

Hans Knot International Radio Report March 2012

A warm welcome for everyone to the March edition of the report. Also thanks a lot for all your support, your questions, memories and more. A selection of your mails is included in this edition. First some which came in already early January. Martin van der Ven reminds us that there was a special edition of the television series 'The Royal. In the episode 'Dead Air' you will see Radio Neptune, which is an offshore radio station.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aUvtyTi7Qg>

Again after a couple of months another wild and exciting e mail from France where super model builder Paul is living: 'Hello, Hans here's, as promised, a photo of the Peace Ship. For your readers I've a special price of 80 Euro including package and posting. For more information they can write to me at:

vanafdenoordzee@gmail.com



Mini Peace Ship (Photo Paul Ciesielski)

Next a reader, who has found some music using a special computer program. 'Hi Hans, like most over the festive period I had chance to relax for a couple of days and catch up with listening and reading all that has been going on in the radio world. Many people in the report have asked in the past for details of music used in shows ancient and modern, either playlist records or programme themes etc. Over Christmas I experimented with the iPhone app Shazam, which listens to the tune and hopefully matches the artist and title. I dug out a mix of airchecks and

tried it out. This is a very unscientific test but some interesting results: Jack Spector studio quality recording the app picked up 'Hand Clappin' by Red Prysock as the theme and 'Going to a Go Go' by Smokey Robinson as a token track. 15.2.66. From early Radio Caroline 1964 the app picked up 'Town Talk - Ken Woodham Sound' and 'Let Yourself Go - Nelson Riddle', 'Ray Conniff - Blueberry Hill' and 'Tommy Dorsey - Sunny Side of the Street', which were all off fairly low quality medium wave recordings. From a Radio Caroline jingle on a 70's aircheck, the App picked up 'Karn Evil 9' (1st impression part 2) - Emmerson Lake and Palmer. You can guess what the jingle was! And on a poor shortwave aircheck from 1971, the app picked up 'Man of Action - Les Reed' 'Comme J'ai Toujours Envie D'aimer from Marc Hamilton' and 'Beat Boutique' by Alan Hawkshaw'

This is all from playing a bit of the airchecks into the phone! It's not perfect as it did confuse the Radio London Theme with a Freddie Lennon track called 'That's my Life'. Hours of fun but also very useful!
Kind regards, Phil Hilton.'

Thanks a lot for this interesting issue Phil and maybe, when you've some spare time you can have a look and listen, as well as using this special app at the missing tunes list at:

<http://www.offshore-radio.de/missingtunes/index.html>

Well here's another link to remember Alan Freeman

http://www.radiorewind.co.uk/radio1/alan_freeman_page.htm

Next it's time for Stephen: 'Thanks so much for your emailed radio reports over the past year which I have enjoyed reading. Maybe I can add an item for 2012, assuming that you have not previously featured it. I recently discovered the East Anglian Film Archive at www.eafa.org.uk where it is possible to view a film of Radio Caroline shot in 1965. The 9 minute production is directed by Paul Kramer with commentary by Carl Conway and shows life in the Caroline offices in London's Chesterfield Gardens and aboard the ship in the North Sea. Several well-known DJs are featured. Just go the EAFA website and enter "Radio Caroline" in the search box. Well worth viewing despite the commentary gradually getting ahead of the video. Best wishes, Stephen Raindle.'

Well Stephen, sharing this item with the readers is most appreciated. Next from England the personal deejay ranking from Stuart Dobson and yes she's made it at number one: Ellen from The Hague, also known as Samantha on Radio Caroline. But if you have a good view on the list and have the same opinion as I have, than it's a very interesting one. At number 2 the very relaxed presentation, although he didn't present too much programs, from Peter Chicago. And look at spot three and the from Belgian Ostend coming Albert J Beirens. Responsible for RNI goes DX and some Atlantis programs; not forgetting producing a lot of jingles in the offshore radio world. More interesting people are on the list with the last one, Richard 'Dick' Palmer



Dick Palmer: Photo Cornelia van den Berg

- 1 Samantha Dubois Radio Caroline
- 2 Peter Chicago RNI and Caroline
- 3 A J Beirens RNI and Atlantis
- 4 Charlie Wolf Laser 558
- 5 Jonell Laser 558
- 6 Andy Anderson Atlantis
- 7 Johnny Lewis Caroline, Laser, VOP and more
- 8 Liz West Laser 558
- 9 Steve England Caroline as well as Atlantis and more
- 10 Richard Palmer Caroline and more

Well some of you will be a bit busy in March when a group of people from the Harford College USA will come over to Europe, fronted by Professor Wayne Hepler. They will work on an educational documentary with as topic the European Broadcasting System versus the offshore radio stations. Therefore in Holland as well in Great Britain several people involved will be interviewed. Wayne asked me if there's anyone in the readership who has recorded himself or has copyright free video recordings from the offshore stations, which can be used in the documentary, of course with full credits. If so please inform Wayne at his e mail address at:

WHepler@Harford.edu

News about another project with the history on offshore radio is updated for you by the one and only Tom Lodge: Hi Hans, now all is moving forward with the Radio Carline story. Speakeasy Films L.L.C. has bought the rights to my book and has proceeded with filming. They were here last weekend with the whole Hollywood crew and lots of equipment. They interviewed me and went deep into the story. I was most impressed with their understanding and their clear feeling and enthusiasm for this important piece of music history. The producers are Joe Mundo and Jamie Talbot and the director is Hans Fjellestad. They just finished making a film about the music that came out of "Sunset Strip". Now they are heading off to England to interview, the rock stars, the deejays and all those who were involved with Radio Caroline. Also they will be using a lot of the news footage from that time. I trust that you are well, all the best, Tom Lodge.'

Well thanks a lot Tom for that update and glad to see you're satisfied the way they work. Hopefully we will see the movie one day! All best wishes to you too.'

Next is Eddy from Belgium who ask for your attention: 'Dear listener, RADIO 68 has been launched at www.radio68.be On Sunday 22 and Monday 23th January, RADIO 68 did run an extensive test broadcasting the full six hours of the first show of my generation. RADIO 68 will

succeed if you tune in and inform all your friends, lovers and contacts. Radio 68 is an independent, non-commercial and privately owned internet radio station run by my brother and me. BROS. Radio 68 advocates certain types of Music and Word which are seldom or never heard. Radio 68 keeps the memory alive by focusing on rare, overlooked, forgotten, ignored, misjudged, media-banned and non-commercial tunes, genres and artists. www.radio68.be

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Have you ever found yourself thinking, when hearing a familiar song played on the radio but in a version unfamiliar to you, that you'd like to know more about it? Maybe you've wondered how many artists have covered the song? Maybe you've asked yourself; Just how long has this particular song been around?

Now, in his radio series 'The Originals' disc jockey and popular music historian Kenny Kaye invites you to join him on a fact packed musical journey of discovery to uncover the origins of more than 2000 well known songs.

Hear the songs you thought you knew as they were first written and recorded. Learn about the writers. Discover how many versions have been successful over the years, and how well they did in the European and American charts.

Taking Belgian author Arnold Rypens' book 'The Originals' as his inspiration Kenny Kaye will take you on an alphabetical trip through the hits of the decades.

'The Originals' with Kenny Kaye. A valuable addition to your format.

For more information mail us at: kennykaye0@gmail.com

Well we now go to another part of the world with an e mail which came in from Asia from a former deejay on Radio Atlantis: 'On 17th of January 2012, I was driving between the border of New South Wales and Queensland in Australia. I pushed the search button on the radio and it stopped at "Bay 99.9fm" which was playing a Beach Boys song. Afterward, the presenter said that it reminded him of his days when he was on the offshore radio stations off the English coast in the 1960's'. I listened as long as I could before the station faded, but never caught his name. Do

you have any idea of who it could be? With kindest best wishes from Eddie Austin (now back in Malaysia).

Thanks Eddie I don't know for sure but probably it has been Graham 'Spyder' Webb, who still is active in radio and is also a reader of the report. So maybe he will reflect on your topic to. And Eddie came back with: 'Thanks Hans for the quick reply and information. If I had known it was Graham Webb, I would have found time to track him and introduce myself. He sounded great on-air (as always). Sadly Bay 99.9fm seemed low power and didn't last long whilst travelling on the Pacific Highway. I trust you are happy and well. Please keep up your excellent reports. They are greatly appreciated - Eddie.'

Next we have some internet addresses. First a long story from Adam Curtis and really a must for those who followed certain people from the offshore days in the sixties, like Calvert and his opponent Smedley.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/adamcurtis/2011/09/the_curse_of_tina.html



Oliver Smedley Photo OEM Archive

Next one brings information how to be naughty with a transmitter

<http://c6.org/archive/radio/pirate-fm.html#What%20you'll%20need>

I had a laugh on the next e mail which is a reflection on the deejay list from Harky in last issue. The sender thinks it was my favorite deejay list:

'Dear Hans, there must be a mistake! You've left that fantastic loveable deejay John Edward (Once known variously as Johnny Edward and as Johnny Flux) off your list of all-time favorites. I'm very sad, my Mum liked me, oh yes, and Carmen Getme and Rowsa Houses from Clapham. Kindest regards, Johnny Edward.'

Well of course, for those, who don't remember him I've lent some information at the archive of Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame:



John Edward Photo: Pirate Hall of Fame

John Edward On 5th March 1965 Parlophone Records released a single called *I Pity The Fool*, a cover version of a Bobby Bland song, performed by The Manish Boys. Lead singer with the group was one David Jones, later to find fame as David Bowie. The single was not a hit and The Manish Boys soon went their separate ways. While the singer carried on performing, two of the other band members decided on a change of career. The guitarist, **Johnny Flux**, and the sax player, Woolf Byrne, both joined Radio City. (John has very kindly sent us this photo of himself on Radio City's roof.) His theme tune was Sweet Dreams by The Shadows. After some months on Shivering Sands Fort, he applied for a job with a larger station and, in November 1965, transferred to Radio London. Programme Director Ben Toney persuaded him to change his name and he broadcast using his two Christian names as "John Edward." John stayed with the station until the following July but never had a regular time slot, just deputising for whichever disc-jockey was on shore leave. He had a presentation style frequently compared to a young Alan Freeman although John wrote in a Radio London column in *Disc* magazine that he could not

see the similarity himself. Following his career at sea, he returned to the music business. His record company, Hollywood Records, became the first ever independent label to reach the number one slot when Renée and Renato's much reviled *Save Your Love* stayed there for four weeks at Christmas 1982. John says "the song was written as a joke, to give the finger to *Save Your Kisses For Me* by Brotherhood Of Man among other tracks that made me chew the carpet." John was also responsible for creating the robot [Metal Mickey](#), the star of a successful Saturday evening children's television series, directed by former Monkee Mickey Dolenz. John has written the pilot for a new Metal Mickey series and is working with animators to bring the show to the screen again. Metal Mickey now has a girlfriend, Metal Mikki! John reports that, at a recent Manish Boys reunion, it was mooted to have a thrash at re-recording *I Pity The Fool*. Keep an eye on MTV. They could have a hit with it yet. For a picture of John on Radio London, see [Willy Walker's](#) photo album. For more recent snaps, see the [Radio London 40th birthday party](#). John is one of the voices on the [Oldies Project Fab 40 Show](#) (every Sunday at 11am) and he recorded a special Fab 40 countdown for them at Christmas 2005. Many thanks to Jon for his help.

Well in last issue Herman from Belgium brought in a nice topic about certain person who introduces their self as they're one of the big names in radio world. He mentioned the case of a person who predicted he was Tony Blackburn. He also asked if there are more of such cases known. Well answers came in Herman, the first one from Surinam in South America where former RNI newsreader and deejay Gerard Smit is working and living since many years: 'Hi Hans, I see you're still active to relive to past. Well done as if you don't who else will do it? It was a nice item about Tony Blackburn. Something like this also happened to me. It was in 1974 that someone, especially in Belgium. Someone who told he was 'Gerard Smit from RNI.' In that way he succeeded to get ladies into his or their bedrooms. Also my former colleague, deejay Leo van der Goot happened something like this. He was approached by a very angry family who came with the fact he had bedded on of the daughters. However nothing happened and after confrontation with the girl she told she had lied about it. So I think a lot of girls are bedded through those years by pseudo deejays. I must say that in those days, when you were working in

radio as a deejay, it was very easy to get ladies. Even you had to be very carefully as elsewhere your pants were stolen. Greetings, Gerard Smit.'



Gerard Smit on the MEBO II Photo: Steve King

A second answer on Herman's question came from Australia: 'Hi Hans, and thanks so much for your excellent radio reports. You asked about fake offshore radio DJ's etc. I came across this fellow (Johnny Drake) who claims "I am a UK ex pat now living in the United States. When I was 19, I was a DJ on a pirate radio ship called Radio Britannia. The ship beamed Rock N Roll of the Isle of Man to the British Isle." Obviously a pretty tall story. I tried to contact him to check his claim, but he didn't reply.

Anyway, see link: http://myboomerplace.com/Johnny_Drake

Thought your readers might be interested also in this page:

<http://www.radioheritage.net/hauraki/PirateRadioHaurakiImages.asp>

Kind regards, Phil Crosby (Sydney, Australia).

Next a shorty from one of the former Caroline North deejays: 'Hans Thanks for the massive time you put in for all of us on this fab mail out, you keep music and radio alive Sir. Ray Teret. Thanks a lot Ray andf a plug for you: the Ray Teret Radio Show is www.rayteret.com

The second plug for you is the link to the information about the double CD Ray Teret has produced: <http://www.radiocarolinestory.co.uk/>

Last issue also brought an e mail from Hans Klomp in Belgium who asked about the link between Radio Caroline in the early seventies and an address in The Hague. It was Andy Archer who I asked if he knew an answer and he wrote that the 'Honserlerdijkstraat' had nothing to do with Caroline. However it was Cornelia van den Berg, who worked on the Caroline office in the Van Hoogendorpstreet, who has another memory to those days. She wrote: 'I lived in the Honserlersdijkstreet in those days. It was, like the Van Hoogendorpstreet, situated in the Painters district. I was not impressed that the writer of the e mail mentioned in last issue that it was a bad surrounding. It was a poor district but not a deteriorate district. It was an unofficial address for Radio Caroline as most of the Caroline people in the period 1973/1974, Andy Archer included, were living there when they were not on the ship. But we never talked about it on the air.'

Thanks a lot Cornelia for your answers and I hope you had a good time when over in Groningen lately.

Also in last issue we had a long e mail from Ian Godfrey and one of the questions he asked was if someone knows a good rock station now he could not listen to some stations, he loved, anymore.

Well Dave West has the answer: 'Hi Hans responding to one of your readers Ian Godfrey looking for a rock radio station. I would recommend classicrockradio.eu This station is not operating fully as yet, but the music is great and blows the corporate garbage right out of the water. Great interviews as well. Once this station launches fully it will be massive. Regards, Dave West.'



Of course the main readership knows the song 'Peace' by Peter. Recently it has been rerecorded by Christopher. Have a look on the next link, which came in from Chris at Offshore Echos Magazine.

<http://youtu.be/LZdhgjq-8Yg>

Another link to mention is a small movie which tells you all about the Australian team members at Radio Caroline in the sixties:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&NR=1&v=AnNrVCF9w_8

Well here's an e mail from the USA and Rosko will be happy he will be mentioned again the the Hans Knot International Report: 'Hello Hans, Peter Anstis recently wrote to me, 'If you drop a line to Hans Knot, you can access the many pix etc.. from the archive and links. 'I was the drummer in the 6-piece band Crew, a small part of the Emperor Rosko International Roadshow and I'm still in touch with the Emp.

On another note, [Tony Christian](#) [*link to mine at the bottom of his site*] and [Paul Stiles](#) recently played songs of mine on [Radio Seagull](#).

All the best, Martin H. Samuel Fort Lauderdale, Florida.'



Rosko on the cover of a Radio Magazine in the seventies
Archive OEM

Well Martin good to see that in your part of the world there are still memories to the marvelous years in the sixties and seventies of last century and that you also still in contact with the Emperor Rosko.

It's so nice to see so many e mails from all over the world, so let's go to Sydney, Australia. 'Hi Hans In one of your articles, a number of years ago, you spoke about a reception report from Mervyn Branks in New Zealand. He reported that he had heard RNI on 1611kHz or so in 1970 from his remote DX'ing site. Here is a webpage in regards to his DX history and photos of the remote site in the Sandhills in Southern New Zealand where he heard RNI.

http://radiodx.com/nzrdxl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=146&Itemid=42

Regards Tony Magon Sydney Australia.'

Well Tony thanks a lot for sharing this wonderful site with us. Most interesting! Now we go to London to see what Jon has to tell us:

'Hi, A quick note to let you know that I have just updated **The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame**.

New this month:

- We have cuttings from the second issue of Radio Scotland's 242 magazine, courtesy of its editor, David Gibson;
- there is some correspondence from the legendary R&B and blues broadcaster Mike Raven;
- we hear from a listener who met the Caroline 'Good Guys' at Battersea Fun Fair in May 1965;
- and there is some fresh audio, including a recording of Ed Moreno on Radio Northsea International - a show I hadn't previously been aware of.

There will be more Ed Moreno memorabilia next month.
My thanks, as ever, to all the contributors. Best wishes,
Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk

And as we talk about Jon we also have to talk about Mary Payne from www.radiolondon.co.uk Don't forget to have a regular look at their site as it's updated a few times a month with all interesting things. I made a mistakes last month, like everyone does now and then, and Mary is so kind to correct the mistake as well has some other interesting topics: 'Hi Hans, I swear the International Newsletter gets longer with every issue! Regarding the stories about DJ impersonators, I recall Roger Twiggy Day telling me that he met someone who was claiming to be Roger Twiggy Day! I should like to have seen that guy's face when he discovered who he was talking to!



Roger Day at Swinging Radio England 1966
Photo OEM Archive

Over the years, both Jon Myer at the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame and I have had a number of contacts from people who have met a neighbour, a work colleague or 'someone down the pub', who claims to have worked on the pirates. (Usually, it's Caroline.) In these instances we always ask for information regarding what name the person worked under, exactly what year they were aboard the ship (and in the case of Caroline, which ship), what shows did they present and who else was on the ship at the time. Usually, we never receive an answer and never hear of this 'ex-offshore DJ' again.

Regarding: "Well also in this issue of the report some nicknames. First I heard Don Allen talk on RNI about presenter Louise Kirk 'the collectable swinger'." Louise's name is Quirk. As her father Jack Quirk and Chris's mother Doris Squires (nee Quirk) were first cousins, that makes Louise

Chris's second cousin. The Quirk surname is very common in the Isle of Man, where Louise and her husband Harry have recently returned after a long spell running The Bay Tree restaurant in Cyprus. While they were there, Louise recorded her own commercials for the restaurant for the local radio station. Louise and Harry are now running the Manx Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals tea rooms:

http://www.mspca.im/web_pages/tearooms.htm

I wouldn't be surprised if Louise's voice was heard again on Manx Radio - if only in commercials. Bye for now,

Mary Payne, Director

Radio London Ltd

www.radiolondon.co.uk

Well Mary thanks for all the updates and hope all is well with you and Chris. Greetings, Hans

Here a blog about Sealand from the Bates Family and more:

http://www.sealandgov.org/blog/Sealand_News

Who remembers Simon Barrett on Radio Caroline? Well nowadays he tries to show another of his talents: to be a singer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6vVGbXORJ8>

with thanks to Martin van der Ven.



Simon Barrett in the eighties. Photo: Rob Olthof

Next is an e mail which was sent by long time reader Mike Terry: 'First commercial radio station in the British Isles. It went on air in June 1964, long before commercial radio became part of everyday life in Britain. It had the advantage of a clear channel AM signal that covered most of the UK in the Sixties and I remember well listening regularly in Surrey! But things have now come to a sad state - Mike Terry).

Radio Today, 3 February 2012: The Isle of Man's national station Manx Radio is proposing to cut all but one of its staff presenters. The company has entered into a consultation period with staff to identify potential savings and a new structure for the company. The station, which is co-funded by the Isle of Man Government's annual subvention and by commercial revenues, is expecting cuts in the forthcoming budget for 2012/13 set by the Government. In a statement, the station said "Manx Radio is looking to reduce its staff presentation team from five down to one and plans for the vast majority of programmes to be presented on a freelance basis in the future. This has become the norm within the wider commercial radio industry and is expected to be adopted by Manx Radio."



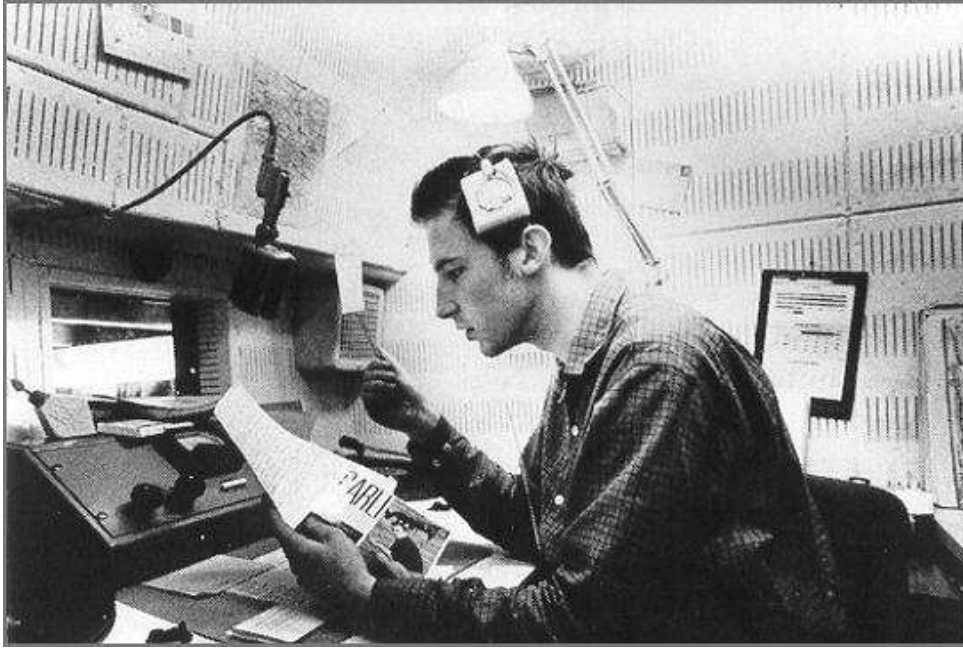
The News, Sales and Engineering teams have all come under close scrutiny and have also been asked to make their contributions to reduce the station's overheads. Two News Editor posts, namely News Editor Online and News Editor Broadcast, are earmarked for closure to be replaced with a new single News Editor position. It is expected that there will be a further reduction to newsroom staff in the summer when a Broadcast Journalist will be retiring and the position will not be filled.

Manx Radio's Chairman, David North said: "The staff at Manx Radio are extremely talented and have been committed to delivering the best listener experience possible. It is hugely disappointing that some of our award-winning team are likely to leave the station at this time and I'm sure this will come as a great disappointment to many listeners. "However, all listeners should be re-assured that the Manx Radio board will be doing all it can to retain the range and quality of programming that listeners have come to expect and enjoy from the station over recent years."

Manx Radio's Managing Director Anthony Pugh said: "It is very regretful that the company could be losing some talented and loyal individuals, however, our main objective has to be to maintain the award winning services of Manx Radio for our listeners without further burdening the Manx tax payer. We have worked hard to ensure the majority of our programming will remain largely unchanged and we will still be offering the Island business community the same excellent standards and opportunities for advertising. Our engineering team will also continue to offer first rate engineering services to commercial clients. "The restructure of Manx Radio will allow the station to continue on a sure footing for the future. The station commands the premier role in broadcasting in the Isle of Man and will continue to do so."



From the Isle of Man to England and we meet Phil Champion: 'Hi Hans, could you please mention in your monthly report my articles in 'Radio Review' on the first offshore radio stations: those in Scandinavia. Last year I was so intrigued with the Radio Nord Revival broadcasts on SW and internet that I tried to find out more. I listened to a lot of recordings from Ingemar Lindqvist's <http://radiohistoria.jvnf.org> website to find out more about how Radio Nord sounded. His website and other Scandinavian ones gave (once translated from Swedish) information that was not in my copy of Jack Kotschack's book. Ingemar gave me even more information. Anyway I wrote an article on Radio Nord which appeared in Radio Review issue 205 which appeared last June. I gave a station history, using more the 'new information', a list of over 30 deejays (none are listed in Gerry Bishop's "Offshore Radio book) and a look at what the programmes sounded like. Now I was hooked and had to find out more about the other Scandinavian offshore stations which we in the UK and Netherlands missed. Over the last nine months I listened to over 40 recordings of the first offshore station - Radio Mercur - from Ingemar's website, and over 100 Mercur adverts from the www.scandinavianoffshoreradio.com website. A lot of information was gained from them plus the www.radio-mercur.dk website run by Henrik Nørgaard whose book "Pirater i æteren" was published in Denmark in 2003. In fact Henrik supplied more information and checked the final draft of the article. The article is long and so has been split into two parts. The first part has just appeared in Radio Review issue 211 and covers: setting up Radio Mercur on land and at sea, who was the first offshore voice, the first day's programmes, what sort of people (careers etc.) became Mercur announcers, a list of over 30 Mercur announcers - more than twice as many as listed in Gerry Bishop's book - and a programme listing from 1960. There are 12 small photos about Radio Mercur plus one on the cover - all supplied by a certain Hans Knot from The Netherlands from his website www.soundsapes.info



Mats Lindgren, Radio Mercur: Soundscapes Archive

Part 2 should appear in issue 212 due out in April. It covers: using a second ship to gain wider coverage of Denmark, the changes in the use of 'newer' ships "Cheeta II" and "Lucky Star" as well as the original "Cheeta", another programme listing, an analysis of the style of the Mercur advertisements and who the advertisers were, the final day before the new Danish law, what happened to the Mercur announcers and -thanks to Henrik -a solution to the decades old mystery of who was behind the short-lived revival of Radio Mercur 13 days later which led to the police raid. My articles on the other Scandinavian 'pirates' -DCR and Skånes Radio Mercur/Radio Syd are well advanced and should follow the Mercur ones. I must say how enjoyable it is finding about these offshore pioneers. If anyone who does not subscribe to Radio Review wants to see about buying some copies they could contact the Editor, Geoff Baldwin, at Geoffrey.John@btinternet.com
Regards, Philip Champion.'

Well thanks a lot Phil for the information and in the meantime I can advise anyone to ask info how to obtain a copy of this issue as it gave me a lot of new information. Now info about the forthcoming RadioDay in Amsterdam:



Program ideas for this year RadioDay are again partly in Dutch and partly in English and have a first look at it:

Het sluitstuk van het Nederlandstalige Radio Luxemburg
Colourful Radio Luxembourg - The Great 208

Vlaams op z'n best - Radio Mi Amigo

Europe's Best Music - Caroline 558

Boven Water (details op een later tijdstip)

Yorkshire's Part of The Beat Fleet: Radio 270

Woelige radio tijden: Een interview (details op een later tijdstip)

The Big Wide Wonderful World of Radio Caroline North

**The Radio Day 2012 will take place on Saturday
17th November 2012, in Hotel Casa 400 in
Amsterdam, Eerste Ringdijkstraat 4.**

Keep yourself updated with having a regular look at www.radioday.nl

Sometimes memories come from unexpected sources. All around the world the international report is coming in. Many of the readers are emigrated

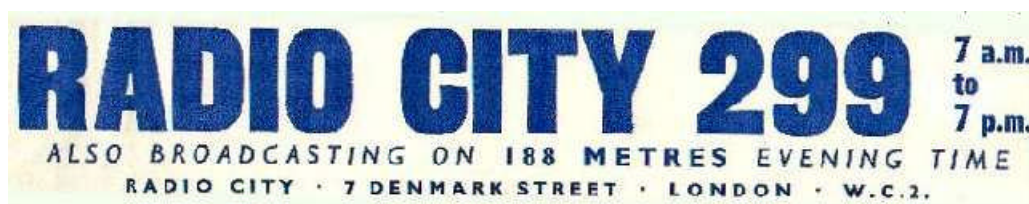
people originating from the Netherlands. For instant Theo Hoekstra is living already more than 30 years in French. Recently he was cleaning his loft and found several photographs. Three of them were shot during the big demonstration, which took place in The Hague on April 18th 1973. Around 150.000 people protested on that day against the plans of Dutch government to ban the offshore radio station by law. Thanks for sharing Theo!



Remember a few issues ago that Stewart Ross did ask who performed a song about Frankie being a rebel and Sally Mens giving the answer a month later? Well Stewart say a lot of thanks to Sally, who he thinks must be a star!

Early February Roger Day and Tom Edwards talked to each other in Roger's show on the BBC. They brought memories back as on that day it was 45 years ago Radio City closed down for the very last time. Some days after the broadcast they both commented to the report: Roger: 'We old pirates will always have a special bond'. And Tom Edwards: 'Yes great fun chatting to Roger. You see we pirate deejays just pick up on the

conversation(s) where we last left them. Amazing, and people like yourself keep those memories alive. There's a Radio City group on Facebook run by Dennis Boreham. He knows more about what happened than I do, and I was there! Always humbled by you devoted folk I really am. I hope your well and good my friend, take care Hans, Tom Edwards'.



Well here's another one from Britain: 'Hi Hans. Many thanks as ever for your wonderfully reminiscent February report. This time I was intrigued by a reference from someone called Clive to a reunion of people who were on Masirah Island in 73-74. As I myself arrived on Masirah in March 1974, and quickly became involved in broadcasting on the volunteer-run Radio 65, I would like to know more. Can you help? Thanks Rod Davis. Formerly of Faringdon, now in Bristol.'

Well Rod, I've forwarded the mail and I hope you got an answer in your postbox. When forwarding the mail, having too many 'Clives' in my address book, I made a mistaking sending it to the wrong address. But it was also a radio related Clive, who wrote back to me with:

'Hello Hans: I Hope all is well and thank you for your monthly radio reports - always look forward to reading all the radio news. I think you have the wrong 'Clive' regarding the Marirah Island as I was never there - my time of 1973 - 1974. At this time I was starting work at Capital Radio at the 'rocking tower' opposite Warren Street. And many, many years later I had the honor of showing you around the premises of where Capital is located now at its Leicester Square home a great and enjoyable evening.

Sadly after 33 years (I believe UK Commercial Radios Longest Continuous Employed Person) - a great honor again . I was made redundant along with many other staff at the time (in May 2009) I'm still in touch with those

people from the many years I was there but as you can imagine not many remain. I continue to run my internet Country Rock Station HotnGold so keeping my wonderful radio days alive. www.hotngold.co.uk

I worked with all the legends that made Capital Radio Number One (when it really was Number 1 ' - and of course many offshore radio personalities -a dream come true working with the broadcasting legends I use to listen to when I was growing up in the sixties. I now work as a concierge in a prestigious Residential block in London's Dockland where luckily I have found media people who have moved in. Obviously I try my utmost to get along to any radio event that is happening. I do hope you locate the other 'Clive' and the reunion plans all go to plan for them all. Keep up your good work and hope to see you in the future. Kind regards, Clive Smith.'

Hi Clive thanks a lot for your very informative e mail and of course Rob and I do remember this very enjoyable evening at Leicester Square now already many years ago. Sorry I picked the wrong Clive out of my address book. There are more than 15 different ones so please let the correct one step up. By the way good luck with your new work and maybe there's a chance to have another get together when next time over in England with the two of us greetings Hans.

Let's go to an item we missed a couple of month due to the fact there were too many other topics to mention. What about the deejays from the past versus the artist from the past. This time a newspaper cut provided by François from France showing the Beatles with Tom Lodge from Caroline as star deejay.

1965



SOUND OF THE STARS!

IT was all very mysterious and very few people knew what was going on. Suddenly, without warning, Radio Caroline's top deejay **TOM LODGE** was whipped off the pop ship last Friday and rushed into London for a hush-hush get-together with **THE BEATLES**.

At a Chelsea studio close to King's Road, Lodge spent an hour with John, Paul, George, Ringo . . . and a tape recorder!

For the story that goes with our special picture, make sure you see next week's issue of **MUSIC ECHO** and read the first exciting details about **SOUND OF THE STARS!**

Also we have again some nicknames, this time from Dutch station. First we go to Radio Veronica where program director Rob Out at one stage was mentioned: 'Oom oude Rob, een afgod der matrozen'. Uncle old Rob, idol of the sailors'. A second one was for the duo André van Duin and Ferry de Groot, who worked together on the Dutch service of RNI and were called 'the team of the century' (duo van de eeuw).

Another topic appearing almost every month is 'the radio t shirts'. This time a photo taken at Dutch broadcast museum, May 1994. It was at the official opening of the exhibition 'Dutch Offshore Radio Stations' and on

the photo you see Willem van Kooten aka Joost den Draaier and Hendrik, Bull, Verweij - one of the three Veronica directors. Of course three t-shirts, being one of Radio Atlantis and one of Radio Monique with in the middle the 1970 shirt in the Fight For Free Radio. T shirts are from my personal collection and the photo has been taken by Rob Olthof.



Well next we go to Germany where Jan Sundermann was writing the next interesting e mail after reading a recent article I wrote about the offshore radio station Capital Radio at www.hansknot.com

'Hello Hans, some not really fresh thoughts came up back to my mind after reading part 1 of the Max Lewin Archieve. At the end of this chapter you have concluded, that Capital Radio successfully burned a lot of Capital. Is not that true for too many broadcasting projects, from Capital over to the Super Station, an enterprise that finally led to the sad ending of the MV Communicator, and the ultimate long wave projects? But nevertheless, the "usually shady financing men" seemed to have had another suitcase full of money like out of the backyard several times. How is that possible and what is the motivation?

To make money by bringing entertainment and fun to generations of listeners is a honest goal. To do this from an offshore station is an ultimo ratio, when the legal situation in a country is making commercial radio impossible. In that sense these stations were truly in the tradition of

piracy, from Klaus Störtebecker to today's Somalian fishermen: when your basis for making a living on land is broken away, then someone takes the ultimate risk to do it on the high sea. And repeatedly, the offshore broadcaster clearly stated, that they would prefer to do their business from dry land. But the uncertain legal situation made it later also impossible for these stations to pay taxes and performing-arts royalties in their "home countries". We know that for this reason the legal banking place for Radio Veronica and Capital Radio was in Liechtenstein, while Radio Caroline and Radio Mi Amigo did it in Andorra. In that way the Caroline and Mi Amigo organisations survived , and the dividend to the share-holders might have been not too large.



Photo once taken when an offshore radio station was in preparation

Today in most European countries we have an incredible number of radio and commercial television broadcasters. What is their business plan? Naturally: to make profit for the share-holders from the advertising income. But can we really imagine that certain night-time channels on digital satellite with their slippery offers can make remarkable profit from the phone callers? Or have you ever tried to order a massage chair advertised at such a TV? Is that really available to buy? I have some doubt, and I now try to explain my theory about their alternative business plan. It is very simple: none of these goods advertised must be available in reality. They do not have to take the load and sweat to deal with real goods. They must only transmit commercials and write invoices for that.

And the profit after taxes out of this goes to the shareholders.

The "customer"-companies booking the adverts therefore might be simply "shadow organisations" of the same TV or radio owners. These organisations push "black money" , profit from illegal operations like drugs etc., through such a system of different companies and clean it in that way. In other words: legal commercial broadcasting can be the ideal electric laundry to turn black money into legal profit. European offshore radio, in its uncertain legal situation, did not have the possibility to do such kind of cleaning process. Or will a tax authority process a declaration on "income from operation of Laser 558 Radio"? It's hard to imagine in Europe, but why not in oversea countries? And here we might meet again those shady business men with the suitcases. Greetings, Jan Sundermann.'

Well I invite you as a reader to comment on this subject from Jan or any other subject from the Hans Knot International Radio Report and of course feel free to send your own subjects, memories and photographs to me at: HKnot@home.nl

And finally a very recent statement from the current Caroline organisation about their future: By Bob Lawrence, Radio Caroline February 2012: 'Ofcom are hopeful that they will soon be in a position to draft a consultation document regarding any possible future use for 648 kilohertz. Until last year the frequency was used to transmit the programmes of the BBC World Service but they have now confirmed to Ofcom that they have no intention of using the frequency for any purpose in the future. The regulator is now in discussion with the company who own the transmitting infrastructure for this channel and whilst this process may take some time, they have confirmed that their intention is to proceed with drafting the document which will invite the public to make Ofcom aware of how they would wish the channel to be used. We would ask that you register your support to the idea of the frequency being advertised for use by a regional station for the south east. If that option is taken up, you will then be asked to offer your support for our specific application.

Station Manager Peter Moore said, "With our distinguished history, Radio Caroline clearly is a special case, but there is no provision in UK radio regulation to recognise this. Many politicians feel unable to support us since Ofcom are not legally empowered to give us special treatment, but they certainly ARE empowered to advertise a new license once a frequency is found".

The MP For Chatham and Aylesford, Tracey Crouch, who presented the EDM to parliament calling for Ofcom to "exhaust all avenues in making the provisions available for Radio Caroline to celebrate its 50th birthday in 2014", said: "It is important that we continue as a collective group to ensure that Ofcom think positively about Radio Caroline and changing tact will help. There is a lot of support for Caroline in Parliament and we need to keep fighting for the future release of appropriate AM licenses to bid for." <http://radiocarolineonair.com/>

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

LASER 558 All Europe Radio Hans Knot

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 programs 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 nonstop 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 rumors' 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

Till next time I wish you all the very best Hans Knot