

January 2nd 2002



Dear radio friends around the world. Well first of all I want to wish you all the very best for 2002 and let's hope it may be a much better year than 2001.

Again a report on things which have happened in the radio scene in Holland as well as some info from "Offshore Radio Past and Present".

On December 28th it became known that the organization behind the planned long wave radio project *Delta 171* will not get another chance to start a station from a platform in the North Sea. They got a temporary license which would have changed into a definitive license if they could prove to be building the platform before November 1st 2001 and being on the air on January 1st 2000. As they did not built before November 1st the Dutch government took back the temporary license. Delta then went to court but the judge decided that they cannot start in the future as they have not succeeded following the line of the temporary license. In the meantime the Caroline organization has asked the Dutch organization responsible for the licenses to get an option to use the 171 from a ship in the future as a low powered long wave station. Without going into further detail this request from Peter Moore must be seen as another 'joke' from the Highgate manager and his friends in Holland to start something on paper, but not for real. And with his friends in Holland I don't mean Sietse Brouwer and his gang who will be responsible soon for Caroline Nederland.

Since 1972 every year during the Tour de France a live report is brought on television in Holland, which is partly narrated by *Mart Smeets*. He followed the Tour de France in earlier days for Radio Noordzee, the Dutch Service of RNI where he worked for the program 'AD Sport and Sport Wereld'. After 30 years Mart Smeets thinks it will be time to give the microphone to a younger generation.

Smeets is presenting several sport programs on Dutch television and has also written several books on sport and his family life.

Wegener Publishers, owners of radio stations Radio 10 FM and the cable radio station *Love Radio*, have decided to make an end to the transmissions of *Love Radio*, a sweet music station which could be heard since 1994 on Dutch networks. As the station was a low profile one they didn't get too much listeners. There will be no loss of jobs as all the people working at the station will get another job within the Publishing Company. *Love Radio* went off the air on January 1st 2002.

Noordzee FM has to change their format very soon. Dutch Commissariaat voor de Media, which is the Dutch equivalent for the Radio Authority, has made a decision on the future of the station after a complaint of the people who applying for a license under the name 'Nederland FM'. They wrote a letter in which they wrote that *Noordzee FM* did not transmit properly following their license. Now *Noordzee FM* has to pay 50.000 Dutch guilders (forgot to mention the EURO price), they've to play at least 25% of music produced in Holland within 3 months. Before July 1st this must be 40%.

Offshore Radio Past and Present

1.12 Today Stanislav Haag, better known as *Stan Haag* of Radio Veronica and Radio Mi Amigo died at the age of 81 years. Last year he could be heard in a one time program on Radio Magdalena in Antwerp. Stan was already ill for several years. Last time I met him, during the big Veronica reunion in 1999, he was leaving after only 2 hours as he was too fatigued to stay longer at the party. Next to his long radio career he was also very good in songwriting and wrote more than 500 songs, including a few number one hits for several artists.

10.12 New director for the regional radio and tv station Radio West, with their head quarter in The Hague, is *Jeroen Soer* (Woelwater). We do remember Soer as a one time live deejay on Radio Caroline in

1979 where he did only one stint. He was too seasick to stay longer and from that point on he stayed at the station doing taped programs recorded in his home studio in Delft. In the eighties he was co-responsible for the start of Radio 10 and was director for a long period. During the last years he has been involved in different media projects in Holland and Belgium.

10.12 The transmitter on board the *MV Communicator* in Almere harbour has been switched off today. No more AM 1224 programs for Q The Beat. The owner, Clear Channel Communications, hired the license from the ill-fated Radio London project some years ago. Now they can buy the license but they have to pay also all the debts of the company behind Radio London, which are more than 1.5 million Euro, which is far too much. Now Clear Channel will try to buy a license in the big selling of licenses next May. Q the Beat, in the meantime, can still be heard on the Dutch cable networks.

Then on January 26th *Radio Caroline* will be transmitting for the first time on several cable networks in the north and east of Holland aiming at a potential of 2.5 million listeners. From that day partly non-stop programs and partly presented shows will be on cable. For the very first day several former deejays like Tom Anderson, Graham Gill and Johnny Lewis have been asked to do a one time show. Congratulations to Sietse Brouwer and his crew to come to this historical moment, something in which the English management has failed during the past years: getting *Radio Caroline* on air again for longer than only 28 days. So we wish the Dutch team, with studios in Harlingen, a lot of success for the future.

January 1st saw also the closedown of *Radio Monique*, the local radio station for IJmuiden. This station has been on the air for several years but has to close down due to financial problems. On the station a few deejays from *Radio Monique* and *Radio 819* (the offshore project) worked. A new station has started at the same day, *Seaport Radio*,

which has in their staff Arie Remmers (Swets), Eric Beekman and Edo Peters. All three have worked on board the Ross Revenge.

A lot of money has been put into *Radio Nationaal*. 75% of the shares have been bought by Radio Ned BV, a company which is headed by Ruud Hendriks. Ruud became known from 1978 as a deejay on Radio Mi Amigo. In 1979 he was also on Caroline. Later on he made a marvelous career within the media industry including director of NBC Super Channel and a very good position within the HMG Group.

Well that's all. See you all the next month Hans Knot