

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2002



A warm welcome in the December month and again, although for the last time in 2002, my monthly report.

First of all I come with the news that The Ross Revenge will be towed to Southend on Sea again in the summer of 2003. There will be an RSL from the ship, which will be anchored at the end off the Pier. It is not known yet in which period the RSL will be held but as soon as it is known I'll mention it in my report. One thing is for sure, all the programs will be presented from the studios on board the ship. Last time they had an RSL transmission, which came partly from the studios in Maidstone but a new rule with RSL's is that the presenting of the programs has to be done in the surrounding of the place for which the Radio Authority gives the licence.



Maybe some of our readers can work on their ego as there has been a poll in Holland, organised by the Offshore Radio Download Group. Here are some of the results. First the category which Offshore station was the best followed by the amount of votes the stations got: 1 RNI 90, 2 Radio Veronica 81, 3 Radio Caroline 68, 4 Radio Mi Amigo 55, 5 Radio London 41, 6 Swinging Radio England 17, 7 Laser 558 13, 8 Radio Atlantis 12, 9 Radio Delmare 8, 10 Radio Monique also 8 votes

Of course it was a voting with Dutch and Belgium offshore anoraks and that resulted in a lot of Dutch deejays on the Top 10 of the most favourite deejays: Leo van der Goot (RNI) 29 votes, 2 Lex Harding (Radio Veronica and Radio 227). 3 Marc Jacobs (Radio Mi

Amigo and Radio Caroline) 25. 4 Joost den Draayer (Radio Veronica and Radio Noordzee) 23. 5 Tom Collins (Radio 227 and Radio Veronica) 19. 6 Rob Out (Radio Noordzee REM Isle and Radio Veronica) 18, 7 Kenny Everett 16 votes, 8 Ferry Maat 15. 9 Bart van Leeuwen 15 and 10 Johnny Walker with 12 votes

Remember we brought some lists with nicknames during the last summer. We got some updates. It was Marc Jacobs who gave the name 'Schanulleke' to Johan Visser on Mi Amigo in 1978. Also Rob Hudson and Dick Verheul got the duo nickname 'Hud and Heul'. And Marc Jacobs himself was nicknamed 'Papa' Jacobs (Father Jacobs).

Some of the new readers of this bulletin are again former Mi Amigo or Offshore deejays. First of all we heard from Adri de Bruin this last month. We know him as René van Elst who worked in 1979/80 for Radio Caroline. He started his career on local pirate radio in Weesp (Radio Vero). After his offshore period he also went into local politics and he still lives in his hometown and is working now for the local radio station Radio Weesp and is also final editor for a local weekly door to door newspaper.

Secondly we got an email from no one else than Paul May, also known as Paul Dean. He still remembers his days on RNI (1971 and remember this marvellous long jingle 'RNI goes 24 hours a day') as the best years in radio. Also he has good memories on his days on Laser. But he totally quit radio and works in a pub annex brewery near Cape Canaveral. But when his working days are over he wants to go back to England again. For the time being he feels settled and is very proud to have raised a family and that he's a grandfather these days. Welcome on the internet fleet Paul! By the way also a welcome to Don Stevens, who worked on Radio Caroline in the seventies as well as on the Voice of Peace off the Israeli Coast. He has sent me a very warm, long and interesting e-mail from which some extracts, with thanks Don for your very nice personal words:

After I left the Peace Ship I spent many years in Israel designing

and opening discos, the Sheraton being my best in 1978. I used to return to the Ship to help Abe out when short of staff, this I did in 1977 and 1978. I also provide land based accommodations for Abe's staff at my apartment in Tel Aviv up until 1980. Then I went to London and the latter part saw me working in advertising for the Westminster Press Group in London, and in Feb, 1981 I took up the position of Music Programme Director for Taz Leisure Group in Middlesbrough. They ran a network of upmarket venues across the North of England, good job, booked many fine artists.

The Group did well, and old friend of mine, Keith York, whose family home was near Middlesbrough, invited me to assist him in re-building a radio stations market in Cork, Ireland. South Coast Radio was a regional giant power wise, but a minnow regarding programmes. I built this station up to its best potential, and in 1984 became with Keith York a partner in Atlantic Sound Galway. They required the same special chemistry that we performed in Cork, for them. Keith and I also spent a short time at Radio Nova to help out Chris Cary during the NUJI strike, and he may recall vividly how I drove my Renault limo through the striker blockading the Rathfarnham site and studios.

I did Breakfast for 2 weeks to help out, but I was really keen to get back to Galway as Keith and I had set up a new Stereo station there which had become the market leader. Thanks go to my old amigo Tony Allan, who revamped our News presentation and presented it himself.

1987, I left Ireland and the industry and set up a freelance Egyptian art business, plus I worked for Nixdorf Computer to learn logistics. Now, I'm an entrepreneur and handle, no wait, I'm a Facilitator. What you want, I got, and I can get it. Egyptian art, transport, old jingles in high quality, movies, videos, you name it Hans, that's what I now do. Its rewarding but its basic hustling on a grand scale.

I have made appearances since on BBC Southern Counties, LBC London, and I still freelance to the industry, as well as presenting talks and shows to schools and colleges about offshore radio and freedom of speech. I am also an active Sci-fi enthusiast and have just returned from Las Vegas having met Walter Koenig, Marina Sirtis and many other from Star Trek, Babylon 5, Battlestar Galactica and Star Wars, to me, its the same fight we all fight. Equality, Human Rights, and freedom.

So far the update from Don Stevens who we all know as an excellent deejay on Radio Caroline way back in the seventies.

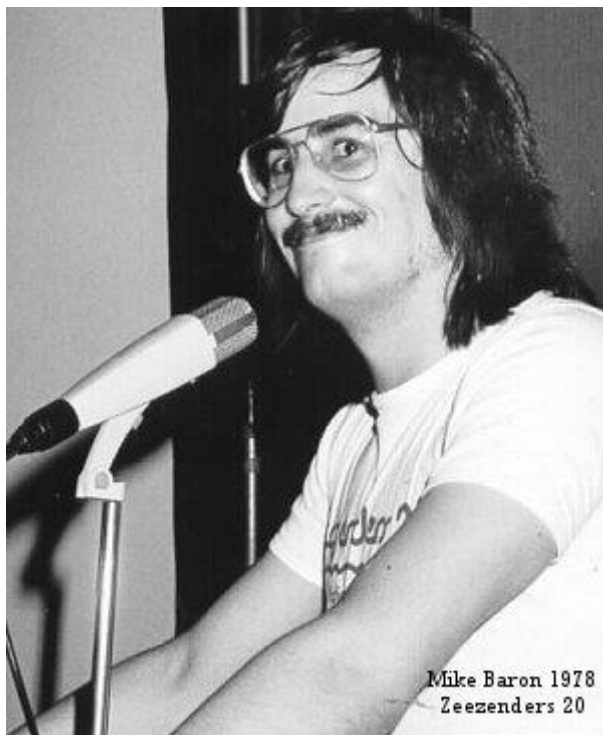
Then we're going to Lex Harding. He was guest in the RTL4 program Boulevard due to the fact that the station he made big, Radio 538, was 10 years old in November. It was hurting to hear Lex talking about his roots and telling the watchers that Veronica was closed down on August 30th 1974 instead of 31st. And that 'only day' really counted for us. By the way he's back with Radio 538 which he left some years ago. Reason is that Erik de Zwart will leave as general director in January. He's got a new job, about which I will report further on.

As we're with former Veronica deejay Lex we should also stick for a moment with his former colleague Chiel Montagne. He's hot again with sale television where he promotes as series of CDs with Dutch language songs. Well as avid listeners in England to RNI and Mi Amigo you will remember names like Father Abraham, Rob de Nijs and Corrie and the Rekels. Well these CDs are selling so well that this month Chiel, as presenter and promoter, got an platinum version for high sales. Also he's back on tour again with all these old artist joining in going back to their roots in theatres and stadiums. Yes you read it well!

Also a 'hi and hello' this month from Robb Eden. Former Caroline and RNI deejay wrote in to tell that he's back into music. Of course you do remember that it was him who was responsible for the

success of Dutch bands like Golden Earring, Earth and Fire and not forgetting Focus. He mentioned in his e mail he found a new group he's now heavily promoting: Surefire from Dunstable in Bedfordshire. He was also adding that the lead guitarist from the group is living in the same street as where the Chiltern Radio has their studio's at the time Robb Eden was working there in the eighties. Coincidence? For more info go to [www.surefiregroup.uksingers.com](http://www.surefiregroup.uksingers.com). Finally Robb added that he longs to the day there will be a real rock radio station in Great Britain which will play the better music, like Radio Caroline did in the good old days (of course he meant the seventies of the last century).

By the way on the last Friday of this month on French television France 3 was a report on Sealand in the program Thalassa. This a long running series of programs related to the sea. Years ago we could also see a wonderful special (1986) about Radio Caroline and Monique in the same Thalassa. This month's item was earlier transmitted in Holland and is a Dutch production.



#### Radio Day

Indeed as well as Rob Olthof I got a lot of e mails from people asking when the radio day will take place next year. Normally we mention in October already when the day will be held. During the last years we did have the radio day at the Koningszaal at the Artis Zoo in Amsterdam. There is a new management who raised the prices with some 40% and that's is far too much. So we are still in talks with them. As it stands now it may be October or November

when the Radio Day will be held. Why? Well The Freewave Media Magazine is 25 years old in July next year. The same day we

organised for the first time, in cooperation with Mike Baron the Radio Days and do it in July already 25 years. Next to that in October next year The Foundation for Media Communication is 25 years old. Enough to celebrate. We will invite 4 special guest and for the rest we will invite, on their own costs, all the guests which have been there during the past 25 years.

Well as promised some more news on Lex Harding, after leaving the business some years ago he again is responsible for the daily running of Radio 538, the station he founded 10 years ago together with Eric de Zwart. Reason is that Erik (former Paul de Wit on Caroline in 1979/80) is going to work for John de Mol's company Talpa Capital. This company bought all the shares from Radio Noordzee last month and Erik will not only be responsible for the daily running of this station but also will focus on founding several radio stations within Europe. Erik will also stop with his weekly top 40 on TMF TV.

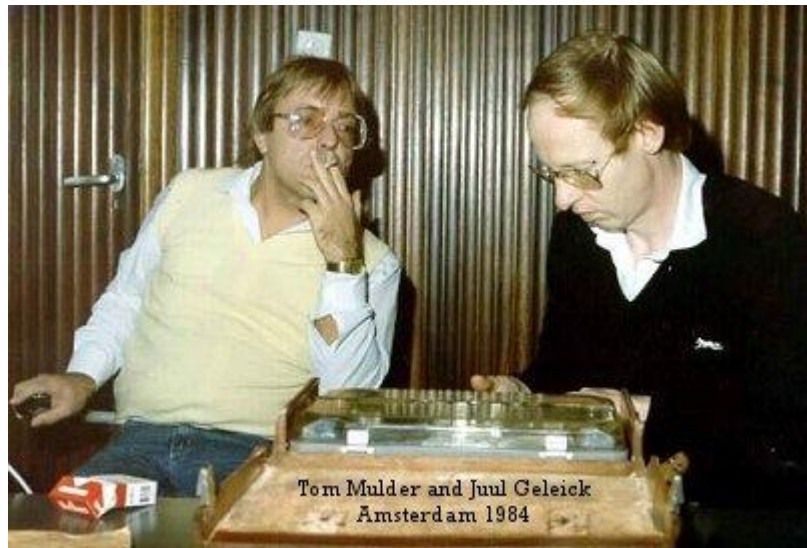
Congratulations to David Allan who got an award from the Country Music Association as the international broadcaster of the year. For more than 25 years Allan has been active in the field of presentation country radio programs. Most recently he could be heard on Ritz 1035, now Mean Country 1035. Also Allan works at the Sky History Channel as a voice over. Of course the real radio anorak knows Allan from his days on offshore station Radio 390.

Just another month before the people of Laser Broadcasting will get their licence from the Radio Authority to start a local station, MAID FM, in Maidstone Kent. Behind the organisation are a lot of people including Twiggy. Yes, I know I've to add Roger Day too this nickname. On January the 7th the decision will be taken. Of course also other applicants have asked for a licence.

On December 1st Graham Gill already recorded his special Christmas Show in the Harlingen studios of Radio Caroline. It will be transmitted somewhere at Christmas. Hopefully Sietse and his gang at Radio Caroline in Holland are so friendly to dub the program and

sent it to Malcolm for transmitting it on the satellite.

Then this will be the last month as a paid working person for former Veronica technician Juul Geleick. After the days with Veronica he started to work on September 2nd 1974 with TROS radio, where he produced a



lot of programs, including the very famous series on the history of pop music, called Poster. A program presented by the way, by Tom Mulder (Klaas Vaak on Veronica). But knowing Juul he will not disappear. One of the things he will be working on in the future is the Veronica archive. Also he has been asked to work for the Broadcasting Museum (all not paid for). So we know for sure we will be hearing from him in the not too distant future. Enjoy the future Juul!

Caroline ooh ooh Caroline

Since November 26th it isn't anymore possible to listen to Caroline from the Astra connection and so we're, if we want to listen, forced to by a WorldSpace receiver to listen to the signal which is transmitted from the AfriStar satellite. One thing I know for sure, after visiting London last week, is that Caroline's boss Peter Moore has all the time to listen to the competitors. Reason is that he forgot to pay for his first inscription to the WorldSpace Organisation. On the other hand WorldSpace could have given him a decoding as the boss of the World Most Famous Radio Station. By the way, the last program on ASTRA was presented on Monday December 2nd by no one else than Nigel Harris, who worked already for the station in 1977 on the MV Mi Amigo.



Caroline had to leave ASTRA as they used a radio transponder of the feed from Vizja TV, which has left Maidstone and is now working from Amsterdam. Well of course Peter, Rob Olthof and I had a pleasant evening together in the local pub at Archway Road in Northern London. Peter told us he's a very busy time and tries to rent another satellite channel, this time on BSkyB. Reason is to attract far more British listeners than before.



During the hours we talked with each other Moore also had to tell us why he was walking around in the Vauxhall area earlier that week. During a visit to the studio complex of World Radio Network we heard that Peter had also been there. (By the way

Thomas and Tim our stay at World Radio Network was fascinating and we hope to meet up another time.) The reason Peter was visiting them was to see if they could retransmit the Caroline signal via the programming of World Radio Network or one of the other facilities. No decision has been taken yet. You could say: 'Pure informative talking'.

Nice was to hear that the new owners of the Maidstone studios did not know that they had also bought a radio studio. When they walked in they realised that Radio Caroline was working there on their premises, too. Well following the words of Peter Moore they are very happy to have Radio Caroline there, too.

A day before our meeting with Moore he had been to a presentation of WorldSpace, where all kind of people from the radio industry were invited. Of course Moore saw a lot of people which he hadn't seen before. When someone asked him from which organisation he



was and he answered 'Radio Caroline', the asking man took four steps backwards. Well this guy was from the BBC and now you know while he stepped back.

Earlier reports that the German programs from Radio Caroline will be stopped can be denied this time. Moore told us that with Peter Och and his friends a decision has been made to go on with the weekly program. Also he told us that soon AJAVANL will start. Believe it or not, rock music from Asia.

Coming to the problem that nowhere in the Oxford Street area we could find any shop, even not at the Tottenham Court Road in London, that sells World Space receivers. Moore told us that Dixon's at the airport were the only shop to get one. Indeed we saw two at Heathrow. Recent figures tell us that 250 receivers have been sold in England up till last month. Next year, Peter told us, more cheaper receivers will be in the shops and yes, we don't have to go to an airport anymore to buy our own one.

It was amazing hearing Moore talking about an experience he had recently when he heard that at an oilrig in the desert of Algeria a complete team of riggers listens to Radio Caroline all the time when they are enjoying themselves during evening hours. They do use World Space.

Other news is the health of Tony Allan is stable and far much better than expected around this time. When it stays this way during the coming weeks Tony will record 12 hours of special programs for the Christmas period. Moore (and we do agree for 100%) thinks that Tony deserves it as the best entertainer Caroline had in the seventies and eighties. And a nicer ending of the first part of our monthly, news of former offshore people and related things, we could not get.



Then some bits and peaces from Holland

One of the oldest locations from the Dutch broadcasting history, transmitting station Kootwijk, which was officially opened by then Dutch Queen Wilhelmina in 1927, will not be broken up. In this station the first connection with former Dutch Indië (Now Indonesia) was made on short-wave. It will be renovated and by sponsoring from government, local authorities and KPN be rebuilt into a museum.

This month was also a month of a record. For the first time more than 10 million Euro was paid in once month for making advertising possible on radio and television in our tiny Holland. Last record was

2,5 years ago, when in one month 9.1 million was sold. The success is especially due to the fact advertising on radio is strong and above all very cheap and effective..

I want to close this edition of my monthly report with the mistake of the month. I listened in one night to Dutch Radio 2 and the program of the EO. It was presented by Jan Willem Roodbeen, whom I never heard before. Well after playing 'I hear you knocking', the first hit Dave Edmunds ever had in 1970, he told the listeners that after this hit Edmunds had to stop with singing with the pressure of the success of Beatles and Beachboys. Of course Beatles already had broken up around that time and Edmunds would play on making hits up till 1983. It is not known to me if he read this from the producer papers or made this announcement himself.

Well may I wish you all some fine days at the end of this month and I will inform you again in January 2003.

Hans Knot