

Hans Knot International Radio Report April 2015

Hi you out there. Another month has almost gone and here in Western Europe it's spring and there's more time to go out to enjoy the weather and nature. Of course there's time to for me to reflect on some of the many e mails, which came in during the past four weeks. Thanks to all! Also we have another chapter from the Caroline book I edited years ago and in which many other worked together with me.

Remember Bullova, one of the many companies who advertised their watches on the offshore radio stations? Well recently it was Phil Trotter who put the sound of a promotional record from Bullavo on the internet. It tells the story about how successful it was to advertise on Radio Caroline with her 12.000.000 listeners on a weekly base. Time to meet Caroline it's called and you can listen to it here <https://vimeo.com/113431523>

Second is an E mail from Rick Michaels. 'Who remembers him from 2014 Radio Day as well from Radio City? Hans: Two Guys, The Who, and a Vision: Watch 'Lambert & Stamp' Trailer! Pete Townshend's iconic guitar-smashing routine may have only been limited to small London clubs if it hadn't been for two men who stumbled upon him and his band mates in the early '60s.

As seen in this exclusive trailer for the documentary Lambert & Stamp, two aspiring filmmakers helped transform that unknown rock outfit into the sonic powerhouse The Who. Chris Stamp and Kit Lambert simply wanted to make an underground movie about musicians when they found original members Roger Daltrey, Townsend, and John Entwistle. The two eventually scrapped everything to manage the group of peculiar musicians to superstardom. Featuring interviews with Daltrey and Townsend,

Lambert & Stamp opens in New York and Los Angeles April 3, later expanding in select theaters across Great Britain.

This film should be opening in London in April- great story! I played the original demo disc of 'My Generation' sent to me by Lambert/ Stamp before they had a record contract. Best regards, Ricky Michaels 299 Radio City 1965.'

Here's the direct link to the just released trailer for James D. Cooper's Lambert & Stamp <https://www.yahoo.com/movies/two-guys-the-who-and-a-vision-watch-lambert-113522332887.html>

Time runs back in the trailer and at 1.11 just a flash of lesser than a second brings us to 6 Chesterfield Garden in London and the Caroline House. UK Screening information

<http://dogwoof.com/films/lambert-and-stamp>



Bob LeRoi and Ricky Michaels 2014. Photo: Martin van der Ven

Question time, by email, from Henk in Dokkum. Please download the following program from Radio Atlanta in 1964:

<http://www1.zippyshare.com/v/C5KWYyhM/file.html>

By time: 49:43 you will hear the song: La Cucaracha. But who knows the name of the group playing this version of the song? There are many groups who played this song. But I like to know the name from the group who played exact the same as in the Johnny Jackson program! For reactions: henkanneke22@hotmail.com

Another legend in radio passed away in March, this time from Ireland Tony Fenton: <http://radiotoday.ie/2015/03/irish-radio-legend-tony-fenton-has-passed-away/>

Radio Mi Amigo will be testing on Shortwave - 31m Band.

Saturday, 10-12h CET -- Frequency 9560 khz.

Please send your reception report to: info@radiomiamigo.es -

Everybody sending in a reception report will get a brand new colored QSL Card



RADIO MI AMIGO EASTER PROGRAM

Saturday, 4.4.2015 **6070khz:**

08.00h CET Ook Goeie Morgen with Ton Polderman (Dutch)

09.00h CET History Show, the best of each year for 1 hour, from 1960-2014

10.00h CET Rewind-US Top 100 of a month from the past - Mike Uhini

11.00h CET Rewind-US Top 100 of a month from the past - Part 2

7310khz

12-16h: Rewind Show with Mike Uhini

Sunday, 5.4.2015 as usual....see the schedule

at: <http://www.radiomiamigo.es/shortwave>

Easter Monday, 6.4.2015

6005khz

08.00h CET Ook Goeie Morgen with Ton Polderman (Dutch)

09.00h CET Andy Gordon with a special Eastern show in German
10.00h CET Paul Newman (English)
11.00h CET Peter de Wit (Dutch)

7310khz

12.00 - 16.00 CET repeat of the morning programs

As I already told you, I will bring another chapter from the book 'The wet and wild history of Radio Caroline', as published in 2004. So you have to read it as it is 2004 instead of 2015.

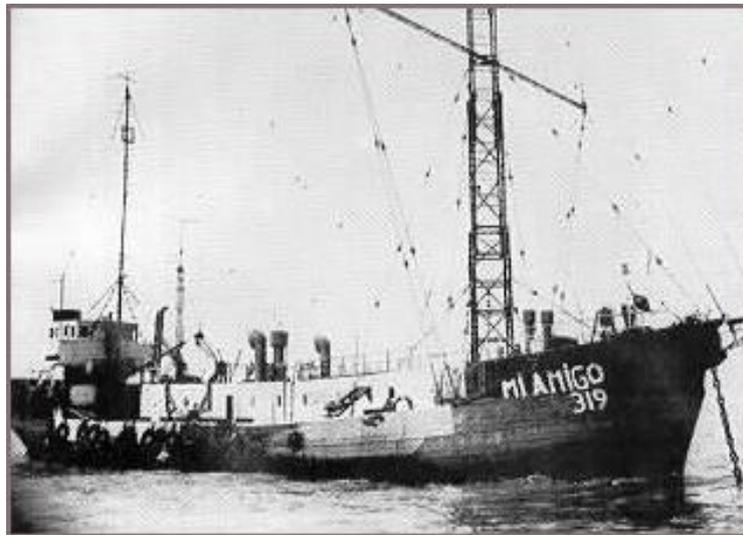
FIRST TO DO WAS INTERVIEWING FATHER SMURF

Many people whose names are now well-known within the British and Dutch media industry started their careers within offshore radio in the 1960's and 1970's. Of course there are a lot of other examples of former offshore radio deejays who have made it within the media industry. One of them is Rob Hudson whose radio career began with Radio Mi Amigo in 1978. Next he was with the first local cable radio station in Holland, Radio Unique in Amsterdam, and for a short period, he worked with offshore station Radio Caroline in 1979.

From that point on, the career of Rob Hudson, or Ruud Hendriks by his real name, made a very high flight. First he worked behind the scenes with NOS TV (a sport programme) and next with Veronica Broadcasting Society (TV and Radio). In the 1990's Ruud became the European Director for NBC TV in London. After a few years he thought it was time to go back to Holland, where he became director of the ill-fated Sport 7, a television station which went as quickly as it came. Well-known EndeMol Productions reacted very quickly and saw in Ruud the potential boss for selling their television products outside of Europe. When he did the opening speech of the ill-fated Veronique TV — later to become RTL4 — Ruud spoke the famous words: "It's like a kind of art to make higher ratings with less money." Something he did in the several jobs he had since 1978.

What interested us was how he made the first steps of his career, in his offshore days. This is his extensive answer he voiced to that question at the Dutch Annual Radio Day of 1992:

"It's not that I have lost my passion for offshore radio, it's just that the offshore radio scene has got smaller again, although it gives me great pleasure to see people turning up at these annual get-togethers and that is surprising to me at all. So it pleases me that a few hundred people still come to these events and enjoy themselves. I must, however, confess that I'm not entirely an offshore radio person but a radio person in general and recently television has entered into my life. It doesn't matter for me whether radio comes from the sea, from land or from satellite, as long as it is good radio."



Mi Amigo 1978, photo: Freewave Archive

"My interest in radio began in 1974. It all started with Ad Roberts borrowing my new microphone. I will tell you the story. I listened a lot to Veronica and RNI when they were still on the high seas. When Veronica closed down, there was a land-based pirate radio station in Amsterdam, which went on the air on 538 metres on exactly the same day Veronica closed down: on August 31st 1974. A few days later it became apparent that this station transmitted on land very near to where I lived in Amsterdam. It was this station that started my interest in land-based pirates. It was a warm, summer day in August 1975, I was 16 years old and had just bought a microphone. I

cycled through Amsterdam docks and the MV Norderney was just being towed in and several people stood on the quay side watching the ship coming in. One of the people watching was Ad Roberts and he had a cassette recorder with him but he told me he hadn't got a microphone.

I told him I had one with me and I lent it to him so he could interview a few people from Veronica. Sometime later he told me that I could do an interview for him with Vader Abraham, of Smurf's fame. He was the first person I ever interviewed and to my surprise the interview was transmitted two days later on this land-based pirate station. Ad Roberts phoned me and told me that I was on the radio and from that moment on I only wanted to do one thing: to work on a real radio station. I became a real enthusiast on radio matters and worked on fifteen land-based stations in Amsterdam and the surrounding areas. I was in my last term at the HAVO, which is a Dutch school type, and during the lessons I spend more time listening to my portable receiver on my earphones than following the lessons.

Shortly afterwards my father asked me what I was going to do for a living after leaving school. It was very simple, I told him: I was going to work for a radio station. So I started sending demo tapes to several broadcasting societies which in turn sent back very nice letters, thanking me for writing and telling at the same time that I wasn't needed. I think it was because of my Amsterdam dialect. It is very difficult if you have that accent when presenting the Top 40, which is a programme I haven't presented at any time in my career. I also didn't have any success in Hilversum, so I decided to send a couple of demos to Radio Mi Amigo in Spain. The first tapes I sent clearly didn't succeed. I didn't get any response from Mi Amigo's office in Playa de Aro. After some time I decided to carry on my studies in Utrecht at the School for Journalists and during my first period I had to work at Studio Sport on NOS Television.

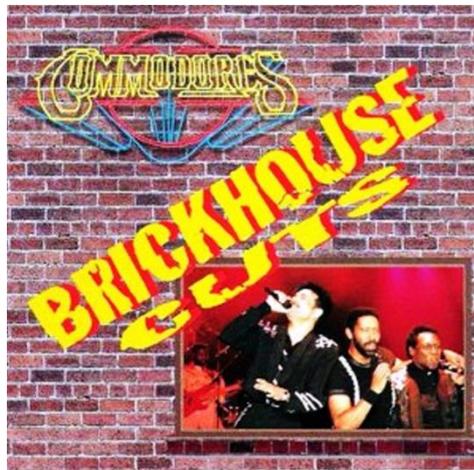
That was my learning period and I worked there for a whole year. At the same time I worked in the weekends at several discos and that

way I earned a lot of money at a young age. One evening I arrived home from a discotheque and my mother told me that there had been a phone call from Belgium asking if I could ring them back soon. By this time it was 2 a.m. so I decided that I would call them back tomorrow. My mother, however, told me that it didn't matter what time I rang back so I rang back at once. It was Patrick Valain who answered the phone and he asked me if I could go aboard the Mi Amigo in a couple of days. I was only 17 at the time and had never left home before and I was scared to leave. I told him that I was still attending school and also worked for NOS Television in Hilversum. I said that I had first to ask for permission to go to work on an offshore radio station and that I needed a little time to think about it. Valain replied that I had two days to think about it all. In the meantime I asked the school board's permission to continue my learning period on an offshore radio station instead of the NOS. They too had to think about this request, but after a few hours they said it was OK."



I was sick on the car journey and when we reached Scheveningen, Boy bought everything he needed in a baker's shop. He went into a supermarket and came out with trolleys full of goods and took all of this to the harbour where a Belgian fishing trawler called the 'Hosanna' was berthed and everything was put on board. That morning I had put some decent clothes on, but when the Belgians saw what I was wearing, they started laughing. They said: "Well don't you know that you're going onto the wanker wagon for three months!" But then, I didn't know what they meant! The next thing they did was buy an overall, pull it through the dirt on deck and tell me to put it on.

We left at 7 p.m. heading for the open sea. We had just got out of the harbour and my car sickness turned into seasickness and that was still more terrible. I had never been so sick. Because the weather was so bad, they decided to go back to harbour and we tried again the next day when the weather was better. It was early in the morning, Saturday, 9th January 1978, at 5 a.m. when we arrived at the Mi Amigo and everything was dark. The generator had broken down and the station hadn't been on the air during the previous ten days. Herman de Graaf was on board, together with Ferry Eden — the only Dutch people on board — and Peter Chicago. The first thing I was going to do was sleep. The following afternoon I had to do my first programme. I had left the discotheque in Holland because of a quarrel: they said I played 'Brickhouse' by the Commodores too much. So my first record at 4 p.m. was 'Brickhouse'."



Unfortunately I was just announcing the first record when Peter Chicago stuck his head around the door and said that we were off the air again because of condense in the transmitter room which had got into the equipment. Luckily he got it all going again and I was very nervous presenting the first two hours. I still have this tape somewhere lying around in my house and I listen to it these days only occasionally. I close the curtains and listen on my headphones and I'm ashamed at what I hear. The first time on board the Mi Amigo things went reasonably well. But after two weeks, Herman de Graaf decided that he wanted to go home due to the fact that he had been on the ship a few months.

There was a tender coming alongside and on board was a guy, who called himself Tony Houston but this was not the same guy who worked on Radio Atlantis.



Frans Maas aka Dick Verheul. Photo: Martin van der Ven

His real name was Frans Maas and he came from the Hague and later on he called himself Dick Verheul. He came on board, made the usual trip around the ship and was very scared about the state of the MV Mi Amigo and said that he was going home immediately. I said to him that he couldn't go home because it meant that I would be the only Dutch person left on the ship and so he stayed. I let him become experienced at the mixing desk and said that he could do his first programme at once. He had some trouble with his name. During his first week on board of the ship, he always used different names in

his programme. For instance, within thirty minutes he used his own name Frans Maas, then Dick Verheul, then Tony Houston. However, he got better and better as the week went on."



Rob Hudson and Hans Knot early nineties of last century

Photo: Rob Olthof

Three days after he came on board the weather was atrocious; it was the same day that Margate pier was washed away. I have never seen such bad weather and it is only at such moments that you realise what terrific force the sea is. The whole crew was seasick and the only one who could stay on his feet was the Belgian generator technician, Luc, who did the breakfast programme because Dick and I were too seasick. You know what it is like in bad weather: you play a lot of records, commercials but don't say very much. I did thirty minutes and then I went back to bed. Luc then played non-stop music until noon. At twelve, the next programme had to start but no one was in any fit state to do it. So Luc carried on but he did not know what commercials he had to play. So he decided to play one particular commercial eighteen times within two hours, but he took the wrong one. And all the while Dick Verheul was crying and asking for his

mother because he felt so sick. To be honest I myself didn't feel too happy about it all. I really wanted to go home, but we carried on and went through this first period. As time passed, working on board became easier and soon I came off for a couple weeks after which I went back for another couple of months.

To me the periods on board of the ship seemed like serving in the Army. For many people their time in the Army means learning to keep upright on your own two feet. I learned to do that on board of the ship. Also as time went on, I met more and more interesting people. More guys from Amsterdam came on board. Johan Visser arrived and also Marc Jacobs who was very friendly. During that time, the station was still on full power, almost 50 kW, and it was also very popular in Belgium. All things went well, until I got a letter from my school informing me of the fact that they didn't think news reading on Radio Mi Amigo to be exceptional enough as a training period. So they stated that I had to go back to school in August 1978. I went back to school, but after the very first day, as I noticed that the people there weren't quite happy that I had worked for a commercial radio station, I decided to quit at once. I was ready to go back aboard the ship but it was October 1978, and the generators had broken down and Radio Mi Amigo stopped their transmissions from the Mi Amigo forever.



Johan Visser: Collection Marc Jacobs

After a while I tried to get a job at Studio Sport at the NOS, which I was lucky enough to get and at night I worked again at the discotheques. When I was working in the later days of Radio Mi Amigo in Playa d'Aro during a drive-in show there, a new contact appeared: Erik de Zwart who just wanted to say hello to his mother by radio. After the programme I suggested him to do a demo for the station, which he did. It was very good. When I suggested that he could go to the ship, he didn't want to do this as he already had a good job working for an agency and also did a drive-in show which made a lot of money.

When the Mi Amigo thing was over, I met Erik on a regular basis. Together with some other friends we built the first cable pirate in Holland. One of those guys was Johan Vermeer, who worked on Radio Mi Amigo 272. He was a very good technician and it was he who put the signal onto the cable. It worked for a couple of months and due to the fact that Erik and I sorted out the commercials we could live on a very good wage from this money with the additional money from the drive-in shows.



Paul de Wit and Rob Hudson Photo: Freewave Archive

In April 1979, Radio Caroline was starting up again and together with some other people, we were asked to work for the Dutch service and Erik decided to come with us and he changed his name to Paul de Wit. We first went to London for a couple of days with Ad Roberts, waiting for a telephone call telling us to go to Margate to leave with the tender to the ship. When we got there, we discovered that there was no tender, but only a small boat fit for canals but not really suitable for the high seas. But they told us that we had to do it with this small boat. Due to the fact that there was a large tank in this vessel, they decided that this boat would suffice. After six hours sailing, it seemed as though we were lost and we had no compass on board. The only people on board who knew how to get there, were people like Peter Chicago.



Bark Sakker Photo: Garry Tanner

We reached the Mi Amigo in the middle of the night after 20 hours sailing and the station was due to be back on air a few hours later! When we got on board, we put all the commercials on cart and at 10 a.m. non-stop music started and at noon, transmissions began with Tony Allan playing 'Fool If You Think It's Over' by Chris Rea.

The summer of 1979 was very nice on board the Mi Amigo and this spell I enjoyed the most of all. We had a good team on board with a lot of talent. A lot of people who worked on the Dutch side are now working in the commercial radio world in Holland. Until the financial

troubles manifested themselves in August, 1979, you could say it was a good year for the Dutch Caroline organisation. But, problems began in autumn and after a couple of weeks we had nothing to eat or drink on board the ship. The transmitter power was turned down due to a shortage of fuel and that was the moment I decided to leave. However, our wages had not been paid and the station owed me approximately 10.000 guilders. So, Paul and I decided to take some action."



Summertime

First we went to Danny Vuylsteke, the man who was responsible for the organisation in Belgium. He was also the one who had to go to the advertisers to get the money and we said we couldn't wait any longer. The first day he didn't show up with anything good, but the next evening we accompanied him to a drive-in show in his Mercedes, filled with Caroline T-shirts in the boot. We stole his car keys and drove

off with the car and the T-shirts. Next we phoned him from a hotel, telling him that when we got the money from him, he would get his car and T-shirts back. Much later, he came in another car and we got our money and our Caroline period was over.

After my time with Radio Caroline, I started sending demos to all kinds of radio and television stations. My wife told me to send a tape to Rob Out of Veronica because it was a very young organisation. She told me not to apply as a deejay because everyone wanted to be that. So I started in television and I was completely astonished that I got another job very quickly and time flew by. After a few years as a radio reporter, I got a job with VOO TV and started Newslines and I also made the initial plans for commercial radio for Veronica. I was unhappy about the absence of commercial radio, because many people from the old days with lot of know-how still were doing other things.

One day, I went to Rob Out and Lex Harding and I told them that if they didn't want to start a commercial station, I would do it myself. That way Cable One, the satellite radio station, and Sky Radio were set up in 1988. Together with a couple of other people, we made a business plan which we sent to two groups: TV Ten and RTL Veronique, which later became RTL 4. First I became director of programming and later on managing director of RTL 4 Television and Radio. So, that's where offshore radio brought me some fifteen years after Ad Roberts borrowed my first microphone."

RADIO DAY 2015

This year's Radio Day will be held on Saturday 14th November. The 2015 location for this event is Museum RockArt in Hoek van Holland. On that day, the doors of the museum will open at 11:00 and close at 18:00. The structure of the annual event has

changed. It has been decided to hold a National Radio Day followed by a large International Radio Day on a rotating basis (including the Awards Ceremony).

This year, a National Radio Day will be held, focused on the Netherlands and Belgium and thus slightly more limited in scope than in previous years. The interior of Museum RockArt will play an important role. Central item is the restored Radio Veronica studio. Seven well-known radio DJs are asked to present their shows live from the studio forming a kind of window programming. On the half hour the programmes are interrupted for interviews on stage. That means that seven topics will be discussed during that day. The items to be included will be announced later, but in any case, attention will be given to the offshore station Radio Monique and the 50th anniversary of Hilversum 3 / Radio3 / 3FM.

The Radio Day 2015 is made possible by the Internet Radiocafé, Ad Roland Media and Radiotrefpunt.nl

There will be regular updates on www.radioday.nl

Well after the break for the Radioday news it's nickname time again. Brian 'the doodle sack' Mc Kenzie was a mentioning by Tony Allen on RNI in a so called bagpipe-jingle. With thanks to Bob Glen, who heard it.

Next an e-mail from Tony Palmer, once working for Radio Caroline.

'Hi guys, I love your offshore radio photos. I thought that you might be interested in seeing an album that I have recently digitalised which was originally taken back in the summer of 1990 on the Ross Revenge.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/arthur_pewty/sets/72157626890141711/

Regards, Hugh Neal (known as Tony Palmer on Caroline).

Next an e-mail from Canada: 'Hans! That was an excellent review - I enjoyed it immensely and thank you and your friend Paul de Haan. I was especially pleased at the way he integrated his own experience of younger days into the narrative - so much so that I want to read the book myself!

I hope to be in the UK in July when no doubt, the rest of the Radio Essex gang will get together to celebrate 50 years since 222. Secondly, I was amused to see the link to the Ray Conniff video of 'People Will Say we're in Love. Ray was in London in 1966 and I had a chance to talk to him. He seemed quite chuffed that I had a recording of his composition, 'Little Gates Special' that he recorded with the Bunny Berigan band back in 1938. In those days, he was very much a jazz man. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQCyThj_IHo Also, I loved the documentary, 'When Albums Ruled the World'. Thanks, David Sinclair.'

Well David hope a lot of readers have ordered or will order your publication. And of course feel free to write a piece for the report after the July happening in Essex. Have fun over there!

Southgate amateur radio news brought the following news recently: 'When the 'Deutsche Welle' decided to close down one of their 500 KW short wave broadcast transmitters near Munich at the end of 2012, a group containing some German radio amateurs applied for and were allocated the then available short wave frequency of 6070 KHz

in 2013.

This group now have an operational 10KW station on the frequency, using the driver stages from the old Deutsche Welle transmitter. The rest of the transmitter was built by and is run by Rainer DB8QC. The licence allows transmission 24/7 but at present most transmissions are on a weekend during daylight hours. Content is mainly provided by existing Internet Radio stations wanting to get their material 'on-the-air' this includes several societies that remember the days of the Pirate Radio pop music stations in the North sea between England and Holland and a lot of their music content is from the 60's and 70's.



Additional content is being sought and at only 15 Euros an hour, this is not a corporate big business rather a facility where smaller groups can afford to buy time to transmit their content. One such group is the Deutsche Amateur Radio Club, the National Amateur Radio Society in Germany, who hope to have a weekly two hour slot on the station from mid-March to send a DX orientated program, probably from 6pm local time on Sundays.

The DARC DX magazine will be in the German language and targeted towards German speaking listeners. Amateur radio is an international medium however so there are thoughts of also producing an international / English hour in addition, to reach out across Europe not only to radio amateurs but also to short wave listeners and the general public.

When I talked with another Rainer DF2NU, who is one of the group running the station and the president of the Munich South section of

the DARC, he told me that they hope to be able to broadcast more often once sufficient content is available however they are already seeing other broadcasters such as Radio China moving onto the frequency in the evenings as those stations perceive 6070 KHz as a free frequency.

Rainer told me that currently 'Channel 292' has airtime bookings for 20-25 hrs a week, mostly on weekends at which times it runs at 10 kW output. When the station is idle (as there is no booking), the transmitter power is reduced to 1kW and transmits an infinite music-loop with no actual program. Late evenings, after 8pm local, the transmitter is switched off completely in order to save energy costs. Rainer stressed that the license is for 24/7 so they can use the frequency at any time when they have content.

With a current rate of EUR 15,-- per hour airtime you cannot earn any money. This broadcast station is an extension of the amateur radio hobby and the group seek to simply cover their costs.

Thinking back to the very start of amateur radio, Hams were allowed to transmit music, news and entertainment programs, so it's nice to see some of this coming back onto the short wave bands thanks to the efforts of groups like this one.

I wonder as we see more and more broadcasters leaving the short wave bands in favour of Internet broadcasting, whether we'll see more licences and surplus transmitters being picked up by amateur radio groups? This seems to be somewhat of a repeat of the situation when it was said 200 metres and up is useless for broadcasting - give it to the amateurs. We all know what then followed. Perhaps amateur Radio groups around the world can put new life into released shortwave broadcast frequencies?

For program information about 'Channel 292' simply go to their website at <http://www.channel292.de/>

Why not give 6070 KHz AM a listen? The Channel292 station covers a lot of Western Europe but has also been heard in Russia and the US'

Next e mail time from a former technician in offshore radio during the sixties: 'Hi Hans, I stumbled onto your pages, very full of interest. My name is John Roberts age 84 and ham radio call VK4TL. I'm reasonably active and work into the UK and EU frequently. I worked on North Caroline (Fredericia) first and then went to Zaandam to work on the refit of the Mi Amigo. Around about this time I also was sent to Cheetah 2 and managed to get the 10KW transmitter on the air using a quarter wavelength of wire snaking around the place and ending up at the highest spot. Being an FM station there were no real high points. When the programme was put on the end insulators would crack and the whole lot would crash down. I got the cook in the galley to provide a large metal mixing bowl and with a hole made in the bottom of it, it spread the high voltage over a greater area and the thing stayed up.

When the Mi Amigo went aground and went to Zaandam to be refitted, the 10 KW continental transmitter was taken out and put aboard into the Cheetah's hold. This was an AM transmitter. Hence, the difficulties. The management at Caroline was not good at knowing the differences between AM and FM. So there was no antenna for medium wavelength. Now you can understand my story about the length of wire necessary. I did get this station on the air. The radiation efficiency would have not been good as there was no height available. The Cheetah was fitted out with TV studios I believe and may also have previously been broadcasting FM, but it was certainly not an AM station until I made it one. A 50 KW Continental transmitter was installed in the Mi Amigo. There were two of these transmitters on Britain Radio/Radio England making it three of these 50 Kw Tx's on the North Sea. I know one ended up with SABC in South Africa.



Offshore 2 alongside Laissez Faire. Photo: Martin Kayne

When the Mi Amigo was back at sea I put out a test programme. I don't think the Austrian bastard boss liked me and I was ordered off the ship and never returned to the Mi Amigo. I joined Britain Radio /Radio England with 2 of the Continental 317C transmitters. I think it was Ron O'Quinn who gave me a voice test and said "no". I adopted the call sign NS1B and worked a number of contacts from the ship. There are interesting technical stories like the roll of RG59 coax catching fire as it was unrolled because it reached the tuned frequency of the broadcast transmitter.

I was doing OK at this station leaving my home in Cambridge and driving to get on the tender every three weeks. One week off the ship and two weeks on the ship. On the way there one day I hit an oil patch and slid off overturning the car. The station chiefs never believed me and so another radio station gone.

I applied for Big L and that was my last Pirate Station Job. Met Graham Gill and took him home to Cambridge also Patrick was a great guy. In later life I spent 2,5 year as chief engineer at Radio 4CA. After that I spent 5 years part time at Radio 4KZ. I obtained a 2 KW FM licence for narrowcast operation and played old music 24 hours a day on Radio Cool. I sold that later out to a country western operator. I still run two transmitters for the horse racing industry.

Oh and I use big broadcast tubes in my ham radio amplifiers. I found your pages by putting my own call sign into google. My Brit call sign was G3IVS from Cambridge. If you try this you will see I have also been involved in Moon Bounce and other noteworthy radio activities. Good work on your writings. Marvellous, best wishes to you and 73 to the ham radio operators. John Roberts.'

Well what a surprise that you did find out that we talked about you in one of the monthly reports, now 5 years ago. During a few months one of the topic was 'licensed Amateur Radio on offshore radio' and so your name was also mentioned. I think to remember that it was Sheridan Street former Caroline technician, who mentioned your call signs. Sheridan is living in East Asia these days and like many former people working in offshore radio have spread all around the world.

Thanks for sending your memories, which will be part of the April report, which will be out in the last week of March. Fantastic that, at your age, you're still so active. Good to see you worked also on the Laissez Faire where within 2 years 5 different stations were aired. I loved the Britain Radio format, like I also loved the Radio 390 format. On the day your e mail came in I had Graham Gill on the phone from Amsterdam. He arrived in Europe in 1966 and stayed here for the rest of his career and will be 79 soon. He can be heard irregularly on the radio nowadays. Well several other former colleagues of you are reading the report so maybe one or two will reflect. If you've anymore memories feel free to send them as well as photos are always welcome. With best greetings.

Anyone who wants to respond on the above memories, please feel free to write to HKnot@home.nl

May I ask you not to forget to visit on a regular base the internet site from Mary and Chris Payne. It's update a few times a month and it brings a lot about Radio London and other interesting things: www.radiolondon.co.uk

In last issue we had the long story about the Nannell and during the last weeks several people responded, although very short, with interesting comments. It was talked in the story that the Nannell had been on the air on FM for a short time. Several readers couldn't believe that this had happened due to the fact the ship had no mast anymore. Well never heard about testing on a dummy load? Herbert Visser confirmed that the transmitter was on the air on FM. The ship was monitored by Dutch Authorities and Martin Roumen, responsible for the OCD, had informed Herbert that they monitored FM transmissions from the Nannell.

Alex van der Hoek tells us about another video. This time of the rescue work on the Ross Revenge after running aground on the Goodwin Sands in November 1991. Also in the video is a tour of the ship in the Port of Dover in April 1992. The TV footage is by 'Dave' and amateur video from a tour onboard the Ross Revenge. A video from the Martin van der Ven archives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZDe732C5XY#t=14>

Hi Hans, what a joy it was again to read all the information in your report. A very nice reading was review by Paul de Haan. On the shortwave transmissions from Mi Amigo my Listener All Time 5 is already broadcast and within a few days after sending a report the Spain I already received a QSL Card.

Since a few weeks we have a Audi A2. Of course a new car is always a bit difficult to drive. In the car is power-steering, which we didn't had in our VW Passat, which was from 1991. In the old car I had an old model of a Philips car radio, including shortwave reception:

http://www.radiomuseum.org/r/philips_tourismo_stereo_874_info_2.html?language_id=2

Of course this radio has been taken out and is stored in one of my rooms. In the new car is again a radio with Shortwave (also FM, AM and LW)

When I was planning to put a few stations into the memory I heard

<http://saudi.souq.com/sa-en/grundig-scd-3490-rds-403993/i/#>

A pity you can only memorize four frequencies. It's a Grundig SCD 3490 RDS.

So on the road we can still enjoy KBC op 6095 and Radio Channel 292 op 6070! Henk Dokkum.

Very sad news from Bill Everatt from Wales:

Good Afternoon Hans from Celtica Radio in South Wales. I'm sad to report that our colleagues at Radio Hafren ceased trading at around mid-day on February the 10th. Despite creating a popular station to serve communities across Mid Wales and the Borders, over the past four years our colleagues have consistently been unable to generate enough advertising revenue to cover the stations operating costs, and with no indication that this situation is likely to change in the foreseeable future, the directors of Radio Hafren took the decision that they could no longer maintain the service.



Because Celtica Radio is a completely separate entity to Radio Hafren, with a completely different business model, Celtica will of course continue. But we all feel extremely sad for our colleagues and friends who will have lost their jobs at the station and the Directors themselves who of course are now left with an extremely big bill to pay! Certainly we have offered every member of the Hafren local Personnel programmes on Celtica Radio, so they will have a station to

continue creating radio shows for. But it's still a very big blow for our friends.

Needless to say, with the closure of Radio Hafren it does mean that Celtica is no longer broadcasting on a terrestrial frequency, as Radio Hafren rebroadcast our programmes during the early hours on both AM and FM. During the four years we broadcast in this manner we found that the listeners in Mid-Wales were very receptive to our broadcasts and were by no means confused with us broadcasting through Radio Hafrens transmitters. We also proved that two stations can quite happily co-exist and complement each other in this way too. Drawing on 36 years professional broadcasting experience, I can definitely confirm that Radio Hafrens closure was as a result of the harsh economic times we live in, and no reflection whatsoever in the quality of its programming.



We would certainly be open to any offers from any station that would be interested in taking our unique programming as a sustaining service. Celtica Radio has much to give, and let's not forget, my station has been continually broadcasting on the internet since June 2000, so we must be doing something right! It would be nice if we did get a surprise offer, but I won't be holding my breath! Bill Everatt Managing Director - Celtica Radio.

<http://www.celticaradio.com/contactus.html>

And now time for the regular update from the Pirate Hall of Fame

New this month:

- 47 years after Radio Caroline North was towed away, we have unique photos of this sad occasion from the scrapbook belonging to former chief engineer Manfred Sommer;
- the next page of the 'Eighties Supplement' brings us the offshore DJs of that decade with names beginning with N and O;
- there is sad news of the death of Peter Jameson, the host of Radio City's 'Basildon Request Show';
- plus the Radio 270 Top 40s from this month 48 years ago;
- and in the month that offshore favourites Roger Day and Johnnie Walker celebrate their 70th birthdays, there are updates to their 'DJ Spotlight' pages.

Roger and Johnnie aren't the only ones celebrating a birthday this month. The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame will be 15 years old on the 14th March. Thanks to everyone who has supported the site and/or contributed since March 2000. Best wishes, Jon

www.offshoreradio.co.uk

Thanks Jon for the update and congratulation to the sites birthday.

A memory and question from Italy is next in this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. 'Hi, once in a while I have nostalgic memories of a wonderful violin solo version of the American evergreen 'Close you eyes'. I have tried to know something more by writing to Radio Monte Carlo. It seems however that all have lost the memory or even died! The strange thing is that the same, short, violin performance appears in the 1971 movie 'The Abominable Dr. Phibes' Basil Kirchin is shown as the author of the movie music score, but there is no recorded medium (lp, cd or what else) with that tune! Could you anyone help me please? It was played a lot on the old Radio Monte Carlo. Thanking you for your kindness I'm a retired chemical

engineer with many active passions: vintage car radios, old records (looking for The Sound of Pourcel, a double-lp released in Holland) old Turmac cigarette tins and cardboard boxes and many other things. So if you should need something, get in touch with me! All the best dr. Bruno Zappaterra Ferrara, Italy br1vittorio@gmail.com

I wrote already about the bark that brought several people aboard the Mi Amigo just before Eastern 1979. But more people have memories to those days. Let's hear what Albert Hood has to tell us and Albert first is solving a question from last issue:

'Hi Hans I have some news for concerning the John Burch look alike on the 'Once, Twice, Three times a Lady' DVD from 1978. The man in question is Kevin Walker and is from a super 8 home movie and it was the first time we had been invited on board. Both my wife Georgena and I were on that boat trip which I organised out of Brightlingsea, Essex as I did so many times from 1977 till the 1980.

Also going back a couple of months you printed a letter from Garry Tanner, better known on board as Daphne. He spoke about the day, or rather the night, the fuel tender went out from Kent to get the Mi Amigo back on the air that Easter Sunday 1979.

All the crew that went out on that tender were meant to go out from Brightlingsea on Easter Saturday morning but a force 6 to 7 North Easterly was forecast so our Skipper Frank Brown decided it was the best not to go, because if it did come as forecast there was no way we would get alongside. That's if we could make it in them sort of conditions that would be created out there. If it did go North Easterly and get anything near force 6 from that direction it would be impossible.

Peter Chicago and many other English and Dutch DJs and crew were there that morning at, I think, about 4 O'clock.



Crew and deejays on Mi Amigo 1979 Collection: Garry Tanner.

Chicago said that the station had to be on air by midday on the Sunday or the backers would possibly pull out. There was so much gear there to go out it was unbelievable and to put that on our boat and have to turn, could have jeopardised the whole thing. So it was decided to abandon that trip and load all the gear, including food that we had taken, to go out in to all the cars and drive to Kent and go out on the much larger fuel tender as that would have a much better chance of getting out there.

We would not be going and were all a bit disappointed, but it was thought to be the best thing to do. So after about three hours of talking about what was going to happen, we handed the new 963 crystal to Peter as it was given to us for safe keeping a few weeks earlier and would be the first the ship would broadcast on 963 kzs instead of 962. As time the ship was silent all the medium wave frequencies were changed to 9KHz spacing.

Peter said, as he left and providing, he was on the ship by midnight, the transmitter would be on by 8.30 am Sunday morning. That Saturday went very slow and despite going to the roadshow that night, which was at Bishops Stortford Essex, all Robb Eden could say was that the fuel boat had left earlier in the evening and he had no idea whether they would make it.

Georgena and I stayed at the roadshow till the end, which was about midnight and I think we all prayed that the fuel tender was there

but as there were no mobile phones or CB radio at that time, so not communication was possible as we could not use ship to shore radio to communicate as the coast guards were not allowed to take any calls from the Mi Amigo except in an emergencies. We arrived home about 1 O'clock on the Sunday morning with everything crossed that all was going well out at sea. I might tell you it was a sleepless night for all concerned.



Mi Amigo 1979 Photo: Garry Tanner

Then at about 6.30 the phone started to ring; so was this bad or good news? None of us wanted to answer it but I pulled the short straw and had to get out of a nice warm bed to answer it and yes it was good: there was a tone in 963 intermitted at first then steady after about half an hour or so and the power strength was increasing slowly.

Then about 8.30 in the morning the music was heard for the first time from the Mi Amigo since October 1978. And then announcements were starting that regular programs would commence at 12 noon and as we all know it was the late Tony Allen that announced that 'this is the new Radio Caroline broadcasting on 963 Khz', with the first record being 'Fool If You Think It's Over'. I might tell you we were all very happy.

The Brightlingsea boat was booked for Easter Monday and we just could not wait to get out. We all met up in Brightlingsea on Monday morning at 4. The North Easterly force 6 to 7 forecast for the Saturday did not come and the whole of Saturday and Sunday was flat calm, with only a slight swell and the Monday was even better as the swell had disappeared, which meant we were going to have a very pleasant trip which we did. All the gear that would not fit in to the cars and that didn't went to the Kent coast, was now on our boat and heading out to the Knock Deep.'

As we approached the Mi Amigo, some 3 hours after we left Brightlingsea, there was a real electric atmosphere both on the Mi Amigo and on our boat, which was named 'Lucky Lady'. Peter Chicago was on deck the Mi Amigo to welcome use aboard and when asked about his trip out he said all was ok with exception that, when he first switched the transmitter on, there was a big bang. So drying out was needed and all was ok at the second attempt.

So it was a very busy Easter for Georgena and I and even busier for those on the Mi Amigo. I Hope that this of interest to some people and it could fill in lot of gaps in what was going on the Easter weekend. Albert and Georgena Hood.

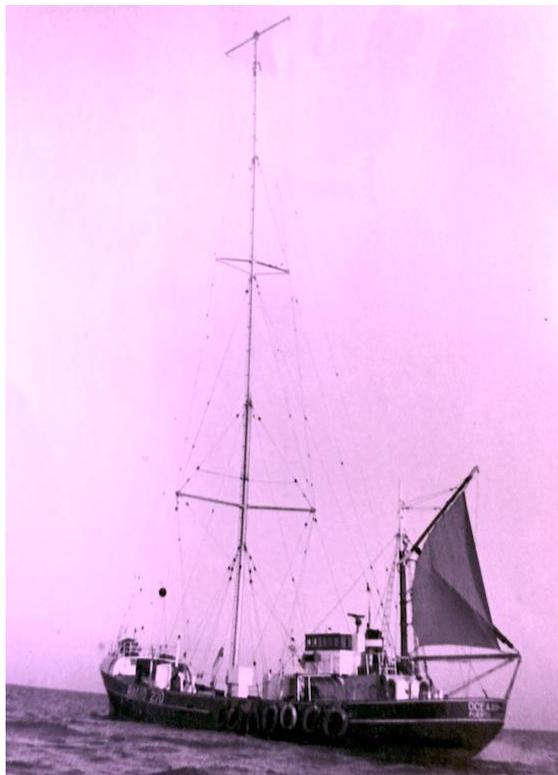


Fun in the galley. Photo: Garry Tanner

Well Albert I must thank you extremely for these memories as they certainly fill gaps in Caroline's history as they've never put on paper before. And you know other memories are always welcome!

Paul Rusling reporting: 'Great news for anyone looking forward to the Radio 270 Tribute station we plan staging in June 2016 - we have got commitment from a major sponsor, which means we now have 40% of the of our costs underwritten and we shall definitely be going ahead. You can sign up to be the first with news about it here:

<http://radio270.net> '



Next week Easter Sunday April 5th., the Free Radio service Holland will take to the airwaves with a regular broadcast on 7700//9335 and 6070 kHz. 'We will commence broadcasting at 10:00 UTC/ 11:00 BST/ 12:00 CEST. For detailed information about the broadcast and a number of fresh 'Latest News' items, please visit our website:

www.frsholland.nl. 73s from all at FRS-Holland

website: www.frsholland.nl e-mail: frs@frsholland.nl

Latest news from Cambridge: This Easter community radio station Cambridge 105 goes back to the golden days of pop radio when the pirates ruled the waves and Caroline was more than just a girl's name.

At 10am on Good Friday (April 3rd) the crew of the Riverboat Georgina will make way for the presenters and engineers from Cambridge 105. They'll take charge of the airwaves in true pirate style as they broadcast from the River Cam in the centre of Cambridge. The event is supported by Lost in Vinyl, the Magdalene Street and online store, which offers a wide range of new release and classic albums, all on newly-pressed vinyl.

With a lofty radio mast in place, modern day technology will bite the dust as they re-discover the joy of 'spinning discs' from yesteryear on the gramophone. They'll cover the pirates' heyday in the 1960s through to their final demise in the early 1990s. On board the Riverboat Georgina ex BBC presenters including Trevor Dann and Mandy Morton will join former pirates Julian Clover and Steve Potter as well as many other familiar Cambridge 105 voices.

In addition to our regular transmissions on 105 FM, thanks to the Amateur-Radio-Club (DARC) you'll also be able to hear the day on 6070kHz shortwave.



The custom-built Georgina normally operates on a stretch of the River that runs from Cambridge through Ely to Denver Sluice, with a license to carry 110 passengers.

And finally: As of next Wednesday April 1 (no joke!), a new independent daily news broadcast will start in both the 49 meter and 41 meter band. Transmitter location will be Kall in the Eifel region in Germany and topics will be mostly DX and ham radio.

At least at the start, bulletins will be in English and Dutch, probably later English only. Time table: a daily bulletin at 1900 CET, (1700 UTC), which will be repeated the next morning at 10.00 CET (0800 UTC)., each bulletin will be 5 minutes long. Frequencies are not completely sure as of now. Most probably is 1700 UTC on 6005 kHz and 0800 UTC on 7310 KHz, possibly the other way round.

That's all for this issue of the Hans Knot International Report. There's so much I couldn't publish in this issue. Already 18 pages for the May-issue are filled. Nevertheless, let them come your memories, questions, photos and more to HKnot@home.nl

I wish you all the best and till next month. Hans Knot