

## Hans Knot International Radio Report September 2012

Hi all you out there. How was your summer? Or for those down yonder: How as your winter? Anyway hope you all had a good time. We did some three short trips and during all those days had wonderful weather. Stayed a few days on one of the Dutch Isles, made a five day trip through Ireland and yes we saw 'The 50th Anniversary Reunion Tour from the Beach Boys in Berlin. Some 9000 people were swinging their way through about 50 songs, which were done by the Beach Boys and their terrific band.

<http://www.visitberlin.de/en/event/08-03-2012/the-beach-boys>

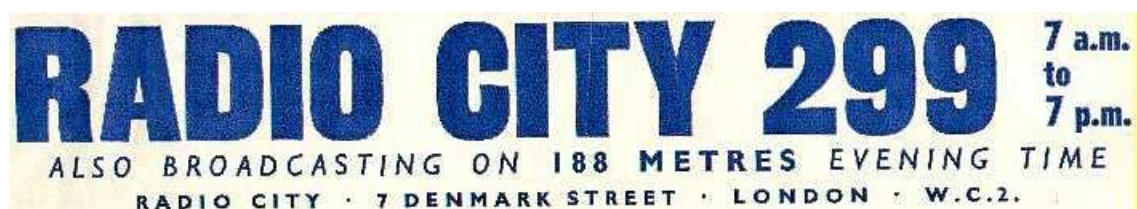
Thanks for the mails with memories, reflections and more, which came in during the month of August and again this time a collection of those will be used in this edition of the International Radio Report.



First of all an item which didn't fit into last edition of the report, which is the reflections send in by reader Ian Godfrey from England, who was watching a special on the BBC: 'It was about DJ Anne Nightingale, who spent much of the programme talking about

her influences and the musical policy at the BBC from the end of World War 2 - including their antipathy towards pop music - and it seemed that any reference to the offshore stations was looking very unlikely but then she suddenly mentioned how excited she was on discovering Radio Caroline and the fact that she could hear her favourite records at any time of the day and I got the impression that if it wasn't for her wariness about broadcasting from a ship she would have jumped at the opportunity of working on one of the stations.

The film footage was probably the best I've ever seen in a TV programme, with two clear shots of what looked like Shivering Sands, one an aerial showing six towers, or possibly seven. There was a close-up of one tower. It looked quite weather-beaten - understandable after 20 years of disuse. I couldn't find any insignia such as 'Radio City on 299' but there was a long board at right angles to the tower with the words 'the most swinging' station in town,' with wording below which was completely beyond me! All the catwalks were intact and I noticed a tall slim guy walking towards the tower being featured



I was also fascinated by a very low angle port-side shot of the Fredericia. There were other shots which bounced around a fair bit but this one was very stable I wondered whether it was a colour film which had distorted over the years as at one point the ship suddenly became dark blue and the sea turned a rusty red!

Being curious about the colour of the hull I had a look at the Adrien Peterson 'Broadcasting Fleet'' feature which includes a pretty good black-and-white starboard shot, but I think the one featured in the

programme was vastly superior and suggest that, if possible, Adrien features this one instead. The programme was aired on BBC4 on 5th May. Best Wishes, Ian Godfrey.'

Well Ian thanks again for your reflections. A pity I can't answer on the questions regarding this documentary as I didn't had the possibility to see it.

Through the history on offshore radio we were asked by those on the radio to join their Fanclub. It was in 1964 that we were first confronted with several promo spots on Radio Caroline in which we were asked to be a member of the Caroline Fanclub. Within days the postman brought enormous amounts of letters to the Caroline then headquarters, which were located at 6 Chesterfield Gardens in the posh London's Mayfair. As you can see from a small announcement in the New Musical Express the Club was an instant hit for the station.

## CAROLINE-NEW CLUB

Pressurized by an average daily influx of 2,000 letters at Radio Caroline's London headquarters, a listeners' supporting group called "Caroline Club" is being formed.

Brochures about the radio station are being printed and membership cards and badges being manufactured ready to be sent out for every five shillings subscription received.

Autographed pictures of the station's seven regular DJ's will also be given away, with offers of Caroline tee-shirts available only to club members.

Pop concerts at which members will be admitted at a reduced rate are soon to be promoted by the Caroline chiefs, and within a week or so, "Caroline Club Hour", a daily programme from 6-7 p.m. will be transmitted.

Listening figures for over 16-year-olds are about 7 million, and the transmission strength of the station is being boosted all the time. Maximum strength will be reached some time this week, it is expected.

Then maybe the shortest e mail I got this past four weeks: 'Paste this to your browser.....Luv' Graham Gill.' Well it's a nonstop jukebox with wonderful oldies Graham is suggesting to my readership. You can find it at: [www.UpChUcky.OrG](http://www.UpChUcky.OrG)

As you maybe know Graham worked on several offshore radio stations during the sixties and seventies and he once told me that at Radio 390 he had his best time. On this very relaxing station one of his colleagues was John Ross Bernard who wrote: 'Thank you Hans for the name check and the Red Sands radio insertion in your latest offering. If you check Ian Damon's Facebook wall there is a three shot of him, Keith Skues and me taken last month when we had lunch together 'on the Broads'. Happy Daze John RB.'



Ian Damon, Keith Skues and John Ross Barnard

Thanks a lot for sharing this item with us. I hope there will be many occasions in the future to share your memories during a nice lunch.

I think what I do now never happened before. I take back into the report an image we published last time. It's an advertisement for the Voice of Peace showing staff of the station. The text was in Hebrew and I asked who could fill in the names of the deejays we didn't recognise.



Well there were several people reflecting and I decided to mention two of them. First one came from Norway and ex Voice of Peace deejay Stevie Gordon, who wrote: 'Good morning Hans. I can help you a little with a couple of the pictures. The third from the left in the top row, Pete Lewis, was not a DJ. He was the main transmitter engineer. He was the VOP staffer who worked closely with Harris installing the FM transmitter, and the stereo studio. Peter, real name Peter Frost, is now at Broadcom in the UK. Additionally, he is also Godfather to my youngest daughter, Nicola. You named Gad Bitton, but his name is Gadi. And isn't the person at the extreme right in the bottom row, Caroline's Brian Martin? All the best Stevie Gordon.'

Well Stevie thanks a lot and nice to know that Pete is Godfather of your youngest daughter! Steve, nowadays can be heard on Radio Seagull. <http://www.radioseagull.nl/presenters.html>

Another one came in from Israel, but from a Dutch woman: 'Shalom Hans. We were invited by friends to attend their daughter's wedding. So here we are in Israel. It was easy to ask our host if she would translate the texts in the article. In fact Ivriet is to be read from right to left, so actually Abie is the first in line. We translate the European way. Left: 'Broadcasting 24 hours a day, 7 days a week'.

Right: The most popular channel in the East Mediterranean.  
The names below the photos are: Mike - Buck - Pete - Chris - Tony - Abie- Boaz - Don - Paul - Gadi - Bill - Harry. (It says Pete instead of Peter and Abie is the correct spelling she says). Shalom from Tel Aviv and Shalom from Natalie, Pieter Jan en Swanet Vink.'

Peter Jan and Swanet Vink are also known for their work for the Adje Bouman Fanclub in the past, the technician from Veronica who is known for his special choice in music as well as making edits of songs and producing songs, which became hits national in the Netherlands as well as international.



Ad Bouman in 2007. Photo: Willem de Bruin

Interesting to see a question in a report from 4 months ago is getting response after response. It was Jan Sundermann from Germany who first mentioned the kit for building your own copy of a lightship. Well another reader has more on the subject: 'Dear Hans, Thank you for the latest Report which I read this morning. The Revell Light Ship 05202 is no longer produced by the Revell Company. However, the Revell kit was a copy of a much older kit made by, the 'Frog' company. The good news is that a company called, 'Eastern Express', now make copies of the old Frog kit. This kit is

available at many model-shops and online at Amazon and Ebay. Purchase price is around £27. I hope this helps the person who's looking for a kit. Chris Dennett will be happy with the information. Best wishes John Bennet.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Eastern-Express-Trinity-House-Lightship/dp/B005095FU8>

[http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Eastern-Express-1-110-Tinity-House-Lightship-South-Goodwin-construction-kit-/120954934485?pt=UK\\_ToysGames\\_ModelKits\\_ModelKits\\_JN&has h=item1c2979d4d5](http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Eastern-Express-1-110-Tinity-House-Lightship-South-Goodwin-construction-kit-/120954934485?pt=UK_ToysGames_ModelKits_ModelKits_JN&has h=item1c2979d4d5)

Again we go to Israel, one of the most reported countries in the report, outside the European countries.



Mike Brand from his own collection

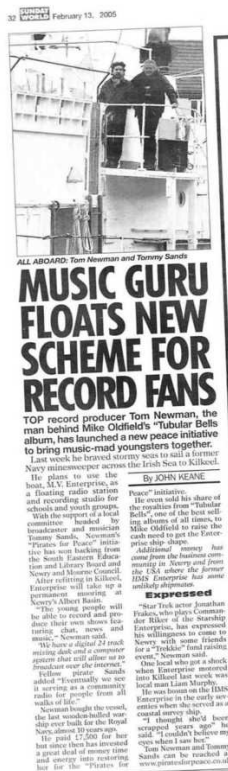
Next in the International Radio Report we have Mike Brand who reported from Israel on their offshore radio projects for many years. He reflects on one of the people sending in an e mail last month: 'Hi Hans, What is this Radio Rainbow? They are now taking the name of a project in Northern Ireland called Pirates for Peace from the M/V Enterprise. They even say they have a transmitter on the West Bank Golan? Rubbish! First of all they are two different places - West Bank and Golan Heights. Second, no way would the

Israeli Authorities allow such a transmitter. Israel recently closed down the FM broadcasts of Radio All for Peace on 107.2FM, and the transmitter wasn't even in Israel, it was in Ramallah. The studio was in East Jerusalem, with a microwave link to the transmitter! So to say they have a transmitter on the Golan Heights is pure rubbish!

And then to use the name of 'Pirates for Peace'? Here is the PFP website, no mention of any cooperation with this so called Radio Rainbow. [www.piratesforpeace.com](http://www.piratesforpeace.com)

Sorry Hans, these people are exaggerating to say the least! All the best Mike Brand.' Thanks Mike for your opinion and I would like to know what the people of Radio Rainbow have to say about this all! Just write to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Mike Brand is still active in radio with a weekly show on Radius 100FM - The Voice of Peace Show - between 18.00-19.00 Local Israel Time.





Next on of our female readers, Carole Anderson: 'Hi Hans I can't believe it is ten years on Monday 30th July since Scottish radio presenter, the late great Kenny Page, passed away. Where does the time go. Ten years on and I still think Kenny was the best radio presenter I have ever heard. He was so entertaining and very unique. He is simply unforgettable. The radio hasn't been the same place for me for the past ten years. He is very much missed. Kindest Regards, Carole Anderson (One of Kenny's Drivetime listeners on Radio Tay FM).'

Thanks Carole and yes a long time ago already. More info on Kenny Page, who worked also on offshore stations Caroline and The Voice of Peace, can be found here:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenny\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenny_Page)

Well on page 9 of the Hans Knot International Report our reader from California is back again. Here's the Emperor Rosko: 'Hi Hans, I just wanted to thank all who voted for their favorite Beatle song in the straw poll! As mentioned 'Hey Jude' won it and this was passed on to the lads. Results were apparent! Sir Paul must have agreed with all of you. The results were seen in the closing of the Olympic opening. Keep up the good work. EMP.'



Handsome guy! He must be some actor star. Photo archive OEM.

Next in the Hans Knot International Radio Report I will bring you an article which I wrote in 2005 on the subject offshore and pirate television

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## TWO TV PROJECTS, WHICH DIDN'T SUCCEED

In the sixties and early seventies a few television projects were promised but not materialised. The one, which became the most publicity, were the plans from the former owner from Radio Caroline, Ronan O'Rahilly, to start television programmes aimed at the British public. You can read more about it in an article I wrote for the on line journal for music and media culture Soundscapes. It's called: 'They were young and ready to fight on against the British'.

[www.soundscapes.info](http://www.soundscapes.info)

I want to go back this time to two other promised projects which didn't come on the air at all. The very first time we learnt something about the new project Radex Television is to be found in the Dutch 'Telegraaf Newspaper' on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1965, when their Brussels correspondent reported: 'Very soon a new pirate will come on the air, not only with radio programmes but also with television broadcasts. This commercial station will be received, according to specialists, in London, the West of the Netherlands as far as Amsterdam, the North of France and the whole of Belgian coastal region'. It was all about Radex TV, making use of a 1250 ton ship, a former freighter registered in Panama and being equipped in the British capital. She would anchor near the Noordhinder, close to Ostend. The television transmitter would have a power of 35 kW, on which only British companies would be allowed to advertise. For the benefit of Continental West European viewers, programmes would be rebroadcast with special equipment via the so called 625 lines, whilst broadcasting to England would be done via the 405 lines system. The newspaper said to have made enquiries with government authorities in The Hague, where they learnt that it would be forbidden for any station, anywhere on earth, to broadcast television programmes without a license, to the countries where the programmes were aimed for.

Programmes would be broadcast on channel 9, Radio broadcast, with no mention whatsoever regarding transmitter power, would be on 288 or 294 meters. Two deejays for the radio station had been engaged, one male, one female, a Mrs. H. Mercedes. A day later the first criticism was to be read in several newspapers. One mentioned that Radex TV would start within eight weeks and the radio station would be broadcast 24 hours a day. Another anchorage in international

waters would be off Whitstable, whilst two more ships would be anchored off the Isle of Wight and off Harwich. They would relay the programmes. Criticism came from the radio astronomy service that would suffer interference from the television transmitter. Broadcasts were reported to be via channel 6. Earlier both the BBC and the ITV were informed that they would definitely not to be allowed to use this channel as this would interfere with space research.

This again presented a nice opportunity for the British GPO to speak in a favour of legislation against offshore radio, and their spokesman announced that after the Whitsun recess they would insist with the responsible ministers to introduce a bill. 'The Television Mail' from July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1967 brought the next under the header 'Radex mystery'. 'Radex TV, the much-proclaimed offshore television station which was to have started transmissions shortly from a ship off the east coast off England, seems to have sunk without a trace. This, at any rate, is the general consensus of opinion within the industry in this country. 'The Television Mail', in common with the national newspapers, who carried the original story, had been unable to contact the source of the announcement made about a month ago about Radex-TV and despite a recent report in 'Variety' of concern of the contractors in the area which Radex TV planned to cover, the treat of the offshore station to on-shore TV revenue has virtually been written off. With the cover and service provided by the existing, legal, television networks, is in fact extremely doubtful whether Britain will ever have an offshore television station.'

In the meantime a Radex Project spokesman too made statements. Via investors, 10 million guilders had been raised, enough to broadcast for one year. They spoke of a potential 5 million viewers in the South of England and everyone, in possession of a television set, would be able to receive the signal easily. A maximum of four minutes of advertising an hour was planned, and programme material would mostly be American made, because the material had not been shown elsewhere on the BBC or ITV. A further advantage was that via the other stations only 14% of American material was allowed to be broadcast. News bulletins too were promised.

Meantime at the Cambridge based Radio Astronomy Services, they were afraid of the 12 hours a day planned broadcasts of the television station. Professor Martin Ryle, director of the Institute: "For our research we use two large radio telescopes, and if the television station comes on the air, we can't use them anymore.

The Daily Telegraph had more info: 'A 120 foot high antenna will be installed and a Radex spokesman, 48 year old Jim Gray, says that any advertising will be accepted, inclusive of tobacco advertising.' The signal will of course be received, but then the aerial will have to be pointed into the direction of the ship and the point is if the picture will be received well constantly, because is broadcast from a ship rocking upon the waves.'

A few days later it was reported that daily programmes would start in August from 6 till 9 am, 12 noon till 3 pm and 5 pm till midnight. One advert would cost around 1200 Pounds for 30 seconds. Besides the radio ship, two other ships would be in use as relay station. Crew members who signed up contracts were Americans, Canadians and Britons. The idea came from 49 year old James de Grey, a New Zealander, who had gained experience with several American television concerns. In an interview he suddenly declared that the television station would be broadcast 18 hours a day, sticking in into the existing ITV rules, stipulating that a maximum of 6 minutes of advertising per hour was allowed.

De Grey direct companion, Michael Williams, who had acquired experience with the British National Film Industry, made a statement: "In all we have spent two years researching the realization of Radex TV, but we will delay starting as we are prepared to apply for an official licence to start the fourth national network, that eventually would be run on a commercial basis. (Channel 4, was launched in 1982.) If such a request is not granted, nothing will stop us coming on with Radex TV. We have obtained legal advice and we will achieve our plans anyway."

De Grey went on about his plans: "If we come on air, we certainly won't make publicity for cigarettes. At the same time we will pay income taxes in England, although our company won't be registered as British enterprise. We will pay royalties because we don't want to upset anyone. We have appointed a Board of Directors, but we won't reveal their names yet. Although we have enough money to launch the project, we'll wait until other promised money had been credited on our account."

In the newspaper: 'het Algemeen Handelsblad' it was reported that the enterprise was registered in the Bahamas (in those days still a British Colony), and that the television transmitter would have a power of 50 kW, which meant a potential audience of five million viewers could be reached. Forty crew members would come and work, in shifts, on the ships. At the end of July it was

announced by the organisation that another frequency would be chosen and that it would only take a few weeks before the television station would be on air.

On August 26<sup>th</sup> some Dutch newspapers brought the news that due to problems the project was postponed indefinitely; the major reason was that the channel on which Radex TV would broadcast was reserved for astronomical space research. A day later it was 'Television Mail' which brought more: 'Jim de Grey's ambitious plans for Radex TV is likely to come to naught after all. A phone call late on Press Day told TVM that American financial backing has been withdrawn and that another offer was decided to be completely unacceptable by Jim de Grey. He says that he believes that Radex TV is still a good project and should financial support be forthcoming within the next three weeks, then Radex TV could transmitting by Christmas time. Asked about the likelihood of backing, De Grey was optimistic because of the lucrative returns that can come from Radex.'

At the beginning of September 1965, five important American backers withdrew and at the end of October it was announced that Radex Radio would start in January 1966 and Radex TV in the spring of 1966. That spring however never came up for the Radex project.

The 'Haarlems Dagblad' of 18th December 1970 reported that on Saturday night, 26 December, at precisely 00.00 hour, the Netherlands would experience their first television sex station, Chick TV, broadcast from an aircraft. Chick TV Amsterdam had been set up by Jan Wenderhold: "The programs will be broadcast from an aircraft circling over Amsterdam. The programme can be received on any set, with a dial division (channels 37, 38 and 39). This applies for Amsterdam and a radius in the immediate surrounding area of approximately 30 kilometers."

According to the newspaper, nightly tests had taken place on 11 and 12 of December. In those days the official Dutch television closed down at 11 in the evening. Wenderhold said that the result of the test transmissions weren't overwhelming, there had to be tinkered at the transmitter. Besides sex adverts the program would consist of a cartoon series: 'Little red riding hood and the wolf', a movie called: 'With no boys around', in which three well known British pop stars would play. Also a movie charmingly called 'Zeno's semen' would be programmed.

Chick Amsterdam had already plans to broadcast in colour in 1971. This would happen on Saturdays 25<sup>th</sup> of January and March 1<sup>st</sup>, every time from midnight. In a further period even every Saturday night for two hours. The equipment of

the former owners of the REM project that had been offered for sale to him would be used. Wenderhold, happy when the first broadcast would succeed: "I just want to see if it works and what reactions would be. But if I had known of all the problems involved, I surely would have waited some more time."

He refused to face the problems with his plane: "Schiphol doesn't seem to be a drawback for us. We can keep them dangling for an hour. And at midnight there's little air traffic. Obviously it would have been easier from a ship, but we don't want Veronica to have troubles by our doing. Then we will also lose our goodwill. But it will surely go on, otherwise we'll look foolish."

The journalists at the press conference were skeptical...and they were right. Chick TV Amsterdam never came on air.

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Last month I brought a new topic into the report. It was about Dutch groups played on the English offshore stations. I mentioned for instant 'Farewell in the rain' from the Shoes played very often on Radio Caroline International by Robbie Dale and his colleagues. I also published a photo showing the members of Q65, a group from The Hague, trying in a dinghy to get nearby the Radio City fort, Shivering Sands. I also asked if anyone remembered other continental groups, which were played in the English language programmes on Offshore Radio. Well I got several people writing in and will bring three of them into the report: First here's what Chris Dannat remembers: 'Hi Hans: - you asked about remembering songs and titles in your August Report: Off the top of my head, I recall: "Dong Dong Dicky Dicky Dong" - Golden Earring. I used to listen to Radio Veronica quite a lot after Radio Caroline closed down in March 1968. Then I remember: "Powerful Jim" - Serpentine. I think this was Veronica and RNI early 70's.'

Well Serpentine came from: 't Gooi, a district in Netherlands were also Hilversum is situated. The group started in 1967 and their first single was 'Yesterday papers'. Early 1970 'Powerful Jim' was released on the Pink Elephant lable and I'm not sure but maybe Robbie Dale

had something to do with the producing of the song. Later that year the group changed name to 'Apartment One'. The two singles from Serpentine both didn't made the Dutch chart. One of the members, Peter van der Sande, also played in Focus.



Let's go back to Chris Dannat: 'Yes, 'Farewell in the Rain' - The Shoes: I still have the Polydor vinyl of this single released in October 1967. Furthermore I remember 'Riding on the L and N' from The Bintangs: This is released on Decca vinyl. And what about 'Sure He's a Cat' - The Cats: Played a lot on Radio Veronica in 1967! Regards, Chris Dannatt.'

Well thanks a lot, all good songs you've mentioned. Next reflections came in from Frank van de Heerde in the Netherland.

'Hello Hans. With exception of Radio 390, Britain Radio, Radio 355 and Radio Caroline International (so after the MOA came in) most of the English Language offshore stations played almost none of the on the continent of Europe produced music. It was one of the reasons I tuned into those stations as I had almost nothing with the music of the continent. British and American pop music were in preference with me. Well there were exceptions on the format and of course

some music from the continent was played on the stations. I heard them play 'Non ho l'éta' from Gigliola Cinquetti, 'Zorba's dance' from Marcello Minerbi, 'Il silenzio' from Nini Rosso (without the spoken in between, which could be heard on the European version) and of course Los Bravos, Los Brincos en Los Canarios. Surely I've to mention that on stations like Radio London and Radio Essex instrumentals from André Brasseur from Belgium were used as deejay tunes.



And thinking about Dutch pop groups I remember I heard just one time 'That day' from the Golden Earrings. And yes, this was on Radio 390 and after the song was played the presenter told us that it was a brand new group, without telling that they came from Holland. It was in spring of 1966 that I heard just once 'Russian Spy and I' from the Hunters played on Caroline South. After the song was played it was mentioned that the Group came from Amsterdam. For those interested in Jan Akkerman (Focus and more) it can be mentioned that he was the lead guitarist in the Hunters. It was on Caroline South too that I only heard once the Dutch Singer Baldwin, far



much better known as Boudewijn de Groot. He was the same person as Marcel Overstegen, in the mid-sixties deejay on Radio Veronica.

I don't recall hearing Q65 on the British Offshore stations. Another one I remember is used for a jingle on Radio London as well as tune for Thijs Lieffering on Radio Dolfijn.



Thijs Lieffering Photo: Look Boden

It was the Dutch Swing College Band and Quena Blues. Finally I want to mention, although it has nothing to do with Offshore Radio, is that 'Salty Dog Blues' from Dutch singer Conny van Bergen was played on the international service of Radio Luxembourg, when the song was just released in Britain. Greetings Frank van Heerde from Purmerend.'

Thanks a lot Frank, who really is a lover of sixties offshore stations. Next one is from the South of the Netherlands. Bert Bossink, who regularly works together with the producing team of Dutch Radio 5, also remembers some continental groups played on the English stations: 'You did mention 'Farewell in the rain' from the Shoes, being played a lot on Caroline in autumn 1967 and winter 1968. In Record Mirror Top 50 it also could be seen that the song was listed in 'Bubbling Under list' from early 1968. It nearly made the Top 50 in

Britain. I found in my archive an article from Dutch music magazine 'Kink' dated September 24<sup>th</sup> 1966. It's about the Hunters from Amsterdam and their song 'Russian Spy and I'. It even became sure shot on Radio Caroline and had a few plays. However it never came into the Caroline Top 10.'



Also Bert Bossink makes a side jump to '208': 'It was in November 1965 that I heard the very beautiful vocal song 'She broke my heart' from Rene and his Alligators. It seemed to me they wanted to become the Dutch Searchers. It sounded so much 'Mersey beat'. Also I heard the Cats and Golden Earrings played on Luxembourg during 1966-1967. Bert Bossink.'

Strange enough, while working on this edition of the report, I listen to a very early Caroline program from March 1964 and there suddenly Dutch singer Ilonka Beluska was played. Well if you have any other memories to continental music on the offshore radio station please write to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) to share it with other readers.

Last year I got a very thick envelope from one of the readers in Stevenage, in which a lot of cuttings, personal notes as well as magazines and leaflets. Looking through it a lot of interesting things

occurred to be in it, including an open letter in the 'Record and Popsop Mirror from February 15<sup>th</sup>. 1978. It was written by a deejay that left the MV Mi Amigo months earlier and he decided to write in to the weekly with his personal impression of the struggles he faced on the Mi Amigo. Let's go back to 1975: 'some people believed that Radio Seagull was an experiment, perhaps it was but not on a national level. It was a chaos, the engineers using bits of silver paper as fuses: 'the fire the deejay game!' The beloved organisation on land; the list of absurdities is endless. A group of people were brought together to build a radio station. All of them thinking they knew, what they were doing. Yet, in reality, none of them did. And behind this was a certain Irishman with a beautiful blag: "If you don't know what you're doing, raise your hand high with the 'V-sign', smile, say Love and Peace, and everything will be alright. Seagull was born. On board the Mi Amigo the struggle was entered in by all, armed with brains, lots of mouth, and a few eggs and various vegetables. It was a constant confrontation with each other. There were times of hate, love, sadness, joy, but never indifference. We were trying to learn how to communicate with the listeners, to each other and with the organisation on land. The listeners were responding with more than the usual: "Please can you send me a photo" and everything was fine. Tenders started to arrive, and we even got paid. Then, as last summer went by, things got worse as bitterness grew. And at the same time, so did the mechanical problems. An air of conspiracy filled the cabins and people switched sides with each role of the ship. Instead of promoting LA, we had to promote AA, Album Awareness. I now have left Caroline, but the station is still there, but it is hovering between life and death.'

Well a very honest way of telling the readers, and so many of the listeners to the station what he thought about life and working aboard the MV Mi Amigo in 1974, although he was not ready yet as he ended with: 'I would go through it all again if I had the chance, even knowing the outcome, because on Caroline you were part of a 'family, and you learnt how to love other people. It was an experience

not an experiment.' Well I guess you want to know who wrote and sent in the letter to the weekly. It was Mickey Mercer.



Mickey Mercer Photo: Offshore Echos Magazine

Some other news from that period in the same magazine was that Andy Archer became 29 years of age! Radio Luxembourg was for the first time in its history going to be selecting the Luxembourg entry for the Eurovision Song Contest. The Radio Regulatory Department in Britain had been making more raids in January, all aimed at intimidating those poor souls they picked on. An interesting thing to know was why none of the villains the officers of the Home Service had questioned at that stage had been prosecuted in the weeks after the captures. Home Office officials were phoned and they told the weekly that the responsibility was with the Essex Police. In those days Alan Freeman recorded shows for ILR stations Hallam, Swansea Sound and BRBM. And the most memorable mentioning in Record and Popswoop Mirror was that Granny Banks, Robin Banks grandmother, became 82 years and she missed RNI every day. Then living in Chatham she hoped to visit Slikkerveer to see the MEBO II there and hopefully to meet King Kong, the strong-arm crewmember on the radio ship, who got a mention many times in Robin Banks programmes. Well Robin, the big question is if your grandmother came to Slikkerveer?

Let's see what Jon M has to tell us this month: 'Just a quick note to let you know that I have updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame.

New for August:

- We look back 35 years to the UK's first offshore radio convention, Flashback 67;
- we hear from Bob Read, who was an engineer on Radio Caroline North during 1966/67;
- we were already familiar with Radio City's Phil Jay and Eric Jay. This month we discover there was also a Colin J;
- and there is news of a free event happening in London in September with a panel of sixties offshore radio stars remembering their time as pirates.

Thanks, as ever, to everyone who has contributed. All the best,  
Jon. [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

Next we go to Philip in Belgium, who has a very interesting topic to share: 'Hello Hans, thank you as always for your amazing International Radio Report. This morning I was listening to some old recordings of Radio Caroline from 1989 and in fact on Easter Sunday the 26th of March 1989, as part of the celebrating on the Ross Revenge of Caroline's 25th birthday one could hear the hooter of the Olau Britannia while passing by whilst Dave Asher is presenting his program <http://www.azanorak.com/pub/Stations/Caroline/1982-1990/19890326Sun1500-1508RCaroline-25Years-DaveAsher-Top1001,Nos334-332.zip>.

From this I went on searching on the www and at <http://forum.shipspotting.com/index.php?topic=10323.0> I've found this: "The 1988 video is about 12 minutes and shows the Belgian SAR helicopter exercising with the ferry. Also passing Radio Caroline at the Kentish Knock. The videolink [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aI5hv\\_eFgTE&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aI5hv_eFgTE&feature=relmfu)

and we see the Ross Revenge between 09.22 and 09.40 (in the far distance) and between 10.15 and 10.53 (passing by).

And perhaps for those who don't know what the Olau Britannia and Caroline had in common look at

[http://travelservices.de/trav1988/trav88\\_3.htm](http://travelservices.de/trav1988/trav88_3.htm) with a map and many pictures.

And as I was searching for more stories between Caroline and the Olau Ferries this is what Aquavid alias Steve Conway wrote at

<http://garaiste.yuku.com/reply/20274/What-ever-happened-to-these-ferries-#reply-20274>

OLAU BRITANNIA - Olau and Olau Hollandia - Olau.

I have long and happy memories of these two ferries, despite never having set foot on them! In May 1987 the British Government passed the Territorial Sea Bill extending British Waters to a full 12 miles from the coast, and a further 12 miles from any drying sandbank located within that 12 miles. Also contained was a clause affecting large bays in such a way that a straight line would be drawn across the mouth of the bay. The bulk of the Thames Estuary was now to be within British Waters, and the Radio Caroline ship Ross Revenge, where I was working, had to move much further out to sea. In June 10th 1987 we upped anchor and with the help of the Smit Tak tug 'Onrust' we sailed to a new location approx. 18 miles NE of North Foreland, close to the Falls Head buoy. We were delighted to see that in our new location we had regular daily visitors in the form of the Olau Line ferries, which came past us twice a day each, around 0300 and 1330 for the Hollandia, and 0030 and 1530 for the Britannia. The pictures, taken on August 14th 1987, show how close the ferries used to pass in good weather (they kept a little more distance if it was poor visibility). We had a party of visiting radio enthusiasts from France and Holland on board that day, hence all the people! One particular ferry captain, a German by the name of Ferley Muller, became very friendly to us, and would always talk to

us on ship to shore radio as he passed. On one occasion when we were short, he managed to come close enough to have his deckhand throw onions to us for use in that night's dinner!



Ross Revenge and Olau vessel Britannia

Photo: Anorak UK.

By far the closest encounter though, was on the night in October 1987 when the clocks went back. Ferley had an hour to kill, and stopped the ferry at the Falls Head, about a quarter of a mile away, and we came over to him in our small inflatable rescue craft. We came right alongside the ferry and supplies and gifts were lowered down to us in a bucket on a rope - alcohol from the duty free, fresh veg, MarsBars, and a rare treat - those days' newspapers!

What the passengers must have thought of a small boat coming alongside in the dead of night, packages being exchanged, and vanishing off into the darkness again can only be imagined. The

relationship continued through the years right up to November 1991, and indeed the last ship I ever saw passing us at Falls Head was the Britannia with Ferley at the helm at 3.30pm on November 19th - when he passed again just after midnight we were gone, by 4am we were aground on the Goodwin Sands, and the era of pirate radio ships off the British coast had come to a close. Aquavid'

So this was my story on a not so great summer here in Flanders. Thanks again for all the efforts! Cheerio, Philip Taghon - Jabbeke (Belgium).'

Well Phil a most interesting search and in the name of my readers thanks a lot for this one! Next we go to the USA as recently two former offshore deejays, who were with Radio New York International, were active in radio again.

<http://thebrooklynink.com/2012/07/29/46483-two-legendary-brooklyn-radio-pirates-take-their-act-onto-the-internet/>

Last month I plugged Clive's internet pages on which he tells a lot of memories about his career in radio, which has gone all around the world. Now he has added another page, which brings the memories from his time in Saudi Arabia.

[citiria.com/clive/saudi.html](http://citiria.com/clive/saudi.html)





One of our items which come into the report on a regular base are the radio t-shirts. This time Bob Kelder from Zoetermeer did send an advertisement from a newspaper, which showed that the 'Veronica stays if you want it' shirts were also for sale in The Hague.

His name was mentioned earlier in this edition of the report: Robbie Dale. Well after his time on Caroline he went to Veronica and later to Dutch public broadcaster TROS. In 1969 he also wrote regular columns in a British pop newspaper. Here's one of those as a memory to the Admiral Robbie Dale:

1969

## The Admiral is forgiven!

IT would appear that my piratical deeds from Caroline days have all been forgiven! I had a call from the British Embassy over here in Holland this week asking me if I would sit on the jury of The National Song Festival.

The British Embassy, would you believe? It's very strange the way that things turn out sometimes, don't you think?

Nice to see "Half As Nice" still at the top this week. If Andy Fairweather-Lowe had known it was going to be such a smash he wouldn't have had to sell his car! Actually, he's not 'ard up but it's just as well he did sell it. He had so much equipment installed inside that he could hardly get in it himself!

### Beautiful

Peter Sarstedt goes up one more rung this week I see. Where does he go to from

here? The top spot I'd say. A truly beautiful record, well deserving its success. It just has to be BIG everywhere.

### Gentle

Marv Johnson continues to make headway with "I'll Pick A Rose For My Rose". I still don't go a bundle on the disc but I guess its success can be attributed to its gentle feeling. Cilla's "Surround Yourself With Sorrow" rings a nice change for her and it's certainly proving very popu-



lar. The song has a very, very catchy chorus and she puts it over extremely well. She's bound to prosper anyway — she's got a great manager!

### Drinker

Dean Martin's latched on to a very nice song with "Gentle On My Mind". Quite a few people have recorded the number and I'm pleased that someone's having suc-

cess with it. I wonder if all those stories about Dean being a heavy drinker are true. If so, he might well have been singing "Stoned out of my mind!"

A brief message to Long John Baldry — John, I think it may be too late now. The record isn't soaring upwards and it has been out for some time.

Barry Ryan just had to make the ratings with "Love Is Love". I don't rate him as

a fantastic singer by any means and I think the disc's success must lay with brother Paul's great songwriting. The material really is very fine— every bit as good as "Eloise". It's in the same mould but different enough. Paul has a great future as a tunesmith before him.

### 'Joke'

The Bees Gees issued a thing called "I Started A Joke" over here — the disc that's currently so big for them in the States. Now out comes "The First Of May", hot on its heels. Nice record, well up to their standard and with a good vocal from Barry. It's going to climb very much higher — just you watch. Lulu's coming over to Holland for my television show next week so I should get the chance to see Maurice as well.

Well, there are no startling changes in the chart this week. I notice Consortium have dropped out after only one week. And I still can't see how Sandie Shaw is do-

ing so well with "Monsieur Dupont". The record still leaves me cold but obviously it must hold some attraction to older people.

### Split

The soul music thing still has a toe hold on the general situation and I note that The Righteous Brothers are still doing nicely with their old Phil Spector produced disc. Pity is that there can't be too many more of their discs for release as of course they split up some time back. You might take time out to listen to Bill Medley's solo album "100 per cent" however. A truly superb disc.

### Oldies

The record companies are still issuing the oldies and those I reckon must have a chance of hitting the big time again are "Harlem Shuffle" by Bob and Earl, Denny Laine's "Say You Don't Mind" and Ike and Tina Turner's "River Deep, Mountain High."

It was in Television Mail, dated May 14<sup>th</sup> 1965, mentioned that there would be soon a local experiment on Radio London as the Bromley Weekly Review would sponsor a half-hour programme on the station every Wednesday at 15.00. 'The programme is specially aimed at inhabitants of the Borough of Bromley. Devised around a basis of music, it will feature local news and interviews, and advertisements for local traders.' Advertising for this local program would be held only at a local level and also it was mentioned that the readers would be invited to send in their 'Bromley's Top Five' where they could use a 'tear-out-coupon' for from the Bromley Weekly Review. The question is if there's any reader who ever heard this programme on Radio London. Of course the address to answer is [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next an e mail from Peter van den Berg from Amsterdam, once chairman of the Radio London Foundation in the Netherlands. Recently he was dreaming that he would win 20 million Euro and that he would invest his money in a new offshore radio station. He has already made the program scedule for his new station

06-09 Tony Blackburn  
09-12 Ian Damon  
12-15 Ed Stewart  
15-18 Roger Day  
18-21 Tommy Rivers  
21-24 Keith Skues  
24-03 Ray Anderson  
03-06 Andy Archer

If we have this schedule you never have to listen to any other station again. And who knows one day I win the lottery. Soon it's August 14<sup>th</sup>. In 5 years we have to rent a hotel room in Frinton or Clacton. Peter van den Berg.'

Well thanks a lot Peter and I will add your list of deejays to the many we already received the past two years. And for anyone in the

readership, it's still possible to send your personal list of offshore deejays to HKnot@home.nl

Nicknames are coming in since many, many years ago. This time heard by Jan-Fré Vos from the Netherlands during a EuroSiege 1985 program from Charlie Wolfe. It was Charlie mentioning Laser deejay Liz West 'Colonel Wild Wild' Liz West.

It was Sally Mens who sent me a link to an article and more about Dick Verheul and she was wondering why Radio Caroline was mentioned and not Mi Amigo, where he worked. Well Sally Dick also worked for Radio Caroline, when it was transmitting from the MV Ross Revenge

[http://www.lg73.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=69:dickverheulshow&catid=2:programmes&Itemid=6](http://www.lg73.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=69:dickverheulshow&catid=2:programmes&Itemid=6)

Sir Hans. Not sure if you have seen that some offshore friends will be losing their jobs, if it is possible could you please share this campaign to try and keep them on air with anyone you can. Thanks in advance, EricWiltsher

<http://www.facebook.com/bbcwesayno>

Daft idea really, but as this week means August 14 I thought it might be nice to produce a massive Offshore Fan Page just to show the power of watery wireless - share the page if you can with anyone

Thanks and Best Regards

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Offshore-Radio-Memories/422422264466804>

Than we go to the other site of the big Ocean and to Steve Young, former Radio Caroline South kid: 'Definitely a worthwhile read, despite the main thrust of this story, which revolves around the use of Social Media, it pretty well confirms everything that we know about our profession, but which the "people upstairs in the suits"

still fail to grasp. People listen because they bond to the personality of the deejays on their favourite station.

<http://jacobsmediablog.com/2012/07/09/building-better-djs/>

Wishing you all the very best! Steve Young. The Curly Headed Kid in the 3rd Row

Mary and Chris Payne have updated their wonderful site and a lot of things which happened around 45 years after the MOA are highlighted including the Lord title, which Keith Skues got early August from the Principality of Sealand. Congratulations to Keith. Have a look at the wonderful job Mary and Chris are doing at

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

Well that's all for this bumper edition. Let your memories, photos and more come to share it with all the other readers at

[HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) and till next month with best greetings from Hans Knot.