

Hans Knot International Radio Report June 2017

Welcome to the June edition of the report. Thanks for all the e mails and more and what a big news to open with this report. This came in on May the 19th: Ofcom has announced this morning that it has awarded an AM community radio licence to Radio Caroline. "Radio Caroline will broadcast a wide range of album music from the 1960s to the present day. It is for people aged 45+ in Suffolk and northern parts of Essex."

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/media/media-releases/2017/ofcom-awards-five-new-am-community-radio-licences>

Hugh Neal reported in the afternoon:



Some excellent news was released on Friday. My former employers [Radio Caroline](#) have after many years campaigning, been granted an AM Medium Wave broadcast licence in the Norfolk / Suffolk / Essex region of the UK. Up until the station has broadcast extensively (and very successfully) on the Internet, by satellite and in certain parts of the country by DAB radio. In a statement published on Friday morning, station manager [Peter Moore](#) wrote:- *"We are pleased to announce that Ofcom have just informed us that our application for an AM licence has been approved and that a licence will be awarded. Further details will be sent to us by Ofcom in due course. Power levels and frequency are yet to be decided. This is the end of – or a further step in – a process started by Bob Lawrence in 2010 and enthusiastically supported by Tracey Crouch MP. We thank them both and further thank the many other people who have helped along the way. There are many preparations to be made and these may take some time. I am sure we will make further announcements in the future. The basis of our application was that our traditional heartland was Essex and Suffolk, where the signal from our ships made first landfall and that we wished to entertain on AM, an audience that we have not been able to serve in this way since 1990. We said that this audience may hear music radio of a style they remember and in some cases presented by the same people they remember. That in essence is what we intend to do".* My understanding is that the regional licence is a stepping stone to a full, national licence - something that [Radio Caroline](#) should have been given many years ago in my opinion.

But also the newspapers reported the same day:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/radio-caroline-granted-license-to-take-to-the-airwaves-once-again-50-years-after-pirates-were-scuppered/>

Even the internet pages of Dutch NOS News showed interest with a lovely story and photos: <http://nos.nl/l/2174120>

Tony Blackburn had a special quest on his Sunday morning program on BBC Radio 2 as Caroline front man Peter Moore was interviewed about the forthcoming official license for the station.

And then the 2017 version of the RadioDay was held on Saturday the 20th of May in the beautiful harbour side of Harlingen and organised by a team headed by Sietse Brouwer. This year topics included; Paul Rusling about his radio experiences with Laser and both books he wrote on the history of the station as well he talked about the 'Free Radio Peace Project' and the planned RSL project featuring Radio 270.

Pirate Radio 603, a project in Finland some years ago was also highlighted. Mike Spenser told the story, who also showed exclusive video footage when the ship St. Paul was on tow in heavy weather. Frans van der Beek, former program maker with Veronica in the seventies and nowadays publisher, was interviewed by a lady about his forthcoming Veronica photobook. It will be released hopefully before summer starts. I will keep you informed. A pity the lady didn't know too much about the subject.

Katja Hoekstra and Stevie Gordon were responsible for the opening of the program and for the links between the subjects. There was for instant a very interesting talk with a presentation on screen about the restoration project 'Ross Revenge'. Several

merchandise stands were there too in the Entrepot building, which was fully rebuilt during the last years. A pity no toilet facilities were in the building.

Since 2007 every other RadioDay it was time for the RadioDays Awards. Fully presentation was in hands of Jan van Heeren from the Foundation for Media Communication. First the Radio Anoraks Award was presented to Wim van de Water for his special internetsite since 1999: www.mediapages.nl

An outstanding contribution to offshore radio award was given to Paul Rusling, worked for several projects including Caroline, Laser as well MV Nannell. He is still internationally active as radio-engineer and advisor. From Belgium an Award was given for Offshore Top Technical Support to Walter Galle who did a special request program during Radio Mi Amigo days, helped Radio Delmare getting proper transmitting gear as well is nowadays very helpful with the Jenni Bayton project in Harlingen.

Another Offshore Radio Top Technical Support Award was for the Caroline Support Group, which is a group responsible for maintenance and restoration of the Caroline Radio Ship Ross Revenge. Peter Clayton received the Award on behalf of all persons who did restoration work for the legendary ship of a legendary station: Caroline.



Finally there were three awards in the category Offshore Radio Writers and Historians. The late Rob Olthof was honored posthumous for his 35 yearlong working for the Foundation for Media Communication bringing a lot of merchandise into the offshore radio market as well organising the Radiodays between 1978 and 2012. Of course let's not forget the many boat trips he organised in the seventies and eighties of the last century. This Award got a special place in my reading room at home.

Martin van der Ven got an award in mentioned category for his enormous input on several internet sites related to offshore radio, including www.offshore-radio.de and www.broadcasting-fleet.com as well as for his enormous input in this century for co-organising the RadioDays and putting many very interesting panels into the programs.

Finally there was a sort of life time Award for myself. Writing and co-writing 45 books about radio history as well music history since 1982, final editor since 1978 from the Freewave Meda Magazine as well as publishing internationally in several other magazines and internetpages, I got the award too for co-organising the RadioDays since 1978 and much more other production work through the past 48 years. And lucky enough 10 times a year this International Radio Report is also there.

More than 600 photos taken at the Radioday by Paul de Haan, Hans Knot, Jan Berg, Theo Bakker, Vincent Schriel en Jan van Heeren and others are online:



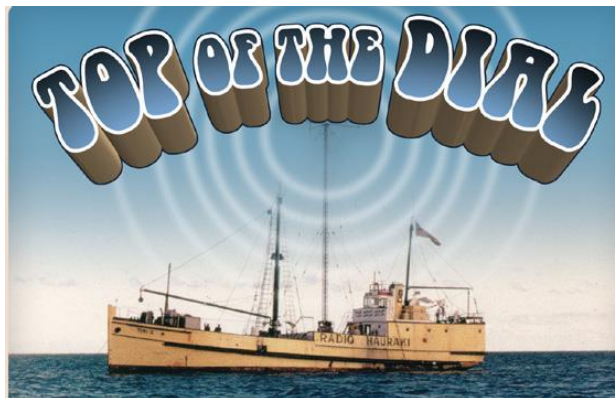
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157681033105303>

From Vincent Schriel I got the message that he received a lot of information on the Radio Luxembourg charts through the years. From the period 1975-1977 he got a lot of lists which are from the Dutch service and are on line now:

[https://www.radiopedia.nl/wiki/Radio_Luxemburg_Top_20_\(NL\)](https://www.radiopedia.nl/wiki/Radio_Luxemburg_Top_20_(NL))

Also several of the lists from the English Service are now online and far much more will be added in the time to come:

[https://www.radiopedia.nl/wiki/Radio_Luxemburg_Top_30_\(UK\)](https://www.radiopedia.nl/wiki/Radio_Luxemburg_Top_30_(UK))



Next it's e mail time with David Miller from New Zealand: 'Hi Hans, last year Radio Hauraki celebrated 50 years. I saw you

have a Hauraki T -Shirt. I have that one as well plus the other design. But there was also a CD produced called 'Top of the dial, Music and broadcasts from the Hauraki Good Guys'. This was on the Frenzy Music label. The CD was put together by Grant Gallanders. Here a link to a promo on you tube:

<https://youtu.be/i3l39jCZLqk>

Another wonderful internetsite to mention is the next one about Danskradio and Radio Mercur:

<http://www.danskradio.dk/radiomercur.html>

More pictures, this time from RNI days are here:

<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/radio-nordsee-international-rni-mebo-ii-pictures/>

Time now for the main man who's appearing in each issue since I don't know when. Emperor Rosko who wrote after receiving last issue: 'I know this is flying by when the Hans Knot report magically shows upon my screen! The rumors of my arrival in the UK cannot be confirmed or denied at this time, but the readers of the report will be the first to know. Things are popping in the world of Rosko. As always nice to hear from so many of the golden era of radio. Don't work too hard. I hope you have not gotten this one.' EMP.



Rosko recently at party time Collection: Rosko

Next Mike Terry who wrote: 'I attended 'A Pirate's Tale' - starring Richard Swainson and Roger 'Twiggy' Day at Mortimer Community Centre (near Reading) last night April 29th, it was a sell-out. I was particularly keen to hear Richard for the first time and he did not disappoint talking about his time with Caroline then as administrator in the sixties with Radio London and subsequent career working at a senior level at major record companies. After being 'lost' finding him many years later working in Budgens is now well known in anorak circles.

Once Richard got into his stride there was no stopping him regaling us with so many interesting memories interspersed with music clips from Big L and jingles. What a lovely man he is. Roger followed after the break but was left with less time than Richard. Roger is always great to hear and is an accomplished and sometimes outspoken presenter on many aspects of radio. Cheers Mike Terry.'

Thanks a lot Mike, who also brought the news about BBC Radio Essex to me, amongst others but he was the first:

Pirate BBC Essex 2017

The BBC and Pharos Trust are pleased to confirm that the LV18 will again be the host for Pirate BBC Essex. The station will run 12th to 14th August 2017 and will mark, on 14th August, the 50th anniversary of the Marine Offences Act which closed most pirate radio stations.

Keith Skues will present his Sunday late show from the LV18, with other Saturday/Sunday shows to be confirmed.

Pirate BBC Essex programmes from 9am - 3pm on Mon 14th live from the LV18 on all frequencies (for the first time!) including

presenters Johnnie Walker, Roger 'Twiggy' Day, Tom Edwards and Norman St John. Other surprise Pirate guests expected !

There will also be a unique link up with Radio Caroline aboard the Ross Revenge during Monday afternoon.

Other activities will include:

- a Pirate Exhibition on Ha'penny Pier open to the public from Sat 12th to Mon 14th August
- The Boat That Rocked film showing at Electric Palace cinema on Sun 13th (evening) introduced by former pirate broadcasters.

<http://www.lv18radio.uk/2017/05/pirate-bbc-essex-2017/>

Thanks a lot Mike and next is an excellent story about Jack Jackson written by our reader Derek Lamb

Jack Jackson: the DJ who made radio fun

Blending music and humour from the austere Forties to the swinging Sixties.

With radio and TV relatively limited in the 1950s and early 1960s, it required some determination to tune into a favourite programme or presenter. An unmissable part of my weekend listening was Jack Jackson's Record Roundabout. Linking popular music with clips from well-known comedy shows, his programme was original, witty and very funny.

Like many DJs from the 40s and 50s, Jack Jackson came from a popular music background; he was a successful dance band leader. The band had a residency at the Dorchester Hotel in London for much of the 1930s. Through records and radio broadcasts, Jack was a household name. The band also appeared on pre-war television from Alexandra Palace and, in 1939, had its own series on Radio Luxembourg. Released from the formality of the BBC,

Jack began to use his humorous personality to enliven the introductions to the music, which proved popular with listeners.



When dance bands failed to regain their popularity post-war, Jack changed direction. With his engaging microphone style and his credibility as a trumpet player, he was a natural choice as compere for the BBC's Light Programme's Band Parade and Jazz Club. Listening figures were soon rivalling those of the most popular shows like ITMA. This led to a more mainstream residency on *Housewives' Choice*; from here Jack was given a Saturday afternoon record show

This was something of a blank canvas. He was no longer required to read record requests or link music of a similar style. Always innovative, Jack was keen to develop a new way of 'keeping the records apart'. At that time, the Light Programme often carried sports news and so Jack's programme would be interrupted by a football result or a horse race. This inspired him to humorously incorporate sound effects of sport and other activities. Listeners enjoyed this original and slightly surreal presentation. They also approved of his choice of records, frequently American.

Both features were further honed in his Record Roundup broadcast on Saturdays in the 11 to 12 midnight slot, which he occupied from 1948 to 1954. Sound effects were supplemented with 'telephone calls' from BBC executives and others. He was

regularly interrupted by Tiddles, the studio cat. Naturally some BBC management did not entirely approve of his mild irreverence. Jack took this in his stride and referred to 'Auntie BBC', likening the Corporation's sensitivities to those of a maiden aunt. This struck a chord and 'Auntie' became widely used as a nickname for the BBC. Despite the late hour, audiences grew to 6 million, making exposure on the show critical to a record's success. Gillian Reynolds, the veteran radio critic, was one of those late night listeners *'Anything was possible on Jack Jackson; he was talking to me. It was pure magic radio'*. As Kenny Everett put it *'Jack Jackson was the first person to have fun on the radio'*.

Most sound effects then were on brittle 78 rpm discs which made the smooth transition from one to another very difficult. Jack enjoyed those technical challenges. In his 100th show he wanted to feature parts of 100 records, all of which were on 78s. This required a special studio with six gramophone decks, six operators and a dispensation from the BBC that neither he nor the operators would be charged for breakages.



Jack Jackson at Radio Luxembourg collection: Dick Offringa

Record Roundup ended when Jack signed an exclusive deal with commercial television. His was the first voice heard on ITV's

opening night in 1955. His television show was basically Record Roundup with pictures. Jack, Glen Mason and Libby Morris would mime to the clips and sound effects. With sharp camera work, the humour transferred well to the new medium. By now, Jack also had regular shows on Radio Luxembourg. This exposure led to him being regularly voted top DJ by readers of the New Musical Express.

He returned to the BBC in 1959 and by 1962 had settled into a prime Saturday lunchtime slot for his Record Roundabout programme. By now all the humorous material was available on magnetic tape and Jack could produce broadcast quality links in his home studio. In what would now be called sampling, he spliced together clips from Tony Hancock, The Goon Show and Beyond our Ken as well as comedy records. Listeners were familiar with these comedy voices and delighted that he could edit them into tight and convincing exchanges. And they were funny too. A typical opening to a programme would be:

Jackson: *Hello record lovers everywhere and welcome to the show*

Wilfred Bramble (as Albert Steptoe): *Aw Gawd, gramophone records!*

Harry H Corbett (as Harold Steptoe): *Look, there's still time for you to leave if you want to...*

Albert: *I'm stopping here*

Jackson: *Alright then; sit down and shut up!*

Jack's preference for easy listening records ensured an audience well beyond teenagers; my parents were as much fans of the show as I was. Between records, Jack would produce conversations from two or more completely different sources. For example, in the famous Blood Donor episode, a wary Tony Hancock is reassured by a doctor. With Jack's editing, the reassurance was supplied by American comedian Bob Newhart, from his equally

well known hesitant driving instructor routine. The editing is so skilful that the conversation sounds real and is all the funnier for that.



Jack Jackson collection Radio Rewind

By now Jack was living in the Canaries and recording these programmes from his own studio. The climate and low taxes benefitted his health and his finances respectively. Just when it seemed as though he was impregnable, offshore pirate radio began in Britain in 1964. Public taste in record programmes quickly began to favour the style of American Fab 40 radio.

Record Roundabout transferred from the Light Programme to Radios 1 and 2 when BBC radio was reorganised in September 1967. Jack was now 60 and described as the 'daddy of the DJs'. On the new network, the programme sounded dated, especially as it was preceded in the schedule by the ultra-hip, jive-talking Emperor Roscoe. Not surprisingly, Record Roundabout ended in the summer of 1968. By then, newer DJs like Kenny Everett were using tape, sound effects and funny voices as part of a Fab 40 presentation. Later, Noel Edmonds and Adrian Juste followed the humorous style of Jack Jackson in their shows.

A heavy smoker, Jack's health began to decline. He returned to Britain in 1971 and broadcasted occasionally on Radio 2, including a programme on August Bank Holiday Monday 1976. He died two years later, aged 71.

Jack Jackson was an original, entertaining and much loved broadcaster; he rightly deserves his place in the Radio Hall of Fame. Enthusiasts justify their preference for radio over television by claiming 'that the pictures are better on radio'. They certainly were when Jack Jackson was on the air.'

Next an email from Belgium and Ge Huijbens who told me that he was a listener to Radio Caroline North on 1368 kHz during Eastern and sent in a reception report which was answered with a QSL Card!

QSL REPORT BY AIR MAIL par avion
Royal Mail

Thank you for your reception report for our service on 1368 kHz which we are pleased to verify

Dated 14.4.2017
Time 20:45-21:01 UTC
Signed Steve Anthony

To GE HUIJBENS
Address RUE DE CAENES 11
B-6987 RONDEUX
BELGIUM

radio Caroline
QSL Card

www.radiocaroline.co.uk

More news about forthcoming events: The Felixstowe Spa have a Pirate Music Evening in August. A guest star radio DJ presents an evening of music from the Golden Era of Radio when the BBC was ignoring pop music and the Pirates ruled the airwaves.

A multitude of 1960s/70s performers - including The Honeycombs, the legendary singer Tony Burrows (famous for his work with The Ivy League, The Flower Pot Men, White Plains, The Pipkins, Edison Lighthouse, The First Class, Brotherhood of Man)

and special surprise guests - perform an evening of music from the Golden Era of pirate radio.

A unique mix of chart hits, turntable hits, jingles and especially memories from Radio Caroline and Radio London have all been put together to commemorate 50 years since the 'Marine Offences Act' of 1967 outlawed and eventually closed down the offshore radio stations. There will also be tributes to the many legendary DJ's who braved the sea as well as the Navy to create a whole new pop music sound: Tony Blackburn, Ed Stewart. Kenny Everett, Dave Cash and John Peel, creator of The Perfumed Garden, to name but a few.

A fun night, with prizes, nostalgia and memory-jerking music. Get ready for 'We Love the Pirate Stations', 'Caroline', and an incredible playlist of your favourite songs that were played on the pirate stations. A unique, one-off show, never done before - and unlikely ever to be performed again!

Saturday 12th August 2017 - 7.30pm

Tickets £25 Adults and £23 Children/Concessions.

The prices above include all Booking and Money handling, Fees and are the total price you will pay <https://spapavilion.uk/>

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/spapavilion/event/view/64609>

<http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/curtain-up-for-spa-pavilion-theatre-reopening-in-felixstowe-1-4312206>

<http://www.ipswichstar.co.uk/news/new-spa-pavilion-boss-admits-making-felixstowe-theatre-a-success-will-not-be-an-easy-ride-1-4008829>

Wim de Groot former Mi Amigo 272 was one of the deejays who could be heard on the special Mi Amigo programs during Radio Day in Harlingen. He sent me another interesting link for the report.

<http://www.radiomiamigointernational.com/nederlands/wim.html>



Wim de Groot collection Wim de Groot

Interesting to have a look on this site where 385 photographs regarding Radio Syd are published:

<http://bilderisyd.se/index.php/search?q=Cheetta&page=1>

Now we go to the east and Eric Wiltsher: 'Dear Hans I would like to share with you and your readers RTI Offshore

<http://www.rti.fm/rti-offshore/>

First of all I must share this not a pretend/tribute station. It only carries real programmes. That are not people pretending to be something they can never be. I chose to do this on the 50th anniversary year after the UK MoA, as I want younger generations to know the full story of radio people being kicked by numerous governments in the fight for free spirit radio.

There's no such thing as free radio as all radio costs money. It's the spirit that can be free.

I have been offered so amazingly priced HF to carry RTI Offshore, but that would be a waste of natural energy. It would do less damage to the environment sending out MP3 players and much cheaper when you consider the small amount of real listeners to HF. By listeners I mean people that tune in week in week out. Not those chasing QSL cards and/or giveaways as some form of hobby. The latter have no real interest in the station(s). On HF we may have been lucky to reach a couple of hundred real listeners whereas via Apps we can reach many thousands of real listeners, we know this as we already do with RTI 1.

Also RTI Offshore can only reach younger generations via online Apps. Those are the generations that need to know the history of offshore radio or one day the entire subject will die. In my view it would be a sin to let the subject suffer a slow and painful death.

RTI Offshore will certainly have more than one featured station. In the generation we belong to there are favourites, mine in the 60's was certainly Radio London and in later years Laser 558. I am also honoured to be the administrator of the largest Laser Group on Facebook which continues to grow with an ever increasing number of young readers.

The above noted RTI Offshore will carry a wide range from the archives of real offshore programming. Shows that younger people need to hear and understand. RTI Offshore will remain on-air till the end of August at which time it will be replaced by a service run by a radio legend.

Radio continues to evolve, but we must always remember the things that inspired so many to join the radio media circus.

Thanks for reading this. Yours sincerely

Eric N Wiltsher *Radio Tatra International*

RTI - 2005 to 2017 www.rti.fm RTI1, Rosko Radio, RTI Offshore
British Embassy Consulate Warden based in Poprad, Slovakia

Skype: ericwiltsher WebSite: <http://ericwiltsher.uk>

Who remembers Dennis King? He started his radio career in the early seventies with Radio Caroline and worked for a lot of stations in Germany too like RIAS Radio, BB Radio and was presenter of the famous Europarade. Now he can be heard weekdays at Radio Bheins in Potsdam from 5 till 10 in the morning. So Dennis King is an early riser now:

<http://www.bheins.de/>



Dennis King now Photo: Bheins

Here's one from one of my favourite newsgroups, the one for Radio Luxembourg friends: 'If ever you wondered just how influential Radio Luxembourg was from the 30's onwards, take a look at this programme schedule for July 1956. Note the programme lost amidst Irish Requests, Frankie Laine and Louis Armstrong...' and, at approximately 9.30' Alan Freed, the remarkable American disc-jockey who's programmes in the States cause excitement to rise to fever pitch, presents 'Rock 'N' Roll'

Here's where we first heard Elvis Presley, Bill Haley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, Little Richard and other teenage God sends sent to make us happier human beings. Sent to have our parents running for cover! Sent by a Radio Station which (forgive the

plug) is really the heart and soul of our book *The Royal Ruler & the Railway DJ* still available in hardback on Amazon.

Thank you RTL, thank you the Luxembourg Government, thanks you Alan Freed! Tony Prince.'

208 TWO-O-EIGHT AND VIEW

OFFICIAL JULY PROGRAMMES RADIO LUXEMBOURG

Frankie Laine

7 - Saturday

10.30 BENNY LEE'S RECORD HOP
A Radio Luxembourg Production (Columbia & Parlophone Records) (FM, L1)

11.00 THE VOICE OF PROPHECY
(Adventist Union)

11.30 THE TWENTY-ONE RECORD SHOW
The pick of British and American hit records. Featuring this week's 21st birthday request spot.
Presented by **PETE MURRAY** (The Decca Record Co. Ltd.)
Midnight Close Down

7.00 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
At which we shall tell your stories and play you some especially chosen music appropriate to the occasion. Remember we want you to tell us your story, so write in without delay to Happy Anniversary, Radio Luxembourg, Hertford Street, London, W1

7.30 IRISH REQUESTS
DAVID GILL introduces some music requests sent in by listeners from the Emerald Isle. Why not let us play your favourite? Just write to us and we'll do the rest.

8.00 Another edition of the most exciting show of them all
JAMBOREE
Radio Luxembourg has been combining the thrill to find the very best in entertainment that you can wish to hear. This is the result - 12 minutes of exciting, non-stop, bottom-picked radio, designed to keep

8 - Sunday

7.00 JOHN BRABAN
SUNDAY'S REQUESTS introduces your favourite record played specially for you simply by writing to your request to Radio Luxembourg, Hertford Street, London, W1
(Dorsey Pool of Blackpool)

7.30 EDGE CALVERT
The Man with the Golden Trumpet
Special
TRUMPET CALL
NORRIE PARAMEORE
ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS
Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White
If I Loved You

8.00 TROPICAL MAGIC
presenting popular melodies from Latin-America, played especially to this effect.
This week
CHUY REYES and the BR with NIELSON PAZ

Recently I got an email from Belgium where Theo van Halsema, a heavy Mi Amigo follower in the seventies, had a camping holiday. He wrote that in a program from 2009 former Mi Amigo deejay Bert Bennet had told where the name 'Rado' in their Spanish address came from.



It was very simple the name on a clock in the main studio in Playa de Aro. And guess what happened during the short holiday of

Theo in Belgium? He passed a jewelry shop in Diksmuide where these 'Rado' clocks produced in Switzerland are still for sale.

Next Sherri Lynn about a few subjects: 'Hiya Hans I'm so sorry to be late in responding to your latest International Radio Report. As usual, crammed with really interesting info! Thanks very much, Hans....including for the bit about Robb Eden regarding Beacon Records and 'moi'... and my comments about him!

I have just finished reading the excellent book by our friend, Paul Alexander Rusling, **Laser Radio Programming 10 million listeners can't be wrong!** Paul played such an important part over a number of years during the 80's in researching and developing off-shore radio. I was living in the States at the time of the Laser years so had no idea as to how immensely important it was to so many people who listened in over the years to any one or more of the 11 radio stations that broadcast from the MV Communicator, including LASER 730, LASER 558 and LASER HOT HITS until I read this book.

Paul's coverage of how things were in the radio industry in our area (UK / Europe) and elsewhere, including a bit about America (as almost all the DJs and crew on Laser Radio were American citizens to keep things legal according to the UK's Marine Offences Act, which forbade British citizens from participating in broadcasting at sea outside British licensing jurisdiction with signals aimed at Britain) and so much more are so clearly written that I am now looking forward to reading his previously written book, *Radio Adventures of the MV Communicator*, Happy reading! Bestest to you and Jana as always. Sherri.'

Thanks a lot for these comments and surely Paul will enjoy the words you've written about him. Take care!

Wednesday May 17th I received the very sad news of the death of one of the captains who was 'boss' on the MEBO II in the seventies, Jan Harteveld.

Jan (Johannes) passed away on May 9th 9 2017 at the age of 83 in 's Gravenzande.



'Harteveld was like a father for the crew of the RNI radio ship and was until recently very involved in the memories of the offshore stations. He regularly came to the RadioDays and I also encountered him at Museum RockArt in Hoek van Holland. And he recognized you and was immediately open to share memories with each other. At his high age, he came to RockArt from his home town by using a bike. I will miss his great kindness, Hans Knot'.

Recently Fred Bunzl has put his photographs taken in the early seventies, when making some trips to the Veronica vessel Norderney, on line:
<http://www.campaignforindependentbroadcasting.co.uk/radio-veronica-souvenirs-1970-1973/>

In this issue also two nicknames which were not listed yet in the enormous rundown which you can find at www.hansknot.com What about Stuart 'Candy' Vincent and Keith 'Cabbage' King?

At Ascension Day I got a message from my 42 years old son Jeroen. He's a truck driver in Germany and was in South East Germany waiting for the

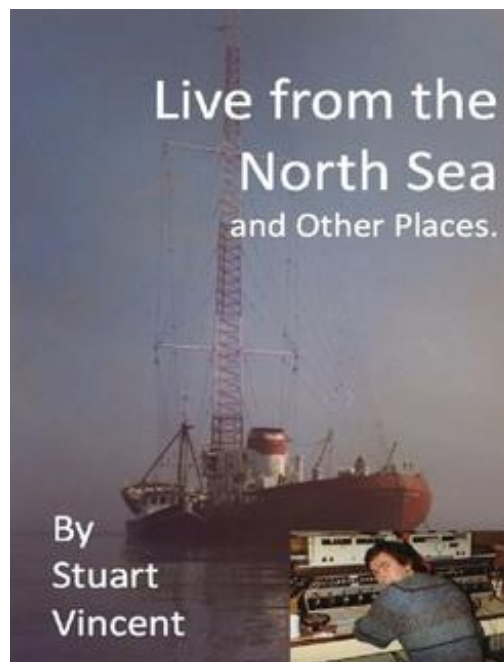
next day as professional truck drivers in Germany are not allowed to work on Ascension Day. In the afternoon he had some drinks with other truck-drivers, including the 60 year old George from Scotland. At one stage the topic 'nowadays radio' came along. My son Jeroen mentioned the name of Radio Caroline and George commented with 'f g' mate, how does a young lad like you ever heard about Radio Caroline'. Jeroen told him that he also knew the sound of Radio London and RNI as he was grown up with recordings of the station and that his father published about the history of Radio. George asked him what his father name was and when Jeroen mentioned 'Hans Knot' he couldn't believe it but told to Jeroen that he had some books by his father at home! We knew it already for many decades: Radio is without borders.

Review: [Live from the Northsea and other places](#), by Stuart Vincent.

Around May 15th a new book about Radio written by Offshore Radio Engineer and Presenter Stuart Vincent was in the post. In this 158 pages thick book Stuart describes his youth, working on the Voice of Peace, Radio Caroline as well as Laser 558. He worked on Irish Radio Nova as well for the MV Nannell project and more. Stuart was born in Herne Bay in December 1960 so his high days in radio are the eighties of last century. Result is that, as he worked as an engineer, he gives a very insight in work on different radio ships and the difficulties which came along. Of course living on a radio ship gives some very interesting stories. A pity is that, while reading, I thought a few times 'why didn't you do proper research to get the facts right?' For instant Vincent mentioned that the Cito, later renamed the Peace Ship, was built in the late fourties or early fifties of last century. Research had brought him the exact information as this ship was the very last ship leaving Dutch harbour after being built just before World War II started. Other very frustrating mistakes in my eyes are the mentioning that the MV Fredericia was a ship formerly from Norway; mentioning Ronan 'O'Reilly' instead of 'O'Rahilly', among others.

Anyway, Stuart brought very interesting inside stories, worthwhile to read and so order your own copy now.

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/stuart-vincent/live-from-the-north-sea-and-other-places/paperback/product-23173008.html?ppn=1>



To get a good idea of the content of the book 'Live from the North Sea and other places', I will bring you three chapters of the book exclusive for the readers of the report. Two of these in this issue are related to his time on board the Voice of Peace as well as on Radio Caroline. Next time another chapter. Have fun:

Boredom and tricks

Weeks out at sea can become like Groundhog Day on a radio ship. That's when people got bored and silly tricks were played on one another. I was doing some general maintenance in the production studio; this was face-to-face with the main on-air studio. As I was kneeling trying to put some connectors back into a reel to reel tape recorder I noticed there was a small hole near the floor that had been made in the wall between the two studios.

It was probably for some wiring which had since been removed. It gave me an idea and so I hatched my trick, along with shipmate Robbie White. We got a length of solid wire and attached something 'furry' at one end. I tried poking this wire thing through the hole and into the main studio,

whilst Robbie checked to see whether it was long enough. It worked!

I need to add at this stage, after having bunkered for fuel and water in Ashdod port recently somehow we managed to gain an unwanted furry friend, in the shape of a rat. Not a big one, but big enough. It had been spotted in the galley, but no-one had caught it yet.



Peace ship in Ashdod Photo: Freewave Archive

So with this in everyone's mind we tried this little trick on several jocks, as Robbie and me sniggered behind the wall in the studio, it brushed against the presenter while he was on air, normally while he was mid-link on the air. Of course, they thought it was 'the rat'. Our little trick was finally caught out when the furry ended stick got pulled through the hole by the presenter! But it did produce a few yelps on the air.

Another trick I played which I now think was completely juvenile, involved a few cans of tinned mackerel. The stores room had copious amounts of tinned mackerel. I took a few and opened them up and put them above one the AM transmitters. They were there for a few days and once they were festering away nicely, I sneaked them into the shared cabin of Doug Wood and Dave Asher.

The smell was unbearable, each one thought the other had a bit of a tummy upset...but were too embarrassed to say. I left the festering cans in their cabin for a day or so and then I thought I'd better get rid of 'the

evidence'. So over the side they went. All very childish, and we all had a good laugh when I confessed to the prank.



Captain Aaldijk Photo: Freewave Archive

Another trick was one we all played on Abie to get the air-conditioning fixed. During the summer of 1983 the Air-conditioner which cooled the broadcasting crew accommodation and studios broke down. We told Abie over the 'Motorola' and he promised to get someone out to fix it. But it coincided with a Jewish holiday and so it just didn't get done for one reason or another. So, we came up with an elaborate plan to get the system fixed, as to be honest it was mid-summer and stifling down below deck. We gathered-up all the electric cooling fans we could find and positioned them in the studio, as close as possible to the studio microphone. The presenters were told to talk a little quieter than normal during their on-air links between the records. This had the effect of making the fans 'drown out' the voice of the presenter. Abie called up on the 'Motorola' and asked what was going on. 'Oh my God, all I can hear is this humming' and evidently couldn't understand what was being said on the radio. 'Oh Abie, that's because as the air-conditioning is broken and we've had no option but to put an electric fan in the studio'. 'Oh my God, you guys, I must get that fixed', promised Abie. And that is what he did very quickly. The fans were put away for the next time.

Blake Williams

Blake Williams was a DJ from Phoenix, Arizona and came over on the MV Communicator from the USA and was subsequently out on the ship during the balloon aerial testing episodes.

He was evidently a very good radio presenter and as it turned out that he decided we wanted to work on the world famous Radio Caroline, so much so that he left Laser and joined us. He was introduced to Ronan in London and persuaded Ronan that he was the guy that could 'format' Radio Caroline.



Blake Williams, Leen Vingerling and Tom Anderson

Photo: Collection Leen Vingerling

When Blake arrived onto the Ross he explained that Ronan had given him 'carte blanche' and he was now our new 'Programme controller'. A few heads were turned at this announcement and mutterings could be heard ever so slightly amongst the assembled ranks. What we subsequently saw a 'music format clock', 'categories' 'fillers' and 'liner cards' appear in the studio. It was fascinating as I had personally never seen this type of thing before. However, the whole idea didn't go down so well with some of the 'longer serving' presenters and so there were some 'discussions and meetings' in the mess about this all shall we say. But eventually we all agreed that we'd give it a go, well, Ronan had agreed to it, so we had little choice but to go along with it. In the end even Tom Anderson agreed he'd give it a go. It then became clear that when Ronan agreed for Blake to

play 'Rock n' Roll Radio', to an American that meant let's play 'Heavy Rock'. So our music output for a week or so went rather narrow, Saxon, Sammy Hagar, Marillion, Led Zeppelin etc.

First to cave-in was Tom, who said 'you can do what the fuck you like-but I'm not following that'. So he went back to doing and playing his own thing. During the day, we played the whole album from 'Pink Floyd's' "Dark Side of the Moon'. Great stuff, but even I thought it wasn't the right thing to do. After numerous arguments and fallings out, things relaxed a bit and the station settled back down to a compromise and quite a nice sounding station actually.

Around this time only a few small tender boats were coming out to us. These boats could only carry fuel or water. We ended up having one boat after another only bringing fuel out to us. The upshot of that was that we then ran out of water.

One of the sacred things you must never do on a radio ship is allowing the water taps to run freely. For example, whilst brushing your teeth you only opened the tap to rinse the toothbrush and then quickly close it. I learnt that on the Voice of Peace. Water was very, very precious. Michael Barrington had joined the ship as marine engineer and told the tender captain to tell the office that we must have a water delivery, as we were dangerously low.

Anyway, as we were now out of water, in true American hard-grit style, Blake hit on this great idea to make a water still out of spare copper tubing from the transmitter spares, an old kettle and the Range cooker.

I enthusiastically helped him build this contraption. The end of the copper tubing was poked into the spout of the kettle, the tubing then went out of the roof light of the galley and into its coil. The tubing then went down to the side of the galley where a small container was placed under the end of the pipe. We were very happy with ourselves with this construction. As we lowered a bucket over the side of the ship on rope, we collected sea water and filled up our kettle contraption.

We were almost beside ourselves with excitement as the water started to

boil and the steam started to appear out of the spout. We needed to block that leak up. However, once we'd done that the steam found another way out. Unperturbed we looked at the pot at the end of the pipe, Blake said 'God-damn it isn't working; only a tiny drip or two appeared.

Not going brilliantly, we tried a few modifications; it did seem to work but just didn't produce near enough water. And the mess of the kettle, well, we were ok for salt as it was growing salt all around it. Michael Barrington suggested we syphon water out of the central heating radiators, which in the end we had no option but to do. We had to boil it up before we consumed it and although it tasted foul and looked distinctly 'grey' it kept us alive for a while.

Another worthy story involving Blake Williams on Radio Caroline was when he started quizzing me about the RCA Ampliphase 50KW transmitter. He had been a DJ and station engineer in Guam, and so he knew as much as me about RF transmitters I would say. So one evening he said, let's get this baby up to 50 Kilo Watts. I must admit I had reservations about doing this, as it was going to stress the hell out of this old equipment and especially put more strain on the generator.

However, we decided to give it a go. The first decision we agreed was to measure the aerial impedance to make sure that we were getting a good match between the transmitter and the aerial. A sensible starting point I thought and we dug out the very old test gear we had to do this. It was pretty much ok so we followed the instructions in the RCA manual and tuned the transmitter up. On the 50 kilo Watt Ampliphase, adjusting one stage of the transmitter interacted with another stage and so it was like a kind of juggling act in order to get it all to working nicely in harmony. This part took ages actually and we had to do it over a couple of nights. Without getting too technical, there had to be 135 degrees phase difference between the two output amplifiers for it to obtain 100% modulation. If that wasn't the case, then the audio just sounded distorted on the air. On our third night of twiddling around and adjusting the settings finally the 50 was blasting out full 50 Kilo watts. The whole transmitter room seemed to be alive with RF and the hairs on my neck were standing up on end. The amount of power being drawn really made

that poor generator work hard!



Photo: Hajo Backhus

We both went out on the deck near the base of the aerial holding fluorescent tubes in our hands which we waved about and they magically lit up due to the excessive amount of RF in the atmosphere around us. Even the huge base insulator was crackling away for the first time ever. It was a very impressive show of power and I'd never seen anything like it before. Unfortunately, we just couldn't sustain it for more than a week as there was a distinct smell of burning coming from the 50 and I couldn't pin-point where it was coming from. Then one of the output valves gave out and we had to put in the older spare which just wasn't up to that sort of pounding. So the power went back down to more respectable 25 Kilo watts or thereabouts. With all this tweaking I knew anyway that Peter Chicago would not have approved. To be honest it was foolhardy to put the equipment under that much strain and having next to no spare parts to hand. At least on the Ross there was some test equipment, albeit rudimentary, an old CR100 valve Navy radio set an oscillator and an impedance bridge. On the Peace ship, I had nothing at all apart from an oscilloscope and modulation monitor, so I never really knew if the transmitter had a good match to the aerial as I was unable to measure it.

When I was on board the MV Communicator I was lucky enough to have a 'Bird Thruline' aerial tester which was even better than what was on the Ross Revenge, lucky me! I also had a Belar Modulation Monitor too. But aerials on the communicator were to be a constant battle for me as you read later in this story.

Someone asked me recently about the remote start buttons in the Caroline studio. Blake said he really would like some switches fitted on the record decks to remotely start them. So on my next shore leave I obtained some ex-slot machine push buttons, possibly from Purdy's Electrical shop in Herne Bay. They were big and robust and more importantly were very cheap. The only downside was they were labelled "nudge" and "gamble" I seem to recall, which I thought was rather appropriate. Blake and I fitted them on my subsequent return to the ship.

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/stuart-vincent/live-from-the-north-sea-and-other-places/paperback/product-23173008.html?ppn=1>

Photos taken in a Danish radio museum in Streuer by Martin van der Ven can be seen here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/albums/72157681074274434>

We have to add to this series B&O equipment that there are a view very special radios in the museum. Very unique finding from Martin van der Ven as there are two radio's where the station Courier is mentioned (VoA from the MV Courier) and a radio where DCR, also an offshore radio station is mentioned.





Some Anoraks really make long journeys to get photographed at places which were once related to offshore radio. More than 30 years ago Laser 558 had an office in New York and so in 2017 reader Douwe Dijkstra took his family to Madison Avenue for the next snap:



Photo: Collection Douwe Dijkstra

Monday May 29th came in a message from Southern America:

'I thought you all deserved to see this: I just sent this to all my radio stations around the world. Hello Rock 'N Roll Rewind Stations: I have decided that after 57 years in broadcasting I will no longer produce a weekly Rock 'N Roll Rewind show after the last weekend in June. I wanted to give you all plenty of time to find a suitable replacement for my show.

I started broadcasting while in High School and I was lucky enough to get a chance to meet and work with a huge number of the most important stars in the business. I was there during the greatest years of rock and roll and it was a great ride, but everything must end.

My last radio show will be the weekend of June 23-24. I surely hope you will air my show until the end. I have had the opportunity to attempt to entertain millions upon millions upon millions of listeners around the world and like the old country song said, I feel like an old violin, soon to be put away and never played again.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent your station over the years.

All the best, Ron O'Quinn Rock 'N Roll Rewind, Cotacachi, Ecuador'.



Photo collection Ron O'Quinn

Thanks a lot Ron for sharing this and with respect you've had a wonderful career and I and many others were glad you took the decision in 1966 to work for a while in Western Europa and brought us Swinging Radio England. Through the years we met a few times and it was wonderful to share memories and ideas of our second love: radio. We stay in contact versus the International Radio Report. Enjoy each day in life the coming years.

A day later Ron came with a longer statement: 'I have had several people ask: "Why would you quit when you are doing so well?" I don't know when I will pass on and can't control that, but I can control my radio days. Most

old announcers keep going until they totally lose their audience, not me. I want to go out while I can still feel confident that I am doing a good job entertaining thousands and thousands of people all over the world each week.

My 57 years of deejay experience has given me confidence to know the best music for the next song, based on the demographics I am shooting for. I have a great time doing the show. I like the music and I enjoy playing it and sometimes I have personal information about the artist because I met them and talked with them and even became friends with some of them. I do not cover up my mistakes because you guys know I am just what you hear, just the man who lives next door and enjoys life. I am just talking with you and playing songs for you. You are my radio friends.

I may be coming to you from hundreds and even thousands of miles way, but you know me. We're friends. That's it, nothing else. I always have been available to my listeners because you are the people who 'brought me to the dance' and I surely want to dance with you. I have enjoyed my life...I have done what I wanted to do, I have had successes and I have had failures. I love my family, I love my friends, and I look for the opportunity to meet new friends.

In life's battleground I have won some and I have lost many, but I keep trying. If I think it and you ask me what, I say it. I am not politically correct. I like children, dogs, old folks, and a glass of wine. I love deeply and I will fight for what I consider to be right. As Val Kilmer said in Tombstone: "I'm your daisy".

If you have a remembrance of me or a message you would like to share with me please email me and I will read some of them on the air in each of the next shows. Better yet, you can record a short message on your phone, your laptop, your desktop, or your tablet and send it to me at rewindron@gmail.com I am going to pick some of these recorded messages and play them on my final three radio shows. Make your recording or your message to me, fun because a lot of people will be listening. Thank you all for allowing me to come into your homes, your businesses, your cars, and

your life each week. It has been a "hoot". I would hope that you each have as much fun in your job as I did in mine. I look at myself as a well-worn young man, with 74 years of experience, and I thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to be myself two hours each week with Rock 'N Roll Rewind.'



Way back in Swinging Radio England times

Photo Collection Ron O'Quinn

I have 33 pages already for this edition of the report, so the second part of the Harald Hummel Radio Story will have to wait. This as space just filled for this edition. Sorry Harald but I don't think you will have a problem with that. For everyone let your memories, photos and more come to HKnot@home.nl

Till next edition somewhere in July all best wishes and for those in my part of the world have a nice summer and to the others get your snow shoes ready for another winter period.

Hans Knot