

## Hans Knot International Radio Report April 2016

Welcome to another edition of the International Radio Report. Thanks all for your e mails, memories, photos, questions and more. Part of the report is what was left after the March edition was totally filled and so let's go with this edition in which first there's space for a story I wrote last months after again doing some research:

*'Ronan O'Rahilly, Georgie Fame and the Blue Fames. Where it really went wrong!'*

On this subject I've written before but let's go back in time and also add some new facts to it: 'Was Ronan O'Rahilly the manager of Georgie Fame?' I can tell you there was a problem with an important instrument.

When in April 1964 Granada Television came with an edition of the 'World in action' series, which was a production from Michael Hodges, they informed the television public about a new form of Piracy, the watery pirates. Two radio ships bringing music and entertainment under the names of Radio Caroline and Radio Atlanta. Radio Caroline was the first 20<sup>th</sup> century Pirate off the British coast with programs, at that stage, for 12 hours a day. Interviews with the Caroline people were made in the offices of Queen Magazine in the city of London and included - among others - Jocelyn Stevens and the then 23-year old Irish Ronan O'Rahilly.

During this documentary it became known, which we would also read in several newspapers in the then following weeks, that Ronan O'Rahilly had started his radiostation Caroline as he couldn't get his artists played on stations like Radio Luxembourg. To sum it up one name was the most important one, *Georgie Fame*, who was managed by Ronan O'Rahilly. Through the following decades countless

documentaries as well as articles always mentioned this important fact.

Georgie Fame and his Blue Fames started their career way back in 1962 under this name after a period they had worked as a backing group for Billy Fury. It was around 2005 my wife bought for me a cd-boxset called: 'The Incrowd' in Germany and I learned that Georgie Fame and the Blue Fames were booked at the famous Flamingo Club in London in 1962 and became a massive success. And believe it or not, in the 44 pages booklet, which was published with the CD Box, it was confirmed that it was not Ronan O'Rahilly who managed Georgie Fame and his Blue Fames but Rik Gunnell and so the group became the stars in the Flamingo Club.



In 2009 I lent a rare album from a music friend, an LP which was called: 'Rhythm and Blues at the Flamingo Club', featuring Georgie Fame and his Blue Fames. And at the cover it was mentioned too that Rik Gunnell was the manager and there was no mentioning at all for Ronan O'Rahilly.

Of course in all the stories about the sixties and Radio Caroline there are a lot of myths and research learned that the brothers Rik and Johnny Gunnell were well-known entrepreneurs and music promoters and are mentioned in most of the books relating music in

the sixties. When Rik Gunnell died in 2007 at the age of 75 in one of the obituaries - the one by Val Wilmer - the next phrase could be found: 'Even in 1966, when Georgie Fame, his artist, was topping the charts for the second time, Gunnell could still be found outside the Flamingo, in London's Wardour Street, playing the tout, with a treble whisky-and-coke in his hand.'



Famous Flamingo Club. Photo from the internet, source unknown

The truth was that Rik Gunnell had booked Georgie Fame for his Flamingo Club and also made a contract to manage him. One of the guys who was plugging artists, including the then unknown Animals and Georgie Fame, was Ronan O'Rahilly. So he had a minor role as always was mentioned in documentaries and newspaper articles.

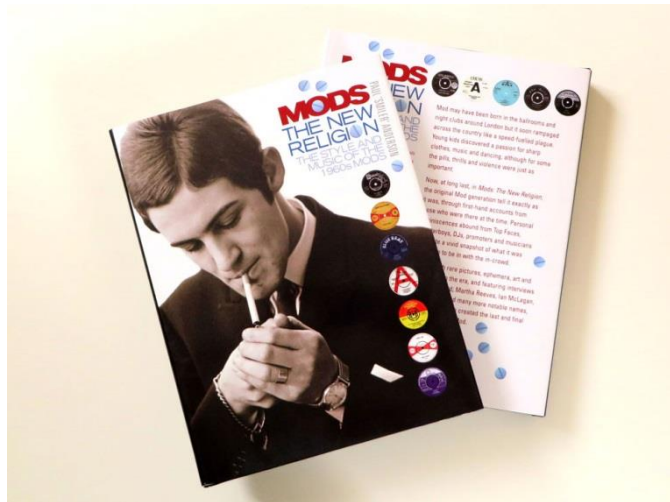
Then there were also several mentioning's of the fact that Ronan O'Rahilly was the owner of the Scene Club, also one of the important Clubs in the first half of the sixties in the City of London. Rumours were going he was only the manager there; others say he just frequently attended other people at the Scene Club. In his book;

'Radio Caroline, The True Story of the Boat that Rocked', Ray Clark wrote about Ronan and the Scene Club: 'He moved to London's club land in Soho, running the Scene Club in Ham Yard off Great Windmill Street. The Scene Club was dark, cramped and narrow, with a small bar, what passed as a dance floor and a stage too small for anything other than a DJ who had to make room for live bands and their equipment; consequently, it was very loud. Ronan O'Rahilly was also the manager for a number of artists at this time; he was certainly working with harmonica player Cyril Davis and legendary blues musician Alexis Korner.'

And about Ronan and the Animals he wrote: 'He helped to launch The Animals, but he and the manager had a split up and he always felt slightly resentful that he didn't get a slice of The Animals - but he was there at the birth.'

Relating Georgie Fame Ray Clark wrote: 'Keyboard player and vocalist Georgie Fame had a residency at the Flamingo Club and he also performed at the Scene, and it was Ronan's attempts to promote a recording of Georgie Fame that, he claims, led him to start a radio station: "I can remember well going round with an acetate of Georgie after I'd discovered that the BBC wouldn't play it at all because it wasn't on EMI or Decca, and I suddenly realised that the whole thing was locked up.'

Last year I bought a wonderful book about the Mods: 'The new religion. The style and music of the 1960s Mods', written by Paul 'Smiler' Anderson. One of the many artists interviewed in the book is Mick Eve, once member of the Blue Flames. Among other things he told the author: "We'd often to do the Scene Club at a Friday night. The Scene Club had around 250 people. The owner, Ronan O'Rahilly, paid us about 25 to 30 Pounds. Ronan was a good soul and gave us quite a few plugs on Radio Caroline, the pirate ship station that he also owned. He wanted to be Fame's manager but unfortunately it wasn't him who put the money for a new organ."



So a brand new Hammond organ had to be paid for, probably they hired one before. As Ronan did not give Georgie Fame and the Blue Fames the wanted 500 Pounds for a new organ they went on search for other possibilities. They found that at the Flamingo were Rik Gunnell paid for the organ and made a contract in which the deal with the organ and the management was arranged. However Georgie Fame and the Blue Fames had to work very hard during the first weeks, almost having no money for a normal living.

Mick Eve: "Rik Gunnell lent us the money for a Hammond organ but that's where we fell into a trap. A Hammond organ in those days was about 500 Pounds. A fiver for a gig was like 50 Pounds these days, so the organ equated to about five grand!" So there it is the story of a new Hammond Organ which taught us that Rik Gunnell got the management for Georgie Fame and the Blue Fames and not Ronan O'Rahilly as often has been told.

Maybe two final comments could be made about 'managing' as Paul Rusling wrote: 'Ronan worked with the Gunnell brothers on a number of promotions. I think he was therefore one of those who managed Georgie Fame but it wasn't his name on the contract. I'm sure the same is true if the lease on the Scene Club. Well, you can do a lot of managing (especially with Ronan's charm and dialog) without having your name in any papers. Ronan was always very careful about paperwork.'

After publishing this article on fb also Andy Archer reflected with: 'Did you know Ronan closed The Scene Club for one night on the day JFK was assassinated out of his respect for him? Ronan never managed Georgie Fame. I spoke with Georgie Fame a few years ago. He told me Ronan was just a close friend who helped to promote: 'Yeh Yeh'. Georgie's manager Rick Gunnell had an office on the top floor of the Radio Caroline offices at 6 Chesterfield Gardens.'

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[Felixstowe & Offshore Radio](#) Recently mentioned that Dave Porter, G4OYX, is a retired BBC Senior Transmitter Engineer who has written several articles concerning offshore radio. These articles are fairly technical, but also contain some interesting snippets and anecdotes that offshore radio fans might appreciate.

<https://drive.google.com/open...>

Other articles here:

<http://www.bbceng.info/Technical%20Revie.../tott-combiners.pdf>

[http://www.bbceng.info/Tech.../31-32\\_G4OYX\\_Signal\\_Issue\\_32.pdf](http://www.bbceng.info/Tech.../31-32_G4OYX_Signal_Issue_32.pdf)

[http://www.bbceng.info/Tech.../34-37\\_G4OYX\\_Signal\\_Issue\\_34.pdf](http://www.bbceng.info/Tech.../34-37_G4OYX_Signal_Issue_34.pdf)

[http://www.bbceng.info/Tech.../21-23\\_G4OYX\\_Signal\\_Issue\\_35.pdf](http://www.bbceng.info/Tech.../21-23_G4OYX_Signal_Issue_35.pdf)

[http://www.bbceng.info/.../24-30\\_G4OYX\\_Signal\\_Issue\\_36%20\(1\)....](http://www.bbceng.info/.../24-30_G4OYX_Signal_Issue_36%20(1)....)

In last issue of the report we had already a story from Norah Barnes about this gathering in London: The Great British Radio Reunion, January 17th 2016 at The Jazz Cafe, Camden London. Go to our special photo page on Flickr to see photos taken by Norah as well as Enda Caldwell:



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157663991090165>

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## **How to launch and operate your own Internet Radio Station**

Every day we get increasingly more enquiries for us to help set up online radio stations. We couldn't handle the volume of business if we tried, so we have decided to share the knowledge.

We've condensed into one eBook,

- What the legal and copyright situation is with Internet Radio
- What equipment do you need, and where to get it
- What transmission arrangements do you need, and who is providing them
- How to launch your station, and even more importantly
- How to operate your own radio station.

It's not a short book - this is over 77,000 words, in 38 chapters, that's 353 pages, crammed full of links to some amazing sources. The books bang up to date with all the latest information, including the January imposition of higher copyright fees for American stations.

Armed with this information, you could set up your very own radio station very cheaply and within a few hours be living one of your greatest dreams -

**Running your very own radio station,  
with truly global reception.**

You can have a copy of Internet radio 2016 on your computer / tablet / Kindle or even on your iPhone for just \$9.99, or £6.89 in the UK. And it's an immediate download, so don't deny any longer.

There's more details on the *World of Radio* [web site](http://worldofradio.co.uk). (<http://worldofradio.co.uk>)

Enjoy the book, and Good Luck with your own station



Paul Rusling

P.S. Please let us know what you think.

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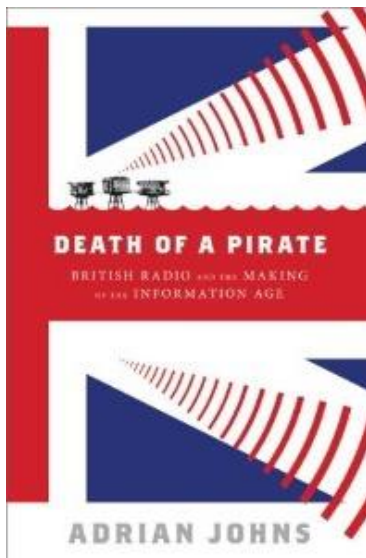
Now we go to Germany with the next e mail: 'Hello Hans, The old valve radios often carried markings 'Schweizer Telefonrundspruch' on the longwave scale. Markus Meier published this technical article on his homepage [www.biennophone.ch](http://www.biennophone.ch) The pictures and descriptions there of the Swiss transmitters once on 557 and 1562 kHz are of some interest to offshore listeners.

About the Telefonrundspruch as an early cable radio system: the Swiss system on radio distribution worked by a carrier-signal on the telephone lines. These signals could be picked up at the connection point of the telephone in the home with a special plug connected to the antenna of the radio receiver. Then by tuning to longwave the signals are coming out of the radio loudspeaker. And this worked independently to the use or non-use of the telephone in parallel.

'Death of a pirate' by Adrian Johns is an outstanding book on the development of broadcasting in the last century. From page 52 on there is mentioning of the 'relay' companies in England during the



1930s, distributing locally radio programmes like from Radio Normandy and others on cable.



My question now: is there any source describing the technology used for such cable systems in England. Was it the same as in Switzerland? Best regards, Jan Sundermann'.

Hallo Jan I think you mean Rediffusion. Here much more

<http://www.rediffusion.info/>

After I send Jan the answer he came back with: Yes, that's it. Didn't know the name, but that practically gives all the answers.

Well if you have any question for the report please feel free to write to me at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Next it's nickname time as Peter de Vries, once deejay on Radio Atlantis, was nicknamed 'Peter Deepfreeze' by Terry Davis on Radio Atlantis. Source for this new one is Peter de Vries himself.

Next an e mail from Wim de Lang in Holland: "Hi Hans during the last months I've become a enormous fan from the English easy listening radio station Serenade Radio. It's not only the lovely music but also the relaxed presentation is wonderful. Now and then I'm in contact with the founder of the station, Andy Mariott and he brings back the sound of BBC Radio 2, from the days they were bringing the easy

listening format. All people working with Serenade are volunteers and worked earlier for Saga Radio. I think they need far more attention:



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

This is a lovely one from Martin van der Ven: 'Many years ago, I purchased a collector's item: A ship's model of Radio Veronica's first vessel, the Borkumriff - to be cut of cardboard! Last year I thought that after all those years, it would make a nice Christmas present for a good friend of mine, who is perfect in doing handicrafts (believe me: not at the back of his mind). Now he surprised me by giving it back to me. It's an amazing result as you can see. Martin.'



Photo: Martin van der Ven

Next it's Enda Caldwell: 'Hi Martin and Hans! This air-check from 2000 is well worth a share as Atlantic 252 often gets a mention within the offshore circles and due to its connections to Laser 558 and Radio Luxembourg, Sunshine 101, Radio Nova and Irish Superpirates. Rodney Neil of Portadown, Northern Ireland, a long time DX'er captured this audio of me on the radio from way back in March 18th (day after St. Patrick's Day!) 2000.

The station regularly received emails and reception reports from as far away as Sweden, Berlin, Finland, Norway and South of France and Northern Italy.

Rhythmic Top 40 was the format for the last two years of the station's existence, picking up from a low point in the period before the relaunch when it went virtually format-free and played Alternative and Obscure tracks losing the brand that Atlantic 252 had been trademark for in its first 8 or 9 years as a tight USA-style Top 40 / Rhythmic and Hot AC hybrid station. Sounding something like Radio 538 of today or AMP Radio in New York or Z100.



In my career in radio so far there have been a few dizzyingly high points including Atlantic 252, Radio Luxembourg, South East Radio in Wexford Ireland working for Clive Derek of Caroline, 106.5 Riviera Radio Monaco and even some shows covering at KISS100 and Xfm in London (now Radio X). Atlantic is right up there at the top. At the time I used to listen to the Dutch DJ'S via Satellite on Radio 538 and others to hear the excitement in their voices and the tight

delivery of excellent Top 40 radio among part of my inspiration while being on air on Atlantic 252. The Dutch love radio and even to a person like me listening with only a few words of Dutch the lovely passion can be heard and the smile in their voice.

It could and can be done again. The hope is that the right people will rise to power who believe in the power of a great station like Atlantic 252. At the time of its closure Atlantic 252 was losing money granted but nowhere near the vast millions of Euro being lost annually by state run RTE 2FM here in Ireland. RTL and RTE washed their hands of Atlantic 252 (as RTL has done twice with Radio Luxembourg) all too soon. In this day of 'brand' driven radio and marketing such names had they continued on would have delivered real market value and share prices.

With the launch of so many DAB services around now in The UK such as the launch of Virgin Radio on DAB in The UK let's see how many of them are still in existence in around five or ten years' time?

Atlantic 252 had something very special and still holds a place in people's hearts just like Laser 558, RNI or Caroline. To think that it has gone forever is almost unbelievable to someone who virtually grew up in the same locality as the station. Seems sad to think that all we ever do these days is to remember:

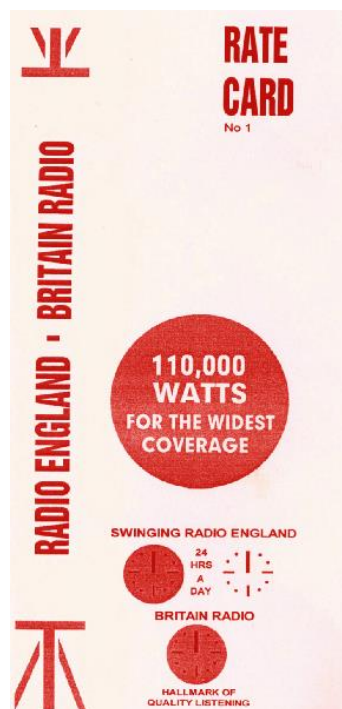
<https://www.mixcloud.com/Energy80s/atlantic-252-trim-eire-18-03-00-enda-caldwell/>

Thanks Enda and wonderful to hear from you again. Good memories to the evening before Radioday 2014 and also thanks for the compliments about those Dutch radiostations! Thanks for sharing your story as well as the recording. Take care.

Next Allan Smart from England: 'Thank you for the International Radio Report, which I read avidly every month. I have a technical question, or questions really, for John Roberts, or any other engineers reading your report, who you featured in the February

2016 edition. John states that Radio England and Britain Radio had a huge transmitter combiner mounted on the deck. This is different to other sources I have read in the past, which have implied that there were indeed two separate aerial systems in use. If you look at any photographs there are 2 'bird cage' aerials suspended from the main mast. One virtually straight down and the other, more diagonally, going to a lower rear mast. If there was a combiner then it implies the aerial system was a folded monopole. Perhaps John could elaborate, please?

I live in rural Leicestershire, which is about 150 miles from where the southern ships were anchored in the 1960s, and so was really on the fringe of good reception for the average transistor radio. The 355 metres Britain Radio signal was far stronger than the 227 metres Radio England one implying there was a significant power or aerial difference. I appreciate lower frequency, higher wavelength; transmissions will propagate better and have taken that into account, so my question is was there a power difference?



Freewave Archive



Finally, as John mentioned he worked briefly on Big L, did they ever achieve the full 50kW? The reason behind this question is taken from something Tom Danaher wrote. He states that just before he left the *Galaxy* in 1964/65, the engineers were struggling to get the system to handle more than about 20kW due to the rigging and the hostile marine environment; it would arc over. I spent most of my youth listening to Big L, but would tune into the other stations on occasion, and when Radio Caroline appeared on 259m it was stronger than Big L. I remember the big publicity stunt (fronted by Kenny Everett from memory) about Big L going up to 75KW, but I never noticed much of an improvement, so assume that's what it was, a publicity stunt; probably done to hoodwink the advertisers! Kind regards Allan.'



**Olga Patricia in Miami harbour Photo: Freewave Archive**

Well I've forwarded the interesting questions to John Roberts, who came back with the answers: 'Hi Hans, as far as I am concerned the two cages were all part of the same radiator. They were not folded in any way. That there is a combiner does not imply that the antenna must be a folded one. What happens is that a vertical radiator is bent into an L shape to get it to fit in the space. A folded radiator will fold over and come back to the feed point and be connected to the ground plane. The question about the RCA Ampliphase



transmitter on Radio London: I was there only a short time and believed that it was operating on full power. It would appear that serious transmitter problems emerged after my time there. I hope that's helps Allan.'

And I can confirm that Allan is very happy with your answers John!

Next a you tube special looking back at Radio Geronimo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3TvOHbvm-M#t=23>

Interesting to see is also the excellent site 'The John Peel Archive'.

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

Yet another big radio hero from the American Radio Scene has left us. In Europe we also heard him on AFN/AFRTS. Charlie Tuna had a marvelous voice. Here is what Thom Whetston wrote about Charlie in his special AFN blogspot:

<http://afrtsarchive.blogspot.nl/2016/02/rip-charlie-tuna.html>

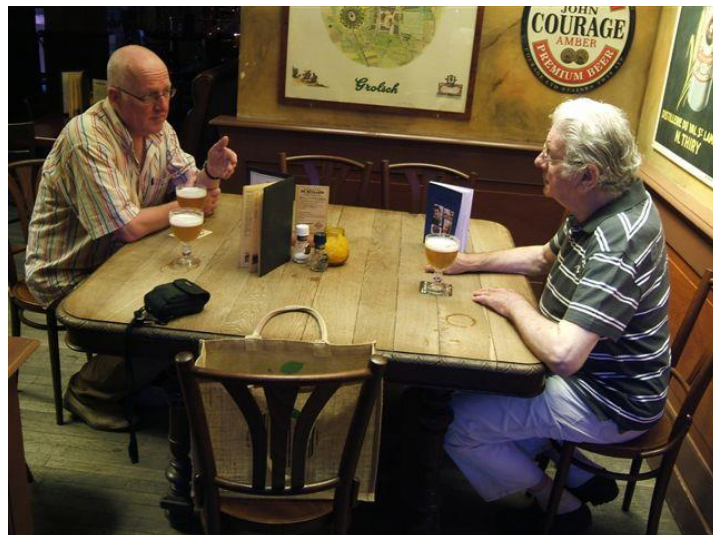


### Promotional material Charlie Tuna: Freewave Archive

Recently I had a long talk on the phone with Graham Gill, who will be celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday soon. He told me that he recently had contact with a lady from an insurance company who told him that she couldn't believe that he is almost 80 years due to the fact she heard such a clear and beautiful voice. Graham told her that he has been,

during his working career, in radio in Australia as well as in Europe. When he told that he had worked on the pirates he added to say that probably she had never heard of these stations.

Next Graham gave her an impression how he sounded on the radio doing an announcement on the phone like the ones he did on the top of the hour on Radio Northsea International. The young lady on the phone, by hearing RNI, was very surprised and told that her father sometimes spoke about those wonderful days in radio. Next the phone call was not ended as Graham told her about all the other stations he worked for.



Sharing memories, Hans Knot and Graham Gill

Photo: Rob Olthof

Again a link to Radio Syd, this time from Per in Sweden: 'Hi Hans, as usual, a big thank you for an excellent report. I noticed that you referred to 'my old home page'. However, the swipnet pages are closed down since several years. I once worked for this ISP, so I could upload 'large files', i.e. 2-3 MB... without using a 28.8 kbps modem. The Gambia pages of Radio Syd are now located here: <http://radiohobby.se/offshoreradio/radiosyd/gambia/links.html>

Time flies, as they say. Next week or so, it is 55 years ago since

Radio Nord started. It's amazing how well this is still remembered by the general public. In a couple of weeks I'll be doing a presentation of Radio Nord for some 'elderly gentlemen'. It's the fourth time I'm doing this within a year. Best regards, Per Alarud.'

Well Per enjoy the presentation, it's always thankful to share your knowledge with other persons. From Sweden we go to Belgium.

Here's what Philip Taghon wrote to me: 'Hello Hans, thanks as always for your excellent radio report. Jan Sunderman was eager to find out what happened to the Timor Challenger last situated in Turkey.'

In this document

<http://www.wssrotterdam.nl/nieuwsbrief/nb211.pdf> is stated that the vessel was sold to get scraped and at that time (January 2015) had arrived at her anchorage in Aliaga, known as a scrap yard port.

Another search concerning the position gave the following and different result <https://www.vesselfinder.com/vessels/TIMOR-CHALLENGER-IMO-6402901-MMSI-372174000> so this means that the last place where the ship was situated was not Güzelyalı near Istanbul but Aliğa some 400 km further away in the Aegean Sea.

So if you watch this video of the last voyage of this old P&O ferry ship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYltdonj2iE> to the graveyard of ships, I think there is little or no chance someone would ever see the Timor Challenger again.'

So no proof as such but very little hope remains. But some minutes later Philip came back with: 'Hello again Hans, minutes after mailing you I've found this item at

<http://forum.shipspotting.com/index.php?topic=12945.75> posted February 18, 2015, 03:08:13 pm among others "Timor Challenger Imo 6402901 Loa 64x10m Built 1964 Radio Station Ship Beached 6/1/15 Aliaga"

Probably this means that the date of September 17th 2015 can be the date that was 'totally scraped'. Furthermore in the Turkey



Metal Scrap Yards Syndicate Journal

[http://www.denizticaretodasi.org.tr/Shared%20Documents/Deniz%20Ticaretini%20Dergisi/subat\\_ek\\_2016.pdf](http://www.denizticaretodasi.org.tr/Shared%20Documents/Deniz%20Ticaretini%20Dergisi/subat_ek_2016.pdf) has in his list of ships recycled in 2015 (2015 YILINDA GEMİ GERİ DÖNÜŞÜME GELEN GEMİLER) "TIMOR CHALLENGER - 6402901 - PANAMA 1963". So the sad news is now proven. Philip.'



HKS Hoop in Scheveningen harbour Photo: G. Friedrich

Of course I've sent the answers to Jan in Germany and he came back with: 'Hello Hans, absolutely great! Please forward the next to Philip: Great work done, Phillip! So the ship was once for a week in IJmuiden, and nobody among the readers has taken notice? That's rare, but even stranger is the time line of the whole story: the ship was beached by intention to become scrap. That's sad but normal. Sad, as it was a real tough vessel, good enough for a real station offshore. I saw this ship in Scheveningen many times, lying opposite to the Fortuna, and now this story!

Coming back to the timeline obviously the ship was ripped off all equipment valuable before the plasma torches did their work by cutting the ship into pieces. That happened in January.

The only explanation that the shipfinder could make a log of it in September again might be, that the navigational equipment was then switched on while being on land at the named position near Istanbul. The shipfinder works on the signals transmitted from the automatic beacons installed on the ships, called the AIS, the Automatic Identification System.

Can this be true, that a no more existing ship becomes logged? And it is reported being on its way to Aliaga with an estimated time of arrival 8 months ago, long before this final log. That sounds like a real crime story. Can anybody explain this, what should be impossible (at least by logic)? Best regards, Jan Sundermann'.

Thanks a lot Philip and to close this subject I will finish with a movie which shows the work on the Church ship 'De Hoop' during the period 1955-1964: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0Hauivobd8>

In last issue we had the question from Belgium whereby a reader asked why it was possible that there was a phone call in a Caroline program in the sixties, that normally was presented live from aboard the MV Mi Amigo by The Emperor Rosko. Well, Rosko answered the question far away from LA in the USA:

'Greetings Hans, nice snappy this week. I think you nailed the question from Belgium. That must have been a recorded show, we did not have cell phones back in the day, I was curious so I listened! Please note that it was airing at 2 a.m. in the morning. That was not my normal slot. It also refers to a guy who worked in the studio in London. I was trying to see if it was voice tracked and it sounds like it was not, I cannot for the life of me remember doing it there at Chesterfield Gardens. Score another investigative award for finding a radio fact in my vacuum. Regards to the millions who follow all this history! Michael Pasternak.'

Thanks a lot Michael but of course you must know that voice tracking didn't consist at all at Caroline in the sixties. And of course we finish your part of the show this time again with one of the many photographs we have. This time a photo from the days you had an agent in Chelsea, London.

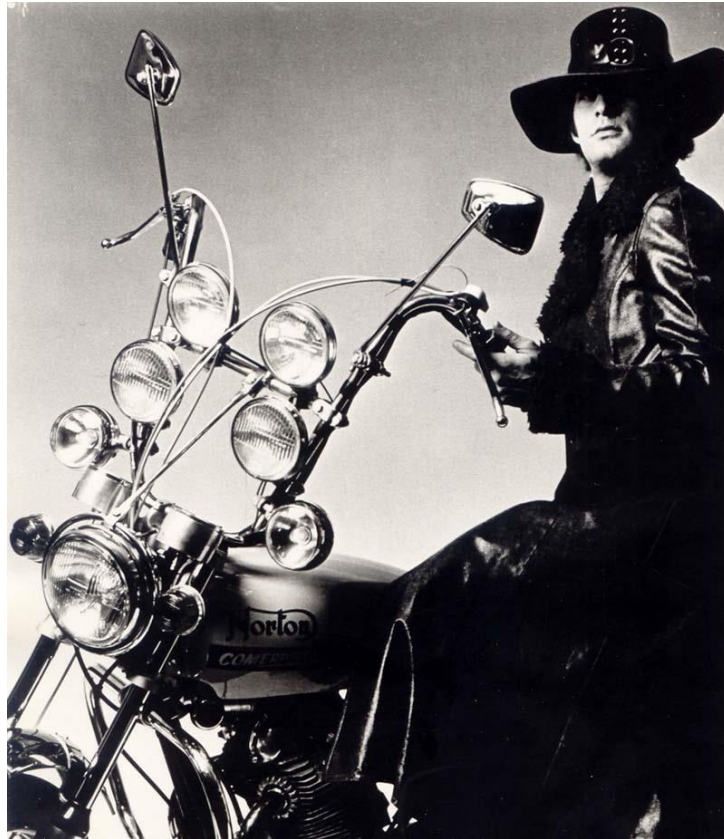


Photo: collection Emperor Rosko

Next space for our regular man Jon from the Pirate Hall of Fame

I have just updated The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame. New this month:

- We were saddened to hear of the death of two former offshore broadcasters, Keith King and Axel;
- and we reach the final page of the 'Eighties Supplement', featuring broadcasters from that decade with names beginning with the letters W to Z.



My thanks to all the contributors. Best wishes, Jon

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

E mail time again and from England it's David Lee Starskey: 'Hi Hans and Bob Noakes, nice article about the UK series "The Sweeney". I recently watched an episode called: 'Chalk and Cheese'. The two main villains were chatting in a car about half way through the episode with the radio playing. You have to listen carefully but the song playing is 'Peace' by Peter! Though I would let you know. All the best David Lee.' Thanks David and I'm wondering if anyone else has remarks or answers on the excellent story about the Sweeney by Bon Noakes, which was published in last issue. Feel free to write:

[HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)



Next again some links we got from readers like this one from Wim de Lang: <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160301-red-sands-the-alien-forts-off-britains-coast?ocid=ww.social.link.facebook>

The abandoned 'alien' forts off Britain's coast. These sea forts were built to defend the country from air raids - but today they look like a lost set from The War of the Worlds. We explored the eerie, abandoned structures.

With thanks to AJ Janitschecka the next batch of information: 'The Federal Communications Commission is hoping to help fight pirate radio by raising awareness of the problem. It announced steps a day ahead of an FCC oversight meeting of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

The commission released an Enforcement Advisory notice and distributed a series of individualized letters that reiterate the illegality of operating certain radio broadcasting equipment without a license. Recipients include mayors, police chiefs, Realtors, rental property owners and other community organizations.

<http://www.radioworld.com/article/fcc-rattles-sword-against-pirate-operations/278268>

[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2016/db0301/DA-16-159A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0301/DA-16-159A1.pdf)

Next something special for my Dutch and Flemish readers:

**MI '74-'75**  
**AMIGO DAG**

**1 mei 2016**  
12:00-17:00 uur  
Hoek van Holland

**EXTRAGOLD**

- Hoe werd Radio Mi Amigo in de steigers gezet aan de van Hogendorpstraat in Den Haag ?
- Hoe ontstonden de memorabele Mi Amigo jingles ?
- Wat gebeurde er allemaal in Culemborg in 1974 ?
- Hoe overleefde Mi Amigo de eerste maanden na 31 augustus 1974 ?
- En wat deed de VOO (Veronica) in 1975 nu precies in Playa d'Aro ?

Norbert, Bert Bennett, Willem Steentjes, Peter van Dam, Ad Roland, Frans van der Drift, Ad Bouman, Eddy Govert e.v.a. geven de antwoorden.

**Museum RockArt**  
Zekkenstraat 42  
3151 XP Hoek van Holland  
Entree: € 10,-

**Museum RockArt**  
www.extragold.nl

Interesting photo sites Radio Mercur, and Radio Syd

<http://bilderisyd.se/index.php/search?q=%22Radio+Mercur%22>

<http://bilderisyd.se/index.php/search?q=%22radio+syd%22>

<http://bilderisyd.se/index.php/search?q=Cheetah>

with thanks to Martin van der Ven

Henk Verhaag found this one: <http://radiogodis.se/Piratradio.htm>

Martin H. Samuel from England reflected on the story of Radio London and David Bowie in the sixties: 'Hello Hans, I recall 1965, The Manish Boys (featuring David Bowie) with Johnny Flux on guitar and Jimmy Page playing the guitar solo, released, 'I Pity the Fool' :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUXj2aZPXrA>

Flux went on to be a DJ at pirate station Radio City based at Shivering Sands Army Fort and later, known as John Edward, at Wonderful Radio London. Late 1960's / early 1970's, he ran The John Edward Entertainment Agency booking such bands as Heatwave (I was the drummer). The first song written by David Bowie (then known and credited as Davie Jones) and released on record was the B-side, 'Take My Tip': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm-7d81tUY>

All the best, Martin Samuel.' Thanks a lot Martin, most appreciated for this additional information.

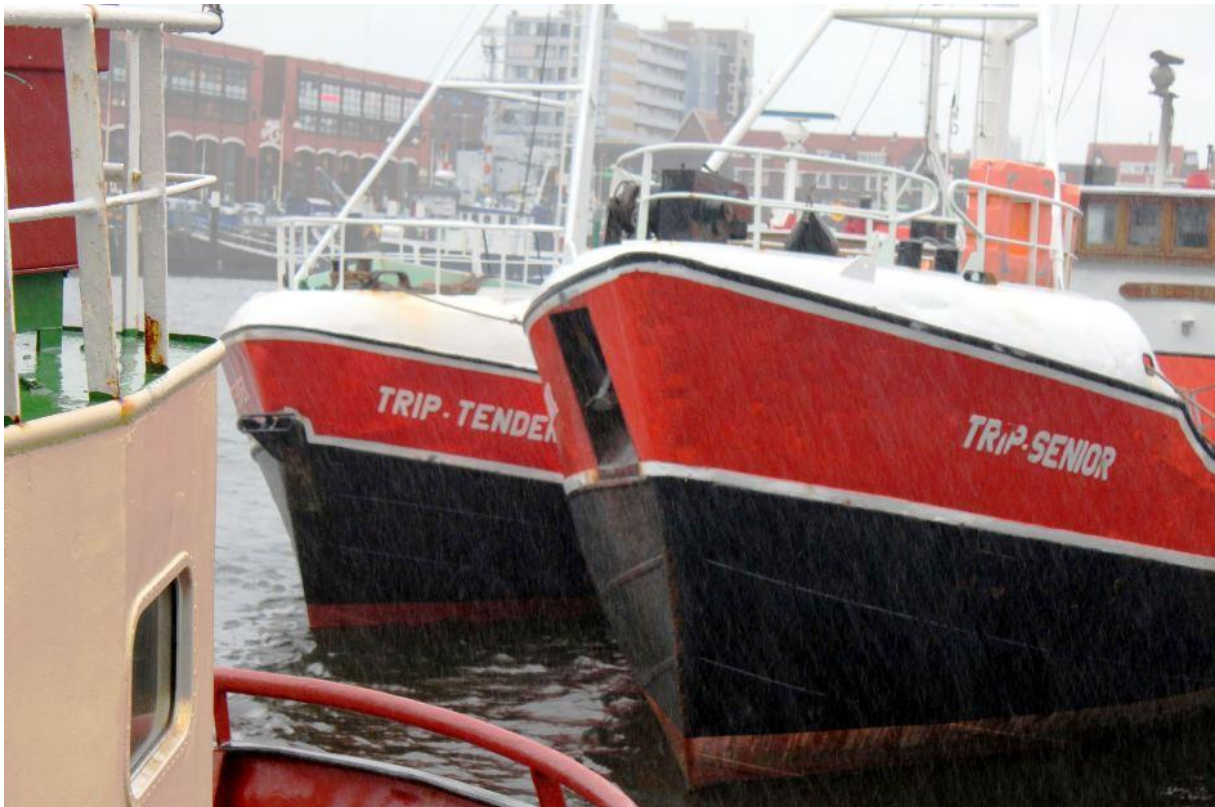
Peter Moore and memories to Ronan O'Rahilly a must to read:

<http://members7.boardhost.com/PirateRadio/msg/1457351541.html>

Also this is an interesting one:

<http://members7.boardhost.com/PirateRadio/msg/1457940770.html>

Some very historic ships which are for decades related to the harbour of Scheveningen and which were used during the high days of Offshore Radio will probably leave forever this harbour. The family shipping company Trip is for sale and no-one knows at the moment what will happen to the ships. Here a photograph taken by Christian Bergmann some years ago during a very rainy day in Scheveningen.



I was without words when reading the next articles:

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/former-radio-1-dj-tommy-7527824#YwOg7u7MqEQQK3Jf.97>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/radio-1-dj-tommy-vance-7528409>

Next an e mail from Benny Brown in Luxembourg.

'Hi Hans! Here's more info about my Radio Luxembourg antenna-souvenir. BCE engineers Jacquot and Eugene asked the salvage firm, using their acetylene torch, to cut a section from one of the towers



for me. This Radio Luxembourg antenna tower red beacon has a special place of honour at home in Benny's Basement: it is on proud display right next to the four antenna pieces I have from the old AFN towers, which came down a year ago outside Frankfurt. I spent a number of great years on both AFN, and later Radio Luxembourg. Clearly, my wife Marlies is a very understanding woman. Benny Brown'.



Photo: Collection Benny Brown

Of course you're invited to have a look at the latest update regarding the Radio London internetsite from Mary and Chris Payne as there's always news of interest there:

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

Next sad news came first from Andy Cadier: 'Princess Joan of Sealand died Princess Joan of Sealand (02 September 1929 - 10 March 2016). Joan Bates, aka Princess Joan of Sealand, was born in Aldershot barracks to RSM Royal Artillery, Albert Collins, and his wife, Elizabeth. Widow of Roy Bates, aka Prince Roy of Sealand, she was a natural beauty who lovingly devoted her life to her husband. A former carnival queen and model, Joan led quite a high profile life alongside her husband, Roy. Joan became happily engulfed by the offshore pirate radio phenomena in the early 1960's, helping to establish the popular 'Radio Essex'. Joan and her family then went on to form their own sovereign state, the Principality of Sealand, on a wartime fortress in the North Sea in the late 60's. Roy declared the independence of Sealand on Joan's birthday, and with it her title of Princess, in a hugely romantic gesture on 2nd September 1967.'

BBC News March 14<sup>th</sup> BBC News came some days later 14 March 2016: 'A woman who helped establish an independent state on a former military platform off the Suffolk and Essex coast has died aged 86. Joan Bates and her late husband Major Roy Bates moved to an anti-aircraft fortress just outside British territorial waters almost 50 years ago.'

They declared it an independent state and gave themselves the titles "Prince" Roy and "Princess" Joan of Sealand. She is survived by their son, Michael, "Prince" of Sealand. He has controlled Sealand, seven miles off the coast, since the death of his father in 2012. Sealand, a 10,000 sq ft platform, saw the launch of a pirate radio station in the 1960s, armed attacks by pirates and government bids to shut it down.

"Prince" Michael of Sealand said: "My parents will always be remembered for shaking up the establishment with pirate radio, declaring Sealand's independence and confronting the Royal Navy and other foreign governments."

In 1978, three foreign men landed at Sealand by helicopter and



overpowered Michael to claim the 'principality' as their own. Mr Bates soon arrived, took two of the men hostage and regained control of the fort. Sealand has also bestowed titles on non-Sealand dwellers, including BBC presenters Terry Wogan and Ben Fogle and "Baron von Edward Sheeran of Sealand", otherwise known as singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran. Also the Independent had an interview with Michael Bates recently: '.For a European head of state, His Royal Highness Prince Michael lives modestly. His principle residence is a bungalow on the Essex coast which also serves as the premises for Hair of the Dog, his daughter's dog-grooming parlour.

But Michael Bates, as he is known to friends, is the prince of no ordinary principality. His domain, with a surface area roughly equivalent to two tennis courts, sits six miles off East Anglia, the wind-battered Second World War anti-aircraft platform and off-shore "outpost of liberty" known as Sealand.

On Christmas Eve 1966, Mr Bates's father, Roy, an enterprising former infantry officer, took over the abandoned HM Fort Roughs with the idea of riding the wave of pirate radio then crashing on Britain's pop-starved shores.' Read more to click the link

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sealand-prince-michael-on-the-future-of-an-off-shore-outpost-of-liberty-a6940201.html>

Of course my condolences are going out to Michael and his family. Surely your mother will keep the special place in our memories!

Next news from Spain: 'Another great voice from the Golden Era of Offshore AM Radio will join Radio Mi Amigo International in April!

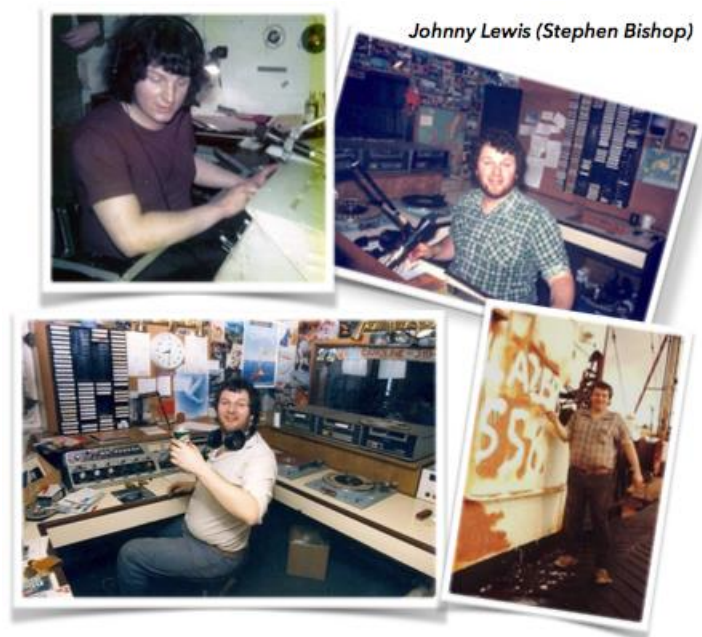
As the fastest growing AM Radio station in Europe we're very proud to present the latest addition to our fabulous DJ team: Johnny Lewis (aka Stephen Bishop), to many of you a very familiar name in Offshore Radio.

We welcome Johnny Lewis, who you may also know as Stephen Bishop from his work for Radio Caroline in the 70's. But he also served on Abie Nathan's 'Voice of Peace' off the coast of Israel in the 80's as well as on 'Laser 558'. Johnny had previously broadcast on Radio Caroline during the seventies under the name of Stephen Bishop. After working on Irish pirates and the Voice of Peace off the Israeli coast, he broadcast again from the North Sea when Laser began test transmissions in January 1984 on 729kHz.

When the station formally launched in May, its on-air team were all American and Johnny wasn't heard again. A few months later he joined Radio Caroline. His first show there was on 12th August 1984 - after a break of 4 years, 5 months, 3 weeks, 6 days, 91/2 hours, according to 'Monitor' magazine! For a time he served as ship's Captain as well as DJ and being responsible for the home-brewed beer. One of the station's most popular personalities, he left in September 1986. He moved back to the mv Communicator to work as an engineer on Laser Hot Hits and also occasionally presented on the station.

He was later on Radio Wyvern, Radio Invicta and KMFM but now trains the broadcasters of tomorrow as well as being heard on Seaside Radio Margate, Coastal Radio, an online community station for Sandwich, Deal and Dover, and the internet incarnation of Radio Caroline.

Johnny Lewis will be on air weekly on Radio Mi Amigo International from mid April on Tuesdays: 14:00 and 19:00 hrs (cet) on 6005 kHz and 3985 kHz. More info here: [www.radiomiamigointernational.com](http://www.radiomiamigointernational.com)



Photos: collection Johnny Lewis

Another internet link received from one of the readers:

'Still many people love to listen to shortwave radio and their pirates'.

<http://www.freewebs.com/ukdxer/>:



Arklow lightship in Irish Sea. Photo: collection Paul de Haan

Starting the spring on March 20<sup>th</sup> I wrote on my Facebook page: 'For my radio friends today a photograph which brings us more than 50 years back. One of the radio ships in international waters was transmitting the programs from Radio Scotland on 242 on our beloved mediumwave from January 1st in 1966 till closedown on Monday August 14th, 1967. It was the MV Comet, a former lightship which was used. It was a radio friend Paul de Haan, who sent me this photo from the Arklow Lightship, which later was rebuilt into a radioship, the Comet.'

More than 50 people reflected within 12 hours from all around the world including Ben Healy, who wrote: 'Wonderful photo Hans. Something new 60 years later. It's amazing.'

I'm finishing this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report with a newsflash which came in last Sunday from the Caroline organisation: 'Radio Caroline North returns over the long Easter weekend with an extended broadcast

We're on the air from 9am Good Friday live from the Ross Revenge on our dedicated stream, through until 6pm on Easter Monday. Caroline Flashback will also relay us for the bulk of these hours, but they'll transmit their daytime schedule on Saturday and Sunday. This is in addition to our regular link-up with Manx Radio 1368AM on Easter Saturday and Sunday.

Editorially and musically we'll continue to trace the history of Radio Caroline covering the years 1978-1980, culminating in the loss of our radio ship Mi Amigo on March 20<sup>th</sup> 1980. Please send suitable music choices and memories to [memories@radiocaroline.co.uk](mailto:memories@radiocaroline.co.uk) .

Well I wish you all a very nice Eastern and enjoy listening, whatever your choice will be. Reflections, news, memories, photos and more: Let them coming in at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) and till the next issue best greetings, Hans Knot