

## Hans Knot International Radio Report June 2015

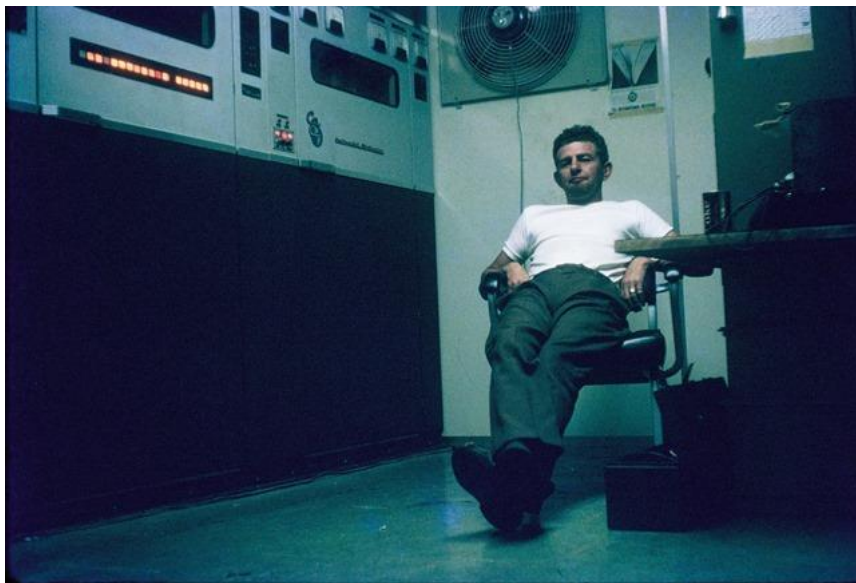
Welcome to the June edition from the International Radio Report and thanks for all the e mails, memories, photos and more. As I mentioned in last issue there were a lot of pages I couldn't add last time so first some reflections which came in during the month of April.

A few reports back we had the memories send in from Australia by John Roberts, who worked as a technician on the Caroline ships in the sixties as well as on the Cheetah 2 and the Olga Patricia. Some weeks ago he came back to me: 'Hi Hans, I received transparencies by mail from my daughter in South QLD. I've got them processed to digital and found some goodness left after all the years. Some are dark and some hard to see face but select what you need.'

Thanks a lot John and all are now on your big archive on Flickr.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157651850930856/>

Here are some of the photos for our readers in the report:



John Roberts in the transmitter room Radio England

Photo: Collection John Roberts



John Roberts with the Ampex recorder on Caroline North

Photo: collection John Roberts



Mike Ahearn Caroline North Photo: John Roberts

Well in name of our readers a big thank you for sharing this wonderful collection of memories in photos John.

Coen Braken mentioned in an e mail that some time ago the Festival of Speed was held at the Goodwoodcircuit in England. There was also attention to the 1965 up till 1983 CanAm series. He saw many cars

including a Lola T-70 in the original colours as well with the original sponsor logo: grey/silver/black with the logo: Big L Radio London 266.' Would love to see a photo of the car!

Herman from Gent loves golden oldies and found a special shop which was opened for the very first time way back in 1932 and it seems it's the oldest record shop in the USA.

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

A second link Herman has sent me is a 8 mm film about Caroline which is very bad quality as if the station was 'in the fog'. However the soundtrack is interesting. The voice over is by Carl Conway and there are some jingles used, which I have never heard on air:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4NinNTkiPE>

Next it's time for a reader from Australia: 'Hans, I liked the story about enterprising Dutch DJs. In the early `70s I was in the North Hulme Amateur Radio Club in Manchester, for which I got printed promotional paper slips, and stuck those into domestic letter boxes. Which I particularly remember inside an apartment blocks wherein the flats contained neurotic, neglected dogs. Which would tear and munch the paper slips as I pushed them through the slit! Bryan in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.' Hopefully you had some readers without those dogs!

If you've time have a latest look on the site from Mary and Chris Payne:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/2012julyon/july2012.html#news>

Sad news from Whitstable:

Staffing shortages hit local FM radio station  
[www.redsandsradio.co.uk](http://www.redsandsradio.co.uk)

Based in the historic harbour at Whitstable, Red Sands Radio originally broadcast from the Offshore Forts and this year is suffering a severe shortfall in staff

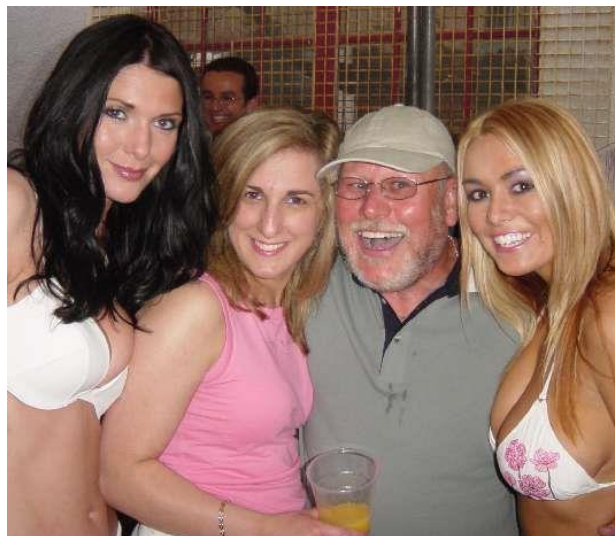
"Red Sands Radio Founder MD and Programme Director Bob Le-Roi said; "With a small core of dedicated key members it's always been difficult to juggle life-work commitments with running Red Sands Radio"

"We strive to achieve a high standard at Red Sands Radio with core daytime programmes hosted by professional broadcasters. However, when they become indisposed or indeed things go wrong we don't have sufficient quality back-up"

"This coupled with a shortfall at weekends; we haven't the resources to provide the quality of service the Coastal Towns expect of us. Consequently with regret, it's unlikely Red Sands Radio will be on-air for its 9<sup>th</sup> successive year in 2015"

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

So sorry to hear this Bob and I hope I can cheer you up with a photo to bring back some memories:





## Bob Le Roi and Jazz FM Laurell Steiner and the Xtraxgirls

So from Kent, where we hope to have another Red Sands Radio in 2016, we go to the London area and see what our regular contributor Ian has to mention: 'Hi Hans, Many thanks for the latest Report. The enquiry about buses used by radio stations for promotional purposes really hit a chord! This is something I've been driving at (!) for probably about 20 years? Since seeing a photograph, in a free radio magazine, showing a bus. Possibly the only one used in the 1970 RNI/Caroline election campaign. The registration number was obscured and although I've seen a couple of clearer photographs of this bus more recently in OEM, I still couldn't read it but about two years ago I discovered it was [FTP 98](#), Portsmouth area.



Photo: Archive Freewave Media Magazine

As a bus enthusiast I'm pretty keen to get more information about this vehicle and any others used by the offshore radio stations. I vaguely remember seeing a couple of photographs of buses used by Veronica and Capital Radio (the original!) It's good to see someone else probably aiming in the same direction! There is a feature in the latest issue of a magazine called Bus and Coach Preservation on buses used for publicity purposes but I was a bit disappointed to see

nothing in this remotely connected with offshore radio! I e-mailed them about a week ago, querying offshore radio use; no reply yet but if I get any more information I'll let you know. I've always felt that there must be someone with this sort of info? Just a case of finding the right contacts!



I was quite excited to read that KBC will be using 1602 kHz. It looks like a classic April Fool story but I first read about it on the [mediumwave.info](http://mediumwave.info) website around 16th March. They expect to start testing an Internet stream in a couple of weeks. Maybe they've started already. I e-mailed the frontier website a couple of weeks ago, hoping they'd sent me the URL, for transferring to the radios, but again no reply so far. If anyone can oblige with this I be grateful. I'm pretty keen to listen to the test transmissions? Old habits die hard! Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

Thanks Ian and hopefully more on this subject soon. Anyone who has memories or answers on question in the report please send them to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

From London we go to Norway and just a short e mail but a lovely memory in a picture. It was sent by Arne Tvedt who wrote: 'Hello Hans. Here are Radio magazines from my own collection. A lot of memories.'



Photo: Arne Tvedt

Next a happy Kees de Kok in the Netherlands: 'Hi Hans, I still appreciate your newsletter and I'm happy this is no longer ending in the spam. I wrote you earlier about my rediscovery of the radio since I discovered DAB. Previously I only received radio through my decoder Ziggo connected to an amplifier. Since ten years I don't have any radio tuner.

Unfortunately the rediscovery of the transistor radio was, how to describe it the best way, based on youth sentiment and does not stand anymore. The pioneering radiostations from my early childhood, 50 years ago, are no more. Radio 5 has its limitations related to music, and for instant you can wait in vain for the music from the south of the country. No Father Abraham, Johnny Hoes, Zangeres zonder Naam and certainly no Belgians lie Will Tura. We



here in Brabant once had a strong bond with this kind of music. I was and I am not a fan of it, but on Radio 5 they do not exist. I once attended Tineke show on Friday, which was fun, but they also cannot play whatever she wants.

My latest discovery is Sonos, two play one speaker which enriches my life. I've discovered there [www.rtlradio.de](http://www.rtlradio.de) Radio Luxembourg and it appears it comes nearest to the music on the old Radio Luxembourg. This station is on for almost the whole day.

A Mac mini connected to my stereo, is giving me all the music I want via Spotify. With Spotify on Sonos I can play whatever I want. The only thing I miss is a Radio Veronica playlist.' Well thanks a lot Kees. It's always nice to know someone is still enjoying a lot of music although not everything can be heard. Keep your reflections coming.



### Another memory from the Freewave Archive

On Facebook I recently posted the next message: '50 years ago the first fanbal was organised by Radio Caroline and was free for all Caroline Club members. Of course seeing the advert back after so many years I asked myself as well as my Facebook Friends if one of them was a club member too?

One of the surprising answers came from Martin Groenhorst. He wrote: 'Yes. I was number one!' Martin is also known as Martin Green, the Dutch deejay on Radio City. More information is on the



internetpages from Offshore Echos:

<http://www.offshoreechos.com/Caroline%2060/accueil.php?id=5>

NME 19-11-1965

**ZOWIE 1**  
**FREE TO ALL CAROLINE CLUB MEMBERS**  
**FIRST RADIO CAROLINE CLUB BALL**  
NEW BRIGHTON TOWER HALL • NEW BRIGHTON • LIVERPOOL  
on DECEMBER 8th. 7-11 p.m.

**MANFRED MANN**  
**YARDBIRDS**  
**BRIAN POOLE AND THE TREMELOES**  
**FOUR PENNIES**  
**PAUL & BARRY RYAN**  
MARK LEEMAN FIVE      THE SUMMER SET  
GARY FARR and the T-BONES      THE V.I.P.s  
RONNIE JONES and the BLUE JAYS

ALL CAROLINE CLUB MEMBERS WISHING TO TRAVEL  
WITH THE GROUPS PERFORMING SHOULD CATCH  
THE 12.20 p.m. TRAIN FROM EUSTON STATION

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To join THE CAROLINE CLUB please complete this coupon and send  
it to the address below together with a 10/- postal order.

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
..... AGE.....

**RADIO CAROLINE CLUB, 6 Chesterfield Gdns., London, W.1**

Let's go back in the past. Every addicted follower from Radio Caroline knows that Belgian investor Sylvain Tack put a lot of money into the station whereby it became possible to bring Radio Mi Amigo on the air on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1974. Also Radio Seagull could be heard and on February 23<sup>rd</sup> the latter one was replaced by the original Radio

Caroline. From that point on Radio Caroline followed the Album Format.

Just a month after Radio Caroline recommenced transmissions a reputable marketing company carried out a survey which stated that 2% of Britain's total population listened to Radio Caroline at night. The survey, conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March 1974, involved asking the following questions: Which radio station(s) do you listen to? Why do you listen to that station? How much do you spend per week on: 1) cigarettes, 2) Drinks, 3) Albums, 4) Make Up and 5) Magazines?

From the results was found out that 65% of the people interviewed regularly bought albums and spent more money a week on purchasing albums than on the other four categories. At the same time a similar survey was conducted in Belgium for Radio Mi Amigo, the daytime counterpart from Radio Caroline. Results from that survey showed that Radio Mi Amigo had four million listeners in Belgium alone and were by far the most popular radio station in that country.

After collating and appraising the above information the Caroline organisation - by the person of Robb Eden - engaged one of Europe's top advertising teams to negotiate and sell air time on Radio Caroline and Radio Mi Amigo. In a press report he stated that an office had been set up in Amsterdam solely for that purpose.

Radio Mi Amigo was at that stage broadcasting in Dutch between 6.00 am and 7.00 pm and in English between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm. Radio Caroline was broadcasting in English between 9.00 pm and 6.00 am. As Radio Caroline filled their nine hours per day solely with Album Music, the Caroline organisation felt it of high importance to send out a press report about the survey as well as about the format.

It was Robb Eden who wrote: 'As you know albums in the record market are taking a vast slice of the sales cake. Many record shops have found it unnecessary to stock singles as costumers become turned on to the joy of owing a high quality disc which can be kept

and played without the hustles of changing the tune everytime. As album sales continue their boom upward Radio Caroline gives you the opportunity to promote your 'album package' in a new way.'

Of course the results of the poll and the success of the Album format were reason enough to attract new advertisers to the station and so the letter went on with: 'Radio Caroline gives the undecided buyer the chance to hear albums and tracks, without the push of a top forty format, and giving them the opportunity to hear old and new artists together.'



So Radio Caroline, ahead in 1964, tried ten years later to break the ice into a then undeveloped radio market in Britain and tried to gain the advertiser in Britain. Of course, due to the Marine Offences Act, it was impossible to British advertisers to legally book airtime and versus loopholes some succeeded to get airtime. Lucky for the Caroline organisation they had a very strong sister station and Radio

Mi Amigo brought in a lot of money into the Caroline organisation to survive,

Never before the mentioned research report from the Caroline organisation was known to me, although the Belgian research was widely published in 1974. Now, in 2015, it came to me in a very big and heavy archive box send to me by Robert Briel. It was send to Veronica in those days and kept for all those years unknown within the inner circle of Caroline followers in the Netherlands and Belgium.

By the way did you know that all the charts from RNI's International Service are listed and can be found free for all at:

<http://www.hitnoteringen.nl/start/radio-northsea-international-uk/>

Surely this is an interesting site to have a look at for those who were regular listeners to, for instant, the Toppers 20. With thanks to Vincent Schriel.

Nest it's Tjerk from the Netherlands who made a visit to Manx Radio last year, from which he reported to us too. Now he told me that he has heard from Chris Williams at Manx, when he was playing a Veronica jingle, that it was Terry Stafford who had made jingles for Veronica too. This is unheard to me before. Tjerk: 'Next he played a record from Elvis, which was written by Terry Stafford.'

Well I presume that he wanted to say that Terry had written a song for Elvis Presley and the same number was used by the late Jack Jersey to make one of the special jingles for Veronica's Elvis Presley day in the seventies. Anyway let's go back to the January the 8<sup>th</sup> 1974 when Jack Jersey could be heard in several jingles he made for the special Elvis Presley day on '538'.

<http://www.mediasite.tv/8%20jan%20is%20elvis%20dag%20op%20538.mp3>



Paul de Haan has not only a love for radio and offshore radio but also for coasters and so he's regularly on the search for pictures we haven't seen before. Lately he discovered a nice colour picture from the Zeevaart, which became Capital Radio (King David) in 1970. Originally it was built in 1938 as the Unitas.



Paul also wrote: There's a new radiostation on internet called Serenade Radio, I think it's as near you can get to the sound of Radio 390.

<http://www.serenade-radio.com/>

When I put this in the 'friends of Radio 390' group David Sinclair reflected with 'It is pretty good'. Of course he worked on Radio 390 and John Ross/Barnard, who was also on 390, wrote:

Good sounds but they clearly have a desperate shortage of instrumental tracks 'out there'. The balance of vocal to instrumentals seems to be 7 vocals to 2 themes. But those presenters sound as though they have never rolled a 45 gallon drum of diesel in their lives'.

David Sinclair: 'I couldn't help but laugh at John's comment about drums of fuel. He has a good point about the ratio of vocals to instrumentals and hopefully, that will change, there has always been a good supply out of Germany for example.'

In the May edition of the International Radio Report it was Burkhardt Nowotny who asked if someone knew who Julian Clover was, a name which was mentioned a month earlier. Well it it's Mike Barraclough giving the answer: 'Hello Hans, interesting report as always. Julian Clover was on Offshore Radio 1584. He is on a video of the station at 4 minutes looking for a request. As the description says it broadcast during August 1992 after the Caroline Movement was granted the first Restricted Service Licence, by the then DTI, to broadcast a music radio station from a vessel anchored not more than a mile off the UK coast. The location of was off Walton on The Naze, Essex. The Caroline Movement also ran a Convention in the Naze Mariner to coincide with the broadcasts. These events marked the 25 years that had passed since the Marine etc. Broadcasting Act was enacted on 14 August 1967. Offshore Radio 1584 - 'Sounding Fine on 189' ran for 28 day from the Caroline Movement vessel the MV Galaxy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4cu06HbqIY>

And yes, after 38 years the RadioDay have new organisers in Jan-Fré Vos, Jan van Heeren and Vincent Schriel. In November they've planned their first one and here's all the information till now. I hope next months some names can be mentioned:

## **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).



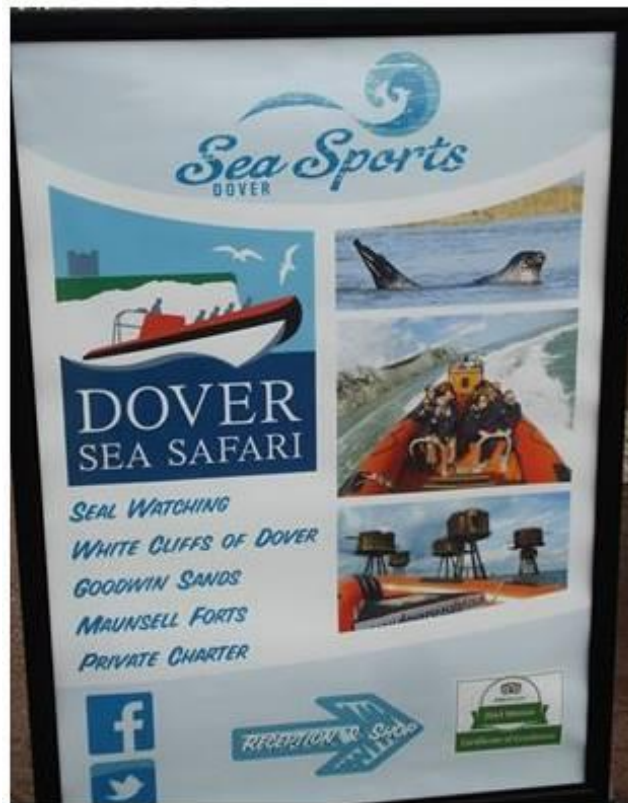
This year, a National Radio Day will be held, focused on the Netherlands and Belgium and thus slightly more limited in scope than in previous years. The interior of Museum RockArt will play an important role. Central item is the restored Radio Veronica studio. Seven well-known radio DJs are asked to 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.

Like the last years Radio Extra Gold will be present at the RadioDay and will broadcast live during the event.

The Radio Day 2015 is made possible by the Internet Radiocafé and Radiotrefpunt.nl There will be regular updates on [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl)

In last issue there was a photo of a bus in Kent showing an advert for Whitstable, including a design drawing of one of the forts. On the day the report was released I found another promotional photo placed by Dennis Boreham on one of the newsgroups on internet. So

if you're in Dover the forthcoming summer you could decide to make a trip out to the forts and more.



In last issue it was Leon Keezer ho wrote about his restoring of movie material from 50 years ago. It was footage from Caroline in 1965 and I know everyone, who has seen it, loved his work. One of the people reflecting on it was Robert Owen from England: 'Dear Hans, Lion Keezer is a star - what a truly gorgeous Caroline '65 sequence. Thanks for this wonderful memento! Best Wishes, Robert "Robbie" Owen.'

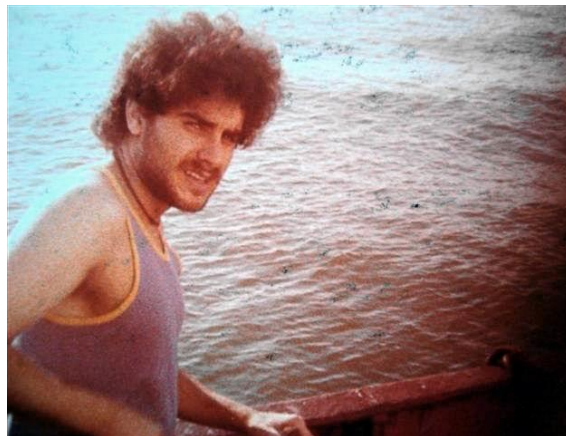
In last issue I wrote about the new book from Mark Wesley and I told you he worked for Radio Scotland in the sixties, of course it must have been Radio Essex/BBMS and Radio 270. Too much names and too much memorable radio stations are going through my mind!

Another topic in last issue of the international radio report brought us to 1979 and 1980 as reader Coen Braken gave his reflections and memories on what he had seen regarding the Mi Amigo, Caroline and more in those days. Of course not everyone agrees with what he had written.



Here for instant an e mail from one of the deejays working on the Mi Amigo in those days: 'Hi Hans, I must write to complain about the comments of Coen Braken regarding the state of the Mi Amigo. His comments about the oil barrels made me laugh; "All those blue oil barrels on deck which were there as no-one had the push to take them in good shelter." I wonder where he would have liked these barrels to be stored, if any of us "had the push" to take them.

My amusement turned to anger though with his comment that one had to watch where you walked for fear of dropping into the North Sea. Absolute rubbish. There was a lot wrong with the old girl but it was never as bad as he describes. We worked hard at maintaining the ship as best we could. The history books, or websites, will never publish the absolute truth because most of the people who were pivotal in keeping the ship at sea have remained silent over the years, maybe through a sense of loyalty to the memory, maybe because there are still people who are ready to criticise the efforts as "not enough". I know that I have had that criticism aimed at me personally over the past few decades.



Bob Lawrence aka Richard Thompson photo: Wout van der Meer

One of the problems with history is that if those who were there don't correct erroneous statements from those who weren't, future generations will never know the truth. With best wishes, Bob Lawrence.'

Well Bob thanks a lot for your response on the report. Of course the report is there to bring the memories from not only those who worked on the stations but also from the Anoraks point of view. And as we know they can be totally different than those from who were there. It's something else when writing books, as I've done a lot. Then you have to try to get to the truth as much possible. And of course I will bring in your reflections into the report.

Next a long interesting e mail from Clive Warner: 'Hello Hans and thanks for the great report! I am nearing completion of my memoirs of the broadcast industry and at the moment am working on my period with Eddystone Radio. This was an interesting time because it was when the great uncontrolled FM 'race' was going on in France, and also when the Community Radio experiment was cancelled by the Thatcher government. If this is relevant to the Radio Report, you have permission to use any of the below.' So here we go with interesting memories from Clive Warner:

'After Incomtel, I went to work for Eddystone Radio. This was a slightly odd arrangement; it was the outgoing MD, Bill Cooke, who brought me in, but he almost immediately became chairman, and effectively, retired from decision-making. My official position was Export Sales Manager, which was interesting because I had no training whatsoever for sales. My actual function was to sell our range of solid-state transmitters, primarily to France, which at the time was in a state of biggest-transmitter-wins-and-to-hell-with-regulations. I decided it would be a good idea to brush up my schoolboy French, and with that, flew over to Paris to meet Monsieur Michel Jutelet, the debonair director of Marconi Instruments (France), our sales outlet in the Republic.

On my first visit, Michel met me at Charles de Gaulle airport (CDG) and as we drove out of the airport through the tunnel, I noticed someone had spray-painted the word "HOOLIGANS" on the arch. "So, you have the word "hooligans" in French now?" I stupidly asked.

"Ah yes. We didn't have a word for that, so we had to use the British one," he replied, subtly putting me in my place as a denizen of the barbarian isle. As we crept around the choking Periferique, sucking on diesel, I could hardly help but notice that dozens of different FM radio stations appeared and disappeared, on the same frequency. One minute we were jiving to reggae, the next minute some weird Moroccan music inflicted itself on us. "So this is normal here in Paris?" I asked.

"Oui! Normal. While the political situation, shall we say, lasts. "A loophole had been discovered in the licensing regulations. The loophole had only been intended to permit the unlicensed operation of tiny transmitters, of a watt or so in power, but in an uncertain political climate, smart operators had taken advantage and as a result, a 'power race' had developed in which the biggest transmitter and highest antenna took the prize.



Indeed, Marconi (my ex employer) had delivered a 20KW valve-output-stage FM transmitter to one such operator, who had installed it in a hotel, with a high-gain antenna perched on the hotel roof. Guests in the top floors probably would find it unnecessary to turn on the heating in their rooms, they'd be getting enough of it directly from the high energy radio waves.

My first visit was just a getting-to-know-you trip. Still, this was the life! I only lived twenty minutes by car from Birmingham International Airport, so I could get my wife to drop me there, jet over to Paris, and catch an evening flight back. All very convenient. Mais oui!

Our transmitters had been designed by the BBC for fixed frequency operation, and used crystal-controlled stereo drives. (An FM transmitter basically consists of a 'drive' and an amplifier.) These weren't ideal for France because if some gorilla set up next door with a bigger rig and higher antenna, on your frequency, you'd simply cease to exist and need to find an alternative frequency in a big hurry. Crystal drives don't lend themselves to that, so I set to work and found a small company, BV Rood, in Holland, that had come up with a solid-state synthesised FM exciter, or drive. It could rapidly be set to any desired frequency, it was solid state and compact, it sounded good, and above all, it wasn't terribly expensive.

I persuaded the management to make a deal with Rood and I put together their drive with a 15-watt amplifier and called it the XE-15 drive or low-power transmitter. Then, based on the BBC amplifiers, we made a 250-watt transmitter in a portable 19 inch rack.

I took this to the Antenne 'broadcast and disco' show in Paris (a strange pair of bedfellows) and sneakily cut some holes in the coaxial cable that connected the transmitter to the resistance load, so allowing it to radiate sufficient power to cover the conference hall with our own broadcast. At the same time I arranged with one of the local French studio suppliers to take an audio feed from their setup, so we had our own local station broadcasting from the event. Unofficially of course.





Clive at the desk in Paris Photo collection Clive Warner

Antenne was a cool show and made especially so by the crazy mixture of disco equipment and radio broadcasting. Your mobile studio, that took hours to put together and is even now doing a local program, is suddenly blotted out by a dense white cloud from the next stand's fog machine. It was all blasting music, strobes, fog, intense beams of coloured light piercing inexplicably pitch black zones, Andy on the MBA stand, Bill the Marconi sales guy, probably there to check up on exactly what the fuck the Eddystone export sales manager was doing over there. I was enjoying myself that was what I was doing.

At one point I found myself passing a stand showing, well, I can't remember; all I do remember is that there were two topless attractive young women on it, in body paint. I asked if I could take a photo and the next minute I was on stage with them while someone else took a photo of the crazy British visitor. I suspected that they had taken me as a representative of the Media. This was not far from the truth as I had promised a British industry publication a review of Antenne.

The most memorable 'field trip' had to be the installation of a 10KW Marconi (valve output) transmitter in a ruined monastery on the top of a mountain near Nice. I was merely required to act as the company's representative, basically to hold the customer's hand and advise them how to install it and make it work. Or, more fundamentally, to be there so as to have someone to complain to, when it didn't work.

We flew into Nice airport and then the customer drove us up a steep mountain, stopping in the parking area of a zoo. We then walked through the zoo, which was in its off-season and therefore empty of tourists. The lions and tigers certainly took quite an interest in us as we went past their cages. Monkeys reached through the bars trying to pinch items from us. Then we climbed up the hill, to a crumbling stone ruin, so high that we were in a thick, clinging mist (cloud).

Stepping carefully around an oubliette that plunged five metres into a rubble-choked cellar, I discovered the transmitter, a Marconi 10KW (valve) unit, in the next room. It's a substantial transmitter and not the kind you generally discover in ruined monasteries.

Condensation was running down the walls. A chunky three-phase power cable led off down the hill, presumably to some outlet in the zoo. From the ceiling dangled the one-and-five-eighths-inch coaxial antenna cable.

I stepped forward and without thinking took hold of the antenna cable and its flange termination, and was about to begin bolting it to the transmitter output socket, when I received a violent electric shock. My arm muscles went into spasm and I hurled the cable away in reflex.

"You have earthed this transmitter?" I asked, looking around for a tell-tale copper earth strap, or cable, connected to the metal frame. There seemed to be none. "Earthed? No, is that necessary?" In reply I walked outside and gazed up, where the antenna mast rose into the clouds... clouds filled with yellow flashes of lightning. I had offered myself to the lightning god like a modern day Benjamin Franklin.'

I should think I will be another 3 months finishing the book after which, if I haven't found an agent, I will publish it through my own imprint, Citiria Publishing. Regards Clive Warner.'

Thanks a lot Clive for sharing this chapter with our readers and of course let me know when the book will be for sale so I can give it another plug!

From Mexico, where Clive is working and living, we go over to the east coast of the USA and a surprising mail from someone I met for the first time way back in 2006 on a very early morning breakfast, together with Graham Gill and Rob Olthof. Here is what Rick Crandell, known as Rick Randell on Swinging Radio England in the sixties, wrote to me: 'Hi Hans, It has been quite a few years since I touched base with you. Nice to see your picture on your website in the Radio England T-Shirt I gave you in Amsterdam in 2006. Quite a bit has happened since then, beginning with formal retirement from the working world about 6 years ago.

Most of my time since has been devoted to my on-line streaming website - [www.MusicTampaBay.com](http://www.MusicTampaBay.com) - featuring all original music by local Tampa Bay artists exclusively. I am blessed with some Steve England jingles to give the programming a professional sound. Also use computer generated voices to a large extent to simplify my production efforts as a one-man radio station operating 24 hours a day. I regularly produce and schedule special programs like a feature that runs annually on the anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York in 2001, and another annual feature commemorating a more local disaster, an out of control oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that occurred 5 years ago.



In fact, I am currently running songs from the oil spill show in a feature called 86 days, observing the length of time it took to stop the oil from gushing up from the floor of the gulf and causing damage still being felt today here in Florida and along the gulf coast.

I thought I'd also bring you up to date on a new project which I expect to result in the launch of a new local FM radio station featuring programming based on my 10 year website format. I've been granted a permit by our federal government (the FCC) to broadcast at 96.7 FM here where I live in St Petersburg. I'm currently putting together a studio in a local performing venue where local artists appear regularly, and will be doing weekly live broadcasts from there. My engineers are also preparing to install our transmitter and antenna equipment, though I have a few legal technicalities to work out that have that temporarily on hold. I did not expect to be doing something like this in my old age, but when the opportunity came up, it was something I just could not resist.

My home in Florida is immediately adjacent to the shore line of Tampa Bay, a large inlet off the Gulf of Mexico that divides St Petersburg from the city of Tampa. In fact, my view of the water includes a shoreline on the far side of the bay, about 4 miles away, that often reminds me of the view of the shore from the deck of the Olga Patricia, aka Laissez Faire when we were in England. There is also a large port in Tampa where ships come and go daily, passing between where I sit and the distant shoreline. Each time a ship passes by, heading out into the gulf, or coming in to the port, I cannot help but look closely, on the almost impossible chance that the old Olga Patricia may still be working these waters.



Rick Crandell, Hans Knot and Graham Gill in Amsterdam 2006

Photo: Rob Olthof

Quite by surprise one day when I was in Tampa and near the port, I did see what I guess was one of the duplicate vessels that were built around the same time as Olga. But after a close inspection, I concluded it was not the one on which I crossed the Atlantic in 1966, heading for Lisbon and eventually the North Sea. I hope that sister ship comes by this way again someday. I'd like to take a closer look and maybe get a picture or too. Its similarity to Olga was striking.

My wife, Joy, and I travel quite a bit and visit Europe every now and then. I would love to see you again someday. If you are ever in Florida, I hope you will let me know. We have not been to one of your Radio Days events yet, so maybe that is a possibility. Richard (Rick Randall) Crandall, WMTB 96.7 FM PO Box 11874 St Petersburg Florida 33711 USA. 727-455-8848 (voice or text).'

Well Rick wonderful to see an e mail with interesting update and good to see you're still active in the radio world. Hope the FM outlet will be successful too. Good memories to nine years ago on the early morning visit in Amsterdam and of course when there's time to meet up again we will do it again. Best greetings, to Joy too.



The next one comes from Chris Brisland and interesting to visit: 'Although it's only a bit of fun, I would appreciate it if you could include this in your next report. May, 2015 marks a triple anniversary for me - 10 years of being a radio collector, 4 years since the dearly missed Lady Julia Leigh Golding helped me set up the said my Wireless of the Week Facebook page, and 21 years since I became an anorak! To mark the occasion I have compiled a top ten of wireless sets, in a chart-type rundown based loosely on the style of the late great DJ Sir Alan 'Fluff' Freeman. This too is now on my Wireless of the Week Facebook page, which for people who don't know accompanies e-mails which I regularly send into the Keith Skues show on BBC Eastern Counties radio on the subject of vintage radio sets. People who are on Facebook can get weekly updates from this page by clicking the like button, as well as posting comments, and details and photos of their own radio collections. People who are not on Facebook can view the page read-only by following this link <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wireless-of-the-Week/226227664055040> where my just for fun countdown can now be read!



**One of the many old time radios on Chris his pages**

Again a wonderful video edit from Alex Hoek. This time he brings us two visits to the Ross Revenge on 10-08-1988 and 05-06-1989. You will see action at Radio Caroline, Radio 558 and Radio 819. With Radio Caroline and Radio 558 deejays in August 1988: Frank Peterson, Ad

Roberts, Colin Peters, Michael Grant, Nigel Harris, Chris Kennedy, Judy Murphy, Neil Gates, Andy Bradgate, Ellie van Amstel, Walter Simons, Miriam Verhoef, Pete McKenzie, Wim van Egmont, Nick Jackson, Dave the Fish - who did tendering on his small fishing boat the Fairwind from Ramsgate and other harbours in Kent, Also you will see Peter Chicago and Fred Bolland and the team of Offshore Echos Magazine, consisting of Chris Edwards, François Lhote and Robert Magniez.

Finally you will see Mike Davis, who filmed most of the footage. Also he worked under the name Mike Dixon, had a nickname 'Coconut' and worked for Caroline as well as the Voice of Peace. His real name, by the way, is Mike Kerlake. Of course there is a soundtrack with jingles, commercials and airchecks from all three stations. Again a tape from the archives of Martin van der Ven.

Airchecks to be heard are with: Ad Roberts, Colin Peters, Ellie van Amstel, Mike Davies, Erik Beekman, Chris Kennedy and Judy Murphy.  
<https://youtu.be/UP68IL1Uvuo>

Now we have news from Spain: 'Hello all, great things are waiting for you from the 1st of June. Radio Mi Amigo welcomes Bruno Hantson and Lion Keezer aboard the team, joining our Sunday schedule.

Both have more than 30 years radio-experience between them. Lion was aboard the Mi Amigo off the Dutch coast in the early 70s' working on the Dutch service of Radio Caroline. His programme on Radio Mi Amigo International is called "Hello To The World" and will be aired on Sundays from 9am and 1pm CET.

Bruno worked for several of the early land-based pirates in the early 80s in Belgium and France. His programme is called "Bruno's Soul Box" and will be aired on Sundays from 8am and 12 midday CET.

More details on our website: [www.radiomiamigointernational.com](http://www.radiomiamigointernational.com) and click on the shortwave- and DJs-pages.'

Recently part 6 from the History of the DJ series, produced by Tony Prince and his team was released on you tube. And it is a must to see as it goes into the sixties with subtitle: 'The Pirates part one'.

Let you surprise with beautiful views from offshore stations in the sixties and new interviews. I've watched it with much interest and only found one little historic mistake. It was around 7 min and 30 seconds that Tony told about another radioship in Greenore, the one from Radio Atlanta. He then told in the narration that it was the former Radio Syd ship. Of course this was not the case as the MV Mi Amigo was formerly Radio Nord of the Swedish coast.

I had Tony promised to have a serious view on part 6 and so I wished him a lot of success after mentioning how I loved the special with only one small mistake. Tony came back to me with: 'Thanks Hans, you are encyclopaedic! Thanks for your review. I'm pleased I only erred once! I can't change this now, re-recording and rendering is a complicated job. Please apologise for this in your newsletter and I'm happy for you or anyone to comment on this beneath the film.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMfwyGK\\_AmI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMfwyGK_AmI)



Well let's take a dive in the photo archive and show you a photo of one of the former Radio Syd radio ships.



Cheetah II, in use for the Caroline organisation in 1966. Photo: Carl Thompson

In last issue I informed the readers that the Emperor Rosko could be heard soon on Radio Mi Amigo. It was officially announced by the organisation in Spain. Of course they were very happy they could program the 'LA Connection'. But some days afterwards a message was received in name of the Emperor.

'Hi Hans: It is with deep disappointment that I need to report that most unfortunately, Paul Newman of Radio Mi Amigo has received an apology from Emperor Rosko's distributor that he will not be able to launch Emperor Rosko's excellent weekly show, LA Connection on Radio Mi Amigo on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, as had been previously posted on the various social media and also in your latest very informative International Report.

The reason given is that the SW station, Mi Amigo is on a frequency too close to another station already on SW, which is a long standing broadcaster of THE EMP's shows. Needless to say, this is a huge disappointment to Paul Newman who, as a big fan of Emperor Rosko,



was really happy when first advised that he could broadcast this show by Rosko. I wish Paul and all others on Mi Amigo every success despite this sad news for them. Best regards. Sherri Lynn.'

Thanks Sherri and hopefully better news from LA soon. I couldn't find a photo from the Emperor crying so I decided to take one from his days in France, interviewing Johnny Halliday.



Photo: Collection Emperor Rosko

Also a regular in the International Radio Report is Jon from the Pirate Hall of Fame: 'Hi, I have just carried out the monthly update to The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New this month:

- Two more pages of Radio 390 photos courtesy of former station record librarian, Peter Berkeley;
- offshore memorabilia from the collection of Radio City's Peter Jameson;
- a correspondent sheds some light on a mysterious reference to a gig in Tunbridge Wells contained in Carl Mitchell's papers;
- we link to photos of Jimi Hendrix with a Caroline bell;



- there is news of a tribute to 'Daffy' Don Allen, a novel written by former offshore DJ Mark Wesley (aka Mark West), and an exhibition about land-based pirate radio opening in London;
- and we have another Radio 270 Top 40, this one from 7th May 1967.

More next month. <http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/>

Last month it was Leon Keezer who wrote about his edit work from movie material regarding offshore radio ship in 1965. You can see his work on the next link: <https://youtu.be/MI7ZL76XPts>

We got reflections and one came from Australia about the Leon Keezer production. It's from Bryan in Australia: 'WoWWWW! History was one of my weakest subjects in high school. I just couldn't see the merit of learning battles, kings and third-world conditions! But this video brings the past to life. Well done, all. Bryan Kilgallin'.

Another upload by recently on internet is: Radio Veronica Memories, super 8 amateur footage by Rob Olthof. From the Martin van der Ven archives: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lr8M0NojCrI>

Some plans are made again for the Redsands Forts, as a recent received press report suggests: 'The Redsand Forts were built in 1942 for anti-aircraft defence in the Thames Estuary. There are seven forts, originally with interconnected steel platforms; six forts with mounted guns arranged in a semicircle around the control centre with one being used as a searchlight tower.

During WW2 the forts guns shot down many aircraft and flying bombs. In the late 1950s the MoD decommissioned the site. In the 1960s various forts were re-occupied and used as pirate radio stations. Since then it appears the Forts have been unused and lying idle.

At the end of 2014 I was asked by Project Redsand Trust to try to help do something to make use of the Forts, instead of letting them slowly deteriorate and no doubt eventually fall under the sea. I came up with the idea of a Hotel/Leisure/Museum complex. I approached Architects and, to their enormous credit, they have given up a lot of time at their own expense to complete first drawings of a Proposal for my idea. I set out those drawings for all to see and comment upon.

If the Proposal proceeds after all consents have been obtained from the relevant authorities we would achieve more or less exactly as set out in the drawings. It is proposed to have both Hovercraft and Helicopter access and egress to the Redsand Forts and I am currently negotiating this provision.

I would welcome any comments and/or bright suggestions from anybody having an interest in seeing the Redsand Forts put into valuable use after lying unused for over 40 years. Contact me by email at [david@operationredsandforts.com](mailto:david@operationredsandforts.com)

[www.operationredsandforts.com](http://www.operationredsandforts.com)

Recently some readers asked me if something was known about the situation around Ronan O'Rahilly and so I asked Andy Archer, from who I know he had contact with one of Ronan family members, if he could bring us some news: 'Hi Hans, I have just put the telephone down after having a long chat with Ronan. I'm happy to tell you he was in very good form and full of humour. We spent a lot of time talking about the Mi Amigo and some of the disc jockeys that worked for Radio Caroline. At one stage I told him Johnny Jason sends his best wishes and he replied: "Thats nice." I then told him Charlotte Ribbelink sends her love too and he said "That's even nicer!" He is being very well looked after by his girlfriend Ines and a carer, who visits three times a week. Andrew Dawson (Andy Archer).'

Thanks a lot Andy to get in contact with him and for bringing the information to the readers. And of course a happy birthday to Ronan, who celebrated on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, becoming 75 years of age.



**Ronan O'Rahilly in early seventies: Archive Freewave**

Next request time from Robert in England and a quick answer from Albert Hood: 'Hi Hans, I really enjoyed the memories that Albert and Georgina shared in a recent report regarding the events of Easter 1979. I wonder if you could ask them if they could write something about their stay on the Mi Amigo as 'Fred and Freda' over Christmas 1979? That was a memorable time and I am seem to recall Albert telling me many years ago that during a storm on the 27th December they had a near disaster with water coming to the engine room again. Kind Regards Rob James.'

Albert Hood: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for forwarding me a copy of a email sent to you from Rob James concerning our Christmas spent on the Mi Amigo in 1979. If James hang on I am hoping to have a book out next year with all details in it concerning that era from 1977 to the sad loss of her in 1980, he will then be able to read all about it in my own words.'

The book will cover all my involvement in the last years of the Mi Amigo it will tell stories of things that I was involved in be it the closing down in 1978 and all that off air period till her return in March 1979.

This book will hopefully be followed by one covering all the stories about Caroline's return that were appearing in the newspapers and on the media and of course the coming of the Ross Revenge up to today, but it all takes time and hopefully I will stay well enough to complete them both. All the best from Albert and Georgena, aka 'Fred en Freda'.

Next news from Bart Serlie: 'Here is something for your International Radio Report. I am convinced that with so many readers more then a handful of them will be interested in (parts of) the following. Between last Ascension Day and the Saturday after Jan Berg (KFM), Sietse Brouwer, Richard de Bruin, Martin Goedhart, Wim de Groot (KFM), Floor van der Marel, Bart Serlie (KFM) and Jan Smits have been working on the Jenni Baynton. During that period several issues were picked up. Most of all the hours were spent on the lower part of the helicopter deck, which is now red for the greater part. To watch the radio lightship [www.radiolichtschip.nl/](http://www.radiolichtschip.nl/) from a distance in Harlingen at this moment click on:

[www.webcam-harlingen.nl/pages/cameras/zuiderpier.php](http://www.webcam-harlingen.nl/pages/cameras/zuiderpier.php)

While much work was done several workers on board had tuned their radios to 1602 kHz (in old money 187 meter). There were also crew members listening in their cabin, where most stayed for two nights. The signal (from the transmitter below deck) was enormous strong on our radios, because it was radiated from the main mast on board. That the signal came from the Jenni Baynton was necessary due to a power break at the location of the landbased AM 1602 transmitter in Pietersbierum.



Photo taken by Bart Serlie

On the picture above you see Wim De Groot (former programme director of Radio Mi Amigo 272) sledging on the helicopter deck of the Jenni Baynton. He will be the first on air (FM 97.4) on Kennedy FM from Kortrijk (Belgium) on the 8th July next. From then on there will be 5 days of broadcasting with many items about Radio Northsea International and much more. Some of the original deejays will join and also others (much more than the three above mentioned with KFM behind their name) will be part of it. Ment TV [www.menttv.be/](http://www.menttv.be/) will pay attention to this special broadcast.



In June 2015 there will be streaming audio tests of Kennedy FM. Then the stream can be found via [www.miamigo40.be/nl/](http://www.miamigo40.be/nl/), where you can also find more about KFM. The transmitter will be situated at the Kennedy Hotel in Kortrijk and the studio will be in or nearby the



Bijenhof in Bissegem. All the best to you, Jana and the readers of your great International Radio Report, Bart Serlie (The Floating Dutchman; [abcd.fam@gmail.com](mailto:abcd.fam@gmail.com) Zoetermeer (Sweet Lake City).

Also good news from today's Radio Caroline and a press report from May 4<sup>th</sup>: 'Many people, of a certain age, still associate Radio Caroline with the pop music of the 60's and 70's. So today we are launching a new stream Caroline Flashback to provide an alternative service for our loyal and new listeners, who want to hear popular tracks from this era. Hear our new specially produced jingles and the familiar Radio Caroline sixties sounds.

We are very pleased to have Roger Day back on Caroline Flashback, with his daily show, weekdays 4 - 6 pm. Also the highly rated Stafford's World Flashback Specials with Mark Stafford, returns every Tuesday at 6pm. Caroline Flashback also will give Radio Caroline listeners a chance to hear again our specialist programmes: Americana, Elvis Hour and Dell Richardson's Good Rocking Tonight. Completely new shows are also being planned, featuring artists of the era.

We would love to hear your reactions to this new trial service with suggestions and constructive criticism. Please leave comments at feedback at [feedback@carolineflashback.co.uk](mailto:feedback@carolineflashback.co.uk) or just sit back and enjoy! The player is linked to on the website message.

<http://radiocaroline.co.uk>

It's a must to listen too. My compliments goes to the makers of this new service. Like mostly also this month a lot of material couldn't be mentioned and so that goes on the shelf for further issues. We don't forget you! Well that rounds up another Hans Knot International Radio Report. Summer is coming up next so I will slow down a bit and the next edition of the report will be a combined July/August edition, as I produce every year around that time. In the meantime keep sending your questions, photos, memories and many more. The address for that is [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

In the meantime all the best and take care, Hans Knot