

## Hans Knot International Radio Report November 2015

Welcome to another report and we start this issue with the same subject as last month. You may remember that there were a lot of questions concerning a French language program on Radio Mi Amigo, which were only on air during two weekends, early 1977. It is Marc Jacobs who reflected on a few of the questions. 'First concerning the French language programs from later in 1977 with presenter Dennis I can tell you that those were recorded in Spain.' Marc did send me an audio-file from the start of the program as prove.

Concerning the question who decided to start this French service early 1977 Marc answered: 'Always Patrick Valain had to talk with Sylvain Tack to bring in a new program. He never could decide himself. What I do remember from those French programs that it was already a long time planned but not realised as it was very difficult to find good sponsorship for it. So it took a long time before they came on the air. If the later one were sponsored I can't say. We had however a big listenership in the northwest of France so I could have been successful. '



Another response came from reader Eddie Baines: 'Just a few lines to say thank you for your newsletters. I always find them interesting and informative and have always wanted to contribute and now I think I can. You asked if anyone had taped the French broadcasts of Mi-Amigo late 1976 / early 1977. I have a few and would like to make them available, but need help as to how I can do this. My French is poor / non-existent, so I'm unable to tell you who are the DJ's on

the tapes I have. I'm in the process of digitalizing the old reel to reel tapes and they will be available as mp3 files soon. Best regards Eddie Baines.'

Thanks Eddie and we hope to hear from you one day when they're available as mp3. Next I forwarded Eddie's e mail to François Lhote, who came with the questions in last issue and he responded with:

'Thanks for forwarding this to us. This is not exactly what we are looking for. We want to know who were behind these Saturday morning's programmes. We have off air recordings of those although quality isn't very good - Mi Amigo reception on 192 metres wasn't particularly good in France. The DJs names were all pseudos' (one was Coco, I have forgot the two others at this stage) and we think they were discotheque DJs and not radio DJs. But surely they were employed by somebody, a person who was certainly in contact with either Sylvain Tack or Patrick Valain. Of course if Eddie has mp3, they are welcome - we could compare them with what we have and we'll let him know the name of the DJs when mentioned. Best wishes François.'

Well some more answers came in and those of interest are forwarded. Next an interesting article which was recently published in a British newspaper about Sealand.

'On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1967 a pirate radio operator took over a sea fort off the east coast of England and declared it a sovereign state: the Principality of Sealand. HM Fort Roughs was one of several platforms - known as the Maunsell Sea Forts - built to protect Harwich and the Thames Estuary during World War II.' The rest of the article, published in BT news can be found in the next link with some wonderful pictures <http://home.bt.com/news/world-news/september-2-1967-pirate-radio-boss-captures-north-sea-fort-and-declares-the-independent-principality-of-sealand-11364001281261>

Further on in this issue of the report I will come back to Sealand with a long review on a recent published book. Interesting to mention is an interview which was transmitted on Cherry Red TV with Les Reed, composer and orchestra-leader. So listen to Ian MacNay and Les Reed. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUVisG2GY9c>



Station tune Radio Northsea International

Next a report about the 15th Erkrath Radioday sent in by Christian Bergmann:

Saturday, September 15th 2015 - the 15th German Radioday took place at the Erkrath observatory. Doors opened at 12:00 CEST, the event started at around 14:00. Main organizer Jan Sundermann welcomed officially nearly 50 radio producers and listeners from Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and the U.K.. Again this year (I think like every year) the event was accompanied by splendid weather conditions. So it was possible to spend the time between the blocks of programming outside of the building and to have interesting chats with each other while having a drink.

At the start of this year's event special guests - Andy Archer and Johnny Jason - were interviewed by Jan Sundermann under the headline 'With the Jacobs-Ladder over to the BBC'. During the interview they told about their time and experiences as well as the

current situation on various BBC radio stations and developments of public radio in the U.K. respectively.

The talking point of the second block of programming was 'Software Defined Radio'. Expert Andreas Kohlhaas (member of the observatory) held an excellent and interesting presentation about the SDR technology, its essentials and history. He demonstrated us how a personal PC with an USB Stick becomes a panorama-receiver.

Finally Martin van der Ven interviewed famous Johnny Jason (Radio Caroline) and Andy Archer (Radio City, Radio Caroline, Radio Northsea International and Radio Seagull) about their careers and times spending with the offshore radio stations.



**Johnny Jason, Andy Archer and Martin van der Ven**

All blocks of programming were aired live via internet stream of Radio Northsea International. RNI had a studio within the building of the observatory, where also additional interviews were made.

Amongst this year's participants were also some other well-known offshore and free radio personalities like Graham Gill, Marc van Amstel, Dick de Graaf, Ferry Eden, Herbert Visser, Chet Reuter and Peter Verbruggen.

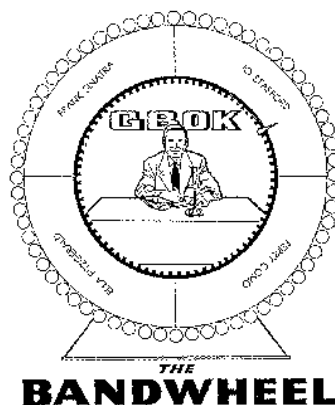
The day was concluded by shooting a superb picture of all participants by Peter Messingfeld and the traditional tombola. It was another worthwhile Radioday in Erkrath. I thank Jan Sundermann and everyone involved in organizing that fantastic day. Christian Bergmann.'

Thanks a lot Christian and photos taken by Christian and others can be found at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157656840773033>

And also audio of the event is on line now: <http://www.offshore-radio.de/caroline/erkrath2015/>

Next we go to England and see what a certain Paul has to tell us: 'Hello Hans, I've something to tell you. In 1962 my Mum drew my attention to an item in the Daily Telegraph about GBOK Radio, and I was intrigued and kept the news cutting. When Caroline began in 1964, I still had the cutting, and started saving news items from the Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail, Daily Sketch and our local papers about pirate radio.





I was still at school of course and didn't realise then how historical it all was. I did not understand the need for putting the dates on. By 1968 Caroline was off the air, and my cuttings were beginning to fade, so rather than keep them I typed them all out onto paper and filed the papers in ring binders. I still have them. Think there are hundreds of sheets and when we finally move and settle down I will unpack them and scan them.

I'm thinking of saving them to Google Docs so anyone can read them. There are also letters which I will keep private. I was a cheeky schoolboy to write to the stations asking for information, but bless them the stations usually did send me printed material like rate cards - you have seen all of them - but when I wrote to Radio Scotland, I received a personal letter from Tommy Shields! Paul.'

Yes Paul, wonderful early memories. It went like it went with me too and my brothers. We were told about Veronica in 1960 and from that point on we grabbed everything we could get from newspapers. Countless are those nowadays as exchanging with several people through the past decades made the biggest archive on offshore radio here. Enclosed a rare photograph from the ship what once was planned for GBOK.'



Photo: Archive Freewave.

## Review

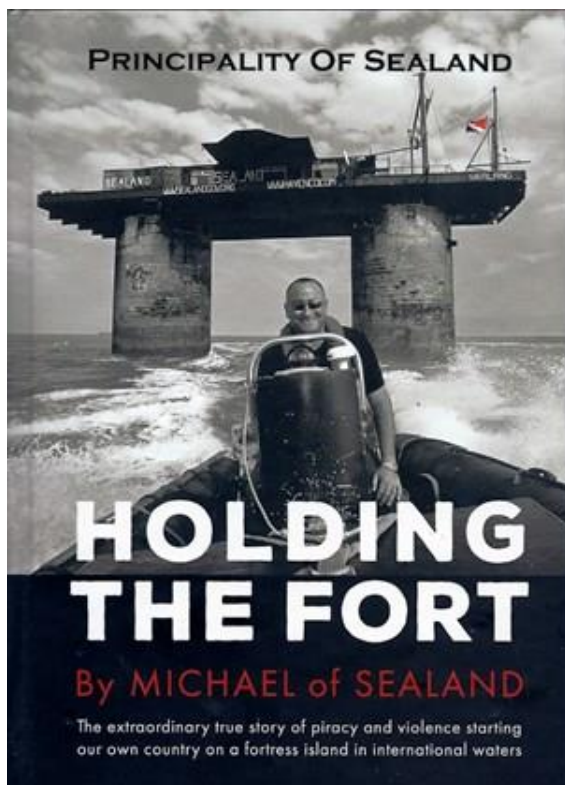
Holding The Fort, the extraordinary true story of piracy and violence starting our own country on a fortress island in international waters

Published 2015 by the Principality of Sealand

[www.sealanggov.org](http://www.sealanggov.org)

ISBN 978-0-9933200-0-2

277 pages and illustrated



This book brings the true story about the Principality of Sealand, world's smallest independent country in the world situated in international waters on a 4500-ton Navy Fort. It was originally built during World War II for the defense of The Thames Estuary and which was occupied by the Bates family in 1967 and was headed by Prince Paddy Roy Bates, a title he had given himself. His son Michael has written the book 'Holding the Fort' and starts with memories to his early childhood, in which it was not always very easy to have a father like his one.

Amazing is the story about what happened in January 1965 - Michael was only a chap of 12 years young - when his old man took him to one of the forts which wasn't occupied since the end of the war. Very detailed he tells what happened that day entering Knock John Fort and sailing on the *Mizzy Gell* to the coast again with a very silent Roy Bates. In his mind were already plans to be involved in the offshore radio soon.

However when climbing for the second time onto the fort people from Radio City were already there and he asked them to leave. Returning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time the Knock John was occupied again and it took more than a friendly question to get them off the fort. As a result of 'his reputation as unstoppable nutter', as Michael described his father, Radio Essex on 222 metres started 24 hours a day.

What follows in the book 'Holding The Fort' is a detailed story about the history of the station as Michael remembers it. He describes the time he was himself on the fort during Christmas holiday from boarding school and comes with some excellent exclusives I hadn't heard before, including about Joshua, the ghost on Knock John.

Compared to the far more professional stations like Radio London, Radio Caroline and Radio England, Radio Essex was really run on very low budget. Even for those days the equipment used was very unprofessional and you couldn't say they had a professional studio. Essex, at one stage, had to close down due to the fact Roy Bates was prosecuted for broadcasting without a license as it was proved by the authorities that the Knock John towers were within the three miles limit.

Of course the renaming of the station into Britain's Better Music Station (BBMS) is mentioned. Even now, 50 years on, it's for me a pleasure to listen to the special programs from those two stations, however there are not too much around. As stated Michael Bates his memories are very good and great to read his own findings from that



period, including a marvelous story about writing to the GPO about a suspected tapping of the phone at the Bates family house. It was Christmas day 1966 that, due to financial pressure and the continued threat of further fines, Roy Bates decided to end this radio project. Just a few days later the fort was dismantled and equipment brought to Roughs Tower.

Extremely interesting is the chapter in which Michael tells about the defending, with only one other person, the Roughs Tower during the Christmas period 1966. He was only 15 years of age but was spectacular handy. After the government brought in the MOA most stations off the British coast closed down August 14th 1967 - only the Caroline's were still on the air - and again Paddy Roy Bates made the headlines and many people thought that it would only be a short period before we would never hear from him again. But reality was totally different for Roy Bates and his family would make the headlines over and over again during the following decades.

Through these past decades several options have been there to make from the Principality a very good success but also the independent mini-state came into the press in a not too positive way, mostly due to action of others involved. I point for instant at the coup made by Mr. Achenbach who started to provoke in Dutch newspapers that he would soon be the leader of the nation stating: 'Sealand über alles'. Due to a coup one Dutch man, Hans van Loo, who was first with him on the coup tender and later came back to Sealand, after a recoup by the Bates family and friends, when he was taken hostage.

Due to publications in Dutch newspapers we already knew that there were plans for starting a radio station on the Roughs Towers and it was Van Loo, brother in law of Willem van Kooten, who was first sent out to see what the possibilities and facilities could be for starting a radio station there. The second time he came out to the fort from the harbour of IJmuiden was when he wanted to try to get free his friend Evert Bos, who was imprisoned on Roughs Tower.

In those days I followed the happenings on 'Sealand' very intensely and when being informed on daily basis by radio friends in the UK I decided, when I heard that Van Loo was taken hostage, to inform Bert Voorthuysen journalist at the Dutch Telegraaf in Amsterdam, about the situation. After several days of negotiation Van Loo got his freedom back and was taken back to the UK and flown back with a KLM helicopter to the Netherlands.



Family Bates on Sealand 1986 Photo Theo Dencker

Michael Bates describes in his book that he thought Van Loo as one of the intruders working for Achenbach, while instead of that he was sent out by Willem van Kooten to bring in the ideas to start a radiostation. Anyway more ideas starting a radiostation came in the last the nineties of last century, when Spangles Muldoon was involved.

Next to the chapters about the radio projects there are many other chapters of high interest to see what makes 'Holding the Fort' complete. Michael Bates 'of Sealand' tows you, as a reader, into the long life project of his family and keeps your attention sharp till the last pages. The book has also several color as well black and white photographs, from which a lot I hadn't seen before.

I think for everyone interested in radio as well as freedom a must to order, which is possible at <http://www.sealandgov.org/title-pack/holding-the-fort-by-michael-of-sealand>

In last issue we talked about the wonderful photos we've added to the Flickr Archive and which were sent to us by Michael Dean. With one of the photos the name of Randi Kirshbaum was mentioned and so one of the people reflecting on the subject was no one else than Jessie Brandon, who made us so much joy on Laser 558 more than 30 years ago:

'Hi Hans, I have no idea why Michael attaches Randi's name to that woman in the picture. I haven't heard back from her yet. Maybe she knew David Lee separately; hence, the confusion. She wrote me when I was aboard the Communicator, wanting to know if it was worth pursuing a job there. I had known her work in Washington, DC, where she jocked at the legendary progressive WHFS. She'd also done a stint at Boston's alternative powerhouse, WBCN, and made her name there.



Randi Kirshbaum nowadays archive: WCLZ

As far as I know, she never came to Europe. She's a fabulous broadcaster and I was thrilled she made room for me when I moved here to Maine from Washington 5 years ago. I love your publication, Hans, Jessie!

'Hi Jessie, well it was not Michael who attached her name. I had put it on Facebook with the question if anyone knows the lady in the picture with David Lee Stone. And as response I put the next line into the last report: 'Suggestions were made but no real name came till I got an e mail from Patrick Lee Szajyessky, who wrote: 'Her name is Randy Kirshbaum and you can hear her on WCLZ and on WPOR. So I hope Randy will response if it's she or not. Elsewhere it will stay a mysterious lady for us all as David can't sadly tell us anymore. Good to have heard from you again with all best wishes

Jessie again: 'Oh, I see. Well, it's not Randi by any stretch of the imagination. But any publicity is good publicity!

<http://989wclz.com/randi-kirshbaum/>

Next an official statement from Chris and Mary Payne at [www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk): The BBC has changed the name of its local radio station in London from BBC London 94.9 to BBC Radio London.

Radio London Ltd is publishing this official statement which lays out the facts surrounding the change and our company's involvement. The following consists entirely of publicly-available facts. In October 1970, three years after the offshore station Radio London (aka Big L) closed down, the BBC launched its local radio station for London, calling it BBC Radio London. The name was subsequently changed to GLR (Greater London Radio) in October 1988.

The BBC applied for the trade mark "Radio London" in 1986 but, ironically, the trade mark was not approved and registered by the (then) Patent Office (now known as the Intellectual Property Office)

until 1990, two years after the station name had been changed to GLR. The BBC had not used "Radio London" as the name of a radio station since the start of GLR in 1988. Therefore, in January 2004, our company, Radio London Ltd, applied to revoke the "Radio London" trade mark on the grounds of non-use. This is a standard procedure within UK trade mark law. The Patent Office approved revocation of the mark in May 2004 and the BBC's two trade mark registrations were cancelled. This cleared the way for the registration of Radio London Ltd.'s own applications for "Radio London" which the company had made around the time of its launch in October 2002, with further applications in March 2003 and January 2004. We had applied to register these marks because we felt that protecting the Radio London name was the right thing to do for our company and for the memory of the original station.



**MV Galaxy from Radio London. Photo: Ton Droog.**

When trademarks are finally registered after due process, ownership is deemed to have commenced from the date of application and so our company had been the rightful owner of the mark "Radio London" since 2002. In February 2014, our company received legal notification that the BBC was challenging all our trade marks in the UK; the words "Radio London", the rl logo and the combined rl logo with the words "Radio London" across it. At the



same time, the BBC had applied to register the trade mark "BBC Radio London", so clearly this new registration was likely to conflict with our existing ones.

After our suffering an extremely stressful year, a Hearing between both parties was held at the IPO (Intellectual Property Office) in February 2015. At the end of March, the Hearing Officer issued a decision on the case and held that for certain of the goods/services covered by our trade marks, Radio London Ltd had not clocked-up what was regarded as sufficient use. The IPO therefore revoked, or restricted our UK trade mark registrations.

We are bitterly disappointed to lose some of our trade marks, particularly within the area of actual broadcasting services. To be clear, "Radio London" remains registered as a trade mark in the UK to Radio London Ltd in certain classes that afford us protection of the name in the areas of broadcast engineering and suchlike.

David Robey, Managing Editor of BBC London 94.9, has stated publicly that it had always been his ambition to return the name of the BBC local station for the capital, to BBC Radio London. We only wish he had spoken to us first and explained his ambition for the name change, before the BBC launched a legal battle against our company.'

Thanks a lot Mary for informing our readership too and very sad to hear the problems concerning the BBC plans to use the name again. It must have brought you both sleepless nights. For more on the excellent pages and work from Mary and Chris have some time at: [www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk)

A video is added to a @YouTube playlist <http://t.co/cxfu6wOyMb>  
Atlantic 252 Launch 1st September 1989 filmed by Gerry Reynolds  
charlie w

Listening to old recordings is always interesting, that is when there is enough to listen to. Re-listening all the time the same recordings

should be boring. Anyway, I prefer to listen on a daily scale and have, lucky enough, a big archive. Sometimes surprising announcements are made. Of course there are songs played a lot when something was happening on one of the ships and the deejays would use a song as there was no possibility for ship-to-shore-contact. 'You've got your troubles' from the Fortunes was one of the examples for bringing over an impression to those on land.

The Caroline organisation had one very good musical period in 1973, with deejays like Andy Archer, Roger Day, Steve England, Johnny Jason, Norman Barrington, Young Paul Rusling, Spangles Muldoon and more. The later one, so I heard recently while listening to a program from 1973, used - with a smile - the song 'On the tandem' from Dutch group Smile, which had a typical Beatles sound. Spangles, who did a two hour program on a daily base, mentioned that the title was 'on the tender', suggesting that it became time that a tender was send out to the ship from Scheveningen harbour. And why he mentioned the harbour of Scheveningen? Well in the same program a commercial was played for 'Vrolijk', one of the companies which regularly tendered the MV Mi Amigo in those days. So big question to you the reader: do you have an example of such a song to share with other readers. Comments to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

On our Offshore Radio Archive with pictures recently a lot more pictures with offshore radio t shirts have been added. Have a look at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157647238929025/page3>

And of course there is also page 1 and 2.

Paul Bailey has done a marvelous task which took him a lot of work but on the other hand a lot of pleasure for those interested in the history of Stateside Soul. He recently finished his work to be heard and seen, with very exclusive soul music from the past at: I have completed Ten years of Sizzlers 1962-1972.

<https://statesidesoul.wordpress.com/>

Here an interesting story I spotted recently in an issue from Radio World related a story about the [career of Dick Witkovski](#), who has been in the business for 58 years as on-air talent, salesman, station owner and consultant.



**Salesman Dick Witkovski**  
Photo courtesy: Dick Witkovski

'Offshore broadcasting is not in Dick's Witkovski's blood, but he did have an excuse when he became involved. Witkovski lived two streets over from radio engineer Glen Callison in Dallas, Texas. They were friends when Callison hired on with an offshore broadcaster. One thing led to another, ultimately resulting in the sale of some broadcast equipment. Witkovski sent a 10 kW AM transmitter to an offshore station that 'almost' made it to the air. It was intended to broadcast music commercially to England and Ireland in about 1960, located in the Irish Sea, offshore near the Isle of Man. The process had several hiccups — the first transmitter was dropped accidentally and sank in the ocean. This occurred as it was being hoisted onto an abandoned World War II gun platform. See for the complete article: <http://www.radioworld.com/article/the-ocean-is-cruel-to-broadcasters/276999>

Next an e mail from Wim de Lang in the Netherlands who wrote: 'Hi Hans I listened to the folk-programme on BBC Radio Kent today and a very nice song was played, sung by the folk group Danger and the song was called 'Pop Pirates'. I couldn't find it on you tube yet but

found just a little peace from the song on the Bol.com site; it track number 11: <http://www.bol.com/nl/p/danger/9200000045266514/>



Well thanks Wim and here's some additional information I found: 'The return of the Cutty Sark's resident shanty band Swinging The Lead with their second album for Talking Elephant. Hailing from Kent, 'Swinging the Lead' are resident shanty singers on the Cutty Sark at Greenwich, the Thames Sailing Barge 'Edith May' and regular performers at Harwich and Deal Maritime Festivals.

The lads consisting of Dave, Stephen, Pete, Joe, and Colin all have a passion for Maritime Music, Historic Ships and sailing. Some of the band members have Tall Ship sailing experience and some are regulars on the Woolwich Ferry!

It is some months ago we had reflections from our friend Ian Godfrey in England but here is once again:

'Hi Hans, Many thanks for the latest Report and the uploads over the last few weeks. I'm intrigued by Kennedy FM. I haven't managed to get the station yet. I tried about three weeks ago but got the 'network error' message. Presumably it was only a short-term

station, an RSL? I'll give it another try and see what happens! (Yes it was so no use in searching again HK)

I intended to e-mail you soon after 14th August but decided to delay until after 31st but another fortnight has elapsed, long enough for both MOA days to seem a bit distant. Veronica 192's commemoration on 14th of August was really spectacular and up to their usual standard. I checked the Norderney website a couple of days before but didn't find anything relating to the MOA and when I tuned in around 06.20 on the day was sure it was normal programming but I switched on again two hours later and was excited to hear a few minutes of Radio 355 followed by a longer recording of Britain Radio. As far as I remember the recordings ran till 19.00 and featured seven stations, all fairly good quality, many with the records spliced in.



**Norderney in international waters. Photo: Menno Dekker**

They were presumably many other commemorations but I doubt if anyone got anywhere near the Norderney delivery. Maybe there were one or two in the UK but slightly ironically it usually takes a Dutch offshore tribute station to really go to town on recognising the British MOA. The Dutch commemoration was very similar but, having heard a really good effort from Veronica 192 six years ago I haven't



listened very much since - mainly as my knowledge of Dutch is so limited!

Another notable event this summer was radio *Mi Amigo* from the LV18. I probably listened on average 2-3 hours each day, including the last six hours (I really should get out more!) Much of the broadcast was plagued with technical problems, probably most of it due to faulty equipment but the incredibly varied group of presenters and programs styles was great compensation. This is what kept me listening. Even as a lifelong anorak I found the technical hitches and breakdowns did almost cause me to switch off a few times. The Roger Day shows were probably the best I'd heard from him for a long time, helped understandably by his choice of music. I was glad I was in a position to listen to all of the Chris/Mary Payne show. I haven't used the Shazam app so many times in such a short space of time! Dave Kent was the only one who really conveyed the spirit of *Mi Amigo* and *Caroline* in the 70s. Otherwise I felt the station should have been called something completely different. When listening to his shows I felt I was reliving the spirit of both stations in that fascinating period in offshore radio.

Recently I found the URL for *Mi Amigo International* and have listened to several shows - Dutch, English and German; another station that conveys the spirit and excitement of the original.

I listened to *Caroline Flashback* soon after it started and wasn't that impressed; mostly non-stop top five hits; only a shade more exciting than the *Gold* stations but a few days ago I thought I'd give it another try and discovered a lot more presented programmes and have been listening again most days.

A hot topic around 1st September was the closing of 5 *Nostalgia* and the apparent launch of a station called *Classic Radio 675*. The first item I read was that *Radio Maria* had leased the frequency, for two years but, judging by the next few items I read, the situation seems

to be crying out for a bit of clarity. Within a few days the mast was demolished - obviously a very decisive event - and I'm really intrigued to know the current situation.



Has 675 been leased to someone in the UK? Is there any substance to the story, etc? (I cannot tell you if we have to put it into the category 'rumors'. I saw only some statements on internet.HK) I have great memories of listening to 10 Gold and particularly Arrow Classic Rock on 675, in several parts of the UK. I 'm quite excited by the prospect of possibly a 100 kW music station on 675 but AM is old technology and I doubt enough people would listen to make it viable. It feels like a wind-up, or an April fool joke five months too late! Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

Next a link to an interesting documentary about AFN:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EUx1UJyaeY>

I had some interesting exchanging with the earlier mentioned Wim de Lang and at one stage we came on the subject of an interesting ILR station from the past. Wim: 'Breeze was different in style and format, but very unique. I listened a lot to Raymond Clark and Keith Rogers. I still have a tape of Greg Bance on Breeze, now that was a remarkable voice and presentation style! What i loved about that


period was the fact that we didn't have internet or email, so when I wrote a letter to my favourite deejays, I often got a handwritten letter back. I still have these letters by Bob Leroi, Roger Day, Keith Rogers and Ray Clark.

Those were the kind of people who sounded like real friends on the radio and they still do actually. I'm very proud of this generation of radio presenters!

**TUNE INTO LIGHT 'N' EASY RADIO**

**1.** Select Medium Wave (usually marked AM) on your radio.

AM



FM

**2.** If you live in the   area, tune to 1431.  
If you live in the   area, tune to 1359.  
If you live in the   area, tune to either 1431 or 1359, whichever is clearer.

**3.** If you have a portable radio, tune it to the position that gives the best signal – that's very important after sunset. If you have a hi-fi with a medium wave loop or bar aerial at the back, this should also be tuned for best reception.

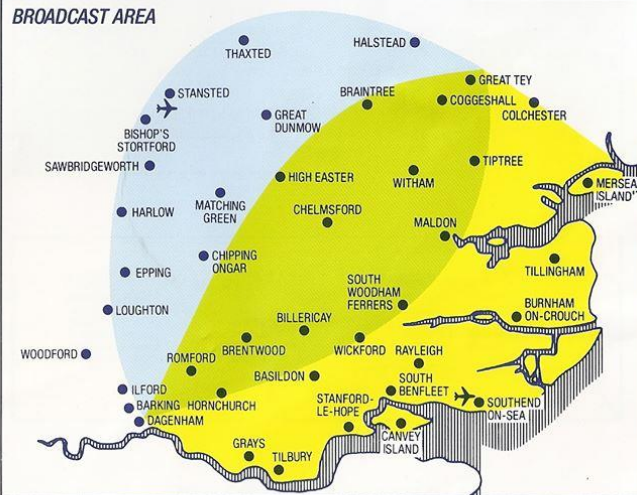
**IF YOU LIVE IN THE   AREA**

530	600	700	800	1000	1200	1400	1600
kHz							
BREEZE 1359				▲ 214			
566	429	300					
Metres							
BREEZE 220							

**IF YOU LIVE IN THE   AREA**

530	600	700	800	1000	1200	1400	1600
kHz							
BREEZE 1431				▲ 214			
566	429	300					
Metres							
BREEZE 210							

**BROADCAST AREA**



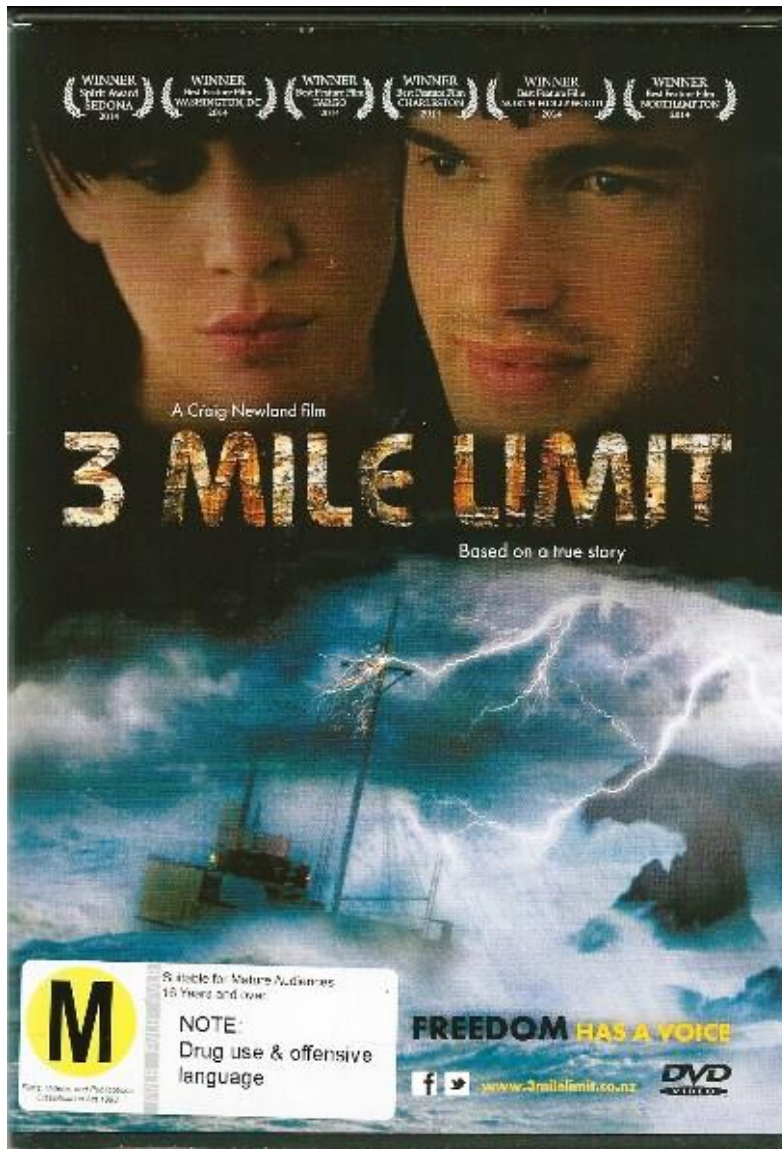
**BREEZE<sup>AM</sup>**

I would love to give another link of interest, this time a site about Radio Luxembourg: <http://www.pjede.de/208/jocks.html>

During the last issues there was a free advertisement for the New Zealand movie 3 mile limit. As the DVD arrived recently I asked my wife Jana to watch it and review the movie, so here we go:

**3 Mile Limit, a Craig Newland film. Based on a true story.**

No 8 Films Production now release on DVD  
102 minutes color New Zealand, 2015.



Many times during the past years I heard my husband tell that his thoughts were going back to the summer of 1978 when the convention 'Zeezenders 20' took place in Noordwijkerhout. During a long weekend hundreds of radio enthusiasts were given several presentations and showed a lot of film material. In those days video was still in its infancy and so a huge projector was showing what was available at the time.

The most impressive movie that weekend was shown only once as the film disappeared after that weekend and was never found back.



Wonder who went with this super document, called '1111 days at sea, the story of Radio Hauraki'. Lucky the soundtrack was found back later. It brought the history of the Shoestring Pirate, a radiostation on a ship off the New Zealand coast, complete with all problems, fighting for freedom and getting - at the end - permission to go on as a land-based legal radio station.

Now we have a movie based on a true story: 3 Mile Limit.

In 1 hour and 43 minutes, a wonderful atmosphere of the 1960s is created and described the difficult path that the founders of Radio Hauraki embarked in finally getting a licence within the public broadcasting-system in New Zealand.



Also the non-Radio Hauraki fan as well as younger people, who were not there at the time during the fight for free radio, can enjoy the



movie. As I wasn't born when this all took place, I have often wondered, what people inspired in making radio programs from aboard a staggering and hardly seaworthy radioship? Of course it was the time from the baby boomers, who did fight for a lot things in the sixties, including the Fight For Free Radio. Why were the politicians so difficult and stubbornly on the introduction of the non-public radio?

Why did they not listen to the (young) population? The demonstration in 1973 for recognition for Veronica and other Dutch offshore station RNI was the largest up till then in Dutch history; it was politically ignored too. 3 Mile Limit has managed to give me the answers to these questions and a lot more. The characters are fine occupied and well-acted. The music underlines the atmosphere wonderful. Unlike similar attempts in Europe Radio Hauraki already got within a few years - in - 1970 an official license to get ashore. After several changes in ownership Radio Hauraki is now operated by NZME Radio becoming a radio network broadcasting across New Zealand.

3 Mile Limit, a Craig Newland film. Based on a true story.

<http://3milelimit.co.nz/u-k-buy-dvd>

This is a special link for U.K and Europe buyers.  
There is a special director's commentary on the movie.

The 3 Mile Limit Facebook link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/3MileLimitMovie>

Jana Knot-Dickscheit 2015

One of the readers in Belgium advised me to inform the readers about an interesting station he's listening to: WXYG 540 khz, a station from Sauk Rapids in Minnesota, using the slogan 'the Goat'.

<http://www.540wxyg.com/>

From Manchester is the next e mail: 'I really enjoy the archive files you post especially the period up to August 1974. It was a special joy to hear 'Uncle' Eddie Startz on Radio Nederland's 'Happy Station'.

As you know, I was a keen short wave listener, especially in the 60s and 70s. In common with many other refugee Poles, we listened as a family to the Polish programmes of the BBC European Service, the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. But I also liked to listen to other stations too, such as the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, CBC from Montreal and what was then known as the Australian Broadcasting Commission in Melbourne - the latter was best received in spring and autumn when conditions suited the ionospheric multiple hops needed.



**Eddie Startz Photo: Radio Netherlands**

A particular favourite, though, was Radio Netherlands - that station was a wonderful ambassador for your beautiful country spreading not just news but information about the culture of the country. That friendliness endeared me to the Dutch, a love affair that started in 1962 when I first started short wave listening and a love affair that continues to this very day. Right at the very top of that friendliness was dear Eddie Startz spreading his message of 'Peace Cheer and

Joy' on PCJ every Sunday! A lovely, lovely man I would have loved to meet.

Much has changed in broadcasting in the 50 years since but I've never forgotten how powerful radio can be as an information medium. As you may know here in the UK, we are going through another debate as to how the BBC should be funded and whether the licence fee should continue - as part of that consultation I've added my submission. I've told them how much my parents valued the Polish Service when news from the communist Polish Radio Warsaw could not be trusted. I've also told them how Radio Nederland introduced me to a life-long love of the Netherlands and how the BBC World Service must never be cut. My earlier e-mail memories of SWLing in the 60s and 70s got me onto YouTube for the last few hours, so I've been listening to all sorts of historical stuff on there, old recordings of station interval signals, etc., sheer bliss!  
Alan, the Pole with the soul, Milewczyk.'

Thanks a lot Alan for sharing your warm memories and thoughts and it's always nice to hear and to meet you through the years.

Earlier on we had the book review about the Principality of Sealand and those who already read the review on Facebook or on certain internet-sites and decided to order it got the book at home with a special stamp. With thanks to Martin van der Ven sending a scan of this special one.



In last issue we had the question from David H. Smith regarding a certain tune used on the radio heavily in the seventies. Even a piece of the music was played on a piano and this had an enormous flow of reactions. More than 100 people came with the good answer and so thank you all for reflecting. One of them wrote: 'Hello Hans, The tune you are looking for is "Crunchy Granola Suite" by Percy Faith. Played a lot on Radio Veronica I believe. This in reply to your reader who played the tune on a piano loaded by Martin Van der Ven. Best wishes, Roger Kemp. Horsham, Sussex.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvB8\\_f2bb4A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvB8_f2bb4A)



Next it's Bill Everatt: 'Your latest report made a very interesting read, and reminded me about how much time has passed. Especially the photo showing the late David Lee Stone. I used to listen to him on Laser 558 when I was barely out of my teens! I'd only just started on University Radio at the time and I thought how good he and his colleagues sounded. Also how much work I needed to do on my own skills to even get reasonably close to his broadcasting talent. Little did I know I'd actually make a career of it!

Recently I've been listening to recordings of 1960s radio, such as the Light Programme and of course Radio Caroline and the other offshore stations. Although I vaguely remember these seminal broadcasts, I was still in infants school at the time so I didn't take

as much notice as the older kids did... Sadly! So you can imagine how delighted I was then to locate a batch of vintage recordings. I'm still looking for more to complete collection, especially from 1965 to 1967, especially from the BBC Light Service.

One BBC Light Service DJ who went on to found one of the original Welsh Commercial Radio Stations was Don Moss. I have a few of his shows and I'd love to find some more as well as programmes by Sam Costa.



Sam Costa Photo: Collection Dick Offringa

Perhaps you could assist? Best regards, Bill Everatt.' So anyone who has early recordings from the BBC as mentioned in Bill's e mail please contact me at: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next an e mail from Ian Biggar, one of the persons who did get some of the scanned old editions from the Pirate Radio News from me: 'Hi Hans, many thanks for the report and doing all those copies of the great PRN. There were some really great memories in there. As mentioned in the last report, Mike Barraclough did kindly make some copies of a few issues a couple of years ago, but he has got a little



confused about when I started listening to offshore radio. I was only six years old when Radio London closed and never heard the station. I first heard Caroline, RNI etc. in 1973 and listened to Caroline all through the 70's and beyond.

I have never been on the Radio London Facebook page either, so Mike has mixed me up with somebody else. It's easily done. Thanks for the report and have a great week. Ian Biggar.'

Kennedy FM was a kind of RSL station early this summer in Belgium and it was Walter Galle who did send us photos of the event which are now visible for anyone at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157656933807134>

Next Tony Prince who is, together with his team, doing a lot of work during the past weeks as chapter 8 is ready in the series 'History of the dj's'. He wrote: 'Come back with me to the 60's and relive the fight for free radio in Europe. Episodes 6 and 7 covered the Radio Caroline and Radio London 60's pirate ships and their fight with the British Labour Government. This time DMC's Tony Prince gives you a guided tour through DJ history looking at the Pirate Forts in the Thames estuary where one was launched by Screaming Lord Sutch. DJ Mark Wesley revisits his own career on Radio 270 off the coast of Scarborough, Yorkshire and Radio Scotland gives birth to Richard Park, who today has become the most powerful man in British radio as head of Global Radio.

Here's the pirate ship that launched the career of Stuart Henry the future BBC/Radio Luxembourg star DJ who suffered and died from Multiple Sclerosis. With rare and unseen footage from this music revolution we are guests at the Radio Caroline North wedding of DJ Mick Luvzit and Jan Teret. This surely was the boat that rocked although, as we will see, Paul Burnett was one of the many DJs who couldn't stand too much rockin'!"

<http://www.dmcworld.tv/historyofdj/?v=Z8OU5XTDr1c>

And I told you that Tony Prince and his team had very busy weeks as also part 9 of the story is ready now. Tony wrote: 'The British Labour Government thought it was all over when introducing the Marine Offences Act in August 1967. Radio London, Radio Scotland, Radio 270 all closed down but Ronan O'Rahilly, the Irish owner of Radio Caroline continued to broadcast. After the new law was introduced off-shore broadcasters from Switzerland launched Radio North Sea International which, for a while, after Radio Caroline had gone aground, took on the name Radio Caroline pumping out anti-Labour propaganda which saw the Conservatives take power.

North Sea was attacked by real pirates with real bombs as you will see in film taken during the incident when DJ's scrambled into lifeboats. Dutch gangsters also tried to take over the ship as DJs bolted down the hatches to stop them entering the studio.

Here is actual film of the events from the mouths of the DJs who were there and are still alive today to tell the story with DMCTV.

Tony Prince produces a final episode in the amazing story of British pirate radio. This was the golden age of pirate radio with high seas spinners such as Mark Wesley, Tony Blackburn, Ron O'Quinn, Johnnie Walker, Robbie Dale, Andy Archer, Ed Stewart, Bob Stewart, Spangles Muldoon (alias Chris Carey), Daffy Don Allen, Kenny Everett, Colin Nicol, Dave Lee Travis, Jerry King, Alan West, Brian McKenzie, Keith Skues, the Emperor Rosko and the story-teller himself the Royal Ruler.

Exclusive interviews include Radio Scotland's Richard Park now boss at Global Radio, Sir Roger Gale was one of the most toured pirates starting with Caroline, Radio 270, Scotland until eventually he joined BBC Radio One on the Newsbeat team. Mark Wesley too was well travelled on the seas around the UK. He eventually became a record plugger for The Beatles and Elton John but not before playing their music from forts and ships before and after the act of Parliament which made it illegal to work or advertise on the pirates.

The end of this episode is an emotional time-line from 1964 to that fateful day in August 1967 when DJs risked prison sentences or came ashore to seek work with the BBC or Radio Luxembourg. "We changed the face of radio in Europe", said Tony Blackburn. "Not arf", said Alan Freeman!

So go and see this marvelous episode 9, the last in the series on offshore radio:

<http://www.dmcworld.tv/history-of-dj-part-9-the-pirates-last-stand/>

Well here's another dedicated follower in radio's fashion, Allan Weiner from the USA: 'Hi Hans, as always it was a great report.

I do miss the offshore life. However the direct descendant of Radio New York International is still on the air as WBCQ shortwave; it has been for 17 years. And it's true free speech radio with loads of fun and purpose. I will keep doing it on the airwaves as long as we are alive and the listeners are out there. There are many, many new listeners all the time.

The radio effect is: broadcast over a real radio station (with transmitter, antenna, etc.) and you will be heard. Cheers, Allan Weiner WBCQ radio.'



Allan Weiner Photo: Near Fest Com.

I responded back to him with: 'Thanks Allan for your response. Yes I try already 45 years writing to keep the spirit alive about free radio. Did you see Wayne Hepler's request in the report? He's looking for persons for a presentation early next year. I think it's specially something for you. He made an excellent documentary about offshore radio and pirate radio in the US and wants to promote it on film festivals.' In the meantime Wayne and Allan are in contact about the presentations and so the report once again is bringing people together.

Next it's Jon, who comes around the corner each month to tell about his site update: 'New for October:

- Radio Essex began broadcasting fifty years ago this month. We tell the story of this unique station;
- we have two pages of fantastic photos taken on Laser-558 by ship's steward Michael Dean, kindly shared with us by Hans Knot;
- there is more about the Caroline "Buoy-O-Boy" lifejacket;
- contributor Peter Mockler has provided two photos of Radio London racing driver Keith St. John in action in 1965;
- and there is news of a new book about John Peel.

All the best, Jon [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

Another response on the question about the French language programs on Radio Mi Amigo came in from Belgium and are forwarded to François Lhote : Hi Hans, about the French Mi Amigo programs : There's a guy living (or who used to live) in Mouscron, Belgium, whose name is Jean Van Loo, and he's well known over here for having been in the show business. I don't know if he's still alive.

He managed bands and artists in the 60s, and organized concerts by all big names from the 60s in a club called "Le Relais De La Poste" in Mouscron. I saw Jimi Hendrix, The Yardbirds with Jimmy Page, The Kinks, and so many more in the 60s in that club. It's probably the same guy you're asking info about.



Raoul Verolleman at the Scotland desk. Photo from his own collection

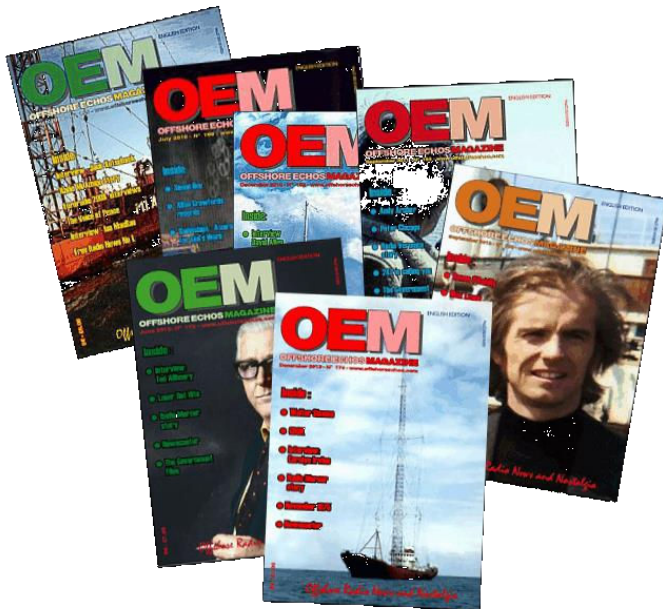
I was lucky enough to spend some time on the Comet (Radio Scotland) in July 1967. See some interesting items here:

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/otherwaves/radscot/history/raoul/raoul1.html>

Best wishes Raoul Verolleman.'

Well Raoul great to see the memories back and thanks for sharing.

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From Offshore echos to Germany we go to Harald Hummel who wrote: 'Hi Hans thanks a lot for the first HKIRR I received directly from you via email. May I ask you for your help: On 7<sup>th</sup> September 1970 my friend Walter and I had our only trip to the MEBO II on the MV Dolphijn. Both Erwin Meister and Edwin Bollier were also there on the tender and Mike Ross went out for the very first time (but I'm not quite sure about that).

Dave Gregory showed us around on the MEBO II and eventually we were allowed in the studio. I can't remember who was on air (possibly around 7 or 8 o'clock) but he played a Beach Boys record for Walter and I was lucky to say some words to our pen pals Margriet in

Wassenaar and Maria in Noordwijk in Dutch, then to Bronwyn Dale in Ipswich in English.



Dave Gregory. Photo: Gerd Klawitter

As you might guess: There was no tape-recording made at the time. Perhaps anyone of your readers might have a recording of that day. Maybe you know who was on air at that time. You can imagine how glad we would be to hear it.

By the way: We stayed on Camping Duinrell in Wassenaar and without asking for it they gave us tent No 220. On September 1<sup>st</sup> 1970 we visited the studios from Veronica in Hilversum and were shown around by Bull Verweij himself. Best wishes to you Hans, Harald Hummel.'

Thanks a lot Harald. Hopefully you once can send us photographs of this trip to RNI and Veronica, more than 45 years ago. In the meantime I did sent Harald one program of the mentioned day but he's still in search for more. Reflect on [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Look who we have here, reflecting much later then he normally does? The Emperor with just a one-liner:

'Getting closer to you! <http://tunein.com/radio/The-Mighty-KBC-1602-s248040/>

Rosko.'

For a moment I thought The Emperor doesn't need a plug in this issue but finally I decided to dig out another photo from him out of the archive:



Here's one from the late sixties on the road. What does he has with dogs instead of lovely blond ladies?

From Rosko in Los Angeles I go a lot of miles northwards to Canada from where Mel Howard mailed me: 'A local Pop historian put this piece together over the weekend here in the city. Where have 50 years gone? Stay tuned, Mel Howard.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/proud--pop-pirate-331921231.html>

Wonderful article Mel, a pity there are some historical mistakes but the main story is excellent.

And finally Chris Brisland who wrote: This coming weekend there will be another tribute to Radio Caroline North, organised by Radio Caroline and Manx Radio and so collaborating together. Full details, and how to listen can at <http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk/> . It will also be on the Manx Radio transmitter, 219m, 1368 K/c's MW

With this I end another bumper edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report and I will be back two times this year before the annual break in January. Take care and let all the news, memories and more come to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)