

## Hans Knot International Radio Report February 2017

Welcome to another edition of the International Radio Report and also in another year. I have to wish you a very happy 2017 and hope it will be one with good health too. Many readers have sent us Christmas wishes and more, for which Jana and I are very thankful.

Great news: [www.radioday.nl](http://www.radioday.nl)



Visit the site regularly for more information

Well a lot of info came in; part of it will be in this issue, other in one of the next issues. First let's inform you about 'TX Factor - Episode 13 (TXF013) amateur radio visiting Ross Revenge.'

'Bob gets to weigh up the latest offering of digital transceivers with Gary from ML&S. We chat about the weather with two experts who always look on the bright side. Jim Bacon and Steve Nichols explain how we can work with the prevailing conditions to maximize our chances of good DX. And Bob realises a boyhood dream by reliving the heady days of offshore radio on the UK's high seas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfaNtwsEk1A>

An e mail from Patrick P. in Belgium brought some exciting news we never heard before: 'Hi Hans I've written to Radio Mi Amigo International, the shortwave station, but till now I've nothing heard back again. In the e- mail I asked if I could present an hour during the weekend on the station. I also told them I was one of the people responsible for putting on the air Radio Mi Amigo.'

Patrick P., responsible for putting Radio Mi Amigo on the air way back in 1974? No he wrote that he was on Radio Mi Amigo 2 in 1980

under the name 'Patrick van Gelder'. Well another one with a thick thumb I thought and decided to give him the next answer: 'Dear Patrick, during my career as media historian I got e mails as the one from you at a regular base. Those e- mails are interesting to discuss.



**MV Magdalena Radio Mi Amigo 272**

**Photo: Freewave Archive**

I think I can conclude that you were born in 1967 and following your own words co-grounder was for Radio Mi Amigo 2. Well what a luck on the age of 13. However Mi Amigo 272 became a fact when the new radio ship was bought in 1978. As historian I've written a couple of books about the history of Radio Mi Amigo as well as Radio Mi Amigo 272 and I can tell you that nowhere on the around 500 pages the name 'Patrick van Gelder' got a mention. I think that it could be a good idea to bring proper information to nowadays Radio Mi Amigo about yourself and the joy you can get in presenting a program on that station. Reminds me on a guy in Belgium who worked under the name of Veronica's Chiel Montagne during the seventies and tried to travel on this name to get everything for an interesting price like hotel rooms and other related things.

Well another subject, I know Paul Rusling since the days when he was really a 'very Young Paul Rusling' way back in 1973. He once told me that he loved to listen and visit Radio 270 in the sixties as a young lad. So when I got my brand new 270 t-shirt, which came out 50

years after the station was first heard, I asked myself if there was a cat on the 270 vessel Ocean VII in the sixties of last century. So let's see what Paul has to tell us:



Me and our cat Felix

Photo: Jana Knot

Paul Rusling: 'I had to ask several people about a 270 cat, because I did not know the answer to your question. My first visit to the Radio 270 ship was a very short one, in August 1966. No time to see a cat, which may have been hiding when visitors came on board? I made several visits during the summer of 1967 and never saw a cat, but you never really know.

The guys who would know are the ship's Captains, and the cooks. I asked two cooks and one captain in the last few days: no one ever saw a cat, or a dog. There were also no rats as there was no space for any!'

Thanks Paul and I hope the T-shirts are selling well. For more information on those wonderful shirts just go to:

<http://radio270.net/Shop.html>

Next an e mail from Hugo Lee Jay in England: 'Hi took this enclosed picture in November 1985? Big chap on the left is Chuck Canon and I can't remember the rest (job for you!).'



Well it's not Chuck Cannon on the left but Craig Novak, followed by Chuck, Jay Mack, John Leeds and Jeff Davis. (Photo: Hugo Lee Jay)

Of course with thanks to Hugo for sharing the photo with us.

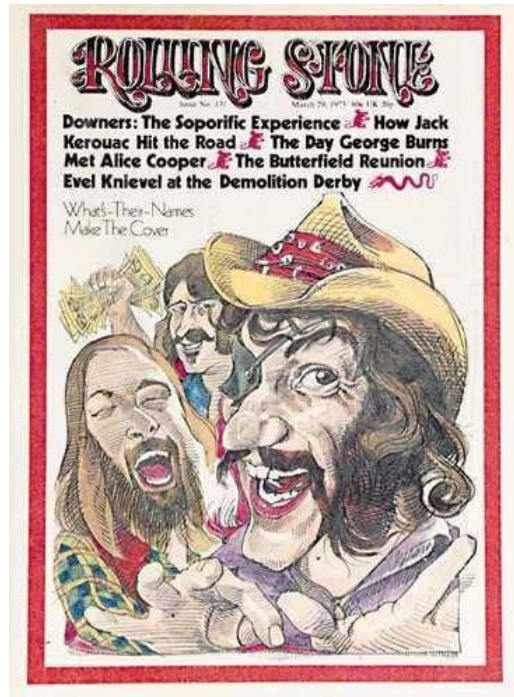
An interesting question came in from Lynn Rothwell from Stopsley in England in a special closed group of friends from Radio Luxembourg. She wrote: 'Can anyone throw some light on this article please from Billboard regarding the 'Cover of the Rolling Stone' and its air play on 208 after it was banned by the BBC because it infringed their policy on advertising. I asked Dennis Locorriere who is on tour with Dr Hook at the moment. He remembered it but not that it was heavily promoted on 208. Do you remember listening to it?

It was a great concert with many of the classic hits, the unmistakable voice of Dennis Locorriere and lyrics that paint such vivid pictures as the stories unfold. I still feel sorry for the chap who called Sylvia's mother and can't help thinking that if only mobile phones had been invented then it might have been a different story or perhaps no story. Many thanks. Lynn.'

I thought it was a nice subject to reflect on as there was more to tell. After an hour I would write some answers but others were earlier. For instant Tony Prince answered: 'Morning Lynn. In March 1973 it reached No.6 on the charts with only 208 behind it. I don't



recall the band being in the UK at this time, they were getting so much activity in the USA which would have been their priority. I remember playing it a lot but can understand why the BBC couldn't play it. However, did Top of the Pops feature it - they were the BBC too? They should have done a UK version 'On the cover of Fab 208'!



Jan Sestak came with the next answer: 'Very interesting story indeed, but for the same reason BBC should not play for instance 'Mercedes Benz' by Janis Joplin, or 'Hotel California' where 'Mercedes Benz' is also mentioned in the song etc.. However I would like to mention that 'The Cover of the Rolling Stone' was written by one of the greatest songwriters of all time, by late Shel Silverstein. Let's remember him a little: <https://youtu.be/kw3eU5yTZsq> '

Among other things my own reflection came next: 'Well it goes a bit further. In Britain, the BBC refused to play the song because they considered surreptitious advertising. CBS then quickly took a new version of the song as 'The cover of the Radio Times' with a few disc jockeys of the BBC, overdubbed on the original and sent the single to the BBC as of 'Dr. Hook & Friends'. But this version seems not to be played by the BBC and it was not released commercially. In Holland

there was a Dutch regional language version 'on the cover of the Donald Duck'. And no, there were no inhibitions for the radiostations to play the song.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVIAJVOCD1E>

Mike Barraclough even thought further as he came with the link to the song: 'Here are Dr Hook and Friends with The Cover of the Radio Times. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GszyWDjx7iE> '

During early evening on the Sunday this discussion took place some more memories to Dr. Hook came into my memory: 'Just had another thought about a remark Tony Prince did as he suggested that the group wasn't in Great Britain in 1973. During dinner that evening I remembered that Dennis did visit the Caroline office at the Van Hoogendorpstreet in The Hague to voice over some jingles for the station together with Dennis King from Radio Caroline.



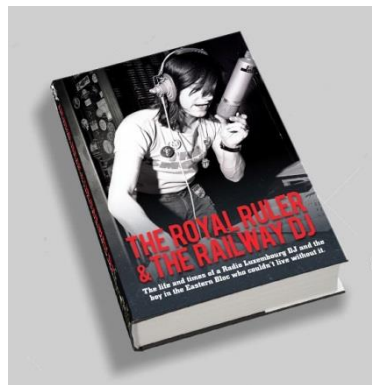
Cover from the LP which was released when the Veronica CBS Pop Festival took place

Also the band was part of the so called Veronica CBS Pop Festival. The record company CBS had arranged that a nice group of artists from their label would Tour Europe in the summer of 1973. Including Redbone, Titanic, Albert Hammond and Colin Blunstone, Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show were part of this tour. In Scheveningen the

Dutch version was held in cooperation with the then Offshore station Radio Veronica.'

***THE ROYAL RULER & THE RAILWAY DJ is available exclusively as a HARDBACK The book is available world-wide right here:***

<http://www.dmcworld.com/store/the-royal-ruler-the-railway-dj-hardback-book.html>



Wonderful articles related to British radio and television history can be found by clicking the next link:

<https://www.transdiffusion.org/>

In August 1980 Dutch marine and police took action against the MV Magda Maria that would transmit as Radio Paradijs as well as another station. One of the Dutch marine people took photos that day which were recently published:

<http://roofdierklasse.nl/index.php/jaguar/jaarboeken/1981/37-jaguar/jaarboek-1981/242-actie-magda-maria-radio-paradijs>

Let's go to Norway and see what Sven Martinsen has to tell us:

'Dear radio friend, this is to inform you that the Northern Star Media Services AS email service with irregular updates of our project will now be discontinued and permanently replaced by our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/radionorthernstar> After a trial period this seems to be running well. We have also given our regular website with the radio station player a new look: [www.northernstar.cc](http://www.northernstar.cc)

An adjustment for iPhone/iPad is underway. We recommend you «like» our Facebook page if you are interested in further updates of our project.

The Facebook page is also integrated in our new website. I have enclosed our draft for the 2017 World Radio TV Handbook also listing information on our «cousin» station LKB LLE Bergen Broadcasting.

**LKB LLE BERGEN KRINGKASTER (Community)**

**OWNER:** Foreningen Bergen Kringkaster(Bergen Broadcasting Association).

**REG.NO:** 993809055

**BUSINESS NAME:** BERGEN KRINGKASTER

**ORG.:** Association.

**LEADING PERSONNEL(L.P.):** Per Dagfinn Green

LA1TNA(Chairman), Øystein Ask

LA7CFA, Reidar Mjøs LA7MLA, Einar Oldrup Jensen LB9UG, Sverre Martinsen.

**CHIEF ENGINEER:** Øystein Ask LA7CFA.

**CHIEF EDITOR:** Sverre Martinsen

**POSTAL ADDRESS:** PO Box 100, N5331 RONG, Norway

**SITE AND STUDIO: G.C.:** 60°26 56,728 N 5°12 59,206 E  
Bergen Kringkaster, Grensedalen 59, N5306 Erdal, Norway.

**E-MAILADDRESS:** [styret@bergenkringkaster.no](mailto:styret@bergenkringkaster.no)  
[report@bergenkringkaster.no](mailto:report@bergenkringkaster.no)

**WEB:** [www.bergenkringkaster.nu](http://www.bergenkringkaster.nu) [www.bergenkringkaster.no](http://www.bergenkringkaster.no)  
[www.la1ask.no](http://www.la1ask.no)

**PHONE:** +47 56324985 **MOBILE:** +47 95067890

**D.PRGR(GMT):** 5895 kHz 0000-0900 Tue,Thur,Sat; 0900-1300  
Mon,Wed,Fri; 1300-1830

Tue, 1300-1600 Thur,Sat; 1600-1830 Mon,Wed,Fri. (1 Hour earlier during summer season).



**1611 kHz** 0000-0900 Mon,Wed,Fri,Sat;1300-1830 Mon, Wed, Fri, 1600-1830 Thur, 1900- 2300 Tue,Thur, Sat,Sun. (1 Hour earlier during summer season).

**1314 kHz** Sun 0900-1300+irreg. (1 Hour earlier during summer season).

**103,8 Mhz** Sun-Sat 0700-0900; 1400-2200. (1 Hour earlier during summer season).

**ANN.:** "You are listening to LKB LLE Bergen Broadcasting Station."  
"Du lytter til LKB LLE Bergen Kringkaster."

**THEME TUNE:** Øyvind Ask: "MacGyver in Space".

**FORMAT:** Nostalgia, comedy, classical music. Relay of bergenkringkaster.nu and local programming 24 hrs, 7 days a week.

**TRANSMITTERS:** **SW** LLE-3 5895 kHz 50 watts, **MW** LLE-2 1314 kHz 180 watts LLE-4

1611 kHz 125 watts and **FM** LLE-FM 103,8 Mhz 100 watts.

V.by email, letter, or QSL-card. Rp.



**HISTORY:** Foreningen Bergen Kringkaster was incorporated in February 2009 as radio enthusiasts after many years secured a lease of the site of former NRK Broadcasting stations LKB LLE at Frudalsmyrene in Askøy Municipality, northwest of Bergen, Norway. The two stations left the air in 1978 and 1966 respectively but in November 2012 the site returned to the air under a test and development license on 1314 kHz. In 2013, 5895 kHz was added with 1611 kHz and FM 103,8 Mhz coming on the

air in 2014. The station also has a radio amateur station LA1ASK operating on 3702 kHz. Every 6th week QST-LA of NRRL is transmitted from the site on 3725 kHz. Station also has a LW beacon LA1ASK/B presently inactive. LKB LLE is using different types of wire and active antennas and has recently succeeded in re-erecting part of one of the original broadcasting masts. Transmitters are ex-NRK, surplus and converted amateur equipment. In August 2016 the station was awarded regular A Broadcasting licenses for the services on site.'

Well Sven thanks a lot for all those information regarding your and others activities in Norway. The country, where they've started to stop all FM transmissions in 2017.

Next a reflection from Germany about a subject we had in an earlier report: 'Hello Hans, reading your article about measuring listenership in the old cable networks that reminded me to another method for viewers voting: 'Der Lichttest'. In the early seventies we had in Western Germany the show 'Wünsch Dir was' (Wish something fine) on Saturday night TV. The program was hosted by popular Dietmar Schönherr and his wife, the late Vivi Bach. Vivi was seen as the Danish competitor to Brigit Bardot.



Viewers were asked to vote for their favourites among two participants on show games by switching on as many lights in their

home as possible. That was announced to be measured by the electricity supplier in a certain region or city. So the increase of power consumption for the first candidate was read, then the viewers should switch off to normal. After a minute or so, they could vote in the same manner for the second candidate. Who of both votes generated the most increase of power consumption was the winner.

It's an interesting method that would be called mad by many people today. But in certain countries, that might be good enough for a presidential election? By clicking the next link you can see a show of the couple, where the 'Lichttest' happens at 1h...1h12min.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efKe5q0mEQU>

Best regards, Jan Sundermann.' Thanks Jan for yet another interesting dive in the German media history.

Coen Braken from Tilburg was surprised to be remembered to Offshore radio when watching a television-program. 'Good evening Hans not total shocking news but I wanted you to know that we, as usual, watched the BBC program 'Flog it'. It's a program in which all kind of objects from individuals are appraised and auctioned. Most of the time the 'flog it team' is on location in a cathedral or in another interesting big building, but also often in a picturesque coastal town.

This time it was the harbor town Grimsby. Once it had the biggest fishing fleet from the UK. A tour was done on a former trawler, which is nowadays a museum. Believe it or not it was the GY 398 which is also registered as the Ross Tiger. Yes, a sister ship from the very well known Ross Revenge and it's very funny to see that both are almost the same. Also old footage was shown from the fishing-battles between Iceland and the UK. Not really offshore related but nice to mention. '



Ross Tiger Photo: Ray Hydes

Well thanks a lot Coen and also non offshore related info is always welcome.

Next it's Paul de Haan; Felixstowe way back in 1964 was the place where the MV Mi Amigo from Radio Caroline was moored 4 miles off the coast. A long time ago. Now in 2016 there is a great webcam that if you follow the pattern of the cam also zooms in on the Roughs Sands Tower from Sealand.

[http://www.camsecure.co.uk/felixstowe\\_beach\\_webcam.html](http://www.camsecure.co.uk/felixstowe_beach_webcam.html)

[http://www.camsecure.co.uk/whitstable\\_beach\\_webcam.html](http://www.camsecure.co.uk/whitstable_beach_webcam.html)

On this cam, if you watch carefully and follow the pattern of the cam, you'll be able to see either Shivering sands or Red Sands towers. These are two great webcams for anoraks. Kind regards Paul de Haan'.

A J Janitscheck from the USA is next: 'Good morning Hans. Not sure you've seen this article yet, but it is about Les Paul (yep, that one!) and refers to his days as a radio



pirate. Enjoy. <http://flypaper.soundfly.com/features/les-paul-pirate-of-the-airwaves/>



Les Paul. Photo: Archive Sound Fly.

Thanks A.J. Most appreciated and information I didn't know yet. Now to England and Ian Godfrey, who almost seven times a year shows up with some nice impressions. 'Hi Hans, Many thanks for the latest couple of reports, thanks also for the response to my query about the conditions for boarding radio ships on the high seas, etc. Also for the positive comments from I think Jan Sundermann, who was sitting next to me at the table in the evening of the Radio Day in 2014. I remember having an interesting chat with him, plus all the others; a very upbeat atmosphere. The problem is I'm not 100% sure of the names of either of these guys. I've just done a search/scan of the last 3 reports, to no avail. I thought I probably have to work through all 3, but decided it could get a bit tedious!



There's been a lot of positive comment recently about the current Radio Mi Amigo International, quite justifiably. The main thing which keeps me listening is a good proportion of lesser-known tracks and they certainly score quite highly. Stations which play non-stop hits don't get my attention for more than about 10 minutes! Yesterday evening they mentioned that they're the fastest growing AM radio station; an assertion which probably would have carried a lot of weight 20 years ago but I wondered how many people were actually listening on SW! Listening online wasn't mentioned!

A key event last week, for probably all readers of the report, was the death of Dave Gregory. Although he was only with the station for a few weeks, he was part of that fantastic 1st year of RNI. Regards, Ian Godfrey.'

Thanks Ian and many more people are positive about the output from Radio Mi Amigo International so a big compliment to Kord and all the others involved. Anyone who wants to respond to the report can write to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

On my Facebook pages recently there was a discussion which started with a remark from Herald in Essex: 'RNI pirate radio jingle 'Who do you think you are kidding Mr Wilson?' from 1970, was written, I believe, by Dave Cash and Kenny Everett.'

I responded as it's a totally untrue story which goes around on the internet for some years. Neither Everett nor Cash has something to do with the song played during the 'Caroline period' on the MEBO II in 1970. It was during the campaign to bring the Conservatives in the government and it was the very first time people from 18 years of age could vote in Great Britain. It was the late, and then program director from RNI, Larry Tremaine and his team, who came with the idea to rewrite the original Hitler version. As Larry passed away a couple of years I asked Mark Wesley if he could share memories to the production of the song and he came back with:



Mark during RNI days in 1970

From the MEBO RNI book

'Hi Hans. OK, here's my memory of the 'Who Do You Think You're Kidding Mr. Wilson' recording. First of all, I was there, in the studio. There were a small group of us singing over the original recording which was played back to us through headphones. Amongst those singing were: George Lazenby, Ronan O'Rahilly, Larry Tremaine and myself. I'm struggling to think who else was there but I don't remember Dave Cash or Kenny Everett being in the studio. I don't know who scribbled the words or who came up with the idea. It seems unlikely to have come from Larry.

In all probability, whoever was on-leave with me at the time, and in London, may well have been in the studio too. They will know who they are, Andy? Best to you, Mark.'

Of course I also sent a message to Andy Archer who answered: 'Hans, how nice to hear from you. I wasn't at the recording of 'Who do you think' - however, I do know the vocals were by George

Lazenby (a friend of Ronan's who played James Bond in the film 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service), Ronan himself, Mark Wesley, Larry Tremaine and Tommy Vance. There were a few others on the recording but I can no longer remember who they were.

Larry always claimed he wrote the lyrics and I'm sure he did, or certainly contributed. I have never heard any suggestion that it was written by Kenny and Dave, which I think is most unlikely. The recording session (I think) was arranged and probably paid for by Milton Samuels who was head of Beacon Records. We used to play a lot of their records at the time on R.N.I. I hope this has been of some help. Best wishes to you and Jana, Andy.'

Thanks to you too Andy and so we're getting more info than we thought. Anyone who knows more is welcome to reflect too.

And for those who don't remember the song or want to hear it again after many years, just go to the next link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnPcVQfph5o>

I was very surprised on January 18<sup>th</sup> when the postman rang the bell. He gave me a small package from Belgium, which was sent by reader Alex Berrevoets from Merksem. Everyone who has been in Belgium knows that this country is famous for their handmade bonbons. Well he sent us a box of delicious bonbons as a 'thank you' that he still gets the radio report for free after so many years. Thanks a lot Alex and we really enjoyed it. Well 4000 plus readers could be a real festivities this year.

And Herbie the Fish, also known as Herbert Visser does it very well in Dutch radio scene. He recently advised me to visit a link on internet: 'House for sale':



6th Floor, 6 Chesterfield Gardens, LONDON, W1

6th Floor, 6 Chesterfield Gardens, LONDON, W1

Price on Application

**Features:** Air conditioning, Raised floors

**Total Area:** 4,142 sq.ft [385 sq.m]

Gallery

Map view



How many of my readership have visited this building in the sixties while working for the Caroline organisation and how many as a kind of pilgrimage? Some 9 years ago the complete building was renovated and parts of the building are now owned by several companies and persons. I visited the very expensive site during renovation but wasn't allowed to make photographs. Did me think about anoraks who were not allowed to make photographs from persons on radio ships during a certain period.

On October 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 I got an e mail from an for me unknown woman who wrote to me that her name was Carien Schaaf and that she was born in 1973 as Caroline 'my little doll', as her father called her. Her father died a short period after her birth due to a motor accident. And the rest of Carien's youth was not the one anyone wants. She also lost contact with her mother and was brought into youth care. During time of writing the e mail she was still looking for her roots and that was the reason she wrote to me.

Her father worked on Radio Caroline in 1973 for just a short period under the name 'Peter Zonneveld'. She just had a recording on a cassette and a photograph as an only memory to her father. I could fill in just two short memories from 1973.

<http://www.hansknot.com/reports/hans%20knot%20int%20radio%20report%20-%202009-12.pdf>



Peter Zonneveld. Photo collection Carien Schaaf

Seven years later another e mail came in. December 14<sup>th</sup> 2016, so more than 7 years later I got a response from Ria Wiertz, who wrote: 'Hi Hans, one way or another I came on your website and I think I can fill in some blanks for Carien Schaaf (Caroline) about her dad Peter Zonneveld. I have met her several times in the time she was living in The Hague in 1975/1976 but of course she was too young to remember this.

Peter died July 8th 1976 so this was not a few months after the birth of Caroline, whom he indeed called `popje` (little doll). I was living together with him from 1974 until his death in 1976. In this period he worked in the 'ToyToy' in Amsterdam. I also knew Ron Dolman, who was working in the 'FiftyFifty'. They were friends.

The picture on your website, the one on the motor, is still hanging on my wall..... You can give my email address to Caroline, if she is interested of course. Kind regards, Ria Wiertz.'

Thanks a lot Ria and in the meantime I've personally sent some information to her. A pity the e mail from Carien (Caroline) stopped working some years ago. Maybe she has another one now.

Juul Geleick, former technician with Radio Veronica and nowadays one of the strong taskforces behind Foundation Norderney wrote: 'Again with a lot of interest I've read the report. But in your piece on Tinus (Tineke) you wrote that she started working with Veronica in 1961, which is however 1960. Tineke started on September 1<sup>st</sup> 1960 and stayed up till August 31<sup>st</sup> 1974. I've seen this mistake lately in almost every newspaper which published about the Life time award; she will get in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January.'

Another mistake I made was publishing a photo from John Denny in last issue quoting it was Dave Gregory during RNI days'

Eric Wiltsher is next: 'Hi Hans Greeting from Slovakia. Look out I am about to moan. I have always believed if you have a product (radio) that works you should create a brand for it not steal another name. Now if a group of former offshore people join together who worked on a station then by all means use the name they once used. But why oh why do people pretend to be an offshore when they had no real connection to it? My chairman has a phrase for such people, which is a little rude so I can't use it. However, the clean version is 'Mental Masturbation' and he's right.

If folks want to launch a 60's/70's/80s station, just do it. But don't pretend you are Radio Caroline or Laser when you clearly are not. I consider that an insult to the original station. Moan over, RTI will continue as a truly free spirit radio station with so many influences from offshore, but I'll create our own brand and stand or fall on that name - not live on the back of others. Kind Regards Eric.'

Thanks a lot Eric and really a very clear and honest opinion.  
Reflections please to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)



Hans Knot and Eric Wiltshire Photo: Rob Olthof

Above photo was taken late nineties of last century, when meeting Eric in London talking about a planned new radio project, which sadly was not realised. Maybe interesting to have a look in the article I wrote after this meeting in London:

[http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/VOLUME02/Return\\_of\\_Radio\\_Luxembourg.shtml](http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/VOLUME02/Return_of_Radio_Luxembourg.shtml)

On my fb page recently I placed a topic from December 8<sup>th</sup> about the shutting down of the shortwave service from ABC Australia, which led to a discussion from which I want to bring you some important reactions. 'An Indigenous ranger group in the Northern Territory says the ABC's decision to end its shortwave radio service could be life threatening. The ABC announced this week its three HF shortwave radio transmitters at Katherine, Tennant Creek and Roe Creek (Alice Springs), would be switched off on January 31, 2017. ABC Radio will continue to broadcast on FM and AM bands, via the viewer access satellite television (VAST) service, streaming online and via the mobile phone application.

Mark Crocombe from the Thamarrurr Rangers, in the remote community of Wadeye, said the rangers spent days and sometimes weeks at a time away in the bush and out on sea patrols. He said the



group relied on the ABC's shortwave radio for weather reports and emergency information. "Otherwise you have to call back to the base on the HF radio to ask people [there], but then you can't listen to the report yourself, you are relying on someone else's second-hand report," Mr Crocombe said.

He added that on previous bush trips he had received warnings of cyclones via the ABC's shortwave service, without which he would not have had any notice. "Sure, it is expensive to keep the shortwave radio service going, but during cyclones, for the bush camps and people on boats, that is their only way of getting the weather reports," Read more here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-08/abc-shut-shortwave-radio-service-met-with-anger/8103096>

And now some of the reflections: Eric Wiltsher: There are so many ways people in outback areas of Australia can access media now. The amount of listeners to the ABC HF service is almost nothing these days. To those who claim its life threatening, how and what have you been listening to proving HF has no listeners - it's crazy!

Anthony Perkins: And what happens if you don't have broadband or a reliable mobile phone signal or an expensive satellite dish in the outback of Australia? Simple no ABC!

Eric Wiltsher: ABC uses C-Band without encryption so hardly expensive satellite PS what are the listening figures for ABC on HF?

Anthony Perkins: C-Band needs huge dishes, which as we know from Europeans who tried to receive the Russian Gorizont birds, they weren't exactly cheap to buy: whereas Ku-Band satellite transmissions only need 50-70cm dishes across the central portion of the satellite footprint and 75cm-1.2m dishes towards it's outer periphery of the footprint and larger ones out of footprint like Astra 1 and 2 did (and still do), also with C-Band if your dish isn't big enough you lose huge chunks of received EIRP (effective isotropic

radiated power) in bad weather fact. Ku-Band transmissions don't need as bigger size a dish and are far more economical too.

Eric Wiltsher: Sorry Anthony I watched Gorizont first on a home made dish with a modified Canadian C-band receiver. Today you can buy a suitable dish for a little as US \$165.00 / piece, I just checked. To receive some signals in central Europe from ASTRA you will need a 2.4m antenna.

Anthony Perkins: That's Astra 2 UK beam channels with their limited reach (and it's a lottery as to whether you get them or not; there are hotspots for UK beam transponders, some places in Europe get them with surprisingly good results, on massive size dishes, while other places, particularly in Southern Eastern and Northern Europe just don't get them at all), while the Pan-European beam channels on Astra 2 are far easier to receive on smaller dishes

Eric Wiltsher: PS it's not really a lottery, footprints can be plotted this easy.

Anthony Perkins: There's always a degree of overspill with satellite footprints: they are never entirely perfect.

Eric Wiltsher: With respect Anthony, I know. The real debate is C-band in Australia which in 2016 is not expensive and in fact is very affordable. Bottom line, few listen to ABC on HF so I can't blame them for closing it down.

Laurence Taylor: The argument that programmes are available via VHF and the internet doesn't hold water. VHF is fine in towns and the internet is great at home, but when you're out in the bush or at sea with only a radio then neither of these are very useful. "It's on the internet" is no use at all on the beach, in the car, or miles from anywhere.

Anthony Perkins: That's true. SW reaches long distances at all times although with some fading (which is a characteristic of it) and MW

only goes long distance at night via ionospheric sky waves, but is useless during the day with a ground wave propagation that makes it impossible for long distance daylight reach. Mobile signals can be limited and if you are in a dead spot, you get absolute nothing at all dependent on how good the coverage is and satellite isn't portable requiring a fixed dish antenna and receiver that can't really be moved (and who is going to drive a camper with an automatic TV satellite reception system and automated dish to a remote location just to get ABC radio?). A simple SW portable, and transmissions to support it, can be taken anywhere and used in more places than one, and the good thing about SW, is it can get everywhere that the other methods can't.

Eric Wiltsher: If folks want an emergency service there are many mobile satellite systems that could do the job. The bottom line is nobody is prepared to answer my question. How many people are listening to ABC via HF? I agree Australia does have a Net issue - hence the ads on TV saying that Slovakia has better internet. I can vouch for that as even up in the mountains and a fair way into caves, where no broadcast stations get, I can still listen to RTI online.

Laurence Taylor: Mobile satellite is expensive and big. If I'm exploring the bush (or for UK readers, fell-walking), I take a rucksack, not a land rover. In case you hadn't noticed, the internet companies haven't cabled up the wilderness. And satellite doesn't work in forests, either!

Hans (editor): You see a totally different topic to what you normal read in the report.

Next was an interesting response from Herman Content from Gent in Belgium, who wrote: 'Radio and the Internet are totally two different things. Listening to radio via the ether which are waves which propagate without anything in between the transmitter and the receiver, which is and remains its magic. While radio over the

Internet that own a long line of cables and computers from the studio to the computer user and there is no real magic in this.

It's also a bit like between people who interact with text without spoken word versus Facebook or Twitter. A single advantage is that it is a very quick and fast medium but on the other hand also for the whole hoopla makes for written text can be read differently than your neighbor would read. If you are going to communicate via a Radio Amateur then you have a voice and you can understand each other much better with a good connection and understand if that is the case with text, and it is wireless and you have both a transmitter and a receiver plus antenna is required otherwise you cannot talk this way. For those not in possession of these items can also be people on the street, etc. appeal to conduct a face to face conversation.

They want everything now through the Internet as what is very cheap and often a fallacy to turn off radio stations on MW and SW. The receipt of this medium does have its limitations, but that's like 100 years known and therefore nothing new under the sun. Whatever one wants to cut down our throats often is that we do something to lose what we love and good but it does tell us that there is no one there to listen; only did they inform us never really and asked us whether to listen. And we owe it to the other side to buy a complete new radio receiver like it is going to happen with DAB + and you want to make from the FM. Because it supposedly is full, which will partly be true but there is still room on the MG to stations that are now on the FM to move there and then you get reel new place. Only they do not do that because then it is to complain that the quality of the MG is so very bad. Something we definitely find far from mind as we are grown up with those for decades.

Our country (and) is densely populated and if someone hand-sticking out the front door than figuratively, a neighbor from another country can grasp. In my case for example, I live in Ghent only 35 km of Zeeland, Netherlands and 75 km from Lille, France. Australia is a

very big country to give you an example; it is just something 250 times larger than Europe. So there are areas where there is almost nothing, many people have no GSM GSM masts in the neighborhood and no internet because there live to less people but a lot of live animals. And there the Short Wave is ideal. You span a piece of wire between two trees and you hang it on a shortwave receiver and also it has low power consumption and is compact and easy to carry etc. While you might think why not a satellite receiver and a dish you can yet even radio signals to get out of air? Yes true but that is much larger and heavier to transport which is not a small radio receiver.

And therefore the Short Wave should remain not only in the bush of Australia but also here in our small Europe. Yes, we must also dare to confess it and admit that a transmitter firing takes quite a confident and pretty penny, but radio should continue to exist in its current form for another is the magic way and then we go emotionally dead.'

Eric Wiltsher: There are no cables going to my car. There is no longer an old fashioned aerial on my car, just a stub and yet all I ever do is listening to the radio in my car. Radio is a button on the screen with the station logo - I have more choice than I ever had on HF, MF and VHF combined and it's all in decent quality. No thank you I'll not go back to signals fading or HT power cables killing the signal. FYI I can drive up mountains and down into valleys and my signal doesn't change - the joy of Netcasting. Just as a point of interest there is much more creativity from Netcasters. I also live near most of the major car manufacturers - they don't fit HF receivers at all and many only fit FM antenna as AM is dying out. What most do offer is Netcasting, it's almost standard in cars now - just saying. Greetings from The Spirit of Real Free Radio [www.rti.fm](http://www.rti.fm) with real listeners around the world, not just QSL card chasers.

Anyone who wants to reflect on this unusual topic can write to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)



Well time for Jon at the Pirate Hall of Fame: 'As you may know The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame was launched in April 2000. Initially there was no audio on the site but I gradually started adding clips from my collection and from tapes kindly provided by others such as Ray Andrews and Stuart Russell. In those days most people accessed the site via dial-up connections so I kept the audio short.

Since then virtually everyone has got broadband and, thanks to many generous donations and the online sharing of recordings, I have acquired a more substantial collection of vintage airchecks. So I have started to replace or refresh a number of the recordings on the site.



This month's update includes audio of some DJs from the sixties whose names feature on the alphabetical pages A to J. There will be more in the months to come. Also this month, news of Noel Miller's Radio 270 50th Anniversary DVD and a press story about Radio Caroline's Graham Webb.

Nearly 190,000 people visited The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame during 2016. It is immensely gratifying that, nearly half a century after the Marine Offences Act outlawed offshore radio, so many people are still interested in the subject. My grateful thanks to everyone, who has contributed or supported the site, happy new year to you all. Best wishes for 2017, Jon [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)

Well next an e mail from Herbert Visser again: Hi Hans,



Here's a funny story: on the picture you see Nimet Akdemir. She is the (current) owner of Norderney, the Veronica Ship. She's here in my office in Hofstede (RNI old building) with some old vintage equipment that I have here and there, including the ITC Triple Deck that was at the time of Laser Hot Hits in the production studio of the Communicator. It was taken from the radioship as a supply trip was not adequately paid by Fred Bolland. However, most of the stuff is from the United States and I bought it on Ebay.

It is intended that in February or March, Peter Chicago will come to de Hofstede and will join this special equipment in a professional manner to get it working again.

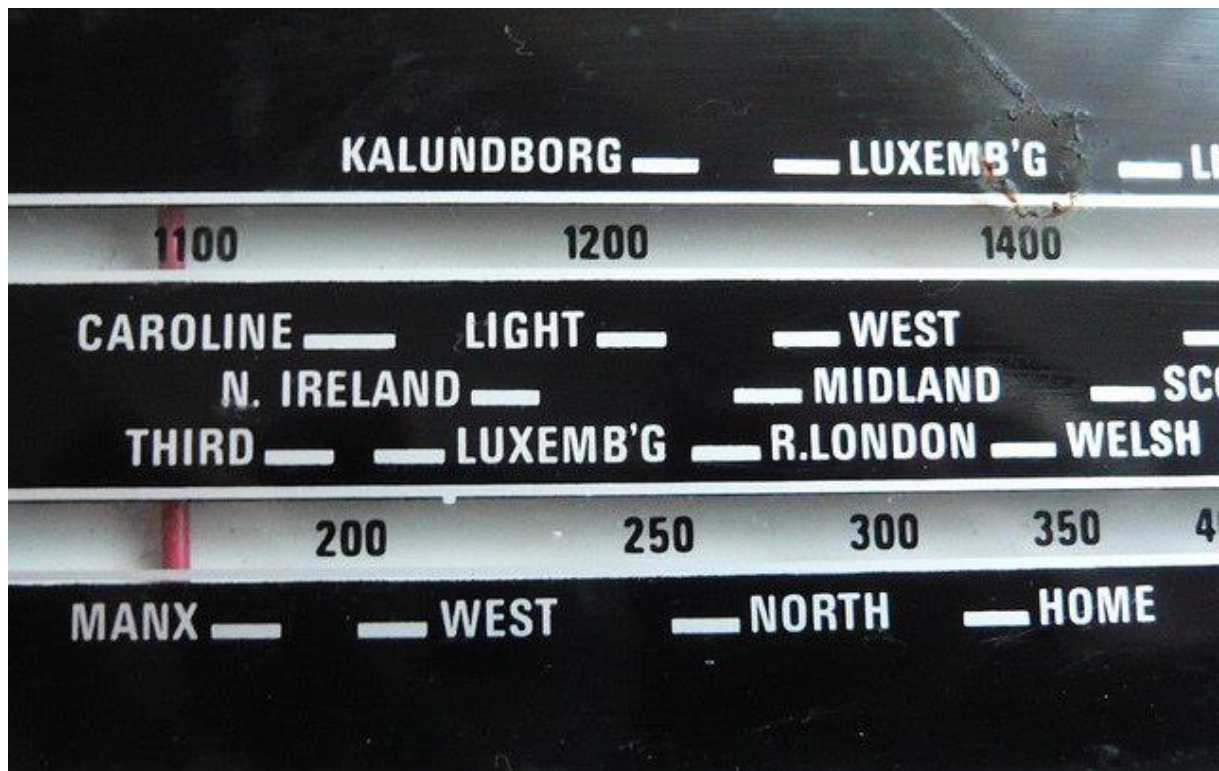
But when I walked with Nimet through the property, I also came across (the old) Guus Jansen, who was the owner of the Dutch Radio Noordzee service and the person who rented the MEBO II. I suggested to him Nimmet before, and he came up with the story that he had caused Rob Out landed at Radio Veronica.

How went that story? Rob Out was in the 60s working in the music department at Strengholt. Guus Jansen himself was in the 50s and 60s DJ at Radio Luxembourg. And he let Rob Out make a demo tape for Radio Luxembourg, but was preferred to take Peter Koelewijn as the new deejay so Rob Out was rejected. Strengholt worked in the 60s along with the offshore station Radio Veronica in the field of music publishing, The later failure of such cooperation would lead to the Dutch service RNI. So Guus Jansen suggested to Willem van Kooten, then with Veronica, to have a try-out with Rob Out, as he was not accepted at Radio Luxembourg and he was devastated for that. And indeed Rob Out went to Veronica and how! Well, there's always something to learn. Cheers, Herbert Fisher'.

Thanks a lot Herbert for sharing this memory from which I knew but which is new for many of the readers of the International Radio Report.

Chris Edwards: 'I've photographed my small collection of transistor radio's that feature Caroline and a few others on the dial. You could add them to the recent webpages on radio sets.

Some of them need a bit of cosmetic work, like the Ferranti set, which needs a matching set of tuning knobs. A small story on that, which may amuse your report readers: Some while ago, my wife was complaining about all the old radio sets I had. In the middle of her complaints, the doorbell went; it was the postman with a large parcel. Guess what was in the parcel, another radio set! - the large Feranti mains table set. I quickly hid it in the garden shed. I did plug it in and it worked. One day I'll get around to cleaning it up and finding a matching set of knobs. Happy new year.'



Well interesting story Chris hopefully your nice lady does know it by now. Give her my regards. Your excellent pictures are now forming a proud part of our collection at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157635223769121>

From Australia I got an e mail from Graham Webb that an interesting story about his career recently was published in the Australian Daily Telegraph. 'Veteran broadcaster Graham 'Spider' Webb has weaved a web of radio magic for 62 years by Pranesh Nageshwar, Penrith Press. Read the article to click on the link.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/penrith-press/spider-weaves-web-of-radio-magic/news-story/016caa2e7a61daab523897e5d2d940c3>



Graham Webb and the Everly Brothers.

Photo: Collection Graham Webb.

Graham Webb and Allan Quinn paid a visit on New Years Day to Frank Ifield who had an emergency on December 31st and found himself in Hornsby hospital instead of seeing the NYE fireworks from one of Sydney's best vantage points. They have removed all drips and monitoring equipment and Frank will remain in hospital for a couple more days. Frank wants everyone to know he will be fine.

When hearing the name 'Frank Ifield' memories are coming in from Radio London days and Tony Windsor show opening with Helloooo and Walzing Mathilda sung by Frank.



Adam Quinn, Frank Ifield and Graham Webb.



Don't forget to visit [www.radiolondon.co.uk](http://www.radiolondon.co.uk) for very nice updates.

The next item is with thanks to Chris and Herman: 'The radio channel France Inter announced during 2016 that the channel would discontinue transmitting on the 162 kHz frequency on 1 January 2017, seeking cost savings of approximately 6 million Euros per year.

The transmission of the atomic clock generated time signal will be continued after this date on the 162 kHz frequency as this time signal is critical for over 200,000 devices, which are deployed within French enterprises and state entities, like the French railways SNCF, the electricity distributor ENEDIS, airports, hospitals, municipalities, et cetera.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9wy3CCqiNQ>

Hi Hans Happy new year to yourself and fellow readers. Unfortunately, the New Year started with the closure of an AM radio transmitter. Radio France Aka 'France Inter' had been transmitting on Long-wave 1851 meters, 162 K/c's Long-wave since 1939, until it was shut down at 11pm UK time, on New Years Eve, 2016. If you click the link below, you can see a video clip of my 1935 Ferranti Nova radio receiving the final transmission at my home in Ipswich, East England. RIP Allouis Long-wave transmitter - 1939 - 2016! Regards Chris Brisland.

<https://www.facebook.com/226227664055040/videos/1411659362178525/>

Next one is from Doug Wood: 'Hello Hans. As part of our series 'A Life on the Medium Wave' the RADIO SHIP has an exclusive interview with Charlie Wolf in two parts. Part 1 will go to air on Sunday 5th February at 09-00 and 21-00 GMT, with a final repeat on Saturday 11th Feb at 12-00 GMT. Part 2 will be aired on Sunday 12th Feb at 09-00 and 21-00 GMT, with a final repeat on Saturday 18th Feb at 12-00 GMT.

It's just about two hours in total, and includes his days at Atlantic 252, GWR, Signal, Talk Sport, right up to date.

You can hear the programs at [www.theradioship.net](http://www.theradioship.net)

I thank you Sir, Doug Wood.'

Chris Brisland was the first to inform me about the following news:  
Hi I thought you may be interested to know that Radio Caroline will be having one of their special link-ups with Manx Radio next weekend. 'Radio Caroline North' will broadcast from the Ross Revenge in the River-Blackwater off Mersea Island, Essex, and will be heard on the Medium-wave transmitter of Manx Radio on the Isle of Mann, broadcasting on 219m, 1368 K/c's. The broadcast will be heard throughout next Saturday and Sunday, and will focus on the early days of Radio Caroline in the 1960's. Further details and live streaming can be found on [www.radiocaroline.co.uk](http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk) Enjoy! Chris.'

And former Caroline deejay Tom Hardy wrote me: 'Just a quick book recommendation. Have just finished reading 'I Read The News Today, Oh Boy' by Irish author/columnist Paul Howard. It's the story of the Guinness heir Tara Browne who 'blew his mind out in a car' and inspired the Beatles song 'A Day In The Life'. Absolutely fascinating snapshot of 60s London - with a few references to a certain Ronan O'Rahilly who, it seems, introduced Tara to his wife. If you want a peak at the circles that the old man was moving in during those times then this is the book! Published by Picador and well worth a read. Cheers, Tom Hardy.'

Daily Mail 20-1-1966

## **RADIO CAROLINE AGROUND**

Pop pirate ship Radio Caroline broke moorings off Walton-on-Naze Essex, in gale and was swept ashore at Frinton early today. Seven staff and crew taken off by breeches buoy. Six left.

Caroline drifted more than three hours before crew realised. Emergency radio calls from shore unanswered.

We're almost at the end of this first edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report. It's January 20<sup>th</sup> that I write this last item so I want to go back in time to see what was in the newspapers on January 20<sup>th</sup> way back in 1966:

Strange enough on January 20<sup>th</sup> 1979 something similar was published:

The Star 20-1-1979

## POP QUEEN CAROLINE'S FINAL WAVE

by GEORGE DEARSLEY

RADIO Caroline, the pop pirate ship that launched Tony Blackburn to stardom, looked set to sink beneath the waves last night.

A Force Nine gale battered its crew of three Britons and two Dutchmen into sending out a Mayday call.

The Harwich lifeboat lifted them off the 58-year-old *Mi Amigo* 14 miles off Essex.

As the pop ship began to list badly her skipper gave her only 24 hours afloat.

"If salvage teams can't reach her in time

she'll certainly sink," said a coastguard.

Caroline ruled the airwaves in the Sixties before the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act scuppered most of her rivals — and pushed her outside British waters.

Storms put her off the air last November.

A spokesman said: "Historic recordings spanning 25 years of pop could be lost if she goes down."

**SHIVERING** Britain should thaw out over weekend — but another freeze is forecast.

Well it just are memories nowadays, lucky much more music was brought by the station from international waters afterwards. For memories, photos, question and more [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) is the e-mail address to reflect. Till next issue!

Best wishes Hans