

April 30th 2002



Well dear friends in radio land here's the April edition of the news from behind the Dutch dykes and off course 'offshore radio past and present'.

31.3 Yesterday very little power has been put out of the transmitter, owned by Ruud Poeze. On 1584 kHz it could be received with some test programmes. A few years Poeze came, together with Bob Noakes, to bring Caroline in Holland as a legal station. They failed but what the reason of these tests are is unknown.

1.4 Last transmission day for the Top 800 of the Eighties as played during the last four days on Keizerstad FM. For many listeners a really good music period. And of course some of the memories to the music Laser 558 brought us.

1.4 The Broadcasting Society for Buddhists in Holland has got extra airtime a year from Dutch Commission for the Media. They will get 3 hours more on TV and 39 on the radio. They went earlier to a court as they were not happy with the only 10 hours a year they got on television. They thought that it was not reasonable enough for a religious group which has more than 90.000 people watching when they're on air.

2.4 During the evening on Astra 19 East, 12.574 GHz horizontal with music from seventies, eighties and nineties, test transmissions for the new Radio Veronica. They will aim themselves at the young people. Still non stop music with the ANP news on the hour.

9.4 Today the official opening of the new studio complex of Colorful Radio at the Jan rebelstreet in Amsterdam. Minister Rogier van Boxtel came from the Haque to Amsterdam to do the official opening. The station claims to have 6 million cable connections in the Netherlands, but they mean potential listeners of course. Colorful Radio is now in hands of the NRG Group. The first owner, by the way, was officially called bankrupt a few days ago.

10.4 Dutch Government today announced that in the future 1.9 million Euro extra will be given to the local radio stations in Holland. With this the total amount will be 7 million pro annual. The money will be sent to the so called 'boroughs' and they have to co finance the local stations. But the OLON, the organisation for all the local stations in the Netherlands, told that in the past a lot of these money didn't reach the local stations at all. Of course they will have a strong look on it that it will happen correctly in the future.

10.4 Today it became known that singer and programme maker Connie Vandebos died a few days ago at the age of 65. She had many hit songs in the Netherlands and all anoraks will remember her from the massive number one in the seventies 'Roosje mijn roosje'. In the seventies she presented programmes at TROS Radio. Also she worked for the ill fated Holland FM, Radio Nationaal and Noordzee FM. During the past year she worked for the regional station Radio West.

22.4 Rumours are going around that there are plans for cooperation between Radio 192 and some Belgian organisation. One, from Antwerp, has offered the station owners airtime on an FM outlet for some hours a day with a potential of 1,4 million listeners. Radio 192 is considering the offer. The second offer comes from a group who want to restart the one time famous Radio MAEVA. Details of this offer are not known yet. Since the 1st of April Radio 192 lost a lot of listeners in the Amsterdam area due to the fact UPC, the cable network owner, decided to give the channel to another organisation. Lots of people are unhappy and even the station has been suggested to start a huge campaign in the local newspapers whereby the readers can sign a petition to get the station back on cable. At the end the directors of Radio 192 thought it wasn't a good idea.

25.4 Very sad to mention is that one of the longest running programmes on Dutch Radio, the live Jazz programme from the TROS, has to be finished at the end of this radio season. The reason is that there's a gap of 100.000 Euro which cannot make the programme, called Sesjun, viable anymore for Dutch listeners. The programme was on air since 29 years in a row.

Offshore radio past and present

6.4 Today in Geluwe Mireille Moerman died at the age of 60. Together with her husband Fernand she was the organiser for the Radio Mi Amigo Fan club in the Seventies. Not only they published the Fan Club Magazine but were also responsible for the organisation of several Fan Club Bals and other happenings concerning the radio station, which was on the air from January 1974 up till October 1978 from the MV Mi Amigo. It was one of the seventies sister stations of Radio Caroline.

6.4 From today every Saturday evening on Radio 192 a new program can be heard between 10 in the evening and midnight. It will be presented by Martien van Engel and will bring back the music and jingles from the seventies of last century. The program is called 'Club Mi Amigo' and in his shows he also plays old air checks of the former offshore station Radio Mi Amigo.

It seems some cannot live without working on as much as possible radio stations. On the 7 of April there was the very first breakfast show on Lark FM, and RSL

station which will be on air until May 4th. Good to hear good old Johnny still loves doing Lewis programmes on the air.

7.4 Today it became known that at the age of 79 years Dick De Bois died. Dick was the man who came with the idea to start the Veronica Drive Inn Show in the seventies and made it very famous through the last century. Also he was in the sixties and seventies the organiser of the famous Oranje Balls, which always took place on the day of Queen Juliana's birthday, April 30th.

8.4 Starting today on Radio 2 is the Week of the Sixties Years. Always fun to listen to the good old songs and we must state that there are again a lot of songs we didn't here since many years on the radio. Well done lads. On the evening of the 9th we even heard well known voices from Veronica, Gerard de Vries and Joost den Draaijer remembering the good old days as well as given an opinion on nowadays radio and television.

One of the new internet sites is www.marine-broadcasters.com from my very good friend Paul de Haan and his son Mark. You have to go and watch it as it brings a total other inside look at the offshore stations. One of the visitors, Big John, wrote an email this month in which he told that he has dived to the rests of the MV Mi Amigo in the Knock Deep last year. It seems the ship, which is for 50% under the sand, is in reasonable condition after be there for more than 20 years. The two last sections of the aerial mast are still there on the 'deck' of the Mi Amigo.

12.4 As Radio 2 had the week of the Sixties, Radio 192 had his very first Motown Week. Today between 3 and 6 in the afternoon the last three hours are presented by quest deejay Ferry Maat. It was as he was back in his good old Soul Show days of Radio Noordzee and TROS Radio. He took one of the other former RNI deejays with him into the Radio 192. Hans ten Hoge, or Hans Hogendoorn which his real name is. They talked about the good old days and of course of the best live programme there was on the Dutch Service of RNI in the seventies: Driemaster.

16.4 In the news programme on Dutch TV station SBS6, The Hearth of the Netherlands, today attention to the return on Dutch cable by Veronica TV. They first start with one hour a day and will make more hours later in the year. But to us radio people it was interesting SBS6 showed us some shots from the last day from Veronica as an offshore radio station, way back on August 31st 1974 and had also a very short interview with Ad Bouman and Will Luikinga on the past. Both are working now with Radio 192, which tries to bring back as much as possible memories to the good old offshore radio days in their programming.

Talking about memories: In the Weather Magazine, a bi monthly for amateur weather people, in the April/May edition was a flashback on the weather in Holland on April 2nd 1973. It has been written by Jacob Kuiper and he describes how the weather was that day and how the offshore radio stations Veronica and RNI came in problem. As we all know the Norderney from Veronica was beached that night on the Scheveningen coast. Some old newspaper cuts were with the story. But there was more attention in the news today as the Algemeen Dagblad (daily newspaper) also paid attention to the comeback from Veronica on TV. Of course the comeback has nothing to do with the original Veronica but they brought some memories back to the good old days, including a beautiful photo of Veronica on the beach of Scheveningen.

And now we talking about Memories and Veronica, go and have a look on www.mediapages.nl. This beautiful site brings a lot of memories to radio, including several scans of archive material from Veronica technician Juul Geleick and also since a couple of weeks a weekly update of scans from material from my big Veronica archive. I started listening to the station way back in 1960 and had contact with the organisation from the mid sixties and still have regular phone calls with the former owner Bull Verwey. You will find their exclusive material never shown before on Internet.

And finally I had to watch television yesterday as there was a on Sunday the 28th of April an one hour long interview with Tineke de Nooy. She became 61 years yesterday and in the programme on RTL4 they went through here long career. Including of course the memories of Radio Veronica, where she worked in offshore days from the early start in 1960 up till 1974. Some of the memories she recalled: I was the only female deejay when Veronica really became a pop station. On forehand we had more women but they were announces. I had to be strong between all those men and the only thing to win was to have a big mouth. Also she brought back the memory of being pregnant. Bull Verwey told he she wouldn't be sacked, as it was common in those days in Holland for pregnant women, but that he would saw a part of the table away so she could sit down properly getting bigger and bigger.

Also bigger and bigger is getting this report, so I'll will finish this monthly report for this month. Comments are always welcome. And we've now more than 200 people all around the world who are reading this by email, and of course much more on the Martin van der Ven site.

See you all next month. Greetings,

Hans Knot