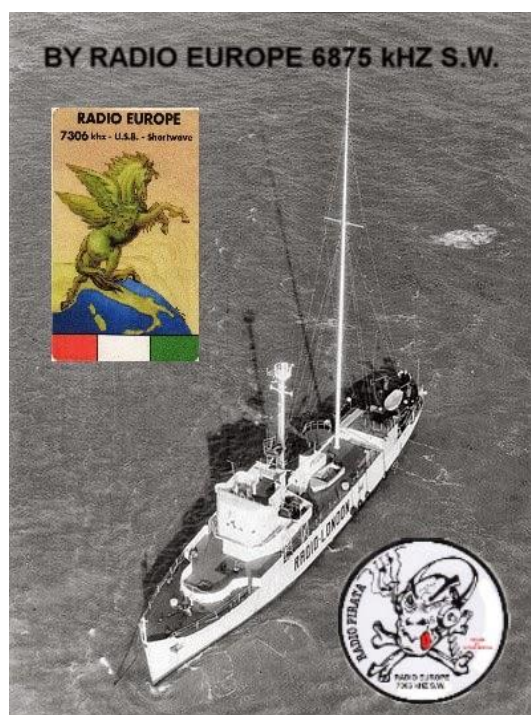


## Hans Knot International Radio Report July-August 2015

Welcome to the summer 2015 edition of the Radio Report. As told in the last issue it will be a combined issue for the month of July and August and the next one will not be published before the end of August. Well a lot of e mails were coming in during the past weeks and like always I will publish as much as possible with your memories, photos and more. Also I will include again a chapter of the book 'The wet and wild history of Radio Caroline'.

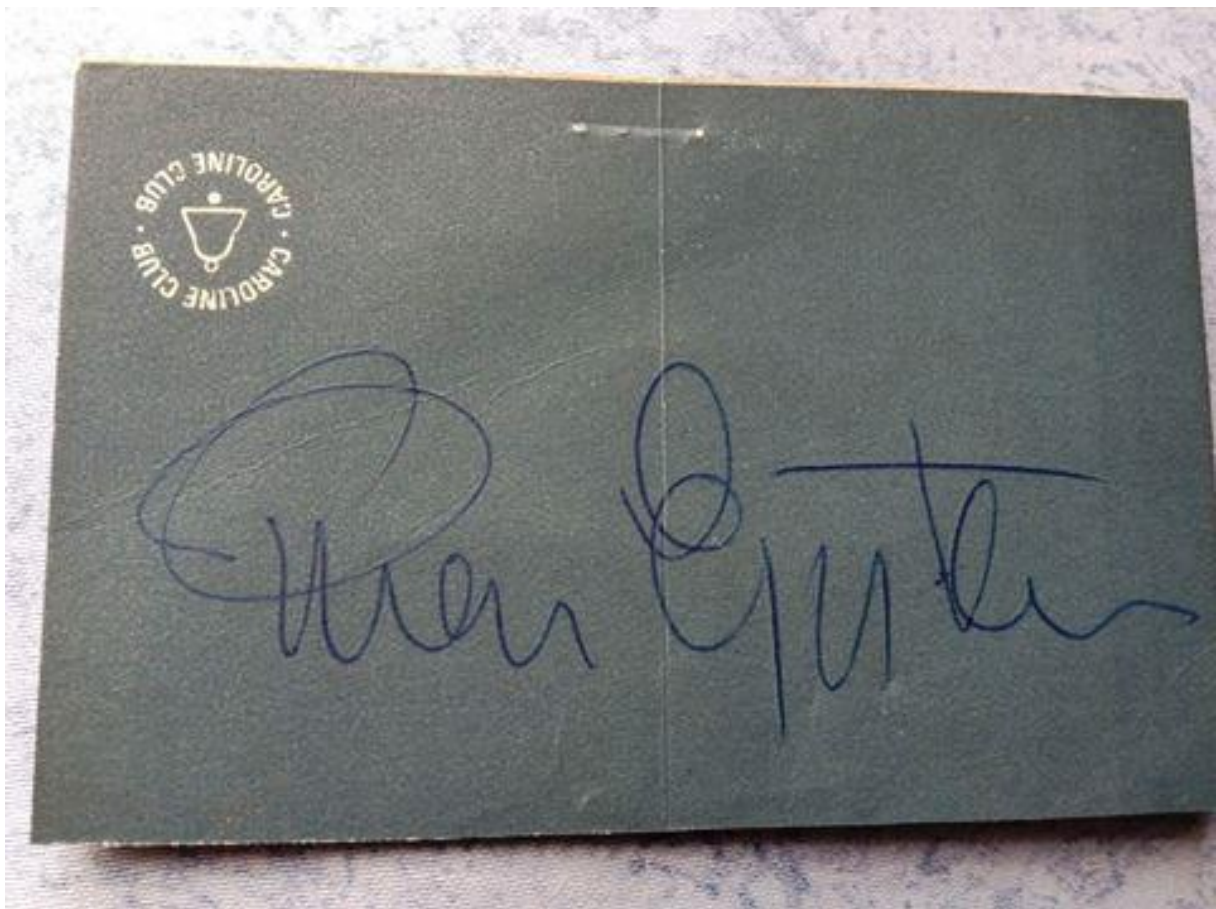
We start this time with an email from Belgium. 'Hans, lately I received a QSL card from Radio Europa, which is a land based pirate station from Italy. The transmission is on 6875 kHz. On the QSL card is a photo of the MV Galaxy, the radioship used by Radio London in the sixties. Ge Huijbens.'



Thanks Ge for the QSL card. Nice for the collectors but I doubt if the idea to walk away with the Galaxy is such a good one for Radio Europe!

Recently it was Jan van Heeren from the Netherlands who informed me that there was an interesting item for sale on e-BAY. It's a membership card from the Caroline Club in the sixties. On the card was a signature from Brian Epstein. At the moment Jan sent me the link the price was 675 Pounds

[http://www.ebay.com/itm/BRIAN-EPSTEIN-THE-5TH-BEATLE-AUTOGRAPH-1965-RADIO-CAROLINE-HOW-MANY-ARE-LEFT-/301589943641?pt=LH\\_DefaultDomain\\_3&hash=item4638295559](http://www.ebay.com/itm/BRIAN-EPSTEIN-THE-5TH-BEATLE-AUTOGRAPH-1965-RADIO-CAROLINE-HOW-MANY-ARE-LEFT-/301589943641?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_3&hash=item4638295559)



In 1958 three Matt Monro singles appeared on Fontana: the first on 78 only, the latter two on 78 and 45. These sides were reactivated in 1969 for the awesomely titled "Tony Blackburn Meets Matt Monro" LP, which also drew on the mid-Sixties recordings of that budding DJ. Changes in popular music trends and two unsuccessful recording contracts saw Matt's career at low ebb. Only the payments from his famous Camay soap TV advert and the encouragement of his second

wife, Mickie, kept Matt from discontinuing his singing ambitions.



This time I've two new nicknames which were heard while listening to old radio show from the offshore days. On RNI it was Jason 'Nightman' Wolfe, who worked only a short time on the International service. In 1976 Tony Allen was again for a period on the MV Mi Amigo, presenting programs for Radio Caroline. In those days a female presenter did some very relaxing night-programmes. Samantha Dubois became 'Lady Samantha' by Tony Allen.



Sometimes I really find some surprising listings in the so called Hobby Pirate lists. Recently I found one in an archive which was given to me for research. The 'DDXLK Hobby Pirate List' was issued four times a year, in February, May, August and November and the issue I found was the November one from 1983. Nowadays you find those listings free on the internet but in those days you could take a subscription for 2 IRC each number or 7 for all the four each year. DDXLK stood for the Danish DX Lytter Klub, which was grounded in Aarhus Denmark. Till today this DX Club still consist.

Of course this is just one of the many DX Clubs from those days which tried to bring everytime an update which stations were heard from which country an which frequency and more. It's nice to see in the listing that more than 30 years ago certain hobby-pirates used a name related to offshore radio, like some internet radiostations do nowadays. I found in the mentioned bulletin stations like Radio Atlantis Shortwave, Britain Radio International, BBMS, Radio Caroline International, Radio Delmare, Radio Mi Amigo, RNI and more.



One station listed in the category Hobby Pirates however was an official organisation in the Netherlands, whereby religious programmes were send to hobby pirates. Radio Foundation was at the Vijverweg in Bloemendaal, near Haarlem in the Netherlands. Dutch name was 'Radio Stichting Bloemendaal' and listeners to the religious programmes from Dutch offshore stations like Capital Radio, Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Monique the address is well known as Vicar

Toornvliet and later Vicar van Gendt were connected to this Foundation.

Another video edit from Alex Hoek: This footage is not new, but this time in a reasonable good quality. It shows ITV footage of RNI, Radio Northsea International, from the seventies. At the end also some material of The Norderney and Radio Veronica about the fire bomb incident.

04/03/1970 The start of RNI

24/06/1970 Interference at Walton on Naze coastguard

15/04/1970 Government jamming of RNI

29/03/1971 The start of independent local commercial radio stations

15-16/05/1971 The fire on board on the Mebo II and interviews with Veronica staff and owner Bull Verweij Again material from the Martin v.d. Ven archives.

<https://youtu.be/GshQFeVwGIs>

Sometimes also some very short e mails are in the mailbox like the next one from Ger Lammens: 'Just received your new international radio report. I enjoyed the videos which were mentioned. Pure magic. I just wanted to tell you that.' Ger Lammens worked on Radio Monique in the eighties as Gert van der Zee.

Next an e mail from the USA: 'Hans, not sure this article is of any interest but since they mention pirate radio, it might be worth reading, eh? Have a good weekend. AJ Janitscheck.

<http://www.dailynk.com/english/read.php?cataId=nk00100&num=13228>

Another former offshore radio deejay is joining the email list, which is Wim de Groot. He was working for Radio Mi Amigo 272, way back in 1979. He wrote: 'Very nice to read the report. Have a look at the attachment. A pity my time in offshore radio was so short. With best greetings Wim de Groot.' And as you can see beneath there is a photo Wim took during his time on Radio Mi Amigo 272.



And talking about photos, the next one was sent by another reader. Who is that as a Tommy Rivers lookalike?



Glenn Arnold has sent the photo on the same day Laser 558 got on the air for the first time 31 years ago!

Next one is also really interesting. I've listened to the program and advice everyone to do so: 'Hello Hans, I'm putting my Revival show

for Don Allen on my Sound cloud, if anyone missed the programme, it is available here until the end of August.

<https://soundcloud.com/tags/radio%20caroline%20north>

Regards Kenny Tosh.'

On June 9<sup>th</sup> the maestro of the happy Sound, James Last, died at the age of 86. In offshore radio also some of his compositions are used as tune or filler. Reader Jan Sundermann from Germany has sent me his memories to Hans (James) Last: 'In the obituaries published on the late James Last, he is honored as the inventor of the "go-go" sound and a major representative of easy listening music. Yes, he was a great musician, composer and band leader of his own orchestra.

He appeared much in German TV shows of ARD and ZDF, then being alone as the public channels. But he kept his independence and made his own thing, and was not fix associated with a tv broadcaster as were the big bands of Paul Kuhn ( a great jazz musician!) with ARD or Max Greger with ZDF. In the radio here at time in the early 70s , in programmes like WDR2 from Köln, they very often played also such instrumental versions of known top 40 hits. In that case of WDR then it was their own big band under conductor Werner Müller. That was a nightmare. We mainly wanted to hear the original records and interpreters! These were also played, I must admit, in a daily show at early evening.





The 'gogo sound' LPs of James Last consisted of some of his own compositions, but mainly instrumental versions of actually popular top 40 songs. And these titles were non stop in a row, sometimes only a 'typical party noise' shortly mixed in between for transition. These 'gogo' sound LPs started already in the mid-60s and I wonder who influenced whom? Was there first the 'gogo' radio programming format as like on WABC and later Veronica? Or the orchestral 'gogo' sounds like from the late James Last? Jan Sundermann'.

Anyone who wants to discuss the 'go go' sound with Jan, just e mail at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next a photo from Bert Verweij which brings us back to early 1960 when the studios from Radio Veronica at the Zeedijk in Hilversum were isolated which egg-trays.



In one of the last issues it was Burkhard Nowotny who asked if I knew Julian Clover, who was mentioned in another report. Well we found Julian who wrote: 'Hi Burkhard, How are you? So to my pirate past, I was involved in assorted land based stations in the 1980s and 1990s, but sadly never made it onto the pirate ships, given my age Caroline or Voice of Peace would have been the only option.

On Short Wave I used to be heard on stations including Britain Radio and WFRL. But I did manage to broadcast at sea from the Caroline



Movement's Offshore Radio recreation in (I think) 1991. There's some YouTube clip of me somewhere. For the last four years now I've been with Cambridge 105, hence the pirate adventure on the River Cam. Regards Julian Clover.'



I've forwarded the answer to Burkhard, who came back with: 'I was not sure if he is the British media journalist that I know for a long time. I was lucky to listen to most of the pirates since 1964/65. And I visited Veronica for the first time in 1968 in Hilversum. Later again: Robert Briel etc. In the summer 1973 I was off the coast of Scheveningen to see Radio Caroline, Veronica and RNI. Pity that the weather was quite stormy, so we could not go on board.'

Many years later during my Deutsche Welle time I met in Auckland someone from Radio Hauraki who gave me a book called: 'The Shoestring Pirates': Derek Lowe." And some remarks that it is the same Julian Clover that I know for a long time.

In the early 90th Joop Daalmeijer (Veronica) and I for Deutsche Welle agreed that we do a TV coproduction together in both countries: Veronica TV asked young people in Germany on their opinion on the Netherlands and DW-TV did the same in the Netherlands on Germany. Both productions were shown on both channels, DW even worldwide. And it was also seen in Germany on ARD-TV.

It was a time when a Clingendael study showed growing problems between Germany and the Netherlands. Joop agreed also that the Dutch radio programme of DW was rebroadcast in the Netherlands on Veronicas Nieuws Radio. Greetings Burkhard'.

Of course a big thank you to Julian as well as to Burkhard for sharing us the memories. And yes, two people finding each other back by the power of the Hans Knot International Radio Report.

## 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)

Now we go to Sweden and Per Alarud: 'Many thanks for the latest radio report. It's amazing what a lot of material that there is out there, which has not been seen earlier in the offshore radio history. I'm, however, a little bit disappointed, that you can't spell the name correct on the Radio Syd ships! It's simply Cheeta and not Cheetah. This is the old Cheeta:



Both photos collection Per Alarud

So far I've not been able to find out where the name *Cheeta* came from and what it meant. It is not an English name or animal.

Regards, Per Alarud, Stockholm - Sweden

Of course also a big thanks to you Per and I hope I won't make the mistake again as I always used the wrong name. Next a beautiful photo which was in the mailbox, with thanks to Paul de Haan, radio friend since 1970! On the photo, this is taken in Amsterdam Houthaven, both Caroline ships *Fredericia* and *Mi Amigo* as well as a lot of details concerning the harbour in those days.



Photo: collection Paul de Haan



Martin van der Ven recently updated his story related to radio, called 'Ständig auf Empfang' on

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

During the summer of 1997, our 16 year old son David flew to the United States for a one-year stay to improve his language skills as a guest student. What could be more obvious than to visit him during the Easter holidays in early 1998? During our three-week trip to the east coast (including a trip to Toronto and Lake Ontario), there were plenty of opportunities to experience the exciting radio scene of the USA and Canada. In our rental car the radio was playing constantly, and we enjoyed numerous rock radio, charts and oldie stations. With a tape recorder from David home stay we made recordings of WRKS-FM ("98.7 Kiss FM") in a New York hotel. But also in the state of New York, there were plenty of occasions to listen intensively to the stations like WRRV (Middletown) and WSPK (Poughkeepsie).

Ultimately, however, the offshore fever wouldn't let me loose. In 1997, Allan Weiner had failed with his offshore station Radio NewYork International when after a few days only, the authorities forced him to close down immediately. But Allan was far away from surrender. I read that he was fitting out another boat in the harbor of Boston, the MV Electra. So I definitely had to know how things stood. During our stay we spent some in Boston. It was the beginning of April, and it was still getting dark early in the afternoon. I succeeded in persuading Ulrike and our two children that after our comprehensive cultural and sightseeing program, we now had to include a visit to the new radio ship. Regarding the prospect of getting exclusive photos for my new website "Offshore Radio Links" (built up in December 1996) there was no stopping me. We started with our rental car at around 15:00 clock on the way towards the harbor - of course without any navigation system. We erratically erred through the dense rush hour traffic without our aim coming any closer. "Papa, you won't see anything as it is now almost dark!" I finally gave up, but at least I had had tried it. And so after all I was left with several photos taken in December 1997 by a German medical colleague working in Boston. The new Weiner project

however never amounted to anything. Seeing the pictures it turned out as a barely seaworthy boat, which we would have hardly discovered in Boston harbor even in bright sunlight.

<http://www.offshore-radio.de/electra.htm>



Photo: Andreas Jacobs

<http://www.offshore-radio.de/electra.htm>

Time for information brought by Jon from the Pirate Hall of Fame:

'Hi, new this month: our A to Z of eighties offshore disc-jockeys grows ever larger with the addition of a page of broadcasters with names beginning with P; more Radio 270 Top 40s from this month 48 years ago; we have an excellent quality recording of a Mike Raven show on Radio 390 from 1966; an archive Thames TV interview with Kenny Everett; part 6 of Tony Prince's video History Of DJ plus news of a gig he and Emperor Rosko have coming up in Ibiza; and we link to an award-winning documentary about the Israeli offshore station, The Voice of Peace. My thanks, as ever, to all the contributors. With best wishes, Jon Myer [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

Nickname this time is for Mike Person 'Mango Mike' reggae. The idea came from Peter Chicago and Mike only worked two days on the Ross

Revenge for Radio Caroline in early 1984. This with thanks to the Pirate Hall of Fame.

Now we go to a former 270 and more deejay, Guy Hamilton. 'Hi Hans many thanks as always for the interesting news emails.

Since I've retired from the TV business, I have returned to my roots in radio! Pleased to say that I am now a non-exec director and part-owner of the Anglian Radio group of 5 radio stations in East Anglia. We have a super team and it's great fun. Recently appointed as head of programmes is Jonathan Hemmings, who was on Caroline in the 80's as Johnnie Blackburn! Pirates rule! Regards Gerry Zierler/Guy Hamilton.'

Well good news Gerry and hope this new step in your career may be also very successful. Enjoy it. Also don't forget to have your monthly view at the very interesting site from Mary and Chris Payne with many updates concerning Radio London, the Sixties and more:

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

And really they're bringing good news about Lorne King, former Radio London deejay. 'Radio London is delighted to announce that a report received earlier this year of Lorne King's demise has proved to be incorrect. Ben Healy had been given this erroneous information by the manager of the apartments where Lorne lived. After some research, Ben has now been able to contact Lorne and they intend to meet soon.'

Not too long ago Gerard Wells, the great man behind the British Vintage and Wireless and Television Museum in Dulwich City died. On internet there's now a four part very interesting documentary about Gerard's love for radio and more:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLE92A5A530443889E&t=251&v=DoIY\\_ZtW1YY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLE92A5A530443889E&t=251&v=DoIY_ZtW1YY)

part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjGO62Hhm08&index=2&list=PLE92A5A530443889E>

part 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHOIZBW37kQ&index=3&list=PLE92A5A530443889E>

part 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9A7a4kDmwrA&list=PLE92A5A530443889E&index=4>

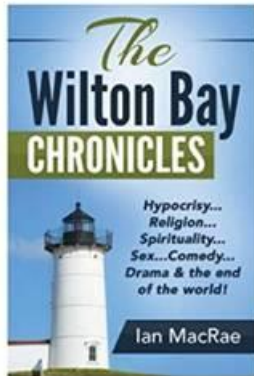
Martin van der Ven and I are still finding a lot of instrumentals used for either production work or as tunes and fillers in Offshore Radio. Next to publishing them on [www.soundscape.info](http://www.soundscape.info) we're also sharing them with some radio friends. Recently we found a record from the Tony Hiller Orchestra - 'Where the rainbow ends'. This is a beautiful instrumental from 1969, inclusive a whistling person. The instrumental was used on the Flemish station Radio Atlantis by Theo van der Velde in the program 'Muziek voor Iedereen' (Music for everybody).

Tony Hiller composed through the years more than 500 songs for several artists as well he was the person who made the Brotherhood of Man to a worldwide success in the seventies. And now we go back to Paul de Haan, who reflected on the whistling on the record. 'Whistling on an offshore radio station? Theo was a tape jock on Radio Atlantis. Whistling aboard a radio ship was forbidden. Here's a legendary and true story. It was the late Ernie Stevenson warned the crewmembers aboard the MV Ross Revenge that whistling was forbidden on the ship as that should cause stormy weather. Also, when the Ross Revenge was still a fishing trawler, Ernie told the crew that they were not allowed cleaning the outside of the windows as this could bring a bad fishing result.'

Thanks for the wise words Paul and from Holland we go to Australia with news from Ian MacRae, who worked in the sixties on Radio City as well as on Radio Caroline South, before going back to his home country.



'Here's some exciting news. Well, it's exciting to me anyway. I'm just about to launch my first fiction eBook on Amazon. It's called "The Wilton Bay Chronicles". The story is based on two competing radio stations in an idyllic beachside resort town. One has a 'New Age' type format and the other is a network station playing 'The Music of Your Life'. It also involves religion plus hypocrisy, spirituality, sex, drugs, comedy, drama and the end of the world.



I'll send you an email very soon with details of how you can get it.' Well wonderful news and keep us informed Ian. He has also a regular newsletter which brings radio news from around the world. To subscribe simply send an email to [ian@allaboutradio.net](mailto:ian@allaboutradio.net) and type the word 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

I was always wondering why in 1971 suddenly the program name 'Driemaster' (Three master) was born on Radio Northsea International. Now I know as it was a radiomodel from 1941 which brought in the idea for the name of a new program broadcasted from the radio ship MEBO II:

[http://www.antiqueradio.com/Oct08\\_Gray\\_ShipRadios.html](http://www.antiqueradio.com/Oct08_Gray_ShipRadios.html)

Nice article on our own Royal Ruler Tony Prince: <http://ibiza-style.com/en/god-kissed-my-life/>

Tony was there together with Emperor Rosko, who didn't write a word about it when arriving back in Los Angeles.

During the first weekend in June the launch of the new programming for Radio Mi Amigo came on the air. This means that not only during the weekend but also an hour each evening the station can be heard 'around the world'. Program director is Paul Newman and Lion Keezer (on Caroline in the seventies) worked hard to get it organized and promoted. Have a look here: <http://we.tl/zfeMnrR3UA>

Time for some exclusive photo's which I got from Jean Pierre Legein from Belgium. It shows a fishing vessel from the harbour of Nieuwpoort. Yes, one of the harbours used in the eighties for illegal tendering for the Caroline- as well as the Laser-organisation. Till now never any photo of the N525 near one of the radio ships was published. Of course it was rumored in those days that the skipper was alongside the radio ships on certain occasions but his colleagues from Nieuwpoort kept it totally silent as well as those onboard the radio ship.

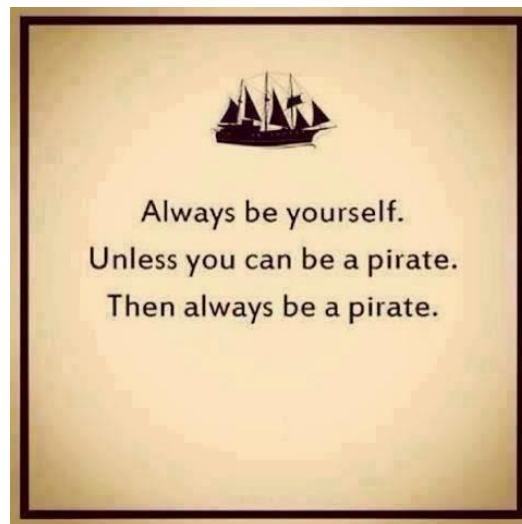
So more than 30 years after tendering the Ross Revenge as well as the Communicator on certain occasions finally we can see the photos, with thanks to Jean Pierre.





Photos: collection Jean Pierre Legein

Next one comes from Canada and Keith Hampshire:



In last issue I mentioned an internet station which remembered us to Radio 390. Another beautiful music station, more instrumentals than Serenade Radio is Crystal Radio from Canada.

<http://crystalradio.ca/>

I also received an e mail from a guy called 'Mark Cooper'. 'Hello Hans,

I just found this. You may have known about it for some time. If so, sorry. I can remember seeing the ship in Bridlington harbour in 1966, and on the horizon the next day. I was only 8 years old at the time so the memory is not a good one. <http://radio270.net/index.html>  
Many thanks for publishing the report. I look forward to reading it every month. Mark G1ANI. Cooper'. Thanks a lot Mark, yes I did an earlier mentioning of the planned transmission next year, but better twice than not at all. Surely it will come back into the report in the coming year.

Now time for Wayne Hepler in the USA: 'In April 2015, Everett Glover and I finished final edits on the film **Taking Back the Airwaves: The Story of the Radio Pirates** and we are now distributing to film festivals worldwide. This is a fresh 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour perspective on how and why the 1950s-60s pirates came into existence, focusing on the famous Dutch and British disc jockeys—including Tineke, Hans Hogendoorn, Ad Bouman, Herbert Visser, Johnnie Walker, Tony Prince, Emperor Rosko, Keith Skues, Hans Knot, Bob Noakes, and more. The firsthand stories are funny and fearful, from pirates losing their swimming trunks in front of female tourists, to the famous RNI fire, and the murder that helped end the era. Present-day American pirates also speak in silhouette to avoid arrest. I am also seeking to air on TV networks or stations. Thank you for all you've done, Hans, and all others who can further the distribution of the film. It has been a pleasure to meet the pirates and those who appreciate them. Wayne Hepler.'

Thank you Wayne and of course it was a pleasure to help you getting in contact with all those mentioned and hopefully one day me and my readers can expect a DVD version and details how to order a copy! Greetings to you, your wife Donna as well as the team.'

Radio Mi Amigo 106.8 from the LV18 returns July 25th.





[Radio Mi Amigo 106.8 FM Harwich](#) Here a message from Tony O'Neill in Harwich: 'Radio Mi Amigo will return to the LV18 on July 25th for nine fabulous days. Helping to promote local businesses and the Harwich area as a tourist destination, Radio Mi Amigo will be taking advantage of a restricted service broadcast licence from Ofcom to transmit a professional nine day broadcast, from the historic maritime vessel LV18 on Harwich Quay, serving the North Essex and South Suffolk area.'



**The LV 18 in Harwich harbour (Collection Tony O'Neill)**

This tribute to the Offshore Pirate Radio Stations will celebrate the likes of Radio Caroline, Radio London and several others that appeared off the coast of Harwich in the 1960's bringing about a

revolution in radio broadcasting. Following the previous Pirate Radio broadcasts from LV18, which attracted thousands of visitors to the area, Radio Mi Amigo will bring back some of the original DJ's from the watery wireless days to return to Harwich again to broadcast from the bridge of the Light vessel. Further to last year's popular 4 day event, LV18 will broadcast from her new permanent berth by the Ha'penny Pier, enabling members of the public to not only visit the classic vessel but to meet the DJ's and have an opportunity to be interviewed 'live' on air.

The station will also carry news of local events, interviews with surprise guests and promote the Harwich area, which has recently been awarded assisted area status, in terms of business and tourism regeneration.

The team of presenters will include Roger 'Twiggy' Day, Tony Prince, Chris and Mary Payne, Guy Hamilton, Dave Rogers, Stephanie Hirst, Tony Currie, Mandy Marton, Neon Nancy, Sharon Smith, Dave Kent and Harwich's own Liana Bridges. The event will coincide with, and be broadcasting 'live' from, this year's Harwich Sea Festival on Sunday 26th July. Other events planned are 'Audiences with the Pirates' shows at the Electric Palace Cinema and the arrival of the 'Mods and Rockers' on Harwich Quay with scooters and motorcycles.

**Further information and details for potential advertisers and sponsors contact:**

**Tony O'Neil on 07446 171 320 Email: [thelightship@gmail.com](mailto:thelightship@gmail.com)  
[www.lv18.org](http://www.lv18.org)**

Follow all what's happening on Facebook versus:

<https://www.facebook.com/miamigo1068>

or on the internet site: <http://www.lv18.org/mi-amigo.htm>

Back to the Netherlands and news from Adri Verhoef:

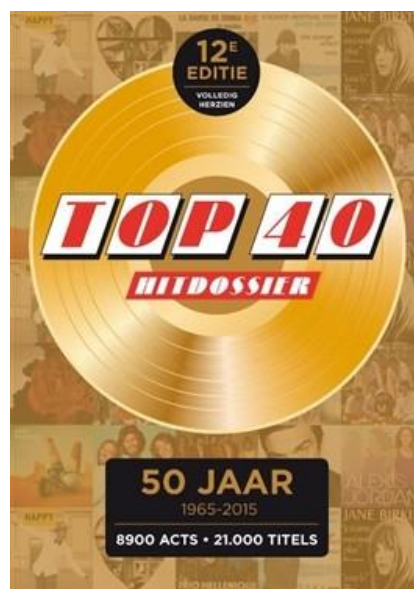
'It is with great pleasure that I can announce the new 12th edition of 'The Dutch Top 40 Hitdossier 1965-2015' book.

**TOP 40 - HITDOSSIER 1965 - 2015**  
(12th edition)

As many people know, the Dutch Top 40 is celebrating its 50th birthday; therefore this book is a special anniversary edition of the series 'Hitdossier'.

This 12th edition has - as always - a main register of all 8,900 artists and groups that have ever been in the Top 40 and Tipparade, all 50 annual Top 100's, all number 1 hits and all 'Alarmschijven'. Subsequently, there are more than forty interesting reports and lists. Finally, of course, the title register, which now has 22,500 titles.

The book is a bound, hardcover edition in full colour. It's a must for any fan of pop charts. Please note: this is a limited edition.  
Adri Verhoef



<http://www.bol.com/nl/p/top-40-hitdossier-1965-2015/9200000036105548>

<https://www.bruna.nl/boeken/top-40-hitdossier-1965-2015-9789089755001>

<http://www.amazon.de/Top-40-hitdossier-1965-2015-druk/dp/9089755004>

<http://www.amazon.fr/Top-40-hitdossier-1965-2015-druk/dp/9089755004>

<http://www.euro-boek.nl/boek/isbn/9789089755001.html>

And so we now come to another chapter from the book 'The wet and wild history of Radio Caroline 1964-2004'. The book was published by the Foundation for Media Communication in Amsterdam and this chapter was written by me.

## JUST SOME FACTS AND FIGURES FROM SOME MONTHS IN 1978

In July 1978 we saw the birth of a new media magazine in Holland called 'Freewave Media Magazine'. It's 26 years later and still this magazine is published every month. In the beginning a lot of 'now' well known people worked together to get the magazine filled. The Freewave Media Magazine was baptized at the convention 'Zeezenders 20' as it was in 1978 20 Years ago that the first commercial offshore radio station did start in Europe. A large crowd of Offshore Radio Fans gathered together at the Leeuwenhorst Congress Centre in little place at the west coast of the Netherlands, called Noordwijkerhout. There it was that all the people attending got the first copy of the magazine for free. Final Editor of the magazine and responsible for the lay out and administration as well as the 'Radio Log' (together with Dirk de Paauw) was Ton van Draanen. Nowadays he's working for AVRO public broadcaster in Holland. The Editor Belgium was Freddy Jorus - already decades active within the radio industry in Antwerp. But there were more people writing for the Magazine. Ingo Paternoster from Germany, who also became big in radio in Bavaria. From the offshore radio world there were also some surprises as writing in the very first



editions were people like Rob Hudson and Paul de Wit. Just two guys who had yet to make it into the world of radio and television. Rob is better known now under his own name Ruud Hendriks and belongs to the people who have become very rich in the world of media. Paul is no one else than Erik de Zwart, nowadays working for Talpa International but also many years on the paying list of Veronica and Radio 538 in the Netherlands. Both started their career on the MV Mi Amigo in the late seventies and early eighties. The editor of the magazine in 1978 was and still is in 2004 yours truly Hans Knot.



### LEEUWENHORST CONGRESS CENTRE

I want to go back with you to that magazine and see what we wrote on the subject offshore radio in that very first issue. In the 'Radio Log' I just saw back the name of Leon Keezer. He did on June 1<sup>st</sup> the Pop News twice on TROS Radio in the very first edition of the TROS Top 50. This public broadcaster started in 1965 and was the follow up to the Radio and TV Noordzee, which started from the REM island in international waters, off the Dutch coast, in 1964. But Lion had a relationship with Caroline as he worked for Radio 199 as well as Radio Caroline in 1972/1973. Another thing. Do you remember which Caroline deejays were on the ship on June the 4<sup>th</sup> 1978? With thanks to the famous Radio Log I can now tell you that there were four on

the ship at the time, Stuart Russell, Tom Hardy, Martin Fisher and Mike Stevens.



### **STUART RUSSELL AND TONY ALLAN 1978**

Photo: Jelle Knot

Next to the earlier mentioned 'famous' people also some of the Caroline deejays had their regular column in those days. Remember it's 26 years ago and so they were much younger than today. One of them was Stuart Russell, also known as Nigel Harris but was born under another name - which I won't tell you. Till early 2004 Nigel did a lot of hard and good work arranging the programming side of the satellite station Radio Caroline as well doing other serious work on Sundays, when he's playing the organ in his local church. Way back in July 1978 he wrote in the very first edition of the Freewave Media Magazine: 'Hello, Stuart Russell here from Radio Caroline. For a change a few words from one of the English people on board the MV Mi Amigo. If you listen to Caroline regularly, than you know that it is

an album station, which gives up far more scope when doing programmes than on a Top 40 station. Artists these days put all their work into making albums, and then select singles from it, so there are usually a number of single tracks taken from albums, and so Radio Caroline is way ahead with its music.

Life on board is generally good. There's plenty to eat and we have a good cook in the person of Kees Borrell, although he is a bit of a nutcase. One of the bad things is being stuck out here for months and months on end. Last time I was onboard with Roger Matthews we were on for four months. And there's nothing you can do, if no replacements arrive for you. Then you either go off the ship or you stay and keep the station on the air. But that last time was exceptional. I was on land I got a new girlfriend and although she likes me to work on Caroline, she does like the day I've got to go back home again. And this is vice versa. I miss her when I'm out here. People often wonder how the Dutch and English get on out here. Well, the ones out here at the moment are really great boys and we all have a lot of fun together. With Radio Caroline only on the air at night now, it seems our working day starts at 6.30 in the evening and finished at 5 the next morning. So we have to sleep during the day, which you get used to. But I would prefer it the other way round. It's been like that since the daytime service of Radio Caroline was suspended last year. Now summer is here and I'm looking forward to getting a nice suntan to show off when I got to land. Anyway must go now, I have to help throw Johan Visser into the sea.'

A long time has gone since Stuart wrote those lines. A lot has changed, also in his life, but he didn't make it another four months as on the day the very first story of him was published in the very first edition of the Freewave Media Magazine, he was there - together with his 'then' lovely girlfriend - at the convention in Noordwijkerhout, where I met him for the very first time. One of his ship mates from those days was co-organiser at Zeezenders 20,

Marc Jacobs. He couldn't join us at Zeezenders 20 as he had left for the Mi Amigo some days earlier.

Going back to the facts in the first issue I did read back that in an interview, earlier published in the 'Zondag' (Sunday newspaper) Sylvain Tack announced that he wants to go on with his radio station Mi Amigo, but that he has decided for himself that there should be an end for his activities in radio in 1980. In October 1978 it was done with Tack and his part in the Radio Mi Amigo history, transmitting from the Caroline vessel MV Mi Amigo. This vessel, by the way, sunk in March 1980.

In the second issue of the Freewave Media Magazine an article could be found on the 'Zeezenders 20' Convention held in July 1978. The reporter wrote that he found it a big problem that 80% of the speakers came with their stories in the English language, which was - following his words - really a problem for the main visitor of the three days happening. He doubted that if such a happening - a radio meeting - would be held again the following year. Lucky enough the radio days are still organised by one of the people who did organise it way back in 1978, your editor Hans Knot. A year later accompanied by Rob Olthof of the Foundation for Media Communication, the both of them still go on with the now annual event. And above all - lucky for him - Richard Havelaar or should we say Rob Hudson aka Ruud Hendriks, became bigger than writing his column in the Freewave Media Magazine.





## Hans Knot 1978, photo: Jelle Knot

But how did the radio sound in those days, especially the stations transmitting from international waters off the Dutch and British coast? On July 28<sup>th</sup>, already the first people came to Noordwijkerhout as they had booked for a three day instead of a two day arrangement, some sad faces could be seen. I was already there and being at the information desk I asked the entering people if they were unhappy to come to Noordwijkerhout. Seeing their faces bad weather could be expected. What the real reason was is that, being at the west coast of Holland they really hoped to listen to Radio Mi Amigo with a very good signal that afternoon. Instead of that they told me that Marc Jacobs announced in his program on Radio Mi Amigo that the transmitters onboard the MV Mi Amigo needed some adjustments and so there was no more Radio Mi Amigo and no Radio Caroline later that day. A bad thing for all those Anoraks, early arrived at Leeuwenhorst Centre.

On the Saturday afternoon on the parking place there were several people tuning in to their car radio or their transistor. They thought the signals hadn't come through their sleeping rooms. But that was not the case as neither Radio Caroline nor Radio Mi Amigo were on the air. It would take more than another day that both stations could be heard again on the same frequency. It was Marc Jacobs who told the listeners that they were very sorry not being on the air on this special weekend. The next day it seemed that a tender had been out to the ship as Johan Visser, who was on the Convention on Saturday, was back on the Old Lady again.

The same month it was announced by the management of Radio Caroline that the Caroline Promotion bus as well as the Caroline Road Show would tour Western Europe too in the future. Till then only Great Britain was on the list for places to attract more listeners, but Holland, Belgium, France and other countries would be a target. Robb Eden, Roger Mathews and Mr. Rabbit did it in Britain. Patrick Valain

and Alan West would do it on the continent and also the name of Serge Haderman was mentioned. He would be - at a later stage - 'world famous in Belgium' as Serge van Gisteren. And at the same time the 'press man' from the organisation mentioned that Radio Caroline had 5 million listeners each day!

Then just a short note I wrote down - way back in July 1978 - 'Mi Amigo FM'. It can tell you that my diaries and agendas are full of memories, lies (from others) and fantasy. In some newspapers and gloss's in Belgium there was a mentioning of the fact that there were plans to start an FM service for Mi Amigo, the sister station at that time for Radio Caroline. It would become a - yes you read it correctly - a 10 Watt transmitter that would be useful to reach all the holiday people on the west coast of Great Britain. Now look, the Scottish and English people are always joking at each other, the Belgium and Dutch ones too. But this wasn't for joking but for crying. 10 Watt for the whole length of the East Coast of Britain? In the second edition of the Freewave Media Magazine I wrote on this newsflash that we didn't believe anything of this nonsense message. And why? Well in the press report was a mentioning that the transmissions would only go on if space was to be found on the MV Mi Amigo for the FM aerial.

September 1978 started with generator problems on the MV Mi Amigo and so the transmitter was switched off too. It took the technicians onboard 5,5 hours to get the thing working again. It wouldn't be the last time during that month that there were technical problems and conditions on the good old lady were getting worse with each day. On September 7<sup>th</sup> for instance the Caroline studio had to be used during daytime. Normally the '319' frequency was used by sister station Radio Mi Amigo so the Caroline studio was only used for production work. That afternoon one of the record players in the studio from Radio Mi Amigo broke down. In those days no help from cd players, md recorders or DAT recorders, which could be used next to the record players. Marc Jacobs, who

presented the program 'Baken 16', decided to go into the Caroline studio and presenting from there and playing the records too. But still the Mi Amigo studio was used as the commercials and jingles where played from there by Ferry Eden.

And as in those days the money to pay the Caroline bills had to come from overseas (in this case from Belgium) the people within the organisation were really shocked when they heard that once again the police in Belgium were taking action against all kind of people connected to the sister station Radio Mi Amigo. On September 16<sup>th</sup> almost 50 different houses, shops and offices were searched to look for evidence and most of the buildings did belong to advertisers on the station. Already in the early sixties the Belgian government decided to bring in a law whereby it was forbidden to work for an offshore radio station, to provide them with food - water and oil as well as advertise on such a station. The station had a massive fan club in those days and the office of the Mi Amigo Fan Club (MAP) was also searched. Police took 5000 addresses from the members of MAF. A day later 39 people, who had planned to go for a holiday to Playa de Aro to have some rest and also to visit the land based studio's of Radio Mi Amigo, were searched by the authorities, but finally were allowed to leave for Spain. Owner of the travel organisation, Mr. Gossey, decided to make an official complaint against the authorities and wrote a long letter to the Belgium government and never heard anything back from them.

As a follow up to all the actions taken by the authorities a few days later a lot of letters were published in several newspapers in Belgium. It's quite easy to read that the main population of Belgium was pro Radio Mi Amigo and wanted a future for their Free Radio Station to operate together with Radio Caroline from the same ship. From October 1978 it was forbidden to make advertising time for tobacco products on Dutch national radio stations and so on September 26<sup>th</sup> in Flemish newspapers could be read that part time owner of the radio ship, Sylvain Tack, mentioned from Spain that a

big new future would start for the stations Caroline and Mi Amigo as a lot of tobacco companies would come in to get their airtime on both stations.

And then, suddenly in the late morning of October 20<sup>th</sup> 1978, Radio Mi Amigo went off the air due to generator problems. It was Marc Jacobs who did announce the technical problems and then the station went off the air. During the evening hours Radio Caroline was on the air for just a short moment. One of the deejays mentioned the numbers for the office and then it was silence up till Eastern 1979. It was deejay Rob Hudson who wrote a column in the early November edition of the Freewave Media Magazine, way back in 1978, and he still thought Radio Mi Amigo was on the air as he wrote: 'It was a little dreadful having Mi Amigo off the air for a few weeks after it closed down on October 20<sup>th</sup>. But as this edition comes from the printers your and our station will be probably on the air again. It will be sending it's sounds again all over Holland but in those days of silence you realise what it means that Radio Mi Amigo is the last one and also the best one on the air.'

All kind of rumours were going round at the time that Radio Caroline would get a new sister station but the only true thing for the last two months of 1978 was that we couldn't receive any signal from the transmitters onboard the good old lady.' Don't forget the above chapter was written around 2004!

For everyone questions could be asked for publication in the Hans Knot International Radio Report. Of course there are a lot of radio related things that could be asked for too. You could think about a very hard to find record-player or a song you've ever heard on the radio and questions about other equipment used in radio. Questions can be send to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next a photo I received together with a question: 'Hans I wonder if any one recognizes this great little reel to reel recorder and could



tell me about the origins. The only thing it says on the covers that it is made in *Western Germany*. An off chance request but machines like this were probably used to record pirate radio.



Hardy B. Schracke was the first one to reflect when I put the photo on my personal Facebook page: 'The thing was sold by a company named 'Radio Arlr', which was based in Düsseldorf.' Thanks Hardy and a little search told me that the head office was in Berlin.

Tim Payne: 'This is a small transistor model and it has 2 inch reels and takes 4 D type batteries. The recorder has the speaker external and microphone all in a case.' Anyone who can tell more please write to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Another video-edit has been posted by Alex Hoek, which has been posted on YT before, but this time in one clip of about 30 minutes, and in a fairly good picture quality. Aired on the 24th of April 1977, a report by Janet Street Porter for LWT, about the start of the Offshore radio stations in the UK. In part two a visit to Radio Caroline on the MV. Mi Amigo. This tape also comes from the archive vaults of Martin van der Ven.

<https://l.facebook.com/l/xAQFPpCzLAQHv9E1gidGkdOKEEI5S4-YMiWQRmDM3HwdA/https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FnVk3XOL6P6o>

News from the Netherlands: 'Wednesday July 1st it's Wolfman Jack Day on KBC 1602AM! It's 20 years ago that the best DJ ever died....07:00 - 10:00 Wolfman Jack Show  
12:00 - 15:00 Wolfman Jack Show  
16:00 - 19:00 Wolfman Jack Show

All times in CET

And you can also go back in time to read an article I wrote about Wolfman Jack the day after he died and which is to find here:

[http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/VOLUME01/Radio\\_Heaven.shtml](http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/VOLUME01/Radio_Heaven.shtml)



Well that ends up this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. For those who are going on holiday this summer (or winter) have a very nice time and the report is back in late August. Best greetings and please share your memories too! Hans Knot