

July 10<sup>th</sup> 2002



Dear Radio friends,

Welcome to the 'Past and present column on Offshore Radio' and 'News from Holland' in which I try to highlight the things which have been happening in the month of June.

Early June I had to think back to the sixties, when a few offshore radio stations had religious programmes in their output, just to finance the whole business. Later on, in the seventies and eighties, Caroline had a lot of religious organisations who did buy airtime. One of them was the organisation of Brother Stairs. He named himself the real prophet of God in the modern world. Just a type of: you sent me your money and I will pray for you'. Well Brother Stairs has been jailed last week. Not only he had his financial bookings not done properly, he also built a new building without permission. Above all two members of his congregation admitted that the brave Brother Stairs had 70 times had sex with them without permission. And what does sister Theresa says, the wife of Brother Stairs? They knew what would happen and they agreed Brother Stairs had sex with them. Well he can now have a quiet time within jail.

On the 1st of June for the first time listeners to Radio 192 could hear the Saturday show of Ron Bisschop. Each Saturday he presents a program between 17 and 19 hours filled with music from the sixties and seventies of the last century, mixed with the best rock music. Ron was known as Johan Visser on Radio Mi Amigo and Radio Caroline. Since then he is a household name within the Dutch radio industry. Nowadays he also works on Business News Radio. On this station also Frits Koning is working as station manager. Together with Frits, Ron Bisschop also worked on Radio Monique in the eighties, the Dutch language station from the MV Ross Revenge.

Talking about the Ross Revenge, the ship was open to the public during the weekend of Queenie's Jubilee at the start of June.

Around 40 people got a real round up on the ship, could by goodies at the Caroline Sales shop as well reminiscing with some beers in the local pub at Queensborough. Also on the first weekend of July will be open house at the former radio ship.

On the 9th of June the Dutch download club was one year old. Chris Visser, Harm Koenders and Hans van Dijk started to place on Internet some old programmes from Offshore radio stations. It became really popular and more and more people searched at their archives if they had some exclusive recordings. During the past month more and more sixties recordings came free. They place mp3 files on Internet, which are only available to members. They pay a little amount of money, just to cover the costs of the hiring of the space on Internet. With a zipp word they can download on daily basis an old program. Info can be found on [www.offshoreradio.org](http://www.offshoreradio.org). If you also want to take part in offering your own programs, then you can e-mail Chris Visser, [downloadclub@xs4all.nl](mailto:downloadclub@xs4all.nl)

John de Mol jr, once technician on Radio Noordzee, the Dutch service of RNI, and already many years one of the two big bosses of EndeMol, wants to step back as director. He thinks there's time for new blood and he hopes to find his man within the advertising world. And John himself wants to do more creative work and getting ideas for new programs. One of the ideas which made him big was 'Big Brother', which he sold worldwide.

In the Dutch newsgroup zeezenders I tried to get awake all those readers who place sometimes-interesting items but also many boring items. My question was: 'Do you remember any deejay with a nickname from the Offshore Radio Days'. Off course brought in some myself. I got several emails from readers, and I can tell you there are former offshore deejays reading the site but never place a message themselves. Here is the list with deejays we have until now. I know, next to the fact that this monthly news is put on three different radio sites, that it is sent by email to several former

offshore deejays. So guys, reflect and sent me your personal memories on nicknames.

On June the 12th it became known that there will be a Radio Mi Amigo RSL on 1503 kHz. Starting on July 18th up till August the 14th the transmission will be held to gain money for the historical light vessel, LV18, which is anchored in the middle of the harbour of Harwich. The programmes are sponsored by: The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the Harwich Connexions Market Town Initiative Community Fund. Internet audio will also be provided. During the evening hours there are plans to relive the progressive Caroline Overdrive programming. By the way, take a look at Bob LeRoi's site. He has put some photos in the scrap book on which you can see the two ship which have been recently bought by some guys for use as radio ships and of course I mean for RSL use.

On June the 12th some memories came back to a Monday evening, somewhere early 1973. Late that evening Dennis King from the Caroline organisation phoned in and told me that he had found the solution for more listeners for the station as well as a real good way of financing. He told me to get my recorder ready for he would let me listen on the phone to the exclusive tape for a new program, which would start soon. Well the program never started as Ronan gave a general pardon. It seemed Dennis had made a contract with Dutch publishing man Peter Muller to get a weekly sex program on the radio. Still in my archive parts of the first, never aired show, for Ronan told that sex had nothing to do with LA. And why I had to think about this tonight? Peter Muller appeared on Dutch television about a new magazine, which is not allowed in certain shops in the Netherlands. For the rest you can think about it yourself.

On June 16th Paul Rusling admitted that the name of the platform, which will be anchored at a location, near where the Fredericia of Caroline North was once moored, will be named 'Caroline Island'. Of course we speak about a location near the isle of Man. Mann Music will be using the platform for building their aerial system on. But is Paul planning to change the working name of the station in the future

is a question, which can be answered within a year.

DLT, as we mentioned Caroline North above, was working also shortly for this station and a lot on Caroline North. Since the end of June he has a contract to make programmes on The Army Radio Network, also called Garrison Radio. Each Sunday he will be presenting a program on 1287 kHz or 1350 kHz on low power to several locations. But just 1% chance you could receive the signal. So this one is just for the history books.

Finally, as we speak about the subject 'offshore radio past and present' a personal opinion about how to run or how not to run a radio station: What to do to make a radio station in a better financial shape and you're not falling under the restrictions of the British Broadcasting Bill? Well you could sell airtime to new artists. Plugging is another word for this way of making money within the radio industry. Radio Caroline manager Peter Moore got an offer from the Foundation for Media Communication to plug Dutch bands in their programs, whereby first there would be a try out for one band and 6 others were also willing to pay money for plugging their new material. First a CD was sent to Maidstone and tracks would be plugged on certain conditions. However if I was program director I would make a list of times the tracks would be played during the forthcoming period and sent this to the person which made the deal with the Caroline organisation, in this case Rob Olthof in name of The Foundation for Media communication in Amsterdam. Next step should have been a message from The Foundation to the group in which could be mentioned the timeslots the CD would be plugged. However, several e mails were sent to the Caroline office without any response at all. O, yeh, Moore did one e-mail to Rob Olthof, in which he mentioned that Nigel Harris would arrange the plugging from the Maidstone studios. Again weeks later Rob thought: Why not write an email to this hard working program arranger in person of Nigel Harris and ask him to sent the schedule of the plugging of the CD. And guess what? The Foundation for Media Communication got an e-mail back that the CD was already aired a few times and due to the

fact that Rob Olthof was discontented, the plugging was withdrawn from the play list and even the band would be banned from the station forever. Is this a modern style of devastating a radio station? What when an advertiser wants some slots? Could they have any influence on what times the commercial would be aired and would the Caroline management inform them? Where is the time gone that Radio Caroline really was a good organisation. I think we've to get back to the time that money was pouring in from the religious organisations in the late seventies and early eighties of the last century. Only then the money came in via an agent in Holland who also knew how to handle with that. It's really tragic that things like these happen and in my opinion the real reason of this is that the people who are working for the Caroline Organisation are volunteers and there is no director at all as final organiser. Good to know that there are a lot of old recordings to bring back the good memories of the one and only Radio Caroline, the station which transmitted from international waters.

And then the news from Holland - Very short this time due to the fact that I was away for a longer period:

The VARA is refusing to make, starting next year, any programmes for the radio station 747 AM as this station, which only started this year, is very badly listened to. Station coordinator Jan Westerhof isn't content with the decision and will take action against the VARA. At an earlier stage one of the other older broadcasting societies, The AVRO, decided not to do any programs at all for the station, due to financial costs..

June 3rd. A new idea has been born to build a platform in the IJsselmeer on which the aerial systems have to be placed. The idea is coming from Dutch transmitter company Nozema en they've now brought the idea to the Dutch government. They think the platform can be placed somewhere between Lelystad and Enkhuizen, at a location called Trintelhaven. At this side of the IJsselmeer the MV Communicator was anchored in the 90's of the last century. Several

town governments have already been positive to the plans and are willing to pay money for the project too.

20-6 On the annual International Radio Festival in New York Radio Netherlands has scored again winning 8 different awards. Six went to the English Department and to the Latin American department. In total the organisation of the festival got 1200 entries from 35 countries.

And that rounds up this month edition. May I wish all readers who are going for a holiday in the weeks to come a good holiday and more news from behind the famous Dutch dykes will come next month. And as always for the longer, in depth, stories I invite you to take a regular visit to our on line journal for media and music culture:  
[www.soundscapes.info](http://www.soundscapes.info)

Greetings,  
Hans Knot