

## *Hans Knot's International Radio Report - July 2003 (2)*



Do you also have the feeling that this summer is one of the finest we have had since decades? My lady Jana and I have just had some short trips till now, but did enjoy it for more than 100%.

For people waiting for Ray Anderson's station I want to advice they just first go to the bottom of the report for some news.

Thanks again for all your e-mails, of which a few will be mentioned in this edition. As usual I do always mention the first which came in, after sending away the report in the late evening of June 27th. This time the 'winner' is Andrew Dawson aka Andy Archer. He wrote: 'Thank you very much for the latest report, as usual, full of interesting gossip!! I was sorry to hear of Peter van Dijken's heart attack, I will send him a get-well email later tonight. With all good wishes from Andy A'.

Peter is now in far much better condition and already at home again for many weeks. Bob Noakes spoke to him and they decided to get together as soon as possible to go into their memories. Also they're both planning to come to the Radio Day, so together with Andy and Paul Rusling they can go into Memory Lane on October 25th. And of course we hope to see a lot of you in Amsterdam.

By the way Andy, I've heard that you sat in for Skues on Eastern Counties Radio. Did you record this as I would like to hear it one day?

Next it was David Laine who wrote in to tell us that his new site is ready with some interesting information of exclusive material for sale on offshore radio. Go and have a look at:

<http://www.flashbacksales.co.uk>

It was Mark McDonald who wanted to inform us on recent developments within the BBC: 'BBC Worldwide, the commercial consumer arm of the BBC, has signed an agreement with satellite platform UPC Direct to provide BBC PRIME in Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Republics. The agreement makes this leading BBC entertainment channel available throughout these markets on the sole digital satellite service currently operating there. BBC Worldwide Director of Channels EMEIA, Wayne Dunsford, said, "This new agreement with UPC Direct is an important step for BBC Worldwide in the Central European region and we look forward to taking this partnership to new levels. The agreement illustrates the growing popularity of English language programming in these countries and enables more subscribers to enjoy the best of BBC entertainment." UPC Direct Managing Director, Balazs Sranko, added, "BBC programmes have an excellent reputation around the world for high quality. By offering BBC PRIME on our UPC Direct platform we will be bringing new value to our offering not only in metropolitan centres but also in rural areas that rely on satellite feeds for international channels." BBC PRIME recently launched localisation services across Central Europe with Hungarian, Czech and Polish subtitling introduced this year. Speaking at recent BBC Prime launch events in Poland and Hungary, education ministers have hailed this as an important step in promoting foreign language learning throughout the region. UPC Direct is reinforcing this in Hungary with the donation of 150 digital satellite receivers to schools in rural areas so that they can access English language programmes on BBC PRIME.'

David Leadbater wrote in on June 28th : 'Thanks as always for your report. A nice surprise when you turn the computer on! Just to let you know yesterday, I was in Birmingham and was tuned to 105.7FM Saga Radio and was listening to Roger Day doing breakfast for Les Ross!! It's just another nice surprise. Check out:  
<http://www.saga.co.uk>

Around the time you're reading this edition Les will back on his own spot but maybe there will be some other surprises when Roger is filling in for one of the other presenters on the station.

Now we go to what Derek May has to say: 'Hans, thanks very much for yet another interesting report. Three points which I would like to make:

\* 1. A message for Ben Healy - Ben, you were my favourite deejay on my favourite station in the 60s. I lived in Banbury in the South of the UK, but had a rig of 4 television aerials wired in series to get height and length of conductor, and managed to get a Ground Wave so I had a good Radio Scotland signal all day. Evening reception was variable, but I always listened to your show. 'Broadcasting to Scotland, Ireland and a whole lotta water baby, this is Radio Scotland'. Please try and get back on Radio over here if you can - I am sure that, with the revival of the old names on Radio Caroline, that there would be a place for a guest spot for you. What do you think about it?

\* 2. A message for Don and Jean: I used to read Monitor magazine intermittently, but as a journal to show the trials and tribulations faced by an offshore radio station it is invaluable. Please can you get together all the editions of Monitor and publish them as a book. It will be a good token to the memory of Buster, will revive memories of the MV Mi Amigo, and be a sure-fire best seller.



\* 3 Finally a quick message to Klaas Vaak, I don't recall his current name, but I believe he is the Chief of Radio10FM - thanks to all you have done for radio since your days on the night time shows on Veronica - I listened every night as a student on '192'. It is sad Radio 10 lost 675khz, but we can still listen on ASTRA satellite in

UK, and Arrow is the only Rock station we can receive in the UK (no satellite outlet unfortunately). Although Government regulations restrict coverage to their own countries, offshore radio has given Europe the first true international community where we are bound by a common cause and passion - good music on good quality radio. I am sure station executives in Netherlands realise this. Unfortunately the UK radio execs are interested in commercial gain and power, not good radio. We must rely on satellite outlets for that here. Thanks again to the European community of free radio enthusiasts - Hans it is through ambassadors such as you that we 'keep the dream alive'.  
From an  
anorak, Derek May '

Derek, thanks for your kind words and hopefully the people mentioned in your letter will respond to me, after reading this.

Just minutes after sending away the report last time, I tuned in to the radio and heard the news bulletin. From September 1st Veronica 8 will be the new name for the television station V8, which is run by SBS International. SBS will try to get as much as possible people from former Veronica working for the new station. Also they think that with the new name the station will be stronger in the market. Normally we don't report on Television but I thought to mention it as we have a long past of the name 'Veronica'. Going back in history it was already there in 1960 as an offshore radio station off the Dutch coast. The radio leg of the Veronica organisation is also again active. On 100.3 FM the station will be using the licence of RTL from September on. It's a golden oldie station. Veronica has bought a share of 3,5% in the big RTL Company.

Pieter Damave reflected on my info about why Radio 10FM did not get the frequency for an oldies format in London. Last month I abusively wrote that Talpa International, the owner of Radio 10FM, had not bid enough money for the frequency with the oldies format. I had written that they had bid with more money than RTL. However RTL planned one more hour per day of golden oldies in their

programming than Radio 10FM had planned. Lucky enough I do also make mistakes.

My good friend since 25 years, Bob LeRoi, does get on a regular base, e-mails about the radio forts. Some one questioned if it is not possible to rebuilt one or more of the forts into a living place and also if some memories to the offshore period of the forts have left. Here's what Bob answered and which he also wants to share with you the reader of this report: 'Thanks for the nice mail regarding preserving the forts & them being like an abandoned house.

Sadly not the case, believe it or not virtually everything has been removed from the forts. Radio 390 stripped the place completely when they closed down for the last time leaving nothing what so ever behind. The only sign of their occupation is the "floating" wooden studio. Radio City had a caretaker crew on board until 1969, & again everything, except the Dietz generator & remnants of the studio woodwork & mainframes removed. The owners of Radio Essex took everything from Knock John & some parts taken from Tongue to Roughts. Sadly the Americans threw all the Radio Essex gear overboard last year in a massive clearout then involved. I was on Roughts trough most of January this year & I can confirm there's not a single item left. Roughts Tower remains occupied but is not wholly representative of how a navy fort looked, having had much superstructure removed in the 60's. Several have proposed that at least one fort be preserved. But this is highly unlikely as funds for maintaining even older & perhaps more important historic buildings are limited from local government. The only way that would be to go out & take one over. Red Sands Development Corporation tried this. But sufficient funds were not forthcoming to see the project to fruition. The forts are big structures, in the Solent the Napoleonic forts have been preserved, indeed one is now a private home. Big investment was needed there for the granite forts, which are close to shore. The Thames forts all lie some miles out, & are constructed of reinforced concrete & steel. To make them safe, habitable & reasonably tidy would cost a small fortune.' Thanks Bob for these is

interesting bits and pieces. All of you have to go and visit his site with a lot of info including the several forts around England:  
[www.bobleroi.co.uk](http://www.bobleroi.co.uk)

Another mention about a CD on the history of radio. To be more specific, I should have written: History of the jingle. In Holland, Genootschap radiojingles en -tunes, have produced a lot of brilliant CD's in the past years. Since a couple of weeks a new one is out. Its called TROS Radio TM jingles 1979-1981. Next to the beautiful jingles, which were re sung for the Dutch Public Broadcaster, also the original demo tapes from TM, which stands for Tom Merriman, can be heard. It's all produced in a documentary style and includes also an interview with Tom Merriman in which he tells how the packages 'TM Winning Score' and 'TM Radio Express' were produced in the seventies. For more info on the products of Genootschap Radiojingles and -tunes just take a look at the following site: [www.jingleweb.com](http://www.jingleweb.com)



It's has been a long time since I could mention a new nickname in this report. We go back to the eighties when on the Ross Revenge for Radio Caroline there was a very good newsreader and presenter. His name was Peter Philips and he had the nickname 'Football Free'. Another one we have to go back to the seventies as Veronica deejay Chiel Montagne got the nickname 'Chiel Montagne zonder franje', which best could be translated in Chiel Montage without finery. I looked down in the list, which I keep with all those nicknames and saw we forgot also one, who's coming back in this report later on. Radio London brought us Pete 'Dum Dum' Drummond. Also we could mention that Mike Barrington was named now and then 'The Hermit' by his crewmembers. I think from the days with Laser it was Ray Anderson, who we also know from Radio Atlantis days as Ray Warner, got the nick name Captain Hughie. With thanks to Stuart Dobson. Martin van der Ven brought two names in for the same person who worked on Laser as well as Caroline 558. Shaun Taylor, who made later fame at Radio Luxembourg as Shaun Tilney,

used 'Young Shaun in the morning' (Laser) as well as 'Young Shaun Taylor' (Caroline).

Nice it was to have the time to show the city of Groningen to one of the readers of the international report. It was Graham Bishop with his friend Barry who suddenly thought that it would be nice to catch a plane and see how beautiful Groningen is. On a Tuesday evening we made a long walk ending in the Irish Pub here in town. Hope you had a good trip back.

Another surprise came in from Dunblane (Scotland), where our reader Graeme was very surprised to see that I also do like the railways, next to radio. He thought he was the only one in the world. I can tell you that there are many more. Thanks a lot for the beautiful videotape you sent to my address as it was a very welcome gift with many old steam trains on it.

From Gent in Belgium I got an e-mail from Geert Roeland who wrote that he hopes to read the reports for years to come. He also speaks out his hope that a miracle will happen and so we can listen to an offshore radio station in the very near future. For him, it's however a pity that Radio 10FM can't be heard properly anymore in Belgium now they've changed frequency to 1375 kHz.

Everyone who listened in on a regular base to Roy Masters on Radio Caroline in the seventies, eighties and nowadays on satellite, know his Foundation on Human Understanding. One of the listeners of the old days wrote in to say that nowadays Roy Masters is getting not too good or better say very bad press coverage. Masters' head office is in Grant's Pass (USA) and he's been getting a lot of coverage recently as the owner of the company who syndicates an awful far-right talk show, 'The Savage Nation.' Not a lot of 'human understanding' in that show! Just have a look of some of the following Internet sites:

<http://rogueimc.org/2003/03/378.shtml> <http://michaelsavagesucks>

[.com/default.asp](#) <http://www.roymasters.com> <http://www.watchman.org/cults/newdimen.htm> <http://www.skepticfiles.org/cultinfo/masters.htm> <http://www.equip.org/free/DM012.htm>

Then the American government has brought on the air the biggest pirate ever. The Pentagon developed a special airplane to beam the signals of Radio and TV Martí to Cuba, using a technology that one administration official said 'breached the wall' of Cuban jamming efforts. An Air Force EC-130 plane conducts the transmissions. It operates within U.S. airspace, not passing into Cuban territory. Cuba acknowledged that the United States had altered its normal transmissions of the two stations, but said they were ineffective and hinted that the Castro government might retaliate. A statement of the Cuban government was given in which was mentioned that the Cuban government could order to boosting power on their own radio stations to disrupt the broadcasts of many radio stations in Florida. Radio Martí's history goes back to 1985 on medium wave and short wave. In the past several years, criticism has been made that its programming had become stale. On April 1st, the White House replaced Radio Martí's chief, Salvador Lew, with another executive, Pedro Roig. Among recent changes to brighten the station's programming are broadcasts of Major League baseball games. A spokesman of the Pentagon did not say how often it would use the EC-130 plane to beam the radio and TV signals. Radio and TV Martí have until now transmitted from the Florida Keys. The TV



Martí signal is sent from a balloon 10,000 feet above Cudjoe Key at a low angle toward Cuba that is easily blocked. The EC-130 aircraft used is the same type of aircraft that beamed signals to Afghanistan and Iraqis in the past years.

Shachar Zahavi wrote me from Israëel: Thanks for the kind response. I met with Abe Nathan and I am in close contact with his group. I also

recently visited kibbutz "Givat Haviva" where all his documents were sent. Just to clarify whom I am. I am currently the coordinator and founder of a new Israeli forum called IsraAID: The Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid. You can also visit one of our websites at [www.tikkunnews.org](http://www.tikkunnews.org)

We are building these days a website where we wish also to build a special page for Abe. At the end of this message I wrote all the main humanitarian activities that Abe has operated. I am looking for photos, documents and anything that could be added to the stuff that I mentioned (only humanitarian aid).'

In the meantime I've sent a lot of additional information, which were in the book I wrote on Abe and his Peacework, which was published in 1993.

And then some news from Chris and Mary Payne: ' Broadcast magazine reports that ex-Big L DJ Pete 'Dum Dum' Drummond has written a two-part documentary 'The Radio Revolutionaries', tracing the history of pirate radio from the 1930s. BBC Radio 2 will be airing the two sixty-minute programmes, produced by Nick St George, for independent company Heavy Entertainment, at 20.30 hrs on August 26th and September 2nd. Hopefully, a documentary that was written by a genuine ex-offshore jock will prove less 'dum' than previous Radio 2 offerings on the subject. Interviews include Bob Le-Roi, Paul Hollingdale and Peter Moore. Clips from Tony Blackburn, Kenny Everett and Johnnie Walker are promised, plus jingles, ads and music. Let's hope they've found some new clips.'

Remember last month's 3rd report in which was one photo, taken by Leen Vingerling, from which he didn't know the names of the persons who were on the photo? Well we know now as a very quick answer came in from an unexpected place: Sealand. Yes, you read it well, the answer was sent out from the Principality of Sealand: 'Hi Hans, hope you are well. The three people on the photo are three members of the crew of Laser Hot Hits in 1987. From left Bob Trumain, Captain Dave and ships engineer and I think deejay KC, who stayed on as crew till the end of it all. All the best from Sealand and I think we must talk more on the subject of Laser Hot Hits as most people involved were not known a lot to the free radio world. As you may know I'm on Sealand again.' Was signed Mike Barrington.



Another mail came in from another person who worked on Laser Hot Hits, Dennis Jason. He corrected the name of the person who Mike Barrington thought would be KC. It was another, forgotten deejay, from Hot Hits days: Paul Jackson. Thank to you both. I sent Mike the info from Dennis and he added more: 'Dave came from Manchester in the North of England and his brother name, who also worked on the Communicator, was Andey.'

I wrote back to Brian and asked him to bring us some of his memories of Laser Hot Hits, as we can start from there. Of course, you as a reader can bring in also your memories on this short lived station. Just sent them to my e-mail address.

Talking about Manchester, rumours are going around in Holland that John de Mol jr. (we know him from EndeMol as well as RNI) will buy more shares in Manchester United. Some people think he will be the owner of the World's famous soccer club one-day.

Last month we already mentioned on the plans of Dutch AVRO to

stop the program 'Steenen Tijdperk' (Stone Age). I forgot to add that it is the version of the program, which is on Radio 1 in the night. The Radio 2 program will not be stopped. There is a program on Radio 1 called 'Toppers van Toen', presented by Jan Steeman. In this he brings the music from the first decades of last century up till 1960. A lot of 78's are played and this program is nowadays also on Internet 24hrs a day. Go and have a listen, it's very interesting: [www.avro.nl/index.asp?main=/toppersvantoen/main.asp](http://www.avro.nl/index.asp?main=/toppersvantoen/main.asp). Soon also an Internet version of the Steenen Tijdperk will follow.

Some original people from Veronica's days make another site I want you to have a watch on. Two important people should have a mention in the report: Ad Bouman and Juul Geleick, who both worked as a technician on the station. They've saved a lot of material from those days and have including technicians Juul worked a long time to make an archive of this. Although the story is in Dutch it is worth well to watch at. [www.norderney.nl](http://www.norderney.nl)

Who does remember from the mid eighties Maarten de Jong on Radio Monique. He was in later years working for the cable radio station Cable One in Holland under his own name Paul Lek. He also went to Asia and is now living in Singapore. Paul is official dealer for Music Scheduling Software Selector. (With thanks to Herbie).

On July 1st an end came to talks between the people behind Radio Nationaal and Radio 192. The directors of both stations talked about working together, but no agreement was made. Ruud Hendriks, owner of Nationaal, will pull the plug out of the radio station. Radio 192 has to look for other partners. Two days later the news came in that Radio 192 has found a new backer, which could be find in the health sector. Hopefully the station will find a partner for an AM frequency soon.

Ruud Zaal, 39 years, will become in September the new director for the regional radio and television station Radio Noord Holland. Since 1997 he was the director for ROOS, which is the organisation in

which all the regional stations have a chair. Nowadays Huub Elzerman who goes on pension later this year heads the station.

A few editions ago I told you that Barbara Apostolides is writing the story of Keith Skues and she has responded to the latest report again: 'Dear Hans, Thank you once again for the monthly report. I do read it and find it so interesting. I used to listen to Radio Veronica way back in the early 60's and Radio Sud (I think that's how it's spelt) (*Radio Syd is correct*) before that. It was while listening to Veronica that I came across the Caroline set up in 1964.

It is very distressing to hear that Johnnie Walker has cancer. One can only wish him well and hope that he will respond to treatment. I am still working on Keith's story, which is, by his own request very light-hearted. So far I have not been able to trace any members of the crew of Radio Caroline or Big L from 1964 to 1967. Do you think any of the Radio Stations on your side of the North Sea would put out a plea for me. Is it the sort of thing they do?'

Well I've forwarded the plea to Radio 10FM and will see what will happen.

But I think it's so interesting that this lady is writing a book on Skues life at her age and so I asked Barbara if she could say something about herself in connection with the radio. Here's a wonderful reply she sent in: 'You asked where did I originate from. What I thought when I first heard Radio Caroline. My thoughts of Big L. Happy to oblige: I originate from Romford...having been bought here at the age of three weeks: A great traveller, I have moved from north Romford to southwest Romford. The name of Apostolides comes from my Husbands family whose Grandfather came from Smirna.

As a youngster I had a weird sense of humour (still have) but came from a family who were often. 'Not amused and did not like music'. Unlike my Grandfather who loved the radio and had a large radiogram in his front room. His eldest daughter had worked for 2LO at Savoy

Hill during the twenties...She used to say "London calling 2 LO. London Calling". They had a large collection of records (78's) which were passed on to me when Grandad died.

I married in 1955 incredibly to a person who was not keen on radio but liked Blues music...however, having a small household of my own to run...I turned to the radio. I could listen as much and as often as I wanted too. I began to search for other stations. The places on the dial fascinated me. Radio Luxembourg: Hilversum: Belgrade: Lyons: Warsaw: Rabat: Lisbon: Berlin: Ankara; Oh to have such a radio now. Mine has problems picking up Radio Essex, which is only 12 miles away.

Obviously I could not pick up all those stations but I became a 'twiddler'. Found Radio Syd and the music was bright and bouncy and I frequently tuned in. I also discovered Radio Veronica and began listening to them on a regular basis. The BBC was fine for a story or drama but their music was a little basic. I was impressed by the fact that the presenters actually laughed and sounded happy. Then one day while tuning into Veronica: "This is 199 Caroline." Again this was fresh and different. The presenters spoke as though we their audience had a brain. The BBC spoke down to you.

My listening hours became varied. I would tune in to all and sundry: Then, one stormy day I heard this voice setting the most weird competition, very funny...and my type of humour.

I entered...my entry was read out and the DJ said "I like your sense of humour Mrs Woman...keep in touch."

I did so. We exchanged many letters and ideas. Being meddlesome I would suggest ideas for competitions or programme format. The DJ encouraged me to write. We had a lot of laughs. He then moved on to Radio Luxembourg, to Big L. And then to National Radio and to Radio Hallam. Currently broadcasting from Norwich with Eastern Counties Radio. Two years ago I was asked if I would like to write said DJ's

...Keith Skues...life story. It isn't a serious cold factual biography...it is by Keith's own request light hearted and an honest account of his broadcasting career. There will be some facts about the man himself. A few carefully rehearsed ad-libs and a handful of songs.'

Grandad and Auntie would be proud of me. We seem to have come full circle.' Well Barbara I loved your story and can't wait till the book comes on the market. And hopefully one of the many crewmembers or deejays who have known Keith Skues come forwards with their memories on Keith. Everyone can send them in and they will be forwarded to Barbara. [Hknot@home.nl](mailto:Hknot@home.nl)

Then an e-mail came from an unexpected person, who I know since the early seventies. He was once of the 5 German's who I was in contact in those days regarding our love for RNI. It's Dietmar Flacke who wrote in: 'Since the end of the 60s I am a listener of Dutch Radio stations (offshore and later Hitradio Veronica, Radio 538 and so on). And of course I read these discussions about Dutch radio. And I must say (write): I don't understand you and Rob Olthof and ...

Yesterday, sitting in my car I tried to listen to any alternative station to the WDR and SWR here in Bonn. No success: there is no other sound, not on the local or regional stations we have (Radio Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, RPR). The same stupid Modern-Hits- or simple Oldies-Sound are everywhere. And no one tries a discussion about this situation. And we don't have famous Radio persons.

And you in Holland are discussing about Jazz-Radio, Easy-Listening-Radio, Disco-Radio, Rock-Radio, Oldie stations on medium wave, FM, only on cable ...and real stars in the radio scene: Jeroen van Inkel, Ferry Maat... You really have problems with your radio scene in Holland! In Germany we say: that's crying on the highest level! Greetings from Bonn, Dietmar Flacke'

Thanks Dietmar and as I'm going to Rostock on a regular base to visit my wife's family I know how boring radio in Germany can be.

On July 7th it was Roger Day who sent in info: 'Dear Friends and Twiglets, starting tomorrow for an indefinite period I shall be broadcasting on the old Lady from 11.00-13.00. British Summer Time. On the net, Sky Digital and Worldspace. I do hope you can join me. Real radio rules. Roger'. Of course for those who don't know the history of radio: The Old Lady is the same as Radio Caroline. The same day I heard that another Caroline deejay, who was already active in the seventies and eighties on the MV Mi Amigo and the MV Ross Revenge, has no time anymore to do his regular program for the satellite service of Caroline.

Today it was also announced that Ferry Maat has left Radio10FM again. He worked only for a very short second period for the station. The programmes from the he former RNI deejay from the seventies have been taken over by Jos van Heerden, who has an offshore radio past on Radio Monique. It will be announced later why Ferry left the station and what he eventually is going to do in the future.

Some of my radio friends in Holland have been on the Communicator in IJmuiden and reported me. One told me that it will be another few weeks before the ship is going into a dry dock and will be inspected by the authorities to get a permission to leave the Dutch waters for a towing to an harbour somewhere in Essex. Another friend told me he was on the ship only a few minutes as it was a terrible smell on the Communicator as well as he found it like a garbage field.

It was Peter van den Berg from Amsterdam, chairman of the Big L Foundation since the late sixties, who wrote in on July 9th: 'Together with a colleague I went with a little ship from Amsterdam to IJmuiden today. Already from a distance we could see the mast of the Communicator. And so it was easy to find our way to the Vissershaven (Fishing harbour) where the ship is. I can tell you that it's like a pathetic state the Communicator is in. It can also be seen

that the anchor and anchor chain have been towed in with force. Windows on one side of the ship are smashed. And if we take the cover of the record ' I spy for the DTI' we can see that the original Gardline Seeker had no windows. So sure it must have been the unprofessional users (Radio London or Mr.Jansen) of the Communicator who gave order to make windows into the ship. Inside the ship it is a total chaos. It gives me the idea of a squatter bastion. There was no captain on the ship, as was earlier stated. The door to the bridge was open but the door to the backside of the ship was blocked. I don't think the ship can stay too long in the harbor due to the high prices. Also I think that the future of the ship has to be on the breakers yard, instead of the sea.'

Thanks Peter. And the same day I saw a comment in one of the news groups. The Dutch companion of owner David Miller wrote it. He wrote to people who asked themselves why no photo's were put on the official Communicator site, that David is too busy with his work on BRBM and he was too busy with working for his boss, the download club as well as guarding the Communicator. So be patient for photographs and be more patient for the work on the ship.

From Belgium I got a message from Patrick Jacobs who wrote in a little bit irritated why the new owners don't get out with the new destination of the ship. Also Patrick told that he knows what the ship will become. A museum! As mentioned earlier, as soon as the owner thinks it's time for new information he will let us know.

Paul Johnson in Brighton will be more on Internet in the future: 'Hi Hans, Thank you for all the news letters, I have decided not to give up the Internet after all. I am making a copy of Radio 10 Gold for you and ask if you can give me information on the lady presenter, I love her voice, this will be sent later this week. I am almost ready to relaunch Special Music Radio. Due to hold ups since October last year, the station has been in limbo, anyway, my idol - 1960s pop star Billie Davis has recorded jingles for S.M.R. and Radio Samantha, I

have a fine crew of presenters waiting for the relaunch of the playback station on cd-r. If you have any fauve tracks, send me a list and we will feature them for you, anyway keep up the great work-Paul Johnson in Bristol.'

Good luck Paul with your special station and for info on the presenter just sent an email to the station, surely they can reply on your question.

Roel Jager did sent in a report from one of his radio friends Roland, who visited the Ross Revenge lately: 'My mission on Sunday 6th July was to seek out and find the new mooring for the Ross Revenge. Not only did I find the ship but I later found myself on board looking at some of the work that the Northern repair group have been carrying out. On arriving at the jetty I saw some of the repair group loading the Caroline mini bus with all their kit. I walked down to the end of the pontoon and met up with Peter Clayton who was unloading the outboard dinghy. I introduced myself and he invited me to take a ride out to the Ross moored over the other side of the river. I spent an enjoyable two hours aboard with Peter showing me some of the work that they have carried out. I was impressed at the new galley that has been fitted which was donated by the Dutch supporters. I also had a look at the work that has been carried out on the steering gear that was badly damaged when they went aground on the Goodwin Sands. Peter told me that the move had gone well taking about 4 hours escorted by two tugs and a pilot from the Medway Port authority. More details about the move can be found on the premium phone line that has been updated. 0906 7669990. Well done to Peter's gang of men for all the hard work they have been doing for so long. From Rochester Bridge you can see the ship on the opposite side. From Strood turn left just before Rochester Bridge along Canal Road. From the Rochester side take the right hand lane over the bridge and turn right along Canal Road. There is a pontoon on the right hand side along Canal Road. There is ample parking in the area. You can take photos from the pontoon.' (*Find new pictures of the Ross Revenge in Strood [HERE](#).*)

Earlier this year I wrote twice about the connections between Ronan O'Rahilly and Georgie Fame. This time again Georgie is part of the international report. Leo Maathuis wrote in and maybe one of you can help. Georgie did record a special version of 'Words' the song composed by Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb in 1967. Georgie recorded the special version of the song for use in a movie called 'The Mini Mob' in 1968. When searching the Internet I found some more info in the movie: 'the film The Mini-Mob was written and directed by Robert Amram, from an idea by the producer Richard Herland. On the strength of his popular Swinging London documentary short Dolly Story, Amram put together his first feature film, and approached Robert Stigwood for a Beatles song to feature in it. A Bee Gees song was promised instead. The song was provided so late that Georgie had to record it one day and mime to it for the film scene the next. Since the outdoor scene is clearly in the summer, it cannot be later than August. The Bee Gees' version was recorded at least a month later. Bill Shepherd did the score. Much of it is inventive variation on the title song, 'The Mini Mob' by Alan Blaikley and Ken Howard. A concert sequence contains the Gibb-written 'All my Christmases came at once' performed by the Majority (see below) and an unidentified song 'Arrangements' performed by Georgie Fame as his character Georgie. Two full renditions of 'Words' are used, an instrumental and Georgie Fame's vocal. In one scene, a radio is playing the Bee Gees' record of 'Jumbo', but only half of it is heard. The film was renamed The Mini-Affair at the last minute, probably to avoid confusion with another film called The Mini-Skirt Mob, or to drop the association with organized crime. In the film, three young women kidnap the men of their dreams, the Minister of Pop Culture, a pop singer, and a pirate radio DJ, with the help of a friendly couple who have unexplained expertise with such things. The US premiere was in Albany NY in May 1968, but no other showings have been confirmed. (with thanks to Robert Anram).

You see there is a connection to the main reason of the international

report: radio. A pirate deejay, amongst others, has been kidnapped. Two questions we do have. Is there anybody out there who ever did see the movie or has the song on an obscure record. That means the Georgie Fame on. As always you can respond on my questions by writing to [Hknot@home.nl](mailto:Hknot@home.nl)

Radio Nova, a radio station in Italy, was founded in Spring 1979 by a group of free radio enthusiasts inspired by the success of the offshore pirates - particularly the first RNI, Radio Northsea International. When the passing of Dutch legislation to outlaw offshore radio closed down most of the remaining pirates in the North Sea, and even Radio Veronica joined the Hilversum 'club' of licensed broadcasters. The Swiss owners of RNI, Meister and Bollier, are said to have considered sailing the MEBO II to the Italian coast to commence broadcasting there under the name of Radio Nova International. The two Swiss people also officially told this to journalists. Of course the radio ship was locked up for a longer period in Slikkerveen harbour and it took up till 1977 before the ship could leave Holland for international waters. By then it had a new owner in the person of General Ghadaffi of Libya. However, the relaxation of Italian laws on private broadcasting, resulting from an almost anarchic proliferation of land based pirates in that country made the expense and inconvenience of broadcasting from ships at sea rather unnecessary. Meister and Bollier lost interest in the Nova project, but gave their blessing for a group of Dutch, Belgian, German and French investors to use the name. Best known among them was AJ Beirens but they also included Ruud Kegel (Danny Thomas), Nils van Schijndel, Peter Janssen (Peter Hartwig), and Richard Adaridi. A lot of others have worked for the station, including Guy Starkey - who did also some stints on the Voice of Peace. Have a look on his historical site on Radio Nova.

[www.guystarkey.com/NOVA](http://www.guystarkey.com/NOVA)



On Friday July 11th I thought it was time to ask Ray Anderson how things are going with the new radio station that should come on the air after getting a licence for the 1008 kHz. Here what Ray answered me: 'We are still working on the backing, but the project is looking very good and we are hopeful of getting the station on the air by the Autumn. Once I have confirmed information, I will let you know.' So it seems looking good for the people at the project. So have patience.

In August the 'Internationale Funkausstellung' (International Broadcasting Exhibition) will take place again in Berlin. In connection with this long running exhibition there will be also a special event for short-wave listeners and people who are interested in radio. Place to be is Saturday August 30th from 18 hrs. in Preussischen Landwirthaus, Flatowallee 23, Charlottenburg Berlin. More information can be get from Andreas Erbe at: [aerbe@arcor.de](mailto:aerbe@arcor.de)

Hi to Nigel Harris. Well sorry to hear you can't make it for the Radio Day in October. A pity as this is the 25th Year. Hopefully next time and be careful with the new carpet in the studio.

On Saturday July 12th Ray Anderson wrote in to say: 'Hi Hans : We (Redlon) may conduct some tests next Thursday 17th on 1008 kHz. Just for an hour or so, while we study the aerial patterns. Regards RAY ANDERSON.' So tune in on Thursday to see if you can pick up the signal and how it's coming in. Please sent in your reception information to me and I'll forward it to Ray and his people: [Hknot@home.nl](mailto:Hknot@home.nl)

Ending this edition of the report I would like to advice you to have a look on an Internet site on the subject 'Loving Awareness'. That's for people who do believe in it. Elsewhere forget it. [www.getintola.nl](http://www.getintola.nl)

As always, please get all your news, comments and memories to me and we will use it the next time.

Greetings

Hans