Een panel met Gerard van der Zee, Ronald Bakker (André Zwinkels), Marcel Stevens, John Anderson en Ronald van de Vlucht (beiden nog onder voorbehoud). Gespreksleider: Jan Olienoot (Leendert Vingerling)
13:30	<u>The forgotten stations from former wartime defence forts</u> A panel with Paul Freeman (Radio Essex), Colin Dale (Radio Sutch), Guy Hamilton (Essex), Bill Rollins (Tower), John Stewart (KING, Essex), Dick Dixon [Dickason] (Sutch, Essex) and Roger Scott (Essex). Moderator: John Ross-Barnard (Invicta, KING)
14:30	<u>Op volle kracht: Herinneringen aan Radio Veronica</u> Een panel met Tineke, Ad Bouman, Harry Knipschild, Jan van Veen, Robbie Dale, Bart van Leeuwen, Joost de Draaijer (beiden nog onder voorbehoud), Bert Alting en Jan Herrmann. Gespreksleider: Juul Geleick
15:30	<u>Get Your Kicks On 266 - Radio London Memories</u> A panel with Ian Damon, Graham Gill, Dave Hawkins, Norman St. John and Ron Buninga. Moderator: Ray Clark
16:30	<u>The Radio Day 2011 Awards - presented by Robbie Dale and Hans Knot</u> "An Outstanding Contribution to Offshore Radio" (3 winners), "Offshore Radio Top Technical Support" (1), "Offshore Radio Writers and Historians" (1), "The Radio Anoraks Award" (1)
17:30	Farewell
Radio Mi Amigo 107.1 FM will be broadcasting live from the Casa 400 hotel.	
René van den Abeelen will showcase his unique miniatures of legendary radioships, multiplied in tin by a professional foundry. Furthermore Hans Hettelder will proudly present his superb radio ship models.	

For all information about RadioDay and the location of the venue and how to get there, there are two sites to visit: www.radioday.nl and <http://www.casa400.nl/en-GB/route.html>



The organising team Radio Day August 2011 in Groningen
Photo: Ulrike van der Ven

Next we're going back to England where the next e mail comes from: 'Hi Hans, thanks as ever for sending-really interesting and well worth the effort. Kind Regards, Tony James.

www.tonyjamesradio.com and www.lakelandradio.co.uk

After having a look at his internet sites I asked Tony how he got involved in radio and he reflected with: 'Hi Hans, well, my interest in offshore radio comes from being a very small boy in the 70's and being fascinated by radio. I enjoyed BBC Radio 1 on 247, but never really felt I belonged to it. I had an old Echo baby radio (valve) and one day I tuned into Radio Caroline. At the time 'hated' the rock music (not now), but I loved the presenters and relaxed and honest presentation. I remember being devastated when Radio Caroline sank in March 1980 and being furious when British entertainer Bruce Forsyth made a joke on TV about them having time to play 24 commercials on the way down! I ended up going out to Caroline on the MV Ross Revenge in the 80s for a visit and breaking the 'act', by being interviewed on Radio 819, Tony James.

Thanks Tony and your story brings in another question as I'm now interested to know what Bruce Forsyth really told during the joke. So anyone who has it on mp3 either on script, please pass it on to HKnot@home.nl

Next one is also an exclusive one; you've to follow the advice to have a look there as Mary Payne wrote us: Dear All, I've just added a new, seventh page to our feature about Radio London's most enigmatic DJ, Chuck Blair. A researcher in the USA has assisted me in filling in many gaps about our mystery man and his real identity. It's a fascinating story that completes many pieces of the puzzle, but still leaves a number of questions unanswered.' But far more recent updates makes it sensible to go directly to <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/>

Probably my fingers went to quick and my eyes went worse during editing the last issue of the report as I got this e mail: 'Hi Hans, a small correction regarding the Atlantis deejay. It was Derek Jones, not Johns, as you wrote. One of the other strap lines when Derek, who was the engineer really, was on air was 'The boat that stinks the ocean! Good old Steve England did the jingles, I have them somewhere. Best wishes, Peter Agate.' Thanks Peter and here a rare photograph from Derek Jones, taken by Steve England during Atlantis days. Must find some time to scan all those photographs Steve did send me through the years from the Radio Atlantis international period.



Derek Jones

From Radio Atlantis to Alan Bailey, who once worked for Radio Luxembourg and a very interesting internet link:

<http://www.itnsource.com/shotlist//BHC RTV/1934/03/08/BGX407190461/?s>

'A fascinating 1934 newsreel Brothers Gerald and Wilfred Barker of Norwich are forced to close their radio station down by the BBC: they recount the tale. First pirate radio station closed down by post office authorities. Greetings, Alan Bailey.'

The time for Tom in the USA, who wrote: 'The Armed Forces Radio Service is getting ready for it's 70th birthday. The 'AFRTS Archive' is a celebration of those years. You're invited to take a look or pass it on to anyone you think may be interested. Thom Whetston AFKN Korea 1976-77

<http://afrtsarchive.blogspot.com>

From Australia we have an e mail from former SRE/Britain Radio/Radio Dolfijn person Jack Curtiss: 'Hello from Down Under, we're reaching out to Bay Area radio stations in connection with an upcoming event in Walnut Creek that we think will interest listeners over a wide area. On September 10th 2011, members of the Oakland High Class of 1961 will hold their 50th Anniversary Class Reunion, a notable though not altogether remarkable occasion. That evening however we will also pay tribute to a surviving member of the OHS Class of 1931 who is a noted songwriter with many hits to his credit including the Number One song of 1953 that topped the Billboard Chart for 10 consecutive weeks. He is also responsible for the only time in a 60-year recording career that Frank Sinatra ever referred to a real-life high school (in a Grammy Award -winning album of the year to boot). William Envick, now 97, has also written lyrics recorded by artists as diverse as Edith Piaf, Willie Nelson, Tony Bennett, Patti Page, Rosemary Clooney, Mitch Miller, Mel Torme, Peggy Lee, Buddy Rich, Count Basie, Jerry Vale, Percy Faith, Mantovani, Judy Garland, Marlene Dietrich, Ray Conniff, Les Paul & Mary Ford, Brigitte Bardot, John Gary, The Brothers Four and Gerry and the Pacemakers. See the url for The Oakland Tribune column that gives more information about him. http://www.insidebayarea.com/dave-newhouse/ci_18756446 Oakland Mayor Jean Quan has also issued a proclamation concerning this event.

I will play two Envick songs on COAST-FM Adelaide, Australia two nights before I board a Qantas flight to San Francisco. Thought you might get a kick out of this, also after reuniting with old classmates and my sister and nieces in California, I'll head to Washington, DC to meet up with my kids and

BTW a second 'Old Pirates Mini-reunion' with Harry Putnam (Johnny Dark) in Maryland. Best regards, Jack Curtiss.

An e mail from Belgium: 'Thanks for sending this information all those months. In the past I too learned a lot about this radio hobby and the period 1964 up till 1968 has the most interest as I was a child in those days. It must have been 1970 that I listened for the first time to Offshore Radio. A pity I missed the years when Wonderful Radio London, Big L, was on the air. For future issues of the Report please add as much information as possible of the sixties, also the Radio Forts are very interesting to learn more about. You mentioned in last issue a You Tube link to Les Reed and Man of Action; send in by reader Jan Broekema. However I've no access to the clip.' Greetings, Luc Deleu.'

Thanks a lot Luc and the reason you can't see anymore the clip is that the copyright owner complained about the song being on You Tube, so it has been blocked now: 'This video is no longer available because the YouTube account associated with this video has been terminated due to multiple third-party notifications of copyright infringement from claimants including: Warner Music Group Gravity Limited IFPI Sorry about that.'

LASER
All Europe Radio
558

LASER 558 All Europe Radio Hans Knot

Just before *Radio Caroline* restarted in 1983 rumours were heard that a new radioship would appear at the West European Horizon. But it would last until November that year that we saw in the trade publication 'Radio News' the first printed message about the American financed project. In their edition from November 4th 1983: 'A new pirate ship is leaving Fort Lauderdale, Florida, today to anchor alongside *Radio Caroline* off the British Coast. The station, which will be called *Laser 730*, is expected to arrive off Kent in two weeks time. *Laser 730* is American backed and will feature only American personalities keen to make impression on the European Market. Its music will be *CHR - Contemporary Hit Radio - or Top 40* - which has taken the major stateside market by storm. The mast is 354 feet high and *Laser 730* is hoping to achieve a power of 100 KW.' It was the start of a hectic period in which Western Europe was highly caught by the broadcasting team of *Laser 558*. In this book many memories of a wonderful radio station from more than 25 years ago, 'All Europe Radio *Laser 558*'.

Hans Knot (62) is a Dutch media historian and has been researching and writing since 1969. He has written countless articles and books on the history of radio and television which were published in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, England, France and the USA. In 2009 he was honoured by the Dutch Queen Beatrix with a knighthood for his work as media historian.

Laser 558 all Europe radio

Hans Knot

It did not mean a big surprise as the Radio Caroline radio vessel MV Ross Revenge arrived in the Thames Estuary to seek for an anchorage and to start broadcasting programmes for the new Radio Caroline. It was August 1983 and after 42 months the station was back on the air. Some years earlier it had to stop transmissions (March 1980), when their former radioship MV Mi Amigo sunk in a heavy storm.

The new sound of Radio Caroline was for many avid listeners very boring as less talk and too much non stop music tracks were played. It wasn't the family station we were so fond of. In those days I wrote for Buster Pearson's Monitor Magazine and the Freewave Media Magazine. A third person I have to mention is the late Tom de Munck, who also wrote for the Freewave Media Magazine and incognito as John Wendale for the Free Radio Magazine. Along with others we followed the offshore scene to bring reports for the readers. The three of us worked closely together in the eighties and succeeded in presenting our work not only to the readers of our magazines but also to several newspapers, magazines and radio stations, who were interested in the intensive work we put into the Laser scene. Now after more than a quarter of a century I dived into our archives to edit this 'All Europe Radio, Laser 558'.

Just before Radio Caroline restarted we already heard rumours that a new radioship would appear at the West European Horizon. But it would last until November that year that we saw in the trade publication 'Radio News' the first printed message. In their edition from November 4th 1983: 'A new pirate ship is leaving Fort Lauderdale, Florida, today to anchor alongside Radio Caroline off the British Coast. The station, which will be called Laser 730, is expected to arrive off Kent in two weeks time. Laser 730 is American backed and will feature only American personalities keen to make impression on the European Market. Its music will be CHR - Contemporary Hit Radio - or Top 40 - which has taken the major stateside market by storm. The mast is 354 feet high and Laser 730 is hoping to achieve a power of 100 kW.' I hope this book will bring back a lot of memories to you with the happenings of a wonderful radio station from more than 25 years ago, 'All Europe Radio Laser 558'.

Groningen, Hans Knot, October 2011.

So, there it's the introduction to my new publication, which just came from the printer and is now for sale. It's a 192 pages book, with also many photographs, including 8 in full colour, many not published before. How to order the book: **The Price is 21 Euro, including package and postage. For people from the Netherlands payment can be done at account number 4065700 or 988940301 on the name of Mediacommunicatie, Amsterdam.**

For ordering from outside the Netherlands you can use either 4065700 or 988940301 adding IBAN NL85INGB0004065700 BIC INGBNL2A

Or you can use paypal: rob@mediacommunicatie.nl

Please inform also the author when ordering the book and giving your complete address where the book can be send to at HKnot@home.nl

Radio report is bringing people together

Here's another example of bringing people together. From Leeds, where Mike Gerwat, the former deaf blind guy is living, I got an email: 'Hi Hans, just to let you know I've been in touch with Mike Gerwat, who was mentioned in your last report and he doesn't live that far away either, so your report does a lot of good in keeping the spirit of offshore radio alive. Best wishes Colin Wilkins.'

Good to see Colin that you're in contact with Gerwat and when you see him give him my best greetings. Really amazing to read his live story and that he can relive now the stories with all the special aid equipment, best greetings Hans. But Mike also came back: 'Hans my friend, thanks for putting me in the report. I've had some lovely reactions from it. I'm in touch with Chris and Collin. I also hope to hear from an old friend of mine as well. I am still enjoying the files you kindly sent me. You know, there's no sound or atmosphere quite like the old ship-born stations is there. Modern radio just doesn't cut it somehow. Thank you once again. Mike.'

Next a most interesting story from a reader who tried to find title and singer of a song heard for the first time 25 years ago: 'Hello Hans, we've all

had the frustrating experience of liking a record on the radio but not knowing what it was called or who it was by. Maybe the presenter didn't announce it, or if we were listening to a distant station, reception was bad. This happened to me a quarter of a century ago and I've lived with wondering who on earth the singer was ever since. Wondering until yesterday that is, when modern technology solved the mystery in a matter of a few seconds. I was listening to Radio Monique from the Ross Revenge one day in 1986, but daytime reception from my then location in Hampshire was only fair. The week in question one of their top-of-the-hour satelietschijfen (sure shots) particularly caught my ear. But because of the weakish reception, I was unable to make out the details of the disc from the deejay.

Never mind, I thought, I'll be ready in 60 minutes time to record it. Sure enough, one hour later, there it was being played again, and there was I armed with a portable cassette tape recorder and microphone held up to the speaker on my portable battery radio. So success on that score. But I was still unable to decipher details of the disc from the deejay. The matter rested there until yesterday when I was sorting through a pile of old audio cassettes and came across one I had labeled 'Monique Power Play'.

Suddenly I had an idea. I'd recently bought a smart phone and had added an app called Shazam. This identifies tracks from a vast data bank simply by one holding the phone next to the audio equipment in question playing the mystery record. It's a very clever application. Holding my breath, I switched on the tape deck on my now acquired mini hi-fi system, started playing the quarter century-old tape of Radio Monique and held the phone close to the unit. Alas, no luck. Shazam was unable to identify it. Oh no. Disaster! I also have a similar application on my phone called 'Track ID'. One more chance, I thought, although I was not very confident of this identifying it either. But to my great surprise and delight it came up trumps immediately! The mystery disc was by Donna Lynton - (That's Why) I Will Always Love You.

The next and final thing was to see if it was on YouTube. I had previously searched the site by putting in the title, but nothing came up. Now I had the artist's name as well. Would I find it this time? Had anyone even uploaded it? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jduB1RjjKNU> Bingo! Up it came. Someone had posted it last year, but only last year. So I was able to hear it

for the first time in all its stereo glory. And not only that; another YouTube member had uploaded a clip from TROS TV in 1986, showing Donna Lynton singing the song on stage as the finale to a live music show.

All this illustrates what a wonderful technological era we are fortunate enough to live in. I was even able to find out some background info about the singer on the net, including that she is American, married a Dutch man and went to live in the Netherlands in 1976, where she still resides and sings today. And that 'Satelietschijf' was actually broadcast the week of 12 April, 1986 on Radio Monique. The internet told me that as well.

<http://www.123boekingen.nl/zangeressen/donna-lynton/0770/> You can find a photo and more of Donna. Thank you www. Regards, Mike Guy, Ashford, Kent, United Kingdom

Tom Mulder advised me to have a look for very good radio formats on the next internet site: <http://www.boomerradio.com/>

Let's see what the new items were on the Pirate Hall of Fame in September:

We have some great photos taken by Ian Anderson on the MV Mi Amigo in 1973 when he was working for Radio Seagull; offshore historian Hans Knot has provided some pages of notes written by Radio Caroline DJ Carl Mitchell back in 1968; there is news about Tom Lodge's book on Radio Caroline - there are plans to turn it into a documentary; and how to obtain a free copy of Hans Knot's paper about Noordzee, the offshore radio and television station which broadcast to Holland in 1964. Thanks very much as ever to all who have contributed. All the best, Jon The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Before going to a longer item in the report there's another nickname to mention as I heard an old program from Ric Harris in May 1985. When handing over his show to Liz West he gave her Liz 'our answer to Fay Dunneway' West. I listened to several recordings from All Europe Radio, Laser 558 lately and discovered that Tommy Rivers gave her another nickname: Liz 'Cosmic Chick' West.

FROM THE GRAHAM GILL ARCHIVE PART 17

Once again I'll take you into the boxes with documents found in Graham Gill his cellar and I start this time with a letter, probably written early January 1974 as the writer, Stephen Cox from Harrow on the Hill, in Middlesex asked in his letter if Graham liked the earlier send Christmas Card. Stephen opened the long letter with: 'A very good evening to you Graham. I've been doing some research. When I was on holiday down in Cyprus I found out that President Arch Bishop Makarios is a friend of Abe Nathan, owner of the Peace Ship. Not only is behind the idea of Peace Radio but also Makarios is. With the trouble in the Middle East the Peace ship is soon to move back off the coast of Cyprus in Lagusto Bay. Graham, RNI can still be heard from that part of the world because the radio signals can travel across water better than on land. RNI can carry on not only in the Mediterranean but in the North Sea as well. The answer is to broadcast in French and Spanish during daytime and English in the evenings. The radio ship can be tendered from Morocco or Portugal. Also you can go with the ship to the coast of Algeria, but don't use tenders from that country but use, for instant a harbour in Tunisia. And I must say that Radio Northsea is the best offshore radio station you've worked on.'

Stephen went on with asking for a request for several of his friends. He was really a guy who was thinking of the possibilities how his favourite station could go on after the introduction of the Dutch version of the MOA, in September 1974.

As told earlier in the report it was Graham Gill, 75 years of age, who did a special program recently on Surf Radio. After his time on the offshore stations he worked for Radio Netherlands. Later he could be heard on landbased pirates as well on legal stations like Caroline England (together with Tony Allen) and Big L in Frinton on Sea. Radio Waddenzee once had him on air for a while and in the boxes from Graham I found the name of another station where he once presented programs. I think it must have been in the seventies that Radio Cyrano International was a landbased pirate, which transmitted a program of Middle of the Road Music from a location in Amsterdam. Separate programs were transmitted on FM 94.1 MHz. as well on AM 306 metres.

RADIO CYRANO INTERNATIONAAL - POSTBUS 3666 - AMSTERDAM

VOORLOPIG PROGRAMMA-SCHEMA copy Graham Gill.

Middengolf 306 meter :

10.00 uur - MENNO DEKKER.
11.00 uur - JAN WESTRA.
12.00 uur - GERARD DE GRAAP.
13.00 uur - PETER VAN DEN BERG.
14.00 uur - MENNO DEKKER.
15.00 uur - JOOP SIMONS.
16.00 uur - GERARD DE GRAAP.
17.00 uur - GRAHAM GILL.
18.00 uur - sluiting.

nieuws : LOUIS VAN ZANDVOORT.

Sometimes listeners to the stations showed double interests in their letters to the deejays. However on July 15th 1974 a letter arrived in an envelope in PO Box 847 in Hilversum, which was sent by a certain Daniel from Leiden in the Netherlands. Instead of addressing it to Graham Gill he put the name of a famous racing driver on the envelope, Graham Hill.

Others wanted to much from the deejays as they asked questions which could not be answered. For instant Carol Richardson from London, who earlier lived in Maidstone in Kent. She had sent earlier letters to the station which weren't answered: 'As I have had no reply to my previous letters I thought I would try once more. I have also recently changed my address so maybe your first reply got lost. Anyway I'm trying to find out who requested a record for me on May 19th about 2.00 AM. My sister heard it and it was some fella who want me to get in contact with him and it wasn't until after she had heard it that she realised just who it was for. I would just like to know out of curiosity because it is someone who still thinks I live with my parents.'

Carol of course thought that all letters, which were answered, were archived in a special room aboard the radio ship, so deejays could go back to find answers. In reality the letter from Carole disappeared in a plastic bag, which was taken by Graham from the MEBO II to his Amsterdam place, where I found it back decades later.

On the other hand letters from listeners were partly answered on air or in personal answers in letter form from the deejays to the listener. On September 19th 1973 it was Leo Spijkers from Anckerdijkstraat 11 in Den Bosch, the Netherlands, who wrote a letter to Graham Gill in which he wrote: ' This is a piece of paper of someone who is fond of RNI and who can write very bad English. He is also wondering if you will do him a great pleasure by answering a few questions so he can add the answers to his personal pirate library. Graham, did you ever made programs for Radio London Big L? And are you the maker of the RNI Smash Play jingle and that jingle before the start of the Brian McKenzie show on Radio 2-2-0, it's my favourite you see? Also I would like to know who's the voice from the jingle 'This is Graham Gill', I think it is Tony Allen. Here also some information on your tune 'Way back home'. I record it one day and took the tape to the local pub, where I work as a deejay and when I played it a few times they really liked it and came to me to ask me who the singer was.'

Well there was a special reaction from the public when Leo Hijkers mentioned that it was Graham Gill. One of the attendees thought to hear 'Graham Hill' so the mistake was made more than once. Leo went on with his letter: 'When I told them it was you they first thought I meant the race driver Graham Hill and later on they didn't agree with each other as some thought it was the voice of Johnny Cash. Graham in the envelope is a photo of the good ship MEBO II. Would you please do me a great favour and sign it on the front side please and send it back to me'.

After Leo had typed his letter and reread it again he added one sentence with a pen: 'PS Graham, if you've not stamp, unpaid is also very well.' In other words Graham could have sent the answer unstamped. But he didn't as he singed the photo, answered the letter, but never send it by post. Here you see the photo as well as the answer, which was written on the back of the photograph.



Hello Leo, Thankyou for your nice compliments about my song "Way Back Home". Tell your "dumbos" that if they listened more regularly to R.N.I. they would know that I am no relation whatsoever to GRAHAM HILL. By the way, it is possible my voice could be similar to Johny Cash. Yes Leo, it is me on the Brian Mc Kenzie single and for that matter also on Don Allen's C+W single "on R.N.I. Put on the style - but yourself a beauty smile" etc. And on some of the other singles in my show it is Tony Allen. I used to work in Radio and T.V. in Australia some years back. And I did work for Radio London, Radio England - Britain Radio, and also Radio 390. On arriving in Holland six years ago, I worked with and indeed still do "free lance" work for Radio Nederland - Wereld Omroep. Best wishes Leo, and tell the "dumbos" if they want to do anything constructive - to buy me a few beers. Trevor

It was David Porter from Bromsgrove who wrote to Graham on August 4th 1973 a very long letter. Some of the things he wrote were: 'May I say how surprised I was to hear you on the radio again after what appeared to be a long absence from the British Scene. The last time I wrote to you was in 1966, when you were on Swinging Radio England. I might add that I received a letter back from you and that was the only one from a deejay in that era. Radio London never did seem to reply to letters. When I last wrote to you it was from my hometown in Sutton-in-Ashfield, near Nottingham. I think in 1965, when I started listening to offshore radio, I got the radio bug and I decided for my career to seek a job in radio too. After leaving school, in

1970, I joined the BBC and consequently went into the transmitter department; in fact in the Daventry Shortwave station, where I spent two years and enjoyed every minute of it. Due to de-staffing a few of us were moved to Droitwich Transmitting Station in Worcestershire. Here we transmit Radio 2 on LW 1500 metres, Radio 4 on 285m. Also R1 on 1214 kHz (247) but somehow though Radio1 seems to lack the atmosphere of the old ships, although the majority of the staff are ex personal of the boats. And this is the reason that I listen to RNI almost all the time, either on 6205 kHz or 1367 kHz. Better tell Bruno or Steve that reception on 6205 is superb till 21.00 BST and 1367 is good after 21.00, so we can't lose on the international service. I wrote a technical letter to Mike Ross in January and included an international reply coupon for an answer, but nothing was received. Hopefully he wasn't upset that I told I was working for the BBC.'

Very interesting to read that David did work for the BBC and in the same time made complaints about the fact BBC Radio One did not carry the same warm sounds as the offshore stations, although the main staff came from those stations. I think the big difference was that on the radio ships they all stayed together 24 hours a day during their shift on the station. On BBC Radio One, like all radio stations, there's not such a family feeling as it was on the offshore radio stations, due to the fact that everyone goes home again after doing their work for the station. Of course I was interested if David Porter is still working for the BBC and so doing some searching on the internet I learned that he did cooperate with Bob LeRoi in an article about former offshore Radio Essex some time ago. This also taught me that he doesn't work anymore. It's time to get in contact with Bob and see if he can give me David's address. Next months more from the incredible boxes, found back at Graham's place in Amsterdam.

Email time again and this one comes from Sherri Lynn in England: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for your latest amazing newsletter! Once again, jam packed with a whole lot of good news and information! Among much else, I noticed that you mentioned Emperor Rosko's show on JAZZ FM on Bank Holiday, August 29th. A great show of course! I hope there will be many more to follow. Having been involved (peripherally) with Radio Northsea International, it was interesting to see the picture of Radio Noordzee studio, 1964, which was

before I became a part of the radio scene!



I'm happy to say that recently I was made a director of Penwith Radio, our local community radio station here in Penzance (within the area known as Penwith) in Cornwall, so look forward to doing a whole lot of good things with the people who are involved in various aspects of Penwith Radio. We had a fund-raising day on the last Saturday in August, after which I had a fun two hours as guest of one of their presenters, Lewis Nicholls. I really enjoyed it. I Hope you and Jana are keeping well, Hans and I see that the time is now a few minutes into September 2nd, so let me be one of the first to wish you a very happy birthday! God bless ya! Have a great day and year to follow. Till next time, ciao for now, Sherri.'

<http://penwithradio.co.uk/about-penwith-radio/>

Hi Sherri thanks for the e mail and congratulations on the new job, hope you will enjoy the work. Next to that thanks for the birthday wishes, you were the second in the row with my wife Jana as the first one. That reminds me to thank all those who have sent me special wishes with my birthday this year; it was really a warm feeling!

One of the items in the report has been pushed away a bit during the past issues, mainly due to the fact so many emails came in. Many artists have visited the offshore radiostations during the period 1958 up till 1990. This time we have a photograph from the Don Allen Collection, showing Don together with the American country singer Buck Owens.



On Sunday September 4th a new series of radio programmes started, called The Originals. In this program each week producer/presenter Oeds Jan Koster will play some popular songs, will reveal their origin, will play the first ever recorded version and will play some cover versions.



Each Sunday at 13.00 h CET on OOG Radio www.oogtv.nl and each Wednesday evening at 20.00 h CET it also can be heard on RTV Stadskanaal www.rtvstadskanaal.nl.

The program is based on the book 'The Originals' by Arnold Rypens.

DX'en is still in, as I learned from a letter I got from Werner Schneider from Schönebeck am Elbe, which was in the former Democratic Republic. He wrote to me: 'I know that there are many listeners in the Benelux who got the radio bug by listening to the offshore radio stations in sixties, seventies and eighties from last century.' But also Werner tried to listen to the station; that is when it was possible. Every year, around Christmas, he is sending me, for decades, a so called 'year calendar' on which his name is with 'biggest offshore freak from Germany' added to it. Now and then he writes me a letter, as he is not connected to the modern form of communications and so does not use internet.

In those letters he tells me what kind of low powered stations, which are far away from his place, are received. The letter went on with: 'Recently I learned that the Info MDR transmitter, on 531 kHz, will be restarted. This transmitter is in Burg, near Magdenburg in Nieder Sachsen. On Sunday August 21st I was very surprised to receive on my radio the testtransmissions from Dutch station KBC International with 0,=4. Around 23.06 CET suddenly the signal disappeared. Also during daytime I've heard

the station with the same results. Of course I took pen en paper and have written a reception report to the station's address in Holland. The station identification was given several times in English, Dutch and German. The voice heard remembered me off Ray Anderson, but I'm not sure if he is involved. But my favorite station at the moment is Radio Paradijs, which I can hear, although with QRM, on 1584 kHz.

After I received the letter I wrote a little article about it for the report as well as for the newsgroup NL Media. Radio and it was Rob Veld, living in Purmerend in the west of the Netherlands, who reflected on it.

Hoi Hans, sometimes very simple matters can bring in something special. It happened this time when I read your article about DX'en in the newsgroup NL media.Radio. It remembered me that after August 31st 1974 it became very silent on the medium wave. Of course there were a lot of other stations but for me the only alternative one was Radio Caroline. I refused to take it as the only station on AM and so each weekend I searched on the old valve radio for unusual signals. You have to know that in those days we had no newspaper at home, as this was too expensive and it was thought you could learn all the news from the television. So I didn't read a word of the then new offshore radio stations and so I had to find out myself. I used a lot of wire to get the best reception. Of course I found a lot of landbased pirates in those days but also new offshore stations. It was very early that I received in 1981 for instant the testtransmissions from the Offshore station Radio Paradijs, yet before attention was played on the Dutch TV News. When I read the info about Werner Schneider I very well remembered that this special radio bug held me clued to the radio during weekends until deep in the nineties of last century. Beautiful memories you've brought back with your article. Rob Veld.'

'Battle of the Giants - The Rock n Pop Years' is a musical comedy based around the iconic Radio Luxembourg show, putting a radio show on the stage, complete with jingles, commercials and 46 songs, all 'Revived 45s', 'Golden Classics', 'Blasts from the Past', performed by our exciting young cast and live musicians. Radio Luxembourg was the station that taught the nation how to spell K-E-Y-N-S-H-A-M, whilst we listened to Jimmy Savile under the bedclothes, as we enjoyed our cup of Ovaltine.

'Battle of the Giants' is an interactive audience participation show with our visitors choosing the winning act from each performance. We will even include the news of the day and the 'Weather Word' - tongue in cheek of course, with a local content for each location and on screen vignettes from television archives and an amazing variety personalities. Pre recorded links from Tony Prince, Emperor Rosko, Paul Burnett, Bob Stewart, and off air spurts from the legendary Kenny Everett - this is the nostalgic 60s show with attitude, written by Todd Slaughter, Tony Prince and Paul Burnett.

Already booking at the Shaw Theatre, Euston Road, London November 2:

<http://www.shaw-theatre.com/index.php?id=81>

More information at: <http://www.battleofthegiants.co.uk/>

where it says the show will tour the provinces next year. As well as the gala celebrity premiere there is a performance at the Stafford Gatehouse on October 31:

<http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/music/Battle-of-the-Giants>

Let's see what Bob LeRoi has in his site update: 'After a demanding long hot summer we're back; hopefully you've been keeping an eye on

www.redsandsradio.co.uk Check out our new features this month in

'ScrapBook'. Having covered virtually every British Fort we look at a Foreign Fort, actually the REM Island off the coast of Holland now safely tucked up in Amsterdam Harbour. The 'Person Page' goes nautical too with a look at P&O's new super ferry 'The Pride of Britain' and stays afloat on the Norfolk Broads. We take a squint at the Edinburgh Festival, The new Peter Cushing Pub and the ADDers meeting at the Bull, Pennenden Heath, Maidstone, and opening a Wanted page for lost broadcasters. 'One Subject One Link' talks about Household Names. We open two new actions for a vinyl copy of 10 years of Offshore Radio and the book Salamander Dreaming. And to wrap up we've replenished the CD Rack with fresh titles. Enjoy your visits at:

www.bobleroi.co.uk

Recently during a series of e mail exchanges between Tom Mulder (Klaas Vaak on Veronica) and me we came on the subject 'the bad ones and the good ones'. The first category isn't interesting but the idea came up to ask the reader their favorite deejay Top 8 from Offshore Radio's past. In each issue we will publish some and together with those who are not published, we

will next year publish the definitive list. We start with the personal Top 8 from Klaas Vaak:

- 1) Kenny Everett
- 2) Keith Skues
- 3) Tony Blackburn,
- 4) Dave Dennis
- 5) Chris Denning
- 6) Tony Windsor
- 7) Lorne King
- 8) Paul Kaye

From this list you can see that Wonderful Radio London was the absolute Big station for Klaas. Only two deejays were listed who also worked for Caroline. Well send your favorite deejay Top 8 to HKnot@home.nl and please include the names of the stations they worked for too.

Larry Tremaine, once program director at RNI in 1970 started last year a new career and loves it: 'Very cool click on the link and see the interview I did on the Sunset strip. Gather the clan around. Pulling part of the interview, for Entertainment Tonight. This guy is going places. We also can help you to become a star as well.

<http://edmagiktv.blogspot.com/2011/09/thomas-king-performs-it-starts-tonight.html?spref=fb>

And Larry added in the e mail that I could tell all his former shipmates that he still loves the 'vanillevla', even could be addicted to it. For those who don't know where Larry talks about, this is a typical Dutch dessert which you can buy in vanilla, chocolate, raspberry and a lot more tastes in boxes of 1 liter.

Martin, Rob and I are still busy arranging everything as good as possible for the forthcoming RadioDay and as one of the planned panel members for the Veronica session decided not to come we had to choose another former staff member and so newsreader Dick Klees was asked to join the gang. When he answered the e mail, in which he told certainly to be there, he finished his mail with his nickname: Dick 'water en olie aan boord' Klees; which means Dick 'water and oil on board' Klees.

Remember the excellent Andy Archer memories about Radio Caroline in the seventies, which I published in April? Well a small part of it told the story about the mysterious gypsy guy called 'Vassiel' who was brought to the ship by Ronan O'Rahilly as the new director for Radio Caroline. This as Ronan believed the man was very rich and owned big discotheques and even had three wives. In reality the man, calling himself Vassiel, was a thumb sucker who also told stories to newspapers, in April 1973 that he was the new owner of the MV Galaxy - the former Radio London vessel which was on a quayside in Hamburg harbour.

Well September 14th I was listening to old recordings from Caroline in 1972, aired just before Christmas. It was Gerard van der Zee (Van Dam), who brought the idea to call a lot of middle class companies to get them airplay on Radio Caroline. They could bring for instance a one time aired commercial for only 2, 50 Dutch guilders and when they wanted it aired 5 times they paid 10 guilders. And so a lot of very unprofessional commercials were heard only one time on the station. After listening to this old recording that evening I sent an e mail to Andy Archer: 'Hi Andy, I hope all is well with you. Sometimes it goes very strange finding back the pieces in the history. Of course we do remember the fantastic story you wrote about 'Vassiel'. He was selling 'air'. Well around Christmas 1972 Gerard van Dam came with the idea to phone several medium business people and asking them to buy commercial airtime on Caroline (or should I say Radio 199). Many commercials, which were all house made, were played only once or two times. This evening I was listening to a program from December 23rd 1972 with Jeremy Bender and along came a commercial I didn't remember. It was 'Willy's Place' at the Gerard Deynotplein in Scheveningen, not far from the Scheveningen Pier. And yes in the commercial it was mentioned that it was the place to go with the pleasant sound of deejay Vassiel!'

So Vassiel was not the owner of a discotheque, as we learned earlier, but deejay in a small club. Above that probably named once in a very cheap commercial on Radio Caroline. And Andy came back to me with: 'How amazing! I remember Jeremy Bender; his real name was Pierre Deseyn. He changed his name to use Jeremy Bender, which was the title of a song recorded by Emerson Lake and Palmer. Best wishes to you and Jana from Andy.'

Interesting mail from England: 'Translating a recent article into English using Google Chrome it's about the Italian offshore radio station, Radio Delle Rose, in the summer of 1968. Summary of my understanding of the translation: 'The station was based on an offshore platform, first used or built for drilling gas between 1958 and 1962 11.6 km off the Italian coast, 500 metres outside territorial waters. The artificial island opened to the public August 20th, 1967. It declared independence on May 1st. 1968 and appointed a Prime Minister and other officials. They began radio broadcasts on low power and irregularly to talk about the project. The Italian Government saw the project as a way of avoiding taxes and mounted a blockade.

On June 25th 1968 police and government officials surrounded the island and occupied it without any violence. There were court orders to the owners to dismantle the island and in mid April 1969 the island was finally dismantled. The Government continued for some time in exile!



<http://www.newslinet.it/notizie/storia-delle-radiotelevisione-italia-1968-radio-delle-rose-prima-stazione-offshore-italiana#>

Mike Barraclough

Martin van der Ven found out more: 'Mr. Rosa continued his story. Despite of the information written on the newspapers, there were no plans to install neither a casino on the platform, nor a pirate radio transmitter. The long visible pole was used to find sweet water, which we found at -280 meters, digging the sea floor. Yes, our idea was to sell oil to the motor boats, at a cheap price, without the fiscal tax of Italy.'

<http://www.cifr.it/forumarticolo1.html#roseancora>

Martin also found this interesting video about Radio Brod

<http://www.itnsource.com/shotlist//ITN/1993/09/09/BSP090993009/?s=pirate+radio&st=0&pn=1>

Did we name the name of the Emperor Rosko already in this issue? Well here are some videos from the sixties and seventies:

<http://www.ina.fr/art-et-culture/musique/video/I00005763/sam-and-dave-sur-scene-a-londres.fr.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1p9h1ISE18I>

Now we're going to Bob in Scotland: 'Dear Hans, I do hope that you and Jana are well. A new book has been published on Radio Free Scotland - an article is published in today's Scotsman newspaper:-

<http://news.scotsman.com/politics/Pirates-of-the-Caledonian-Uncovering.6842505.jp>

I remember listening to and recording a feature in the early 1960's on RFS about how the Beeching cuts would affect Scotland's railways. I think that the reel-to-reel tape used to record it was dubbed over for some of Caroline's output a few years later! Also in today's paper is a mention of Rockall:

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/SNP-reminds-the-world-39Rockall.6842598.jp>

The 8th sentence states "Over the decades this enigmatic rock has been the subject of international disputes over ownership, a magnet for adventurers and even a location for pirate radio broadcasters."

Just perfect for a jingle..... 'Radio Rockall Rocks!' I always enjoy your Radio Report, it just gets better and better! Best wishes, Bob Baird (Edinburgh)'.

Well Bob I hope also with the both of you is well and thanks a lot for your news about the book and the other interesting internet site. Hope you will make it to the Radio Day again!

Nicknames found during one evening of listening by two persons, living just 550 metres apart from each other! It was Jan Fré Vos from Groningen who told me that he was listening to an old recording from Radio Mi Amigo from

September 20th 1976. It was a duo presentation by Frank van der Mast and Marc Jacobs and the reason the nickname was given was that Frank was eating a lot of liquorices and so Jacobs gave him Frank van der 'dropmast'. Drop is the Dutch word for liquorices. And then the same evening, 550 metres further on in Groningen I was listening to a program from Caroline International, transmitted late August 1967. It was Ross Brown who called himself 'Keeper of the Caroline's Countless Sounds', which is a variation on: Ross 'your keeper of the countdown of sound' Brown.

Well let's end with a wonderful photograph, which brings us back to 1951 and shows us the radio car of the NRU, Nederlandse Radio Unie (Dutch Radio Union).



NRU Radio Car 1951 Collection: Paul Snoek.

Well dear radio friends that ends this month edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Anyone who wants to reflect or send in their memories and photographs, feel free to do so to: HKnot@home.nl