

Hans Knot International Radio Report March 2014

Dear Radio friends, just a few weeks before the Radioday will take place in Amsterdam and Martin and I are very pleased with all the warm emails coming in during the past month. Around 100 former employees from offshore radio stations are coming to CASA 400 on Saturday 22nd of March. Many of them are already arriving on the Friday and we promise you a programme which we never can top again. Many of you visited our internet site during the past months, but for those who didn't here's a rundown for that special day:



10:30 - 10:35	Welcome with Hans Knot and Martin van der Ven
10:35 - 11:25	'The Pirate Radio Documentary' A video documentary by Wayne Hepler (50 minutes) <i>"Way back in 1989, an excellent professor told me about the radio pirates of the Netherlands - then and now. I thought, "Wow! Pirates have taken over! I have to meet them." A mere 23 years later, my sabbatical brought me to Amsterdam, Groningen, Hilversum, London, the Thames, and other communities to interview Hans Knot, Ad Bouman, Hans Hogendoorn, Tineke, Herb Visser, Bob Noakes, Keith Skues, Johnnie Walker, Tony</i>

	<p><i>Prince, and other very helpful giants on the subject. Two excellent students and my wife joined me in shooting a video documentary. Now, on Radio Day 2014, the subjects of my documentary get to play critic - how intimidating - and we get to go back to the Netherlands. I hope my documentary is as kind to my hosts as they were to me."</i></p> <p><i>Wayne Hepler, Professor, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.</i></p>
11:30 - 12:15	<p>Swinging to you on 242: Radio Scotland Ian Biggar (moderator), Jack McLaughlin, Tony Meehan, Bryan Vaughan, Pete Bowman, Ben Healy, Brian Webb (45 minutes)</p>
12:20 - 12:45	<p>The Sound of Young Europe: Radio NorthSea International (RNI) - Part 1 Nico Steenbergen (moderator), Ferry Maat, Hans ten Hooge, Marc van Amstel, Pieter Damave, Peter Jager, Peter Ford, Dick de Graaf, Jan Harteveld (25 minutes)</p>
12:50 - 13:25	<p>The Sound of Young Europe: Radio NorthSea International (RNI) - Part 2 Robbie Owen (moderator), Victor Pelli, Andy Archer, Arnold Layne, Robb Eden, Graham Gill, Dave Gregory, Peter Chicago, Brian McKenzie, Michael Lindsay, Roger Kent, Paul May, Bruno Brandenberger*, Robin Banks*, Peter and Werner Hartwig, Roger "Twiggy" Day (40 minutes)</p>
13:30 - 14:15	<p>Easy Listening with Britain Radio and Radio 355 John Ross-Barnard (moderator), Phil Martin, Tony Meehan, Jack McLaughlin, Graham Gill, Dave MacKay*, Mark Sloane, John Aston (45 minutes)</p>
14:20 - 14:50	<p>Radio Caroline: The Seventies - Part 1 Andy Archer (moderator), Johnny Jason, Paul Alexander (Rusling), Robb Eden, Don Stevens, Graham Gill, Clive Correll, Dennis King, Elija Vandenberg, Barry Everitt, Charlotte Ribbelink, Robin Adcroft*, Mickey Mercer (30 minutes)</p>
14:55 - 15:25	<p>Radio Caroline: The Seventies - Part 2 Stephen Bishop (Johnny Lewis, moderator), Stevie Gordon, Richard "Buzby" Thompson, Stuart Russel (Nigel Harris), Roger Mathews, Peter Chicago, Ad Roberts, Martin Fisher (30 minutes)</p>
15:30 - 16:15	<p>The Tower of Power: Radio City Bob Le-Roi (moderator), Ricky Michaels, Norman St. John, Terry Dawson, Mike Hayes, Dave Gilbee*, RWB, Dick Dixon, Ben Healy, Martin Green, Peggy Knight (Linda Bass) (45 minutes)</p>

16:20 - 17:15	Radio Caroline: The Sixties Ray Clark (moderator), Robbie Dale, Andy Archer, Keith Skues, Norman St. John, Bryan Vaughan, Gordon Cruse, Roger Scott, Mark Sloane, Ross Brown (Freddie Beare), Bud Ballou, Steve Young, Tony Prince, John Aston, Wally Meehan, Alan Turner, Johnnie Walker, Keith Martin, Graham Webb, David Williams, Roger "Twiggy" Day (55 minutes)
17:15 - 17:20	Wally Meehan singing "You'll never walk alone"
17:20 - 17:30	The Radio Day - A retrospect with Hans Knot and Martin van der Ven (10 minutes)
17:30 - 18:00	The Radio Day 2014 Awards Ceremony (30 minutes)

Tony Currie (Radio Six, BBC) will be 'your host from the coast' between the panels.

Radio Extra Gold NL

Broadcasting live from Hotel Casa 400

Philip Hayton (Radio 270, BBC), Richard Jackson (Radio Caroline in 1986/87), Leendert Vingerling (Radio Delmare, tender captain), John Thompson (Voice of Peace), Bill Rollins (Tower Radio), Jan Veldkamo (Radio Monique), Herbert Visser (Radio Monique), Jon Myer (Pirate Hall of Fame), Mary and Chris Payne (Radio London Ltd), Francois Lhote, Robert Magniez (both OEM/France Radio Club), René van den Abeelen (radioships.com), Hans Hettelder (radioship models) and the Museum RockArt will be aboard as well. Bob Le-Roi wrote: "We have produced prints of an original artwork and a Radio City Mug to commemorate 50 years since we began on the Forts, a limited number will be available for people to purchase."

**The Radioday 2014 is sponsored
by:**



Of course there's more to mention than the Radioday. I've got a lot of e mails, mostly directly responded to you the reader. Interesting things however are always to mention in the report. Like the next one we got from a few readers:

Pirate Radio Archive Reel to Reel Tape

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs-MI3XrUvA>

Found - a lost tape from 47 years ago! Excerpts from an original Archive Tape recorded in 1967 - Home Service in the Midlands. This is an original 1967 recording of a BBC documentary about the Pirate Radio Stations made for The BBC Home Service in the Midlands. The programme chronicles the closure of the pirates as a result of the introduction by the Government of the 1967 Marine Broadcasting Offences Act. The programme is recorded at 7.5 inches per second on an EMI 1/4 inch tape and is MONO in Two-track format. On a 7 inch reel and programme plays for 30 minutes approx. Clips from Pirate Radio Stations (off air) including Radio London, Caroline, Essex, Radio 390, Radio 355, Swinging Radio England, Radio City. Britain Radio, etc.

Features BBC announcer Victor Hallam and many famous voices from the pirate radio days - Tony Blackburn, Kenny Everett, Tony Windsor, Paul Kaye, Keith Skues, etc. Also Sequence of News broadcasts. Playback via a Studer Revox PR99

Help is needed in an intensive project by Vincent Schriel who tries to get a list of personal hit picks from several radio stations, operating from international waters, complete. I know this will be a work for many years, but you the reader, can help him. Of course, when

listening to old radio shows, hit picks are heard again. If so, you can look on the Vincent listening if it's already there. If not please inform him at: Vincent@schriel.nl

http://www.radiopedia.nl/wiki/Persoonlijke_hittip



Mary Payne Photo: Hans Knot

Next a response from the lady above on last issue of the International Radio Report: 'Hi Hans, regarding a couple of points brought up in your February International Newsletter, we have a small feature in our Radio London scrapbook about the 'Bingle' album that correspondent Peter J Hall has bought from ebay.

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/scrap60/minipage/minmem.html>

Ian Godfrey asked about the compilation of the Fab Forties and this is a subject that Ben Toney covered in his memoirs.

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/bentoney/bookp1.html>

The charts were the work of Ben, TW and Ben's successor as Programme Director, Alan Keen. A typed list was produced in Curzon Street, but Brian Long, author of 'The London Sound' explains how the published versions of the Big L Fab Forty were quite often different from what was actually broadcast.

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/scrap60/fabforty/brian/brian.html>

A good example of this is when the charts were published in the Belgian Magazine, 'Jukebox', examples of which you kindly supplied for our two-page feature.

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/scrap60/jukeboxmag/clippingsP1.html>

Because 'Jukebox' was published monthly, by the time the magazine had gone to press, the Big L Fab Forties it contained - ironically billed as 'the charts that are always ahead of the others' - were bound to be considerably out of date!

It was Alan Keen who took the unprecedented step of placing the 'Sgt Pepper' track 'A Day in the Life' in Big L's #1 spot on June 11th 1967 for just one week. It was one month after Radio London secured the Sgt Pepper's exclusive and the only time that an album track never released as a single appeared in the Fab Forty. Alan did this to annoy the BBC, where 'A Day in the Life' had been banned from the airwaves because of perceived drug connotations.

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/rl/scrap60/fabforty/june67/june6702/fab110667.html>

Looking forward to seeing you, Jana, Martin and Ulrike in Amsterdam next month, but we shall miss Rob very much. We appreciate that it will be both a happy and a sad day for you all. Mary Payne.'

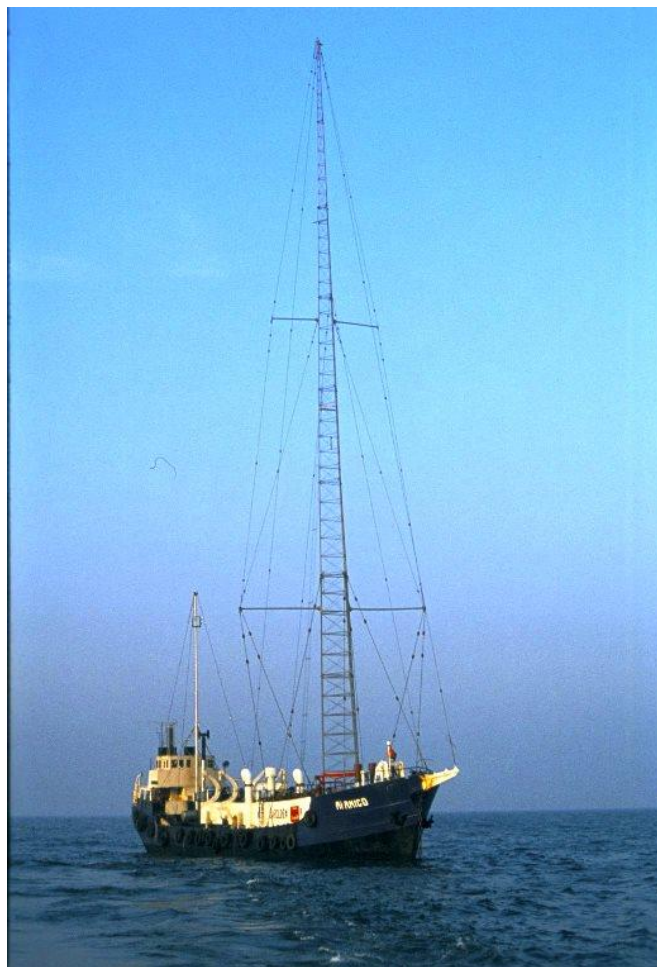
Thanks Mary for updating our readership as well as your warm words on the end. See you and Chris in three weeks in Amsterdam. And of course, as always to the readers, take at least once a month a visit to Mary and Chris site at: www.radiolondon.co.uk

We also getting e mails in regarding our impressive photoarchive on Flickr, called Offshore Radio Revisited: 'I got inspired by your photo collections on flickr. So I decided to scan and upload some pictures from my visits to the North Sea in 1972 and 1974. Also there are photos from a visit to the Ross Revenge from Caroline in 1986. It

took a long time to scan and upload, as you have perhaps noticed? :-
Also the flickr GUI is a little bit 'odd'. But never the less my
pictures are now here, for you to check:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/115192938@N06/sets>

So far I've only got three sets of pictures and they are all shot with
a standard camera, a Voigtländer (I think). These were scanned from
colour slides, where I've been experimenting with different
resolutions.

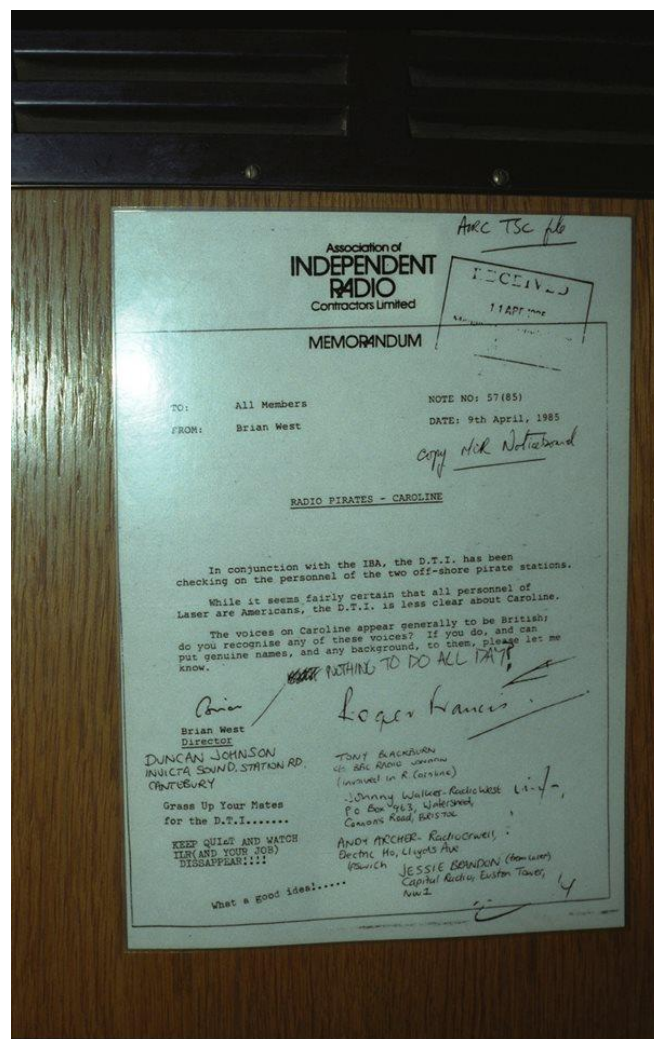


Mi Amigo in seventies Photo: Rob Olthof

I noticed on your latest photos from Menno Dekker, which had
excellent quality, that info said "AgfaPhoto GmbH d-lab". So I guess
these are scanned professionally. My series pictures from the Ross

Revenge ends with a picture taken from the front of the ship. After that I changed film roll and - guess what? The film never attached to the loading mechanism of the camera. Hence all pictures that 'I took' inside the Ross Revenge, were never taken. This was noticed a few days later. Regards, Per Alarud. '

Thanks to Per and a nice series too. If you also want to take part with your photos on offshore radio in our archive contact me at HKnot@home.nl and always respect the copyright from the owners!



Next I'll take you back to 1985, the year that the Department of Trade and Industry sent out a spy ship to blockade the tendering of the radio ships from Radio Caroline and Laser 558. But they did more. People working within the Independent Local Radio were asked

if they were hearing certain voices from people they knew on Laser and Caroline. The letter came also in hands of the Caroline organisation. A copy was sent to the Ross Revenge. It was clued to one of the studio doors on the ship. And of course you can see on the photo that they made fun about this letter.

Some of our readers have very sharp eyes. Let's see for instant what Adri Verhoef saw and wrote:

'Hi Hans, my eyes read the following mentioning in last report:
Question three from Ian: 'A few days ago a friend asked me when the Veronica Tipparade was introduced. I've assumed it was January 1965, with the introduction of the Top 40. 'The right answer Ian is November 1st 1969, the same date the weekly 'Alarmschijf' was introduced by the station.' The correct answer can be found here:
<http://www.top40.nl/tipparade/1967/week-28>

Thanks to Adri and of course I was incorrect and the date I mentioned was another important one for Veronica as it was the very first time the Alarmschijf was chosen and played during the weekly programs on 192.

Martin and I also got a reflection on the 'Offshore revisited' site on flickr from Alfred Hanenburg in Arnhem, the Netherlands:

Hi, first of all a big thanks for those beautiful photo series who are every time added to 'Offshore revisited'. All together these series are for me a beautiful and latterly a colourful look behind the scene after 45 years. As my age is 55 years I only can relive myself with the stations off the Dutch coast from 1969 on from those holidays we had at the seaside.

Today I also saw a photo on the internetsite of the Foundation Norderney. There is a section called 'the wall' where photos are showed where in the sixties and seventies the name 'Veronica' was

painted on the wall. Well there was a photo, which was taken showing a bright stone stairway to the beach, whereby it was mentioned that it was Scheveningen. However I've been to Katwijk at Sea so many times and know for sure the photo has been taken there. I dived in my photo collection and found the photo I took myself many years ago when on holiday there. Alfred Hanenburg.'



Thanks a lot for sharing Alfred, most appreciated. And if you've a memory, photo or anything else, to share with the readers just send it to: HKnot@home.nl

'The Lady is Fifty'

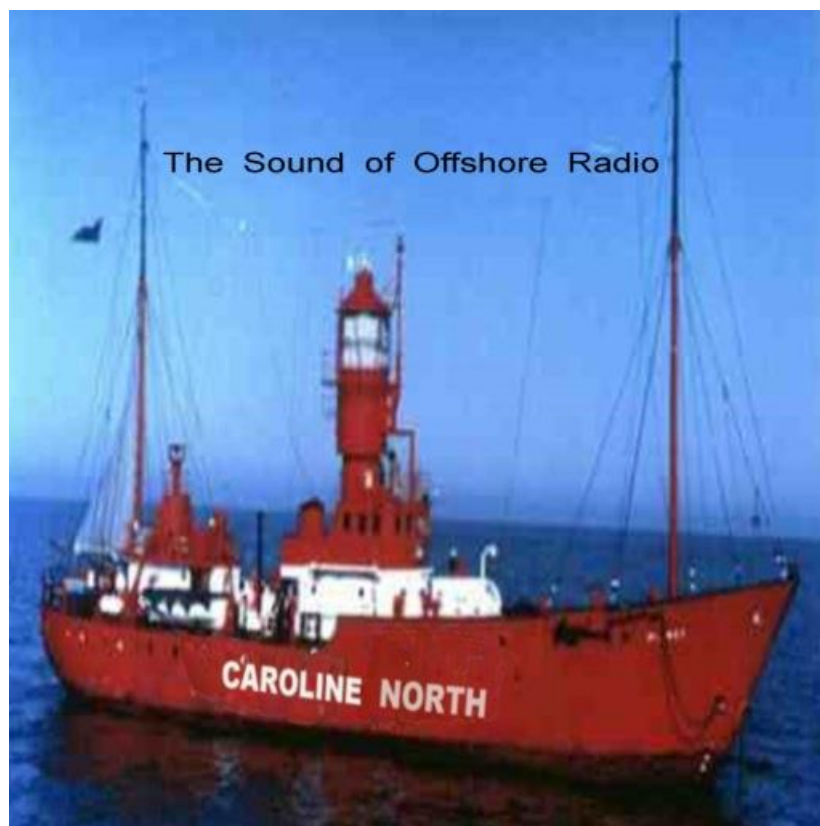
If Radio is King of the Media then the Queen of the Airwaves is surely Radio Caroline who celebrate their 50th Birthday this year.

Radio Caroline has never closed down but has had to go off the air on a number of occasions. One of those was on 3rd March 1968 when the original Caroline ship, the MV Fredericia broadcasting as Radio Caroline North, was seized by creditors and towed from her moorings near the Isle of Man leaving millions of listeners in the

northern part of the UK and Eire with the loss of what they had come to regard as a friendly voice and part of their daily life.

With its personality DJ's the station had perfectly captured the spirit of the Swinging Sixties and added to the phenomenon of the Merseybeat Sound which ignited a revolution in music for teenagers of the time and resulted in the vibrant and successful popular music industry which continues to this day.

Now a group of radio presenters and enthusiasts want to give Caroline North listeners the chance relive those memories. Based on the last Liverpool Lightship, the LV23 berthed in the Albert Dock in Liverpool a recreation of the station will take place for 28 days commencing 31st March.



Organiser John Dwyer said 'We felt it was important to acknowledge the Golden Jubilee but at the same time celebrate our station, Caroline North, whose part in the Swinging Sixties is often overlooked.'

'While we will not be on air for the anniversary of the start of Caroline on 28th March this was actually Easter Saturday in 1964 and since Caroline is the Queen of the airwaves there is no reason why she should not have two birthdays and why we should not celebrate her Official Birthday over the coming Easter weekend.' 'The station will be a fully licenced broadcast.

Alan Roberts, owner of the LV 23 and skipper of the boat for the broadcast said 'I bought the Lightship to secure an important part of Liverpools Maritime heritage and was delighted to be asked to host the event. The Lightship was built in 1960 and the last manned vessel to serve Liverpool. For it to take part to celebrate the 50 years of Britains most famous Radio Station is a fitting use for the ship."

The ship will be open to the public 10am to 6pm each day during the broadcast. Incidentally the original Company set up to run Radio Caroline was Planet Productions, and the name of the Lightship is the Planet!

Caroline North will be on air from 31st March 2014 to 27th April 2014 on 87.7 FM; and available on the internet at carolinenorth.com.

Contact details

John Dwyer 07956 000707 carolinenorth@outlook.com Phil Coleman
01942 716237 delmare192@gmail.com

Thanks to cooperation between Ben Bode and me Ronan O'Rahilly's dream from 1969 came through. Caroline Television can now be seen on:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&list=UUyQzh7_t8V7qvKUhx-nN2Ag&v=if6-i6WBtT4

And here you can find part two:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT1W0sK1q5U&list=UUyQzh7_t8V7qvKUhx-nN2Ag&feature=c4-overview

As soon there's money coming in from commercials more will follow!

Well some more interesting things about radio:

First Radio Luxembourg

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/knightrider/sets/625840/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/knightrider/sets/72157606571582368/>

With thanks to Martin van der Ven of course.

Next news from Jon: 'I have just updated [The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame](#). New this month:

- former Radio Caroline DJ Paul Graham shares some photos from his time at sea during the eighties and a few snaps from a North Sea boat trip he took as a 15 year old fan in the sixties;
- we have more from the archive of the late Rob Olthof - photos of Radio Caroline's mv Mi Amigo and of a North Sea boat trip during the seventies;
- fans of Laser Hot Hits DJ D.L Bogart will be interested to hear news of his new heavy rock podcast;
- there are details of a sea cruise celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of offshore radio and the birth of the British Beat Boom;
- and Colin Nicol has kindly provided an interview he carried out with former Atlanta/Caroline music man Ken Evans.

Back next month, in time for Radio Caroline's 50th birthday, with the 10-part story of 'Caroline In The Sixties'. Until then, all the best from Jon www.offshoreradio.co.uk

A few years back I had the opportunity to work close together with Graham Gill with his book on his long radio career and more. One of the things he told about was his touring through Sweden in the late sixties of last century, together with the then popular group The Cast from Volendam. The story was told but there were no photographs. More than a year later they were found back in the cellar of Graham Gill



And guess what we have now, halfway the report? The guy from the USA who always there since let's say seven years or more in the Hans Knot International Radio Report: 'Hi, a little earlier than usual, I will join them legions of your followers with another: "Bravo, Well Done " report. The memories are always rejuvenating and good vibes flood back. Glad we have you on the case. Regarding the last report: Pam's People really did it for me in the last issue, what a fun group they were. I have nothing to say this month as I lost my voice for 3 weeks and so piffle! Stay out of the puddles (I hear you got a little rain). We here in South California and live in a dust bowl, no rain to

speaking of. I will be back in action next week and will hunt up some goodies for you. EMP'.

Rosko be careful with you. Good to see you liked memories to Pam and the girls. Soon we'll have an interview with Rosko in the report.

Next we go to England and see what Phil Champion has to say: 'Hi Hans, I was very interested to see Ron O'Quinn's 'Music Clock' for Swinging Radio England in your last report. I notice that above it he explains what the A, B, C and D records were at WFUN. However, his SRE clock has letters A, B, C, D and E. Can you ask him, please, how these were different from his rotation at WFUN? Also, I notice that for oldies on SRE Ron programmed no less than six different time periods: 1959-62, 1962-65, 1963-66, 1960-65, 1955-59 and 1955-65 which rather surprised me. Regards, Phil Champion.'



Ron O'Quinn 1966 Collection: Ron O'Quinn

An interesting question I forwarded to the USA and within an hour the answer was coming in: 'Hello Hans, Thanks for the question you forwarded from Phil Champion about my "Music Clock" on Radio England. I appreciate the chance to answer.'

A songs were Top 10 on the charts
B songs were 11-20 on the charts
C songs were 21-30 on the charts
D songs were 31-40 on the charts
E songs were those songs that were finally out of the Top 40, but had stayed on the charts for a long time and were still generating sales and request.

The reason I categorized the Oldies by years on the SRE clock was very simple. At WFUN all of the jocks were seasoned veterans and at Radio England the Boss Jocks included a lot of new people that had no experience. Most 20 year old jocks would play the same few oldies each time they were on the air because they had not been taught better. I still believe in leaving the choice of which song to the jock, but I believe in categorizing which era the song should be from. Most deejays make terrible music and program directors. They think all their audience is their age so everybody should like the same music. I also believed in those days in labelling the cuts on an album that were hits and marking which side of the single to play. Call it control if you like, I call it good programming. Let me play hits against competitors playing non hits and I will win every time.
Your Georgia friend, Ron O'Quinn.'

Well Ron thanks a lot for your quick response and I think Phil will be very happy with the answers. Take care!

Next another great guy from the sixties: Jack McLaughlin
'Hi Hans, thanks for the latest excellent report. It was a fascinating story and pictures on postage stamps of our Radio Scotland home for two years- the Comet. The Boss TV Shields told us that these lightships were virtually unsinkable. However these pictures show that if the anchor chains went, the ship was in danger. We were hit by a Force 12 hurricane in November 1966. For five days the Comet was buffeted by enormous waves and the terror was... would the

anchor chains hold or would we be dashed against the rocks at North Berwick. The Boss hadn't told us that in the 1950's, a similar lightship broke its moorings at Fife Ness just a few miles north of our original mooring off Dunbar. The Captain of the Fife Ness lightship called the coastguard for help and the Broughty Ferry Lifeboat was launched. The Lifeboat overturned in the mountainous seas and seven of the eight man crew were drowned. The lifeboat was later washed up on the beach at Carnoustie and later towed down to port Seton to be salvaged in the harbour. In fact my local pub the Thorntree looks over this very harbour so there is a constant reminder on the role of lightships in my life. The Captain of the Fife Ness lightship managed to repair one of the anchor chains and the lightship survived intact.



Jack McLaughlin during Radio Forth days

Photo: Freewave archive

The Boss never mentioned the Broughty Ferry disaster which was maybe just as well! The next volume of Pirate Jock, which covers my time on Britain Radio, Radio 270 and Radio 390, is published at the end of the summer. I'll send you a copy of Pirate Jock in Southern

Waters on its release. Radio Clyde had a party to celebrate its 40th birthday a couple of weeks ago and my old Pirate mate Tony Meehan was there. Look forward to seeing you in March. Jack McLaughlin.'

Really this was an interesting story Jack. A long time ago I mentioned already that the bosses of the radiostations, operating from international waters, were not thinking about the problems which could have taken place during heavy storms. And think about the age those youngsters had in those days playing records to make the owners richer! Good to see you will come with a second book and of course I will review it for you in the report.

Another one from Great Britain: 'Thanks for the regular radio reports, I do enjoy catching up with news and memories of genuine free radio. I live within earshot of Wolverhampton's former Beacon Radio 303, where the late Mike Baker worked. In fact, I still have a cassette tape of his opening broadcast from 1976, recorded live at 6am from the settee I slept on in my future wife's parents' home in Birmingham. I had no idea he had pirate credentials! He seems to have been highly regarded. There are some early land-based pirate radio recordings of him on-air at Southend from 1968 at:

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

Enjoy! Graham Dyer, Stourbridge, England.

Thanks a lot Graham for the information, most appreciated. And keep enjoying the report.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, the American actor, died a few weeks ago in New York. Sources within the police say it was an overdose.

Hoffman, who got an Oscar in 2006 got also a lot of other prizes like Golden Globe and Bafta Award. One of the roles he played was in the Movie 'The Boat that Rocked', where he did a Rosko lookalike character.

Talking about Rosko, in next report an interview with him by Rob Jones, who did send us a link to a podcast show from Rosko:

<http://erosko.podbean.com/>

Mike Brand and André van Os both sent a link to a VOP video from 1993, which I hadn't seen before: <http://vimeo.com/23899542>



It was Anthony Friend who sent this logo from Dansih Commercial Radio as well as the photo of the Lucky Star, the ship used by DCR



Danmarks Commerciale Radio



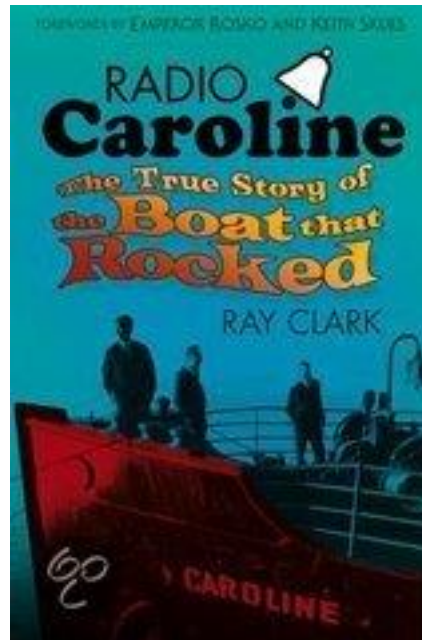
<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Radio-Caroline-True-Story-Rocked/dp/0752498878>

<http://www.bol.com/nl/p/radio-caroline/9200000019639414/?Referrer=ADVNLBEG00201192000001963941411>

What a read, the new book about Radio Caroline: 'The true story of the boat that rocked'. Great stuff and well done to Raymond Clark It's so well written and brings back a lot of memories. Even for me - as I have written two books on the history of the station in the past - was caught by Clarke his perfect style of writing and bringing in new facts which weren't published before. I advise every reader of the report to think about buying their own copy of 'The true story of the boat that rocked'.

Ray Clarke has done many interviews for his book as well as he was using interviews done through the years by former Caroline deejay

Colin Nichol. The main part of the book tells the story of the station, as well as other stations, who were active in the international waters in the sixties. But also he brings very interesting stories relating the years Caroline was on the air in the seventies and eighties of last century.



Ray Clark enjoys a successful radio career, after achieving his dream of working aboard Radio Caroline in the Eighties. Since then he has been heard on a variety of commercial and BBC radio stations, together with regular appearances on Pittsburgh's KDKA, the world's oldest radio station. He has presented, reported, documented and managed all aspects of radio successfully, collecting various Sony, BBC and International awards. Throughout these years Ray has presented every programme at every hour of the day and night. Currently he presents the afternoon show for BBC Essex.

And, as I'm sharing memories in photos and documents regarding 50 years of Radio Caroline, one came to my mind yesterday evening when reading the book. Seven years ago, when the Reunion took place in London's Sugar Reef, I met for the very first time a lady who wrote a lot to the station in the sixties. It's Vivien Bernard and as she was also interviewed by Ray Clark I did remember Vivien showing me in 2007 small photographs - she had taken with her to London. Photos

were taken in the sixties when she was visiting the Mi Amigo in international waters.



Now time for a message from Scotland and John McDonald, who we know from his days on The Voice of Peace during the first Gulf War: 'Hello Hans, you will have heard that I have been suffering from ill-health in recent months. I managed to survive a stroke on September 25th and then another one on December 15th. I never do things by half! Many former colleagues have sent good wishes to me but it is a big deal to type now so may I send my thanks via your newsletter.

I now live in sheltered housing where I am the youngest resident by about ten years. The doctors have forbidden travel by air so looks like I am destined to park myself in Scotland for a while. Best wishes to friends around the world. John Mc Donald'



Linda Limowitz and John McDonald during VOP days. Photo collection:
Linda Limowitz

Well thanks a lot John and I hope you will have the strength to fight the battle to get into a better condition too. It was good meeting up with you early June in Germany and sad you couldn't be in Hamburg when we had the presentation of the Voice of Peace documentary in December last year.

We got news from former Laser deejay DL Bogart, who still thinks radio is a must. He has created something different to Laser's sound: 'The Very Heavy Uncle Show, Vol. 3 is up!

Uncle D.L. puts a firm price on true love. Speculates on how he will cease-to-be... Casts his vote for 'Worst-Britcom-Ever' and threatens a nosy listener with the contents of his bladder. All in all, a typical day. Plus: Stunning tracks from Judas Priest, Blood Ceremony, The Flower Kings, Accept, Ghost B.C. and more! All shall be infected! No antibiotic can save you! Direct link to the

cast: http://veryheavyuncle.podomatic.com/entry/2014-02-19T13_04_02-08_00

Regular contributor Ian Godfrey is also this time in the report: 'Hi Hans, thanks a lot for the February newsletter. On Friday evening I watched a programme called Piers Morgan's Life Stories, this one on Tony Blackburn. The whole program was really entertaining, with loads of humour, assisted by a very engaging presenter.

Unsurprisingly the offshore element would be quite limited but I felt that the feature on Caroline really was worth waiting for, with some great colour footage of the Mi Amigo, possibly digitally coloured but it looked very authentic. I was glad I recorded it as I wanted to try to identify the guys on board. There is one section with Tony holding an Elvis Presley album in his right arm. Another guy was standing behind him, carrying another album which I couldn't quite identify. The following segment featured someone with thick light brown hair, who looked a bit like Peter Noone - probably not! It would be interesting to know who they were. The section on big L centred round Tony supposedly preventing Kenny Everett from walking to Frinton!

Thanks Ian and anyone who has seen the program, please an answer on his question as I didn't see the program. Ian also responded on the death of Mike Baker: 'When I read the name Mike Baker in the report nothing registered until I read about his connections with Caroline in the 70s. I suddenly remembered an article I'd read, I think in the Radio Guide and possibly also Monitor. Best wishes, Ian Godfrey.'

Now we're going to New Zealand: 'The Radio Hauraki movie opens in New Zealand on March 6, so the countdown is on! 3 Mile Limit Facebook page update: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/3-Mile-Limit/127055650742862>

The film has now Won Official Selection into 8 International Film Festivals, please see press release below:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU1401/S00189/3-mile-limit-wins-selection-into-7-international-film-fests.htm>

Best regards, Craig Newland.'

It was Andy Sennit who brought the sad news of the death of Frank Wappat, a Radio Newcastle presenter for 40 years, at the age of 84. Wappat, who retired from broadcasting four years ago after suffering a stroke.

The BBC announced that Wappat was well known across the north of England for his nostalgia music shows, which used to be networked across a number of BBC stations. He joined Radio Newcastle in 1971, having started his career at pirate station Radio 390 in London.

The Hebburn-born presenter went on to front nine shows a week for Radio Newcastle in the seventies. In his last years on air, he hosted the Sunday morning Inspirational Show and the Frank Wappat Music Show. He was 'a legend', said BBC Newcastle editor Andrew Robson. 'I didn't get the chance to work with him for too long but his name was synonymous with this radio station for decades,' he added.

'Frank retired due to ill health four years ago. Our thoughts are with his wife and family and friends at this difficult time.'

Wappat won two prestigious Sony awards, one for his programme about thirties music hall star Master Joe Peterson, a second for his investigation into the death of 1940s singer Chick Henderson.

Frank founded the Al Bowlly Circle, Memory Lane Magazine, British Band-Leaders Club and The Thirties Club. He was the longest serving presenter on BBC Radio Newcastle, having started in 1970, following his first broadcasting via Radio 390.

Caroline North RSL

Mike Barraclough wrote on February 10th:

Details of the Caroline North RSL now on Ofcom's list, will use 87.7
March 31 to April 27

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/radiolicensing/html/radio-stations/rsls/current-upcoming-extended-list.htm>

Will be from the LV23 light vessel

<http://www.merseyplanet.co.uk/history.php>

<http://www.merseyplanet.co.uk/history.php>

In the meantime the organisation also opened their website

<http://www.carolinenorth.com>

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Of course more info on another 50th birthday party



From 10.30 hrs onwards, the celebrations commence at the Walton Lifeboat House / Station and a number of exciting things are planned to happen from that time onwards throughout the rest of the day.

This includes the RNLI boat and at least one other boat sailing to a point close to the pier and for DJs and other notoriety to be involved in the celebrations. An original Caroline Bell to be rung on the Lifeboat at midday precisely; some fireworks at midday; media and press boat to cover proceedings; compere with ship-to-shore link for the benefit of those on land; after celebrations at sea, all come ashore to cut birthday cake with celebrities and media / press in attendance (etc. etc.).

Thereafter celebrations continue at the nearby Royal Marine and Royal Albion Public Houses in their large function rooms, where live bands - including the original Honeycombs - will be playing music from the '60's. It is planned for both Public Houses to be adorned with Offshore Pirate Radio memorabilia and associated items for sale.

Possible Celebration Beer will be available at The Royal Marine Public House.

Then Tom Edwards and Keith Skues brought us the news that on March 28th BBC Radio Norfolk will bringing a special day as Radio Caroline has started half a century ago. Of course both the two will be heard as well as Andy Archer. The idea is from David Clayton, who brought the deejays also together some years ago, as can be seen on the photograph, taken by Jason Bloor. Have fun together!



I was planning a short report but you see that again so much came in that it became a normal edition. Well see you around on the RadioDay in Amsterdam or elsewhere give your comments, ideas, news, memories, photos, remarks or whatever to HKnot@home.nl

Best greetings Hans