

Hans Knot International Radio Report January 2013

Welcome everybody to this special Christmas as well as January edition of the report. Once again thanks for all your e mails with ideas, memories, photos and more. This Christmas will be a very special one as in California the most mentioned person in the reports during the past, let's say six years, celebrates his birthday and become 70 years! So a very happy birthday and many years in good health to follow! And those who read the report regularly know who has his birthday soon:



Hans Knot and Emperor Rosko Photo: Martin van der Ven

And it was also Martin Samuel who brought in a memory about Rosko: 'Hello Hans, when playing drums with Crew, we borrowed Emperor Rosko's blue Ford Transit van for a gig in Ventnor, Isle of Wight the photo attached is when we were boarding the ferry [the Emp. was not on board]. The following morning, 19th December 1971, we met the Brinsley Schwarz band while waiting for the ferry, delayed by rough seas. Neither band was paid by its respective venue for playing the gig! Bye, Martin Samuel.'

Well Martin, thanks a lot for sharing this photo and memory with our readership and don't forget it was more than 41 years ago the photo

was taken. Anyone who want to share a memory, just write to me at HKnot@home.nl



Next a long story about a short time deejay on the Voice of Peace who his name was written the wrong way and so he wants to mention this in the report: 'Hi there. I am writing with a small correction to some information that seems to appear on occasion in lists of offshore (specifically V.O.P.) presenters. I presented for a short period at the end of 1989 on the Peace ship, but I seem to be listed as Miles Nickson or even Nicholson in the various places. My name in fact is Miles Nixon, it is a small detail and my contribution was insignificant (only 2 months), but I know how people like to document these things correctly. I realise that others have compiled these lists and you are not responsible for this small error, but I write to you as a central and well known contact point in the field of offshore radio. I would be very grateful if you could spread the word to those who compile such listings and assist me to assist them. Should you wish to ask me anything about my time on the V.O.P. for your website I would be more than glad to help. Many thanks, and best wishes, Miles Nixon.'

Well his offer to ask him more was answered with 'yes' and so here's the story concerning '[Miles Nixon and the Voice of Peace](#)'.

'I was on V.O.P from October 8th or 9th (1989) until early December that same year. However I had to quit due to a lack of food and medicine. After that I worked on a Moshav and in a Kibbutz till my return home to the UK on December 24th 1989. After leaving the Peaceship my time in Israel was really tough. It was 12 hours a day working in the Negev desert with very little food for about a payment of only £0.45 a day. My memory may be failing me here as that seems too crazy. I was on the ship with John Mcdonald and Kenny Page (of course) and an American called Mac, an English guy called Mike. Also there was an English engineer, who was not much older than I was and whose name I cannot remember. Next to that there was another young English presenter, roughly my age, that joined later during my stay. The non-radio crew were both from the Philippines, the Captains name I cannot remember but the other guy was called Jose I am fairly sure.



Arnold Bioneti, one of the Philippines'
Archive: Hans Knot

At one stage I made complaints over the ships radio to Abie Nathan and to the people in the office in Frug Street in Tel Aviv. Of course I did it not over the air as the show had to go on. The captain was on board at the time. I did not realise beforehand these events could occur, but to be honest it was an exceptional spell of bad weather, just one of those things. There was nothing that anyone could have done, just really unlucky that we were so shorthanded and unable to be re-supplied. It is important that I restate that to be fair to all involved at the time, no-one was at fault or to blame, it was just mother nature.

I am from Darlington in North East England, very close to Middlesborough. I was always utterly driven in my desire to work in radio at the time; I used to describe it as the most powerful drug in existence. For me even hospital radio (which I had been presenting on for about 5 years by then) was an unbelievable high, an incredible adrenaline rush. My father had worked for BBC Radio Carlisle (now called BBC Cumbria) when I was very young, so perhaps it is in my blood. I was very confident in my ability at the time and saw myself as the obvious successor to John Peel, which was the arrogance of youth.

It must be said I was motivated also by my love of music and my disgust at the presenting style of most deejays then and now. What I mean by that is that to me the music was the star, not the presenter. To me being a presenter was about being an educator in the field of music, to play as much music as I could fit into my show with as little talk as possible, to delight and surprise my audience as well as perhaps enlighten them with something they were unaware of. Kenny Page hated my alarm clock on the VOP, which was an old wind up one with big bells above the clock face. He had the cabin next to mine and did the breakfast show (with Yossi the chicken). I must have woken him at a very bad time with my old clock because he went ballistic.



Kenny Page. Archive: Hans Knot

I think that Mark the American cook arrived towards the end of my stay during my last shore leave. He was a really cool guy and originally from Florida. He had travelled down from Lebanon and had some fresh 'relaxing herbs' in a plastic photo film case. Drink and other naughtier things were banned on the Peace ship so meeting Mark was a godsend at the time. I do not think I am best suited to long periods of sobriety, this was the case before I went to Israel/Palestine and doubly so after my return.

My experiences as a whole in Israel - as I have hinted my time there after the V.O.P. was very, very difficult - left me with the desire to be intoxicated as much as possible and as often as possible for roughly the next 17 years, although the years have calmed down that angry young man quite a lot now. I am nowadays happily married and we have a fabulous son and I'm in full time (non-radio) work, with another boy due in a month time. Due to my age and epilepsy my parents were full of misgivings at first that I would go out to the radio ship, but they could see how determined I was when I sold most of my possessions for the air fare and were more supportive in time. I was over 18 years old so there was not much they could do to stop me.

I had already sent a tape to Radio KOST in Los Angeles, who were very positive in response without offering anything concrete. I had done that mostly as an experiment really as the cost of my medication made a move to the U.S.A. impractical. I had my mentor and friend Gary, who was a massive offshore radio enthusiast. He had told me about his visit to the Ross Revenge, from Radio Caroline.

Gary also told me about the V.O.P. and gave me a contact phone number. I presume it was from the office in Frug Street. As an aspiring presenter from age 14 and a peace activist and member of C.N.D. from age 13 the V.O.P. seemed a perfect place for me to get more experience. I literally just phoned them up, told them what I had done (only hospital radio at that time) and they offered me a job. No demo tape required. They asked me if I had a passport, I didn't, so they told me to get one and get over there as soon as was possible. They must have been a bit desperate as I remember them phoning back several times over the next few weeks while I saved up all the money I needed. I was unemployed at the time and was on a government employment scheme called Jobclub. Most of the jobs people got through Jobclub were normal jobs, factories and shops etc. so my case was featured in the local newspaper. I had to get permission from the regional Jobclub director to phone Tel Aviv from Darlington.



Abie Nathan

When I met Abie Nathan I must admit I was underwhelmed by the welcome. Considering my age, my commitment to peace worldwide and how far I had come, I felt all the office staff, including Abie, were a little frosty. Perhaps they had just seen too many young English deejays over the years and had grown cynical about peoples motivations; I was probably unusual in that whilst I was an ambitious

young DJ, I was also a bit of a 'new age hippy' at heart. I remember Schmulig (perhaps not the correct spelling), the driver was a nice warm hearted friendly kind of guy though.

I have been involved since then in lots of political movements, protest camps etc. similar in tone to ones I know have existed at Schiphol, near Amsterdam. You know the sort of thing, tree houses and tunnels, green anarchist type stuff, and usually in those situations the welcome is enormously warm. Perhaps I arrived in Frug Street on a bad day. The demonstration in London 'Free Radio Caroline' was somewhere around 1987-1989 and we went there too. We set off for London in Gary's car at about 4am (it would have been about that I remember it was very early and it takes about 4-6 hours to get to London from Darlington depending on traffic, parking etc.). There was only about 30-40 people there and some guys in a van collecting donations of food for the people on board the ship.



Peace ship Photo: VOP Archive

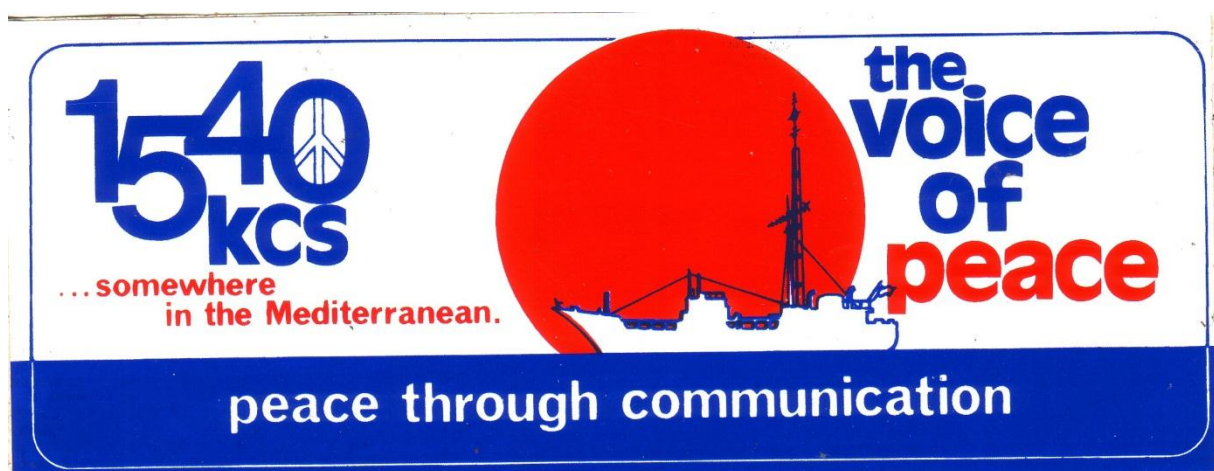
I am not sure I learnt anything in terms of radio skills on the V.O.P.. Without wishing to sound like that arrogant youth I mentioned before, the skills were all there and had been there for some years.

Undoubtedly I was able to get a lot more practice and fine tune what I already had upon arrival. It was very much a case of polishing a rough diamond. I improved vastly as a presenter but was only building on what was in place. One thing I did learn was that perhaps I am not best suited to presenting classical music. Firstly my knowledge in that area was (is) very limited, all the obvious stuff with a little Mussorgsky, Grieg and Saint-Saens. Secondly I used to fall asleep during the long movements/tracks sometimes. I remember vividly John McDonald waking me up very abruptly from the production studio after nodding off. It was very warm though and perhaps the gentle strains of Chopin et al in conjunction with the gentle (mostly) rocking of the boat were difficult for many deejays to deal with. Whilst on board I had no other tasks to perform other than presenting.

Another couple of memories that have come to me are both relating to the overnight show before Kenny Page's breakfast show. One night I was on air and smoking cigarettes like crazy as usual. I emptied the nearly full ashtray into the bin underneath the desk to the left of the main presentation deck (just under the Motorola). A little later, after doing a link into the next track, I detected something different about the air in the studio. I looked down at the bin and yes, you've guessed it, the bin was on fire! I grabbed hold of the bin and ran up to the main deck to throw the burning contents into the sea, all the time knowing that time was ticking away and I had to do the next link in 2min 17seconds or whatever it was. Stupidly I threw the contents, still on fire, into the wind! It all blew back into my face, thankfully with no serious damage to me except streaming eyes and a lot of coughing. I ran back down below deck as quickly as possible in time to make the next link, bravely conquering the aftereffects of my stupidity.

Another night there were really rough seas and I was doing the show as the ship pitched and rolled quite a lot. Suddenly I heard a very loud banging on the side of the ship. It sounded like the Kraken

itself (or perhaps a lesser sea-monster) was attempting to smash the M.V. Peace into submission. I ran up to the main deck and discovered to my horror that one of the supporting struts/cables for the transmitter had come loose in the storm! Quickly in-between the next link I suppose (I must of put on the longest track I could find), myself and others of the crew strapped this massive 60-80 foot cable to the side of the ship, with some wire we had managed to find. As you can imagine doing this in a considerable storm was not easy, particularly as I have never been a muscular sort of chap.



The last memory that springs to mind was something that happened soon after my arrival, within the first week. We were all in the galley eating dinner when we heard a loud voice speaking in Hebrew outside. We rushed out to see what was happening. There, perhaps 20 metres away on the side with the galley entrance was an Israeli Defence Force patrol vessel. I am sure you know the sort of thing, in World War II terms about the size of a German E boat or a British MTB. Anyway they were addressing us in Hebrew over the loudhailer and pointing their very big and dangerous looking deck mounted gun at us. All of us, well definitely me anyway, put our hands up and the others started shouting "Inglit, Inglit". Realising this meant "English, English" I started shouting for all I was worth too. I don't mind saying I was pretty scared and didn't fancy getting shot by a bunch of power crazy loony's at the age of 19 for no reason whatsoever. Thankfully they did not open fire on us of course and after a moment

of translation it emerged they wanted a record by Avi Toledano played! Despite the discourteous nature of the request I am sure they got their wish. I am also sure they enjoyed the irony of extracting a request from the Voice of Peace at gunpoint.

Before I had even left Heathrow I had been marched off under armed guard and interrogated as to the exact nature of my visit to Israel. At the El Al terminal at Heathrow during the customs check I was a little vague about why I was going, this was because I was unsure of the legal status of the station. The Israeli security detected this. I was already under suspicion as a lone traveler they and took me away for interrogation. I was escorted by about 6-8 soldiers/customs officials, bristling with guns to a small room. Like in the war and spy films, they shone a lamp in my face and started firing questions at me whilst walking around me. It lasted all of about 10 seconds before I broke and told them everything. James Bond I am not! After a strip search, which left me only my underpants, they let me board the flight. This was my first ever flight too, so I was already a little nervous before all of that.

Wow, how the memories come flooding back. Well Hans I hope you and your readers find my story interesting and entertaining to some degree. There are other slightly scarier experiences I had involving various officials in Israel pointlessly pointing guns at me, I was even followed for about a mile through Tel Aviv by a soldier a meter or so behind me repeatedly pulling the trigger of his rifle, click, click, click, click. He did this every couple of seconds for what seemed like forever, as I walked home one night. I was genuinely terrified at that; I mean really, really, scared. I had never met this guy or talked to him, I was in the same bar, I left, and he left obviously thinking it is funny to scare the living wits out of a total stranger who is little more than a boy. As they say, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger". I am fairly certain in my case this was not true, up until as recently as six months ago I was convinced that because of my experiences in Israel (mostly the post V.O.P ones) I had a mild case

of P.T.S.D. (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). The medical opinion I have sought on this is that I do not. There is no doubt however that I came back from Israel changed and damaged as a person and whilst time heals the effects are still with me to this day.



Tendering the Voice of Peace
Archive: Hans Knot

I noticed that this coming Saturday is the International Offshore Radio Day, having written all of this and having contacted you I wish I could attend, however I am working that evening. I have a friend that is moving to Amsterdam in the next few weeks however so it is my fervent hope to attend next year if I would be welcome.

I dedicate this article to my friend and mentor Gary B (Hazel Strawberry) without whom none of this would have occurred. His steady influence during my wild teenage years as well as his willingness to teach me how to present a tight well planned radio show were invaluable to me and are deeply appreciated still after a quarter of a century. He is a massive fan of all things offshore radio

so would be immensely happy and delighted to get even a brief mention. Very many thanks Hans. Peace, love and good music to you and all your readers throughout the world, Miles Nixon.'

Well Miles I think the readers have loved the way you've expressed your time aboard Abie's Peace ship. Of course it's sometimes difficult to talk about problems occurring but at the same time it's a very honest story. May I wish you, your wife and your son many good times with the little baby born?

It was Ton Bodenstaff, a reader from Leiden in the Netherlands, who got some photographs lately from a neighbour. When cleaning up cupboard he found them back. I've chosen a picture from the MV Jeanine, former vessel from Radio Atlantis, taken in the harbour of Flushing, to publicise in the Hans Knot International Radio Report.



Next an e mail from Dee Combs: 'Hi Hans. ITV's fly-on-the-wall series 'Island Hospital', aired on November 16, featured a piece on a

local scarecrow-making competition. One of the judges was none other than Guernsey Deputy Kevin Stewart, aka David Brown of 70s Caroline fame. The video can be seen here (it's usually available for viewing for about a month). The scene is about 16:50 into the video.

<http://www.itv.com/itvplayer/video/?Filter=327848>

Best wishes for the festive season, Dee Coombes.'

Well Dee thanks a lot and how is it possible that we looked back on David his radio career in last issue and that he next could suddenly been seen on ITV.

We missed him last month, but here's Ian Godfrey back with his impressions on his radio hobby. It was written on Saturday November 17th, when many readers were gathering together in Amsterdam: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for the last couple of Reports. My intention was to get to the Radio Day. Having not used a passport for over 20 years I had to reapply and fortunately a former work colleague offered to fill in the form for me. The downside was that she made a couple of errors, plus omissions, but luckily I received the new passport this morning and my first reaction was that I could still make it. But after checking Eurostar times and the feeling that I could be stumped by engineering works around Amsterdam I decided not to proceed. It's now 18.30 on Saturday and I hope the Radio Day went well. I've been listening to some of the coverage on ExtraGold, including a fascinating interview with Mark Sloane.

Another station, I added to my list, of favorite station on internet, about three weeks ago was Offshore Radio Sounds. I received some streaming information from the station six months ago, which I couldn't make any headway with, but the URL was the vital link! For the first six days the only recordings I heard were from Veronica, Mi Amigo and the RNI Dutch Service but for the past fortnight a pattern has developed which we all remember from the 70s - Dutch during the day and English at night. Since the 3rd of November I've only heard evening archive from RNI, with great offerings from

Stephen Ladd, Andy Archer, Alan West, Don Allen and Crispian StJohn. All shows include news bulletins - from Mike Ross, Tony Allen and Don Allen. I've just listened to one which included an item about the 1972 US Election result! And also have just been listening to Andy Archer, with a Beatles/Stones special, from I think 15 August 71, during his brief return to RNI. One or two of the shows are virtually unlistenable, but many are of surprisingly good quality. Spending so much of my time listening to Internet radio it's so easy to forget that, up to a few years ago, how we had no alternative than to tolerate, or accept, fading, distortion, static and other interference.

As a complete contrast, while flicking through the latest Offshore Echos, I was quite excited to see another photograph of the bus used by RNI/Caroline in the 1970 Election campaign. This time I could clearly read the registration number - GTP 98. Can anybody send me any information about this vehicle - history and withdrawal date? Best Wishes, Ian Godfrey.'

Thanks Ian for your view on today's and also yesterday's radio. And anyone who can help Ian on the question of the RNI election vehicle can email me at HKnot@home.nl

Time for our regular Jon from the Pirate Hall of Fame: 'New this month: We have the fourth and final page from the fantastic photo album kindly provided by former Radio Caroline North newsreader Nick Bailey; we look back to this month forty years ago and the re-launch of Radio Caroline from the Dutch coast - and the crew's mutiny; as promised, we remember Eric Sullivan, the Managing Director of Tower Radio, who passed away recently; and we get in the mood for the festive season with our (updated) pages on Christmas in International Waters. Thanks, as always, to everyone who has contributed. With best wishes, Jon Myer.

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Next we go to Mike Ryan who wrote: 'Hi Hans, some years back I came across an AM radio station in Albany, Australia playing hits from the 60's and 70's, which bring back a lot of memories of the era. I have just been on holiday in Australia and had the pleasure of visiting the station while there. I was made very welcome and given the tour of the station and attach a couple of photos, one showing me at the desk of the main studio. It's a small very friendly station playing some great oldies and well worth a listen. www.goldmx.com.au/

Keep up the good work and a very happy Christmas. Mike Ryan.'



And yet another one from Great Britain: 'Hi Hans, greetings from Heckington in deepest Lincolnshire UK. It's always a pleasure to read your informative newsletter each month. This might be of interest. I have just recorded "Coming up next" for BBC Radio Norfolk, which is tx'd on New Year's Eve at 1800 hrs gmt. It's all about the days long ago of "in vision" announcers. I was at Thames TV for many years and was in the studio with Helen McDermott and Katie Glass, who were well known at Anglia TV and also the boss man at Norwich David Clayton was at the helm of it all. It was fun and pirate radio related in a way as both Keith Martin and Andy Archer were also announcers. It's being edited at the moment but was great fun to do with good friends who I have not seen in a long time. It was also good to go home to Norwich city of my birth if only for a few hours.

I hope your fine and well Hans. Best wishes to you as always my friend, Tom Edwards.'

Well Tom very good to see you and the others enjoyed being together. It's always nice to see each other and bringing the good old memories back. Maybe a good idea to put in the agenda the date for our next radio event in March 2014



Last month I wrote that Jan Kat, former Radio Delmare man, died in October. Sorry I wrote the wrong month. It had to be November 20th.

Mary Payne wrote: 'Tanya Baugus organised the USS Density reunions that Chris and I attended in the USA. She is the daughter of Verne Bailey one of the few surviving WWII shipmates from the vessel that in 1964 became the mv Galaxy, floating home to Radio London. Thanks to the kindness of Ron Buninga, son of Galaxy captain Bill, the ship's bell was returned to the WWII survivors and presented to the Museum of the Pacific War in Fredricksburg, Texas, in 2007. Tanya has recently revisited the museum and has sent photos of the bell in its display case, which have now been added to our gallery telling the story of how the bell was discovered in the Netherlands and returned by Ron to the USA. Over in Hilversum, Ron Buninga met up with ex-Radio Essex DJ Paul Freeman for a visit to the Media Museum with their friends Ton and Geoff

and kindly shared their photos. The mystery of the French documentary released in 1968 containing offshore footage featuring Rosko and Tony Blackburn has intrigued several site visitors. Steve Young recalls it being shot aboard the Mi Amigo and ashore in London's Bag O'Nails Club.

Nita Rossi had a Fab Forty hit in 1965. It's just been reissued in iTunes! 'Untrue Unfaithful' sparked public interest after it was used in a TV trailer. For everyone who's sick of hearing Slade and Wizzard at this time of year, we've discovered a book of hilarious Pirate Christmas Shanties! For more have a look at:

www.radiolondon.uk

In last issue I wrote about RNI, the so called 'bomb attack' and the fact that - when this attack hadn't taken place - the station would have gone busted. Therefore I went back to May 1971. Reader Fred Beekman from Holland asked me how a possible busted organisation could rime with the fact Veronica directors lent 1 million to the MEBO Ltd. in Zürich. Well very simple, the 1 million was lent late 1969 to the Swiss company to finish the rebuilding of the ship. The Dutch RNI service, however, was run by a company in Hilversum and later in Naarden. It was that company that Guus Janssen jr. was director from.

In last issue I showed you a photo of the Veronica vessel Norderney on tow to the harbour of Amsterdam. There the ship's hull was inspected at the Oranjewharf. Only two days later it was towed in a few days to a harbour in Groningen. During the forthcoming months the complete interior will be replaced for a new one. The new owners, headed by spokesman Erik de Zwart (former Paul de Wit from Radio Caroline), don't want to say in which harbour the Norderney will get a place in the future. In the ship a radio- as well as a television studio will be built. It's expected it will be ready for another tow in the month of May 2013.



Here an exclusive photo from the Norderney on tow to Amsterdam
Copyright www.aerolin.nl with a big thanks to André van Os



Norderney at the Eemskanaal in Groningen
Photo: Marianne Lameijer-Koper

Next we go to a reader in the USA: 'Good as always, Mr. K.!

Thanks again. By the way, one station not mentioned in the rundown regarding Ron O'Quinn was WLCY Fun Radio 138! (1380kc) in Tampa, Florida. Ron O'Quinn was on there in the '60's as Jack E. Rabbitt. I grew up in St.Pete, Florida listening to him! Phil Colaianne'.

Thanks a lot Phil, we all together can make the history complete!

In last issue Richard Jackson wrote me from Thailand, where this former Caroline deejay is living already for a few decades. He wondered if there were more former colleagues of him living in Asia. Well here's, next to the answer I gave, another one: 'Dear Richard, I see we both got a mention in this month's Hans Knot radio report. This e-mail is just to touch base and let you know that I am still living in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, but plan to return to UK in 2014 It would be nice to meet for a drink and chat if we are ever in each other's territory. I attach a photo taken earlier this year. All the best, Eddie Austin.'

Thanks a lot Eddie! He worked on Radio Caroline as well as on Radio Atlantis in the seventies.



Eddie Austin 2012.

Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ

By: Jack McLaughlin

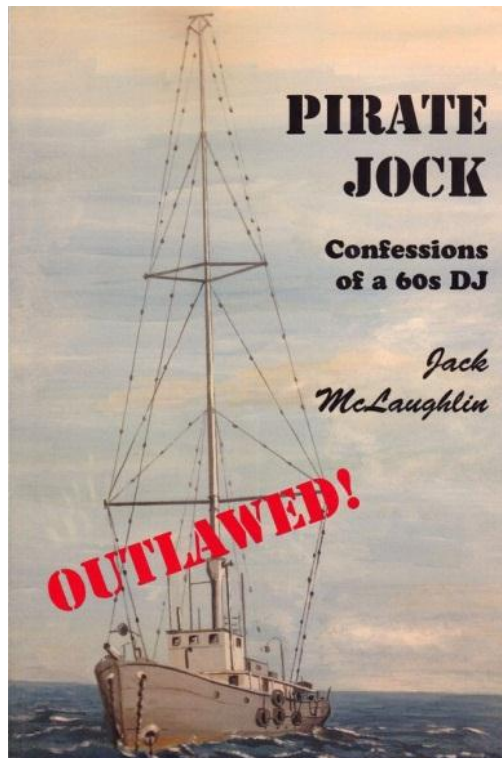
417 pages, illustrated

Publisher: Kennedy & Boyd, Kilkerran, Scotland

ISBN: 978-1-84921-116-1 Paperback

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/pirate-jock-jack-mclaughlin/1113130380>

Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ starts with how a 20 year old student is working during a summer holiday with young offenders whereby rainy days are partly filled with listening to pop music, which isn't brought the way we know so good from the pirates. But 20 years old Jack starts to earn good money when working in a brand new Bingo Hall as a caller, which gets on fire the day before opening. A heavy start of a book, in which 42 chapters brings us the fictional story of several events in the high days of the sixties of last century. Some of the names are changed to protect the real persons. The nice thing about: '**Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ**' is that it brings us first the story of how a youngster of 20 years is living in the sixties, with work, having fun with girls, boys and drinking before he heard for the first time about plans for a radio station planned for Scotland, after he had a unexpected romp! It's only on page 39 that 'radio' is really becoming a topic. Compared by other books about offshore radio Jack McLaughlin did a good thinking about how to built the story. But before radio really got the subject, good old Jack went back to his old school to be a teacher. The book, which is partly factual and partly fictional, brings in the radio at page 49 when Jack finds an advertisement where deejays are wanted. From there on the radio story really starts with meeting several people involved, including director Shields. From there on John McLaughlin ask you full attention in '**Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ**'. For those who don't know the stories behind offshore radio it's really a total eye opener and it reads like an exciting boys book.



On the other hand for those who know the history and the facts the book still swings but brings in a lot of factual questions. I'll give two examples: One of the persons related to the station is described as an Inspector Colombo type. Those two persons were not comparable at all in 1966, when the Radio Scotland started. The TV Series bringing the Inspector Colombo only started in the USA on television during 1971. Another example of historical mistake takes us back to New Year's evening when the protagonist in the book: **Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ** decides not to listen to the late evening program from Radio Scotland. No, he's going to listen to John Peel on competitor station Radio London. Really a big mistake as John Peel only arrived back in Great Britain early 1967 and had to start his radio career from that point on.

Anyway, forgetting those mistakes the **Pirate Jock. Confession of a 60S DJ by Jack McLaughlin is really a very good read.**

LIVE GAFFES BY RADIO COMMENTATORS

by Robbie Dale

1. Ted Walsh - Horse Racing Commentator - "This is really a lovely horse. I once rode her mother."
2. Harry Carpenter at the Oxford-Cambridge boat race 1977 - "Ah, isn't that nice. The wife of the Cambridge President is kissing the Cox of the Oxford crew."
3. USPGA Commentator - "One of the reasons Arnie (Arnold Palmer) is playing so well is that, before each tee shot, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them Oh my god! What have I just said?"
4. A female news anchor who, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked, "So Bob, where's that eight inches you promised me last night?" Not only did he have to leave the set, but half the crew did too, because they were laughing so hard!
5. Steve Ryder covering the US Masters: "Ballesteros felt much better today after a 69 yesterday."
6. Clair Frisby talking about a jumbo hot dog on Look North said: "There's nothing like a big hot sausage inside you on a cold night like this."
7. Mike Hallett discussing missed snooker shots on Sky Sports: "Stephen Hendry jumps on Steve Davis's misses every chance he gets."
8. Michael Buerk on watching Phillipa Forrester cuddle up to a male astronomer for warmth during BBC1's UK eclipse coverage remarked: "They seem cold out there, they're rubbing each other and he's only come in his shorts."
9. Ken Brown commentating on golfer Nick Faldo and his caddie Fanny Sunneson lining-up shots at the Scottish Open: "Some weeks Nick likes to use Fanny, other weeks he prefers to do it by himself."

Well I hope you had some good laughs with this performance by Robbie Dale. I hope you and Stella are doing fine these days!

Now it's time for a radio t-shirt again. It shows one of the two known t-shirts showing 'advert' for Radio Atlantis. One was released by the

station in 1973 and this one, I think to remember, comes from a company called 'Music Radio Promotions'.



Photo as well as the t-shirt: Hans Knot

A short question next coming in from Andy Archer: 'I thought this might be a bit of fun for the next Report. Who is the oldest living ex-pirate disc jockey? Tony Brandon (Radio London) is 79, is he the most senior?' Well anyone with another suggestion can write to me at HKnot@home.nl

Next we go again to Spain: 'Hello Hans, firstly, we wish to thank you for another brilliant report, as always full of interesting information, We will try to see what we can manage for 2014, as we really did enjoy our short stay and The RadioDay in Amsterdam. Hans, is it possible to send out to your readers, some information from Wally, saying that we have some Cd's available for sale from the 2012 Radio Show, of Wally singing the tribute, two songs for Radio Caroline as a Memorabilia Disc? They would just go to geoffsolutions@gmail.com and ask for a copy of the CD:

'The ballad of Radio Caroline' and 'We love you Caroline' by Wally Meehan. Price €5.00 plus p/p €2.50 total €7.50

Possible payment by PayPal. Very best wishes Juliana and Wally Meehan.'

Well thanks to the both of you and for those who want their own personal copy of this cd, send an e mail to the above address.

Next back to Holland: 'Hello Hans, can you pay attention to the talk show TWIRT, which stands for 'this week in radio tech', a weekly program from an American broadcasting technician. This week's edition, among other subjects, had an item about how difficult it was to hold the stations on the air during the recent hurricane 'Sandy'.

<http://www.thisweekinradiotech.com/>

Next one is also a very interesting one as in last issue we talked about your own personal first radio. You still can send in your memories for that subject to HKnot@home.nl One of our younger readers is also interested in old radio; I could say that he's very interested!

'Hi Hans, many thanks for your latest report. I particularly enjoyed the section about reader's first radio's, and how some of these have stayed with their owners for many years. Although I'm only 25 and don't actually work in radio, the history of it has fascinated me since I was seven years old and it is still a very important part of my life. A result of this being that I have spent about the last seven and a half years building up a collection of vintage radios, mainly from the 1920's through to the 1960's. My oldest set of them all is a BBC Crystal Set, circa 1925, on an ebonite stand, complete with cats whisker, whilst the oldest working set I have is a Cossor Hand-built set from 1927, a three valve job, which managed to pick up some of today's Medium-wave stations. Most of my sets are AM only of

course, but many of them are in good working order and from my Ipswich home can clearly pick up Gold Radio on 257 meters (formally Radio Orwell, East Anglia's first official local radio station in 1975!) Absolute Radio on 243 meters, and BBC Essex on 411 meters to name but a few. I regularly listen to the Keith Skues show, which goes out at 11pm every Sunday Night on all BBC Local Radio, a radio station in East Anglia, and several years ago, I started e-mailing the show with details of the old radio I am listening on during that particular week. A bit of harmless fun, Keith has been very good at reading this out, and it has now become known as the 'Wireless of the Week' feature on the show. It was only through doing this that I realized just how many others there are out there who share similar interests. Last year a spin-off Facebook page was created whereby I post details of the Radio's featured on the Keith Skues show. The page is updated weekly, whereby my e-mails to Keith's show are on a bi-weekly basis. Yourself and all your readers are all welcome to join the page, and if anyone wishes to post details of their own radio/vintage technology collections they are more than welcome to do so. The more the merrier! The Wireless of the Week Page can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wireless-of-the-Week/226227664055040>

Regards Christopher Brisland, Ipswich, UK.'



Well Chris congratulations on this very interesting part on Facebook. Surely my readers will have a look too and Keith Skues? Yes he's

reader of the Hans Knot International Radio Report already for many years too!

Two other interesting links on the internet came from Graeme Stevenson in Scotland:

www.ktvq.com/news/you-never-know-what-you-might-find-#!/prettyPhoto/0/

Visit Radio at:

http://playback.ning.com/groups/group/show?id=6463620%3AGroup%3A1758&xg_source=msg_mes_group

December 14th brought us the sad news that at the age of 68 years, Mick Luvzit passed away early December in Canada. Mick Luvzit will always be known as the deejay who got married live on air on Radio Caroline North. Here what the Pirate Hall of Fame told us about Mick: 'Born on 24th February 1944 in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Canada, he was a talented musician, winning a violin competition at the age of 14. He worked for a number of Canadian radio stations, including CKY, CHWO, CHIC, CHUM and CFGM before heading for the UK. He initially joined Caroline South in June 1966 before moving to the North ship. He was welcomed by the listeners and received over a thousand fan letters in his first week on air. His theme was 'Tune Up' by Junior Walker and the All Stars. While working on Radio Caroline North he met Janet, the sister of a fellow Caroline DJ "Ugli" Ray Teret They began dating and there was talk of marriage. Always looking for a way to promote the station, Mick suggested that they should capitalise on the romantic idea of being married at sea by a ship's captain and tie the knot on board the MV Fredericia. The wedding took place on 20th September 1966, performed by the Caroline captain Martin Gips and with a commentary on Caroline

North from news-chief Graham Webb. Sadly the marriage was not to last and they divorced during the seventies.



Steve Young brought an up to date during 2000: "Mick Luvzit is living in Vancouver. He broadcasts for a Christian radio station located just across the border in Washington State. They built a studio for him in his home and he works from there." In February 2001 Mick himself contacted **The Pirate Radio Hall Of Fame** to say: "I'm busy putting together my studio here in my home so I can do some radio shows for the UK and Ireland." In December 2001 the first of these took place when Mick guested on Kenny Tosh's programme on Belfast's CityBeat FM. This was followed by a live show on CityBeat in August 2002 when Mick was visiting the UK for a DJ reunion. There are pictures of the reunion on the [Offshore Radio Guide](#) and [Radio London](#) web sites. Mick also helped to organise another DJ reunion in Vancouver in July 2004. There are photos [here](#). In November 2010 we heard from Mick again. He told us he had been busy writing a script for a documentary on addiction to alcohol and drugs. He also enclosed a recent [photo](#).' (with thanks to Jon).

It was in 2007 Mick informed us that he had severe heart problems and would go into hospital for surgery. It took a long time before he wrote to me again. It was in July 2009: 'Hi Hans and thanks for all your interesting reports. Well as you know back in Nov 9 2007 I had a quadruple open heart surgery which didn't go that good and when they went back in on July 26 2007 they found a few loose wires which had given me constant pain and I had to take a lot of Morphine to help. I have finally gotten better and am now off morphine for 4 weeks and feeling a lot better. Only wish I could have made it out for the reunion last year on the Isle of Man, but the Doctor didn't want me to go and I had to get to the hospital twice a day for an hour each, of intervenes for 8 weeks to combat the bacteria in my chest after the surgery. Anyway, it's great to be alive and I am feeling so much better so should be back doing some radio shows again and will send you some plus a few pictures of the great and fun Caroline Days. Cheers my friend Mick Luvzit.'

We kept in touch up till late 2010 when he informed me about his condition as well as the production of the mentioned video. Since then we lost contact. It was Mary Payne from www.radiolondon.co.uk who passed the sad message on. On Mick Luvzitt his Facebook pages there are farewell messages from people, starting on December 8th. Another of the Caroline deejays has gone! Yet another sad lost!



Robbie Dale reflected on the news with: 'Sad news Hans, Another one bites the dust. An event we all need to prepare for as we baby boomers pile on the years. I hardly knew Mick, he came to work on the MV Mi Amigo for such a short time in 1966. He made his name on Caroline North and was a friend of Tom Lodge. Mick's larger than life personality and naturally toned Canadian voice and radio skill will never be forgotten by our generation in the North West of England and Ireland. His family and pals enjoyed sharing the 68 year he spent with us. I believe we will always remember his joyous marriage to Janet on board the MV Fredericia. I hope he passed on without suffering. RIP Mick.'

Mick's colleague on Caroline North, Tony Prince, wrote: 'Mick and I were pirate DJs on board Radio Caroline North (1965-67). I had so much fun and learning from this sweet guy. One night, on the party trail in the captain's cabin, I learned that this captain could marry people on board our ship. I ran down to Mick's cabin, woke him at 2am, and suggested he marry his girlfriend Jan Terret on board our ship. This came to pass. Mick loved Jan beyond words. I have only just learned that Mick died in Canada on December 7th. So many Radio Caroline listeners will share my sorrow. A few years ago Mick helped to arrange a pirate reunion in Vancouver which remains one of my happiest experiences. Here we are together thanking God for our lives as we embraced dear friends who shared our experiences bringing a new form of radio to the UK. Mick was very, very special, a guy who never had a bad word for anyone, a genuinely warm and gentle broadcaster. Whilst my heart sinks at the news of his passing, I know his was a life filled with excitement, love and adventure. Rest in peace my dear friend and do give our love to Daffy Don Allen and Mike Ahearn. Tony Prince (on behalf of your broadcasting colleagues: Bob Stewart, Jerry Soopa Leighton, Jerry King, Dave Williams, Nick Bailey, Graham Spider Webb, Ugly Ray Terret, Dave Lee Travis).'



Photo taken at the Vancouver reunion collection: Tony Prince

Next an e mail from Mike in England: 'Hello Hans. My best wishes to you both for Christmas and the New Year. May they be happy and healthy ones for you. I would also like to thank you for your hard work during another year, bringing us all the offshore related news and gathering together the great wealth of contributions from your readers. While writing, I also just want to say how much I enjoy the music nights of Radio 5 Nostalgia on 747 kHz. So much better than our oldies stations through inclusion of many tracks from the offshore radio years. Mike Guy RNI Music Express, Radio Northsea International.'



Well thanks Mike for your warm words and this was just an example of the many wishes for Christmas already received. Jana and I would like to thank you all.

November 17th, at the Radio Day in Amsterdam, I got an envelope from John Hogg telling me it would bring some surprises for me and the readers. Together with Jan Kellock he was listening a lot to RNI and in 1970 they wrote down the records played in RNI's International Top 40. John told me that the lists they made were not published before and were only in a handwritten form. That's till now as exclusively in the Hans Knot International Radio Report we will have the Radio Northsea International Top 40, dated March 15th 1970.



- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Bridge over troubled water | Simon and Garfunkel |
| 2 | That same old feeling | Picketywitch |
| 3 | Let it be | Beatles |
| 4 | Don't cry daddy | Elvis Presley |
| 5 | My baby loves lovin' | White Plains |
| 6 | Everybody get together | Dave Clark Five |
| 7 | Young gifted and black | Bob and Marcia |
| 8 | Farewell is a lonely sound | Jimmy Ruffin |
| 9 | Something's burning | Kenny Rodgers and the
First Edition |
| 10 | Can't help falling in love | Andy Williams |
| 11 | Elizabethan Reggae | Boris Gardner |
| 12 | Cecilia | Harmony Grass |
| 13 | By the way | Tremeloes |
| 14 | How the web was woven | Jackie Lomax |
| 15 | Everybody's going home, the party | |

	is over	Clodagh Rodgers
16	The joy of living	Cliff Richard and Hank Marvin
17	Save the country	Thelma Houston
18	Raindrops keep falling on my head	BJ Thomas
19	A street called hope	Gene Pitney
20	Instant Karma	Plastic Ono Band
21	Thank You	Sly and the Family Stone
22	Govindha	Radha Krishna Temple
23	United we stand	Brotherhood of Man
24	Wandering Star	Lee Marvin
25	Rag, mamma rag	Band, the
26	Jesus is just alright	Byrds
27	Flying	Faces
28	Morning please don't come	Tom and Dusty Springfield
29	Jennifer Tomkins	Street people
30	Sympathy	Rare Bird
31	Brontosaurus	Move
32	I want you back	Jackson Five
33	You keep on fighting in upon me	Box Tops
34	Years may come, years may go	Herman's Hermits
35	Soul Brother Clifford	Equals
36	Let's work together	Canned Heat
37	Declaration	Fifth Dimension
38	Back to dreaming again	Grassroots
39	I'll be home in a day or so	Dream Police
40	Lord and Ladies	Troy Dante

It is so marvelous to take some time and try to find on the web the songs from this list, which you don't remember directly. There are really wonderful souvenirs in this RNI International Top 40. I think the deejays who organized the weekly list had really a good feeling for a mix of 'the hits of today' and 'the new music'. By the way as a

big fan for the music of Dusty Springfield I feel very sorry that the number 28 in the list never became a hit as in my ears the song is one of the best she ever sung.

And now we go to Guernsey: 'Dear Hans, thank you for featuring me in your website, it was fantastic to see that picture of me in the Caroline record library. I am now the Minister for Commerce and Employment in Guernsey, however I still keep in touch with my friend Tony Collis who worked for many years on the Mi Amigo as engineer and who now owns Radio Jackie in London. I enclose some pictures which you may find interesting and perhaps you would keep me up to date on any future events. Kind Regards, Kevin aka David Brown, aka Tony Bond.'



Caroline Studio 1976

Well David nice to hear from you from the wonderful Channel Island Guernsey, were we twice for a holiday. Well of course we will keep you informed and I've put you on the readers list of the report.

In last issue of the report we had a link to a German Language article written by Martin van der Ven about an pre second World War offshore radio station, which was on the air in 1938. From some readers we got the question if there's an English translation available. Well here's what Martin answered: 'Our colleagues from Offshore Echos Magazine are planning an English translation which might appear online sometimes in 2013. Best wishes, Martin.'

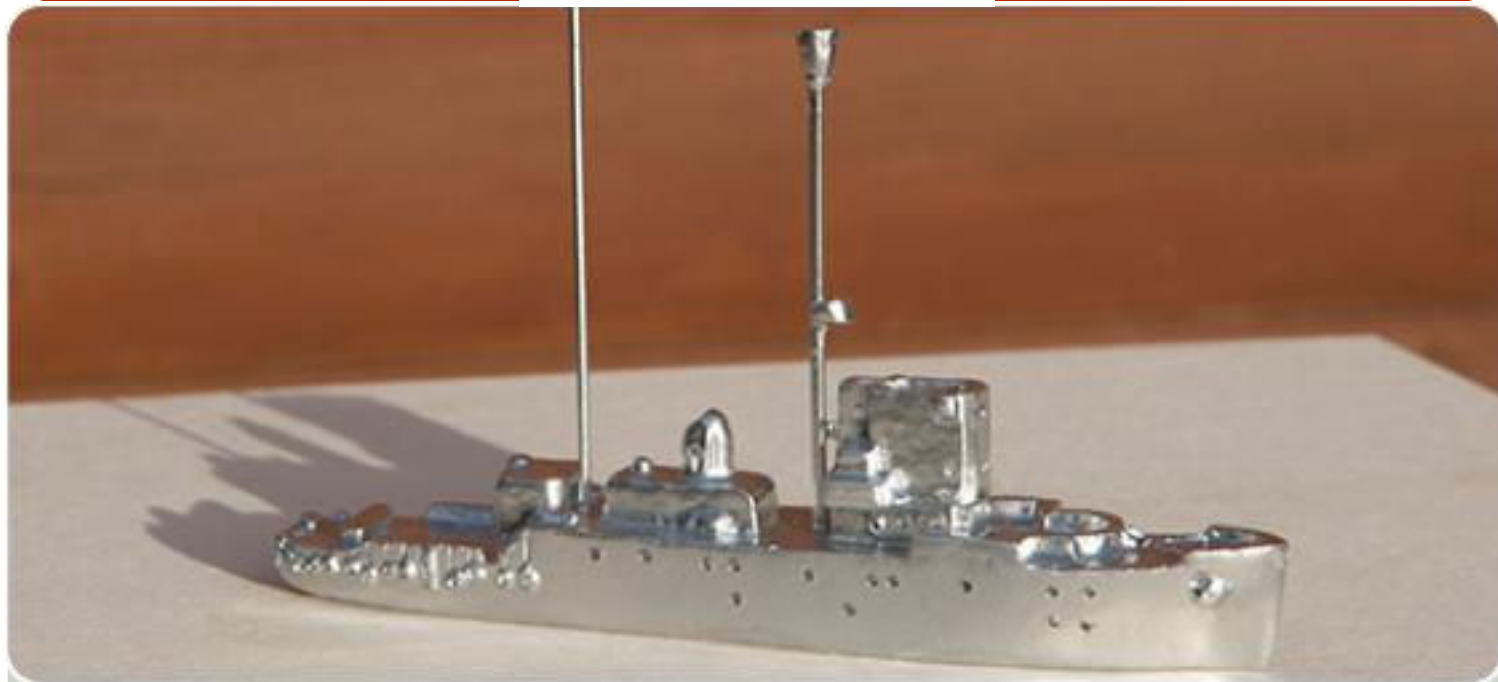
<http://www.seesender.de/freiheitspartei.htm>

Ending this Christmas edition for this year with our special wish and I'll be back at the end of January. Take care, Hans Knot.



Next news about a new 'radio ship' is on the next page!

16 december 2012



Radioships.com proudly presents: the radioship of legendary Radio

René van den Abeelen started Radioships.com in july 2008.

Together with the miniatures of Veronica's Norderney, Caroline's Mi Amigo, RNI's Mebo 2, the REM island and Caroline's Ross Revenge the ex mine sweeper Galaxy makes an unique collection for the offshore radio fan.

The new miniature weighs 279 grams, nearly 10 ounces, and is 15

centimeters long, just under 6 inches.

Customers in the Netherlands pay



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