

## Hans Knot International Radio Report April 2017

Hi everybody and welcome to another edition of the International Radio Report. Spring has begun in this part of the world and so many little flowers in the park and working some hours to make the garden spring ready. But I also did a lot of researching and writing articles for some magazines as well as working on this report. Thanks a lot for sending in your comments, questions and more. There was so much coming in, that there's enough for two editions. Therefore I've dropped the plan starting a new series from this edition.

First let's start with some of the many e mails. Here's one from Andrew Matthews, who wrote: 'Hi Hans, just a note to say thanks for the most enjoyable radio reports which I look forward to reading every month (or so!). I was particularly taken with the young lady who now owns ( ? ) the Norderney radio ship and how she had been able to purchase ex-watery wireless broadcasting kit.



Norderney in Amsterdam Photo: Martin van der Ven

For me this was the most important and interesting piece as most copy regarding the offshore days deal with the past, but your piece was very short on details such as why buy the ship / what for / where it is now / what is the intention of old engineers working and presumably making the kit fit for purpose/ etc.

I look forward to your comments, best wishes Andrew'. Thanks Andrew. Well I've written several times about the Norderney since the start of the report. 'Changing from one place to another, rebuilding and another rebuilding and so on'.

Nowadays the Norderney is a party ship and you can hire it for special events. You can find more on:

<http://veronicaschip.nl/>

For scrolling old issues of the report going back to 2004 just visit some hours the International Radio Report segment at: [www.hansknot.com](http://www.hansknot.com) and learn more about the Norderney.

Still e mails are coming in about Brian Matthew leaving the BBC. This one for instant from Stephen Raindle: 'I have recently been battling with BBC Radio 2 over their excellent 'Sounds of the Sixties' (SOTS) programme on a Saturday morning (0800-1000) which had been introduced by Brian Matthew for years but following a bout of poor health they announced he was leaving the show after one farewell broadcast on February 25th. I gather that Brian Matthew himself was none too pleased with the retirement so I protested to Radio 2 but got nowhere. Unfortunately worse was to come - the whole programme has been re-timed to start at 0600 ending at 0800 and is compered by Tony Blackburn.



BBC promotional photo

There is no way I am rising at 6am on a Saturday so I sent another protest via the BBC Radio complaints department but just got a conciliatory (and out of date) reply telling me to listen on i-player. I am amazed as SOTS must have been one of their most popular programmes as there are so many of us 'children of the sixties' still around and enjoying life but not necessarily at 6am. Best wishes Stephen.'

Thanks Stephen I agree that the new time is a very bad time and compliments to Tony doing the show now, of course slightly presented in another style as we were used to from Brian but in a typical Blackburn way. I must admit that what I read in several radio groups on Facebook that many of the older listeners bring back the program in their room by i-player. You can choose whenever you want to listen to it.

We have two excellent new photo series which are now in our flickr archive and were shot during the same trip by two different readers from Germany. First the ones made by Dietmar Flacke:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157637705661675>

Next the ones from Hans-Joachim Backhus

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157676925880284>

It was July 29<sup>th</sup> 1984 that this trip to the Ross Revenge and Communicator took place and tendering was done from somewhere in the South-West of the Netherlands. Kees Pronk was on the tender too and had his 8 mm camera with him. Just recently he digitalised the nice movie from that trip:

<https://www.facebook.com/kees.pronk.35?fref=ts>

The next e mail brings us to the Far East, to the Philippines to be exactly. 'Thanks for the Christmas and February newsletters - I'm embarrassed to say that I started this e-mail on 18th December. I really don't know where the time goes. Some of this e-mail is a reply to your reports the rest is general news from here!

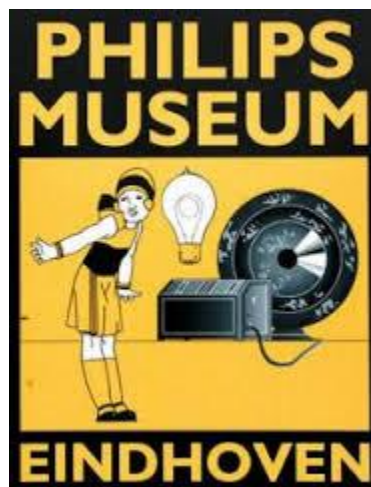
Anyway I always love your reports even though sometimes there's not much to say at this end. This time it's a little bit different! I was amused by the reference to the Rockitradio site - I think that Bennie Dingo guy has a darned cheek. He copies offshore recordings from sites such as Azanorak and then has the gall to sell them. He's too dumb to understand that the dates are in UK format - presumably in his world there is only one date format. His summaries of the recordings are totally laughable showing he knows nothing about the music of the time, nor the scene. Ah well, takes all sorts I guess!



It was lovely to be reminded of your Flickr photo site, especially all the radios that recognised the offshore stations by listing them on the dial.

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

Ours at home didn't but that's because it was a 1952 Philips model! Must admit nothing beats the warm sound of a valve radio. I'm sure the wooden cabinets were a factor. It reminded me of my trip in 2009 to the Philips Museum in Eindhoven where I had a wonderful afternoon, partly nostalgic and partly educational learning about the history of this wonderful company - incidentally, I suspect Philips was the very first brand I was ever aware of due to our old radio!



It's been such a sad twelve months or so, so many loved names leaving us, Terry Wogan, Jimmy Young, Dave Cash and now Dave Gregory, not to mention names from the musical world, for me, Glen Frey was a particular loss. It was the offshore stations that introduced me to the Eagles with: 'Take it Easy' (and Jackson Brown) for the same track. I totally echo Mike Terry's comment about JY, as youngsters we certainly weren't keen on his output at the time, little realising a national institution was being formed! It's sad that so many of the names that were around for offshore celebrations in the 2004-2007 periods are no longer with us.





## Tineke early sixties Freewave Archive

I totally agree with your comments on Tineke, a total star and such a well-deserved award. I recall first hearing her on Radio Veronica and in those days women were a relative novelty in the male dominated world on radio. She's such a professional.

What a coincidence Bob Noakes writing about the 'Interval signals' used by so many stations, as a few days ago I spent all day listening to the various old recordings of interval signals from the shortwave stations in the post-war years. I loved Luxy's gong, usually followed by an announcement from Barry Aldiss.

Turning back to your report, this time February's report, I'm always amused how DJs give themselves/their station credit for chart success of this or that record. Dr Hook's 'Cover of the Rollin Stone' was heavily played by Veronica and RNI, so I'm sure they would have contributed to its chart success, in addition to 208's sterling efforts! And that LP, the Veronica CBS Pop festival, I remember that so well and have it in my collection! It reminds me so much of my first trip to the Netherlands in September 1973, a lifetime ago!

And then the advert for 6 Chesterfield Gardens, oh boy, what stories those rooms could tell! A real pilgrimage address for sure.'

Thanks Alan for your comments about several topics and in another mail he had some others too:

'Oh Eric, Eric, Eric Wiltsher, he criticises 'tribute' stations for taking the names of radio stations from the past. What about RTI's tagline 'The Station of the Stars'? Wasn't that used by 208? Pot, kettle, black, Eric!



I'm afraid I also take issue with Eric's stance on satellite vs shortwave broadcasting. I know Eric likes to rubbish anything that's retro but there was a world before 1970, not all of it was bad then and not all is superfluous now. I argue this even though my listening tends to be done online, but it's all about giving people choice. There is a massive barrier to entry when it comes to satellite reception, something us affluent westerners tend to forget. Just think about Trevor Baylis and his wonderful 'windup' radio.

What satellite (and even more so the internet) does is to push cost more and more onto the consumer. I recognise that cost is an issue for broadcasters and they ultimately have to make the business call. I wouldn't have a clue how many SW listeners ABC has, but a switch off will definitely disenfranchise some listeners. As a parting shot, if satellite is so wonderful why does the BBC still broadcast the Shipping Forecast on Radio 4 Long Wave after all these years?

LOL, Hans, I seem to be in a controversial mood today! How sad to hear about Carl Conway passing away, I always thought he had a wonderful radio voice and for me, just as for you, his was the first voice I heard on Radio Caroline! It saddens me that we're now rapidly entering the period where we're losing so many of our beloved radio voices, every month it's another one gone.

Going back to Tony Prince's book about 208 and the impact it had on listeners behind the 'Iron Curtain' during the Cold War, I should remind listeners that 208 wasn't the sole voice pointing eastwards. The Voice of America had regular transmissions in all languages spoken in the Communist countries as did Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and both had pop music programmes albeit usually half hour programme segments. There were others too, including AFN/AFRTS and Sender Freies Berlin based in Germany, not forgetting the BBC European Service. The truth is that people in the east were spoon-fed a steady diet of Communist propaganda by their domestic stations (not to mention a complete lack of Western Pop) that listeners there avidly tuned in to whatever western outlets were available to satisfy their thirst for a non-communist view of the world plus, of course, the hits of the day.



Before Radio Caroline came on the air in 1964 that was how I supplemented my pop listening - VOA, RFE, AFN, SFB irrespective of the language they broadcast in. 208 had one big advantage, however, they were never jammed unlike the stations I've mentioned.

But, things change - I speak with many Poles in their 20s and early 30s who never lived under the Communist era and for them, those stations mean nothing, unlike my parents' generation and mine! I wonder whether it will be the same for the offshore stations? I've spoken to Dutch youngsters - they know Veronica as a TV station but don't seem to have a clue about the old days, but then why would they? I'll close for now, best wishes of course to you and Jana. All the best Alan Milewczyk.'

Thanks a lot Alan for all your comments, which are all well appreciated. I hope you will have also a good time back in Manchester, where you arrived some days ago after a flight with many interruptions.

Another subject brings us to the seventies: In the autumn of 1979, the radio ship MV Magdalena, which really was on the air for only a couple of weeks as Radio Mi Amigo 272, came in serious problems mainly caused by ignorant nautical crew. The ship ran adrift and tug skipper Geert Theunisse received a call from a public institution with a request to save the ship and dragging inside. Payment, however, remained, and there was a 25 years of proceedings between himself and the state which eventually came out in his favor in 2005. In that year he proposed a series of photographs available that we could use for our publication purposes. In 2005 he has send me his photo archive and his part of the story with the permission for free use. Two years ago Geert died. The photos are now found in our archives on the Internet:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157677118764954/>



## Magdalena on tow into Stellendam

Photo: Collection Theunisse

Retro Mi Amigo Top 50 from April 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1976, presented by Ferry Eden on [www.foutemuziekradio.nl](http://www.foutemuziekradio.nl)

Here is his introduction: 'The first trimester of 1976 was an exciting period in the history from Radio Mi Amigo. Deejay Bert Bennett left Playa d'Aro as well as the station on January 18th as his wife couldn't adept to Spanish way of life. On the radioship, one day afterwards, Jan van der Meer and Tim Ridder (aka Bart van Leeuwen) were the first newsreaders and the latter also started a live early morning show between 6 and 7 hrs. Meanwhile, Belgium- and Dutch authorities were hunting for Mi Amigo employees and suppliers to sue them for breaking the law. Advertisers were also paid visits by officials or received letters in which they were ordered to stop advertising on Radio Mi Amigo.

Also they spread the news that the radioship was in bad shape and a danger at sea. Good news however came also halfway March from Playa d'Aro, as the new studios on the border of the Shopping Center were ready for use. The bad news was that both Stan Haag and Peter van Dam had a serious influenza. Temporary former RNI deejay Dick de Graaf presented some programs under the name of Jos van der Kamp. At the end of March, Mi Amigo boss Sylvain Tack got heart problems. Announced was that Veronica would return on 259 meters Mediumwave on April Fool day and of course this appeared to be for one day.

Tim Ridder was Bart van Leeuwen again from that day on. On Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> between 2 and 5 in the afternoon, Peter van Dam presented this Top 50 episode 115. There were eight new records and eight former Lievelingen from the station. This coming Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> between 12 and 15, with the original adverts and jingles Ferry Eden will bring us 41 years back in time with his retro Top50 on [foutemuziekradio.nl](http://foutemuziekradio.nl) '



TOP 50		
ultzending : 3 APRIL 1976		14.00 t/m 17.00 uur
1 ( 4) THE ALTERNATIVE WAY	Anita Meyer	4
2 ( 2) FOREVER AND EVER	Silk	5
3 ( 6) LET YOUR LOVE FLOW	Bellamy Brothers	4 +
4 ( 1) GEORGI	Pussycat	5
5 (12) THE PARTY IS OVER	Sandra	4
6 (18) DECEMBER 1963	Four Seasons	2 +
7 ( 8) SATURDAY NIGHT	Bay City Rollers	4
8 ( 3) ICH BIN WIE DU	Marianne Rosenberg	7
9 ( 6) WHY DID YOU DO IT	Stretch	5
10 (16) ALL BY MYSELF	Eric Carmen	3
11 (26) I LOVE TO LOVE YOU	Tina Charles	2
12 (16) LOVE IS THE DRUG	Roxy Music	3
13 ( 7) QUIERO	Julio Iglesias	11
14 (31) FERNANDO	Abba	2
15 (21) 1-2-3-4-FIRE	Penny Mc Lean	3
16 ( 8) RAIN	Status Quo	5
17 (25) NO REGRETS	Walker Brothers	4
18 (35) TOGETHER AGAIN	Emmylou Harris	2
19 (20) DREAM ON	Aerosmith	3 +
20 ( - ) LOVE MACHINE PART I	Miracles	1 +
21 (24) KOMM MIT AUF DER SONNESEITE DER STRASSE	Jurgen Marcus	5
22 (10) LA BALLADE DES GENS HEUREUX	Gerard Lenorman	7
23 (28) COMPLAINT POUR STE-CATHERINE	Kate B-Anne MC Carrigie	3
24 (11) LOVE HURTS	Nazareth	11
25 (13) ANNIE'S SONG	John Denver	4
26 (46) WHY DON'T YOU DO IT	Gilla	2
27 (14) J'ATTENDRAI	Dalida	6
28 ( - ) VENUS	Frankie Avolon	1
29 (17) CA VA PAS CHANGER LE MONDE	Joe Dassin	5
30 ( - ) ICH LIEBE DAS LEBEN	Vickey Leandros	1
31 (19) HOLD BACK THE NIGHT	Trammps	3
32 (36) MORNING GIRL	Shawn Cassidy	2
33 (30) JESSICA	Alman Brothers Band	3
34 (40) OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY	Big Mouth and Little Eva	2
35 ( - ) MAKE ME SMILE	Toni Sherman	1
36 (37) VERLIEFD VOOR DE EERSTE KEER	John Terra	3
37 (22) DEEP PURPLE	Mary and Dony Oamond	5
38 (50) DO YOU DIG IT	Spokey and Sue	2
39 (25) FANNY	Bee Gees	7 +
40 ( - ) FOOL AROUND	Elvin Bishop	1
41 (27) SO WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LOVERS	Paul Simon	6 +
42 ( - ) BANAPPLE GAS	Cat Stevens	1
43 ( - ) SO FLA FLA	Two Man Sound	1
44 (29) TANGERINE	Salsoul Orchestra	5 +
45 (32) PARTY IS A GROOVY THING	People Choice	5
46 (34) I GO TO PIECES	Cotton, Lloyd and Christian	6
47 (36) VOLARE	Al Martino	9
48 (38) KING KONG	Jimmy Castor Bunch	8
49 ( - ) MOVING ALONG	Judy Mc Queen	1
50 (44) GO LEILA	Garnette	9 +
+ LIEVELING		

Now we go to England and Robb Eden: 'Thanks for the latest report, Hans, as usual very interesting reading. I've been monitoring the thread about Beacon Records and may throw a spanner in the works by suggesting that the producer, Don Lawson, was 'instrumental' in writing and arranging the song 'Who do you think you're kidding Mr. Wilson. I have fond memories of Beacon, Milton, Don, Brenda and of course Larry Tremaine, who gave me my break in 1970. I can still hear Larry's voice booming at me even now! Sad that he's not here anymore. Love to all Robb Eden.'

Thanks Rob and so the story about the song is getting completer if not complete! All the best to the both of you! It's 'Nickname time' again. Recently I was discussing with some people the time Tony Allen was nicknamed 'Doris' and suddenly some more nicknames, which were not yet in the list on [www.hansknot.com](http://www.hansknot.com) came in: Martin 'Kathy Kayne' (by Tony) and Dave 'the nutter' Windsor. If you have a new one or anything else to tell the readers simply write to me at [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

And look, who we have here on page 10: the Emperor from LA.

'Hi my man, as always keeps us all in touch! It looks like we both missed Tony Prince's event. It was just a bit too far away for the L.A. Tube! You were right in last report, as my computer was down, the internet went down too and then I went down with a three week s cold. I will now make up for it by saying thanks for not forgetting me!

My big news is very exciting, but if I jump the gun it will certainly put the pox on it so I will. Try and be patient. You can always check out [www.emperorrosko.net](http://www.emperorrosko.net) for updates.

By the way Hans, you have the most pictures of most deejays on the planet, so I will try and tempt you with a few that may have slipped by! Rosko.'



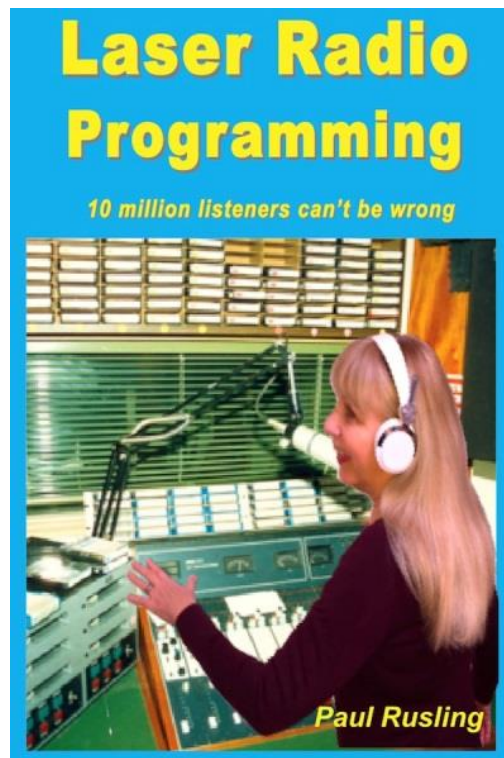
Well above is a school class with 42 children and one of them is the little Michael Pasternak, later known as the Emperor Rosko. Collection EMP.

Thanks for your e mail and photo but can you tell us who the little EMP is?

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**A poorly managed offshore radio station sat off the Thames in 1984 and attracted a huge audience, by playing what the audience wanted.**

Laser's competitors howled in protest, but neither they nor the British Government were unable to stop it. Eventually Laser's own ineptitude and a mutiny by the crew saw the ship sail into port. A year later a new crew relaunched it and Laser was back - bigger and better than ever. Lack of investment, bad weather and some rotten luck saw the ship close down again, but finally enjoy rich radio treasure in Holland.



Millions of listeners rued the day she sailed away, but the BBC and ILR stations finally reacted to Laser's programming initiatives and started to win their audiences back. Petty restrictions limiting the music on British radio were lifted and radio listeners were happy once again. Or were they?

Could an offshore station capture a big audience again?

In **Laser Radio Programming** Paul Rusling examines why Laser was such a huge success in the eighties, and discusses Laser's effects on today's radio. The new **Laser Radio Programming** book has 182 pages describing radio programming policy and techniques of the major offshore stations, but especially **Radio Caroline**, **Laser** and the Laser project's 'grandad' whose style and fresh format inspired the founders, 1966 superstation - **Swinging Radio England**.

There's a reprint of Laser's full Operations Manual and a discussion on the format, music play listing, strap lines, trailer production and other techniques that Laser used to attract an audience of ten million listeners in the UK and Benelux.

The book also looks at how the Laser name, imaging and ethos has been used to change radio since. There are details of radio ships YOU can visit; not one, not two but three radio ships! The book has a full listing of all the Laser DJs - biographies; pictures too!

Note Hans Knot: This new book is a good supplement to the earlier publications from Paul Rusling about the Laser family and the Communicator. For those who don't know a thing about how a real radiostation has to be run and what mistakes can be made it's a must to buy the book. I advise you - when ordering - to ask for a copy of the second edition. This, as in the first edition were a lot of typing faults. For more you go to <http://worldofradio.co.uk/>

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Next another former Caroline deejay who we also know from Radio City days: Tom Edwards: 'Hi Hans from Heckington in Lincolnshire, the lovely village that's been my home base for over 21 years now. I sat at home on February 7<sup>th</sup> wondering why the 8<sup>th</sup> was so much in my brain. It was of course the day I closed down Radio City way back in 1967 for the very last time at midnight, 50 years ago!

Graham Barnard at BBC Radio Suffolk did an interview about it all on his show that night at 18.30 hrs, which should be for a week on the BBC's 'play it again setup'. It was a good 8 minutes of reviving people's memories. Then the following Sunday Keith Skues repeated it all on his show. I was so pleased. Keith is one of my best chums ever.

DAILY SKETCH, Thursday, February 8, 1967 15

# £100 fine puts Radio City off the air



Mrs. Calvert and her daughter, Candy.

**P**IRATE radio chief Mrs. Dorothy Calvert yesterday ordered her Radio City station off the air. At Roshford, Essex, she was fined £100 for broadcasting without a licence. Afterwards, 30-year-

By **Sketch Reporters**

old Mrs. Calvert said: "This is the end of being a pirate for me. I left instructions with the station telling them what to do if the case went against me." Radio City — which brought in £50,000 a year in advertising revenue — was due to go off the air at midnight last night, leaving the seven announcers and four engineers unemployed. It is the first pop

pirate to surrender to the Government. Mrs. Calvert took over the station — a war-time anti-aircraft fort at Shovering Sands in the Thames Estuary — after her husband was killed in a shooting incident last June.



They put out some of the actual last hour for a few minutes from 50 years ago it still sounds good. I loved Radio City on 299 and the Shivering Sands Towers still stand strong. I feel they will outlive me Hans, I think if I had not remembered this special date it might have slipped away unnoticed.

Also August 14th gets closer and lots of things are being planned for the 50th anniversary of the Marine Offences Act. Lots of things happening so when I learn more I will let you know. I hope your well and good Hans and I send you every best wish. Your newsletter is a must dear friend. Tom Edwards.'

Thanks a lot and it was good to hear you remembered it Tom and also that the BBC brought it back in memory to the older listeners twice. I've heard it through the repeat on the Sunday in Keith his program, who I'm listening to a lot as much as possible. Surely we will meet up this summer somewhere in good old England. Best wishes Hans.

From England we go to the USA and Wayne Hepler with some news: 'Again it was a very entertaining report (I liked the revised Winston Churchill).

I thought you might like to know that my re-edited **Taking Back the Airwaves** was shown on Maryland Public Television tonight, 2/14/2017. 'MPT', as it's known, is a collection of 6 stations throughout the state. It's a bit of an achievement to get on their airwaves, especially since it surrounds Washington, D.C., so I'm gratified. <http://www.mpt.org/home/>

Thank you so much for the help you provided that made the film possible. I just interviewed Everett and Zach on our college radio station, the two former students who shot the film. It was fun to gather their memories with perspective. You are remembered so well. Hi to Jana. It's always great to hear from you. Wayne Hepler.'

Hi Wayne well that's really good news. Washington DC has a huge population and hopefully many people watched the screening and you got a good response. Let's hope the DVD version will be for sale later this year and of course I will give you some free space to promote it by then! Best greetings to Donna too!

Last August 31st the opening of the 192 Museum in Nijkerk took place. Alex Hoek made a video special which is now on line: <https://youtu.be/p9fOKFIAslY>

Earlier on we already had more comments on Brian Matthews leaving the BBC. On February 25<sup>th</sup> February Tony Blackburn wrote on his Facebook page: 'Good morning everyone. I was listening to the final Sounds Of The Sixties from Brian Matthews this morning and remembering when I used to listen to him when I was



at school! I used to listen to his Saturday Club on the old Light Programme and over the years have enjoyed listening to many of his shows. He is a brilliant broadcaster and it's good that he will be returning to Radio 2 from time to time with a show or two.

I take over Sounds Of The Sixties next week at the earlier time of 6am which I know many of you find rather early, including myself! I obviously would have hoped it would have stayed at the usual time, but unfortunately I don't have a say in anything that happens as to when shows go out. Luckily we have the BBC Iplayer, which means you can hear the show whenever you like which is what so many people do nowadays. Obviously I would love you to listen when it goes out because for the first time for many years Sounds Of The Sixties will be 'Live' and I'd love to get your texts and emails as the show goes out.



Tony Blackburn when radio was real radio

BBC Archive

One new feature which I will be introducing is putting my best friend and producer Phil (The Collector) Swern on air! Each week he will come up with two of his famous Rare Tracks and we'll have a little chat about them before we play them. He wants me to tell you that this was not his idea, but mine. Phil knows so much about the music and I thought it would be fun to let him have his own spot on the show as he and I put the music together and we are both terrific fans of the sixties.

Brian is a difficult act to follow but I will do my best to make it fun as well as playing the great music from a fantastic, and I think musically, best decade. All the records, certainly from 1964 onwards I played as new releases aboard Radio Caroline and Radio London, then from 1967 BBC Radio One and before 1964 I was buying them. I'm looking forward to next Saturday very much and I hope

you will enjoy the show. By the way, the Golden Hour continues, live. as always on Friday nights at 7pm. Have a great weekend and see you this evening at 6pm on Thames radio and Dragon Radio for 4 hours of Soul and Motown.'

I would love to have some comments from those who have listened to the new style of Sound of the Sixties. The difference I heard was that Tony is really a deejay as Brian was more a presenter. Comments please to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Let's now see what David Lloyd's Radio Moments bring this time: 'He loved the thought of a career in sound, fascinated by the pictures it could create. His early steps in radio took him to Radio Luxembourg's London studios working alongside the greats like Freeman and Everett; and his production was born from the most basic of equipment and a huge amount of creativity.

He was to become one of the UK commercial radio industry's earliest commercial producers as ILR began in the seventies. His work at Nottingham's Radio Trent was to be recognised consistently in awards. Here he tells of radio's early days, his friendship with Fluff Freeman, his more unsettled times in the industrial strife of the era, and the generous moment he claims as the best in his life. In his own words, this is the Alan Bailey story.

<https://audioboom.com/posts/5646718-conversations-episode-42-alan-bailey>

Time to go to Denmark and Henrik Nørgaard: Hi Hans, thank you for your informative reports! Now it is time to send an update from Denmark, where offshore pirate stations began in 1958.

Finally the acknowledged Danish script writer Adam Price and his production company SAM Productions has succeeded in realizing the idea of taking the story on Radio Mercur to the screen. On March 6th a television serial with the title 'Mercur' went on air for the first time and has 10 episodes, telling a fiction based on the real story. Additionally a documentary 'Mercur - the real story' will tell the factual story about Danish pirate radio from 1958-1962. The programmes are shown on the commercial channel TV2 Charlie in Denmark, which is targeted to the 60+ audience.

More info can be found (in Danish):

<http://underholdning.tv2.dk/2017-02-23-er-det-serien-som-kan-tage-over-for-badehotellet>

Best regards, Henrik Nørgaard author of the book on Radio Mercur and DCR with the title 'Pirates in the air' ('Pirater i æteren'), [www.radio-mercur.dk](http://www.radio-mercur.dk)

Thanks a lot Henrik and I've seen the promo as well as the first episode. Wonderful made and what a good view of all the normal daily things which were used in those days. Congratulations to TV2.

From Denmark to Germany is a little step and here once again we hear from Jan Sundermann: 'Hello Hans, many readers will remember the Fortuna been used for Northsea trips in the 70s. Based in Scheveningen harbour, it was a main opportunity to catch a view of the good ships offshore. I saw the vessel over the following decades many times there at Dr. Lelykade. But in a, to me unknown, year it had disappeared.

Thanks to today's ships identification systems we now know:  
the Fortuna is used in the Northsea offshore (energy) industry as  
a Standby Safety Vessel under the Flag of The Netherlands. Callsign: PEDJ  
IMO/MMSI: 5127152 / 245581000.  
Built in 1954. Size: 44 x 7 m, Draught: 2.29 m, Gross Tonnage: 340 t, Net  
Tonnage: 102 t The most recent port call is Eemshaven in the Province of  
Groningen in the Netherlands.



Some years ago you published information about the where about of the MV Volans, which was used for instance to assist when the MEBO II was on fire in 1971 and also with the raid on the Ross Revenge in August 1989. Nowadays the ship is based in Singapore:

Name: Volans IMO: 6512122 Flag: Belize MMSI: 312849000  
Callsign: V3PP8 Best regards, Jan.

Well Jan interesting information as we always get from you, most appreciated to thanks for these updates.

With certain regularity I've contact with Greg Bance versus Facebook and earlier this month he wrote and interesting piece about name changing.

**Greg Bance aka Roger Scott aka Arnold Layne about using the 'Arnold Layne name' on RNI in the seventies:** 'Noms de guerre were de rigueur (pardon my French) for jocks in the '60s and '70s. The reason Arnold Layne appeared over the horizon was that when I went to RNI. I thought at the grand old age of 23 that returning to offshore radio, after four years of working on the telly, was madness and the name reflected that - a completely "madcap" (get the Syd allusion?) name fitted the way I felt about what I was doing.



During the seventies Arnold Layne at Buster's place

Monitor Archive

Mind you, I must say that I never regretted going back to sea! The other factor was that a certain friend of mine at the time, who I believed to be 'in the know' at Auntie, assured me that if I were to appear on offshore radio - even in the early '70s - under the name Roger Scott, then I would never be allowed to work for the BBC under that name. It was the one I had used professionally since

1966, even if said Corporation had the slightest inclination to invite me to 'work' for them anyway.

Roger Scott himself was born in Roy Bates's living room in February 1966. Major Bates reckoned that the lads on his station, Radio Essex, should have 'good, strong, solid' names on air and consequently Andy Cadier became Michael Kayne, Dave Vincent became David Sinclair, Gerry Zierler became Guy Hamilton, Neil Pritchard became Van Sterling and so on. Naturally Gregory Edward Bance was so not 1966 (Ha! It so would be now!) and had to go.

From then on I was Roger Scott until 1972 and RNI, since which time I have used my own name. I rather fancy Greg Le Bance for future use but first I will need to get back into radio, which, for a writer, daydreamer and investigator of life may or may not happen. It depends whether a licence is granted to broadcast music by 20th and 21st century 'classical' composers, contemporary 'Indie' artistes, poetry, intelligent commentary, counter-cultural musings and - what we need more than ever - biting satire. Oh and No News. I mean, come on. That's not going to happen. But if it did I want to be there!

Thanks a lot Greg for this very informative piece and give my greetings to Lorraine too.

We now have the monthly update from Jon:

'The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame has just been updated.

- We continue to replace and refresh recordings of disc-jockeys from the sixties - this month some whose names begin with the letters R to Z;
- Mitch Murray denies he was drenched live on air - we hear from the man himself;
- we discover that Paul Kramer was on Radio Caroline South as well as Caroline North;
- there is news of a pirate radio event in Reading with Richard Swainson and Roger Day;
- and Paul Rusling has written another book about Laser-558.

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

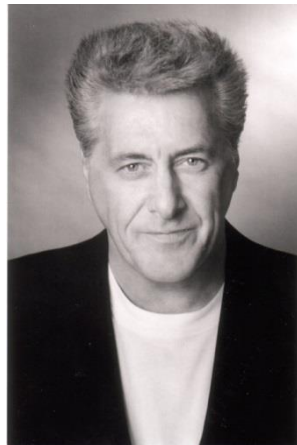
The piece on Mitch Murray is excellent reading too:

'Mitch Murray was one of the leading song-writers of the beat boom era. In 1963 alone, he wrote (or co-wrote) 'I'm Telling You Now' and 'You Were Made For Me', top 3 hits for Freddie and the Dreamers, and 'How Do You Do It' and 'I Like It', both number 1s for Gerry and the Pacemakers - as well as many more.



So it was a surprise to see his name mentioned by Gerry Bishop in his book *Offshore Radio* as being a DJ on Radio Caroline South.

The Pirate Radio Hall of Fame had no recollection of ever hearing him. So we got in touch with Mitch. Had he been a Radio Caroline disc-jockey?: "I was probably the shortest-lived DJ on Radio Caroline and it was a spur of the moment thing. I had gone on board to be interviewed. I can't remember who conducted it, but it definitely wasn't Tony Blackburn. He'd finished his shift and left on the tender on which I arrived. Suddenly I was stranded by stormy weather which prevented the tender from returning that day.



**Mitch Murray Photo: collection Mitch Murray**

As I found myself spending the night on Caroline, someone suggested that I present a show of my own. I came up with 'The Seasick Show'. I'm pretty sure the original presenter was present but I can't recall the balance of contributions. I think the show lasted a half-hour, one hour tops. Then the tender arrived and my Radio Caroline DJ career was over. I hadn't been paid, so frankly, my dear, I didn't give a damn."

So Gerry Bishop was right. Mitch was a DJ, although his offshore broadcasting career lasted only an hour or less. Colin Nicol remembers Mitch's visit: "As 'Mister Murray' he had a comedy hit at the time with 'Down Came The Rain'. He came aboard to promote it with me. We had a bit of fun, he sang a bit of it live on air and I got someone to tip a bucket of water over him! I don't remember who. It may have been 'The Child Scientist' (engineer Patrick Starling)."

Unfortunately Mitch himself doesn't remember the bucket of water incident. Following his visit to Caroline, Mitch continued to write hit songs but has recently concentrated on speech-writing and humour books. One of his books, 'How To Write A Hit Song', apparently inspired Sting to become a songwriter. (Many thanks to Mitch and Colin for their help. Does anyone have a recording of 'The Seasick Show'?)

Well Jon wonderful research and thanks for sharing each month your updates.

Next a link to a podcast program from Bart Steenman about offshore radio. Bart worked on the Ross Revenge for Radio Monique in the eighties of last century:

<http://www.mediafire.com/file/yOs0q05n72cnunk/Bart+Steenman+ZEEZENDER+SPECIAL.mp3>

And the next link will bring you excellent stories about early radio:

<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/scua/msc/tomsc850/msc814/collinsradiocompanyrecords.html>

Still after 11 years the book of the Voice of Peace is ordered and got a nice compliment from Southern Germany: 'Dear Hans, a few days ago I received your book. Thanks a lot. Yesterday evening I have started to read and enjoy it. It's really interesting and fascinating. Many compliments for the work that you have done! All the best Claudio Cumani.

But also a former VOP deejay wrote about the deejay list, which is in the book: 'Hi Hans. I came upon your list of VOP DJs tonight and notice I'm not listed (Andy Ellis). I was there from June to late November 1981 doing afternoon delight and the 9-midnight slot Rockfile, Country Call etc.'



Andy Ellis on the air on the VOP

Collection Andy Ellis

Thanks Andy for sending the missing information. What a shame you are not listed. Rob James is next: 'Hi Hans, the mentioning of QSL cards in the last report reminded me that I had a Radio Mi Amigo QSL from 1978 that I would like to share. I have attached scans of both the front and back. If you look closely at the post mark it was posted on 20th October 1978, the date of the last Radio Mi Amigo broadcast from the Mi Amigo. I often wondered whether it was the last one they issued. Kind Regards Rob James



Thanks a lot Rob and I think it was in the last bunch of cards posted from Spain!

Fake news is a lot in the news on TV as well as in the newspapers, here some memories about the Fake British Radio Show That Helped Defeat the Nazis

By spreading fake news and sensational rumors, intelligence officials leveraged 'psychological judo' against the Nazis in World War II. A collage of the work distributed by the British propaganda effort. (International Museum of World War II)

By [Marc Wortman](#)

"Hier ist *Gustav Siegfried Eins*." This is *Gustav Siegfried Eins*. "Es spricht der Chef." The Chief is speaking.

It was just before five in the evening on May 23, 1941, and the Chief's radio career had begun.



What the Chief said over the next six minutes or so was something that Nazi troops listening to their shortwave radios had never heard before. Using foulmouthed language, graphically pornographic descriptions, and extremist rhetoric, this new voice described incident after incident of incompetence and corruption infecting the Nazi cause.

Criticism of Nazi officials was rarely, if ever, uttered in public. Normally, tightly controlled German radio stations broadcast only approved news, German folk music and classical music. But here, on broadcast bands policed by the government, was a self-proclaimed, devoted Nazi and old guard Prussian military veteran spewing hatred for Nazi leaders. Night after night, starting at 4:48 P.M. and repeating hourly, the Chief delivered his sulfurous on-air denunciations. He skewered their repeated failure to live up to Hitler's world-conquering ideals.

His profanity-laced tirades lambasted Nazi officials' buffoonery, sexual perversity and malfeasance, condemning their indifference to the German people's deprivations while lauding "the devotion to duty shown by our brave troops freezing to death in Russia." The Chief's reports of corruption and immorality were mixed in with news about the war and life on the homefront.

In his first broadcast, the Chief blasted Rudolf Hess, previously Hitler's deputy Führer and closest confidante. "As soon as there is a crisis," he snarled between barnyard epithets, anti-Semitic and anti-British rants, referring to Hess' recent unexplained solo flight to Scotland. "Hess packs himself a white flag and flies



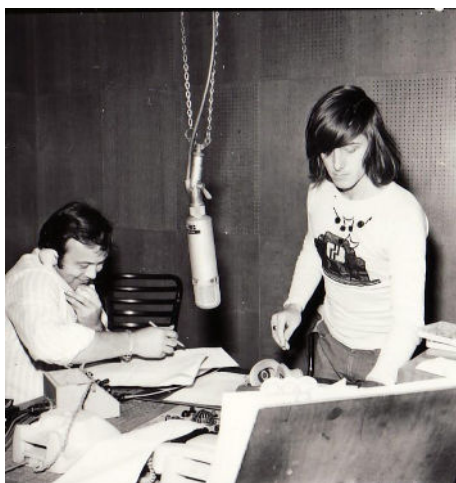
off to throw himself and us on the mercy of that flat-footed bastard of a drunken old cigar-smoking Jew, Churchill!"

Read the complete story here: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/fake-british-radio-show-helped-defeat-nazis-180962320/>

Next a very interesting open letter from Tony Prince from which I would like many readers to comment: 'A message to Tony Hall, Baron Hall of Birkenhead, CBE the Director-General of the BBC....the man who sacked and then reinstated Tony Blackburn

We all know human beings are living longer but is radio responding to this or even able to? I wonder if the BBC doesn't accept that the generations of radio listeners segregate as they grow older so that each 20 years a disassociation takes place with new music. This of course is why GOLD stations were born but even they try to fill too many generation gaps at once.

You can't expect people born in the 40's and 50's to like the music of the 90's and 00's as much as people born in the 60's and 70's (etc.) Like it or not, people's passion for the latest tunes dissipates or dilutes, in some people more than others. Trying to satisfy anyone not relating to the music of today as played on Radio 1, 6 Radio, Capital and Kiss etc. leaves Radio 2 with an enormous, almost impossible obligation to please all the people all the time. No station can do this. The BBC needs at least one more national channel, this one for the Over 50's. This would give the BBC an opportunity to bring back the stars of radio they and Radio Luxembourg created. People who listeners resonate to as much as the music they spent their teens and twenties loving. A station, where the stars of countless golden oldie festivals still perform.



Bob Stewart and Tony Blackburn at Radio Luxembourg



## Collection: Dick Offringa

It wouldn't appeal to the majority as indeed a modern today station doesn't appeal to the older generations. And could this new station avoid force feeding us with comedians, actors and singers as its announcers? Give us deejays who can call themselves deejay. People, who came into the business because of their love for music and the medium radio.

It's just a thought. Oh yes, and what the hell is radio doing for the Under 14's. Why haven't they got their own channel? I understand why commercial radio side-steps them because they have little commercial value...but the BBC? TV is littered with channels for them but radio totally ignores their existence!

The above thoughts identify the enormous opportunity for internet radio and for the first time every single one of them can compete with the national advantage the BBC have held since its birth. In fact, there is no longer such a thing as local radio, not even national radio, every single one on-line is an international broadcaster.

Now which station will be playing Joe Brown's "What a Crazy World we're Living in"?



The 2017 RadioDay on May 20th in warehouse 'The Entrepot' in Harlingen is an international edition. We are proud to inform you that Mike Spenser has accepted our invitation. Mike will tell about his shows that were broadcasted from the MV Communicator on Laser.

Also he will open up the treasure chest in which the true story of the Pirate Radio 603 project from the radioship St. Paul in Finland has been hidden until now. Enjoy unique footage of the dramatic trip across the Baltic with the former Lowestoft trawler. Gale winds, explosions, fire, grounding and finally live radio on 603.

We are also proud to inform you that Paul Alexander Rusling has accepted our invitation. Paul will tell all about his 2016 book 'Radio adventures of the MV Communicator' and will also introduce his latest (2017) book to you (also 100% offshore radio related!). Both books will be on sale during the RadioDay and no doubt the author is willing to sign your copy!

Paul will also tell us about the 'Free Radio Peace' project and the special Radio 270 broadcast! Don't miss it! Pre-book your ticket for the RadioDay by sending an e-mail to [radiodagharlingen@gmail.com](mailto:radiodagharlingen@gmail.com)

Jan van Heeren made a visit to a special exhibition in Museum 'De Koperen Knop' in Hardinxveld - Giessendam. There he photographed the radio collection from Peter Versluis. They can be seen now in our Flickr Archive:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157677557859824>



Above cartoon brings us back to the summer of love, the summer in which also the offshore radio stations were forced to close down off the British coasts. On Wonderful Radio London there was a late night program called 'The Perfumed Garden' with John Peel. It was totally out of the normal format of the radiostation, which was so popular in the mid-sixties. On August 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 it's

exactly 50 years ago the very last Perfumed Garden was transmitted. Half a century later something special will be happening

Oeds Jan Koster and Hans Knot from the RSO Radio in Groningen have taken a year ago the initiative to do something with the above historical fact. The complete 5.5 hours long program from that night is completely translated into Dutch and will include all the original music which was heard on Big L. It will be broadcast on a couple of local stations in the Netherlands at the same time as 50 years ago. More news later.

### Weiner's Dreams Blown Away

It was Alan Weiner who was not lucky with his radio project Radio New York International. He did in the late 80's a few attempts to enrich America with offshore radio. From his first ship, the MV Sarah, he was able to transmit only a few days in 1987 before the radio equipment was confiscated. In 1988 another trial to start RNI and again it was listening for only a few days. Later Weiner would try again, but from another ship, the MV Fury. The MV Sarah, the first one, had been sold to film company MGM.

MGM used the ship for the final shots of the movie Blown Away (1994) with Jeff Bridges and Tommy Lee Jones. At the end of this movie, the ship was blown up. The MV Sarah got for the movie another name, The Dolphin, and everything on deck was removed. In its place was a build-up of a kind of plywood. The explosions were the largest occurring in a film at that time!

Here a amateur recording of the explosion

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

This link shows the explosion in the movie

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0p\\_jp1SqQVU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0p_jp1SqQVU)

Next information from Ian McRae: 'I wanted to let you know I've just released episode 5 of my new podcast 'A Radio Station Like No Other'.

First up we check out the latest live entertainment coming to Bonks Brasserie and Bar and apparently it's someone who's been described as a lovely lady and her name is Ima. Ima Pigg. You'll hear a sample of her work. The naughty boys at the Vinyl Lounge offer tips on how to manage your lottery winnings. And if you can't - they will.

Australian children's author Mem Fox received a written apology from the United States after she was terrorised by Immigration officials at Los Angeles airport. You'll hear what REALLY happened.

Is it important to eat breakfast? Some nutritionists are saying yes....others are saying no. Keep listening for health and nutrition expert Pete Newman and HIS thoughts. My mate *George the One-Legged Greek*, inspired by an overseas trip and his disability, has a song for us. Then Woz, our traffic reporter checks out Wilton Bay traffic...radio's weirdest traffic report. And finally we have another song. It's a parody. It's about tattoos.

You can listen online or subscribe for free on iTunes or Android at

<http://www.wiltonbaymedia.com/listen-or-subscribe-for-free>

Be aware some segments can be adult humour and are tagged 'Explicit'. Ian MacRae.'

Thanks Ian I hope many of my readers will have a listen soon.

Fans of veteran BBC radio presenter Dave Cash, who died last year at the age of 74, have begun a petition to have a Kent roundabout named after him. Read all about it here at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39212393>



**World of Radio**

Let's close this edition of the report with a very nice article Paul Rusling wrote some time ago for St. Patrick's Day:

World of Radio Ltd

Email [office@WorldofRadio.co.uk](mailto:office@WorldofRadio.co.uk)





Let me be one of the first to wish you a very Happy Saint Patrick's Day. We Brits have a lot of thank Ireland for. For many years my family and I were entertained by **Radio Eirann**, which we could hear very clearly across in East Yorkshire. Radio Eirann seemed to be the only ones who had a comprehensive horse racing results service back in the early 1960s. Off-the-course betting had just been legalised and my Dad was 'pretty keen', so we all gathered around my Mum's old Bush radio and listened to the RTE each teatime. We soon got used to the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes too!

Then in 1964 Ireland's biggest gift to the UK was offshore radio which broke the monopoly of the BBC, at least for day time radio. **Radio Caroline** and **Radio Atlanta** were both fitted out there, in a tiny port near the border called Greenore. It was run by the father of Radio Caroline's charismatic leader, Ronan O'Rahilly, the man who first said: "The Irish bring the excitement to the party!"

In the 1970s, yet another offshore radio ship had been equipped up in Belfast. **Radio Sunshine**, put together by my mentor Chris Cary and my old pal Dick Palmer. That station foundered during a three month stay in the Scilly Isles, a story for another book (once Dick gets his pencil sharpened!)

By the 1980s Ireland was the breeding ground for many radio projects, thanks to its very easy attitude to unlicensed broadcasting, which led to lots of our friends working in the radio industry there and even running stations. My old Caroline pals Robbie Dale and Chris Cary both ran stations in Dublin, **Radio Nova** and **Sunshine 531**, which both built up a sizeable audience across in the UK.



Chris also dabbled with TV and a Long Wave transmitter which he called **Radio Exidy**. That Long Wave project was later realised by the RTE and CLT as **Atlantic 252** - which made huge waves in radio in the 1990s. It also led me to obtain a license for Long Wave station from the Isle of Man later that decade, but that's a longer story for another day!

The money that paid for Laser also came from Ireland too, despite the silly claims of the New York manager that it was all American. In fact every penny for the first year came from one Dublin based businessman. Laser was copied by Luxembourg and the RTE and called Atlantic 252, simply a blatant copy of Laser, on land!



The Dutch have cause to thank Ireland too: In 1964 Freddy Heerema built an offshore TV station called **TV Noordzee**, as well as **Radio Noordzee** on a structure called the REM Island. It was built in Ireland in the Verolme shipyard in Cork. Lasting only six months it was a huge success in the Netherlands with its daily diet of Mr. Ed and other popular TV shows - it's better known now as the TROS public broadcaster, while the REM Island now is part of the Amsterdam skyline and is a 'restaurant with a view'.

In 1981, a motely bunch of would-be pirates led by Ben Bode assembled another radio ship right in the heart of Dublin. Equipped with the finest equipment, it

was called **Radio Paradijs**, but it was arrested by Dutch police just days after it began broadcasting off the coast of Holland.

We Brits certainly have a lot to thank the Irish for, so this evening I hope you will join me by raising a glass or two of Guinness, or Jameson's, to the Emerald Isle and her people. May you always have the Luck of the Irish!

Paul Rusling

St Patrick's Day 2017



That ends up this month edition of the report. Feel always free to write in with memories, photos and more to [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) best greetings and stay tuned to the wonderful world of radio.