

Hans Knot's International Radio Report - August 2003 (2)



Welcome to this edition of the international radio report. After sending away the last report on July 24th within minutes a response came in about the question which was brought in about the Caroline technician, who had the nick name 'The Plant'. Michael Barrington does remember him very well as he wrote: 'Hi Hans, the poor gentleman, called the Plant, is John Bernell. He was an ex Voice of Peace radio engineer. I had the great pleasure working with him in 1985. He and I were responsible for the 576 to 558 wave length change after Laser 558 closed down in 1985. I must say one of the best Caroline engineers of all time.'

It was the next day that Paul Rusling came in with some sad news from the Isle of Man: 'A dear friend of Radio Caroline died yesterday - he was Sir Charles Kerruish, who was an MHK, then Speaker then president of Tynwald until very recently. But in the



1960s he was the one who dared to stand up to the Labour Government and say, we will not have your Marine Offences Act, and we will not have it in the Isle of Man. We want Radio Caroline to stay. The world's press came to the Isle of Man that day to hear the plucky Manx Parliament take the stand against Wilson, even Ronan came and was in Tynwald that day to hear it. Sir Charles then flew to London to argue the case for Caroline with the Post office and with the Home Office, who were responsible for relationships with the dependencies like the Isle of Man. Harold Wilson was furious and got the Queen to sign a special order, never before or since used, to force the Isle of Man to accept the law, but it took a while longer -

Caroline North was immune until the end of August 1967. Sir Charles only retired from Manx Politics a couple of years ago and was still a firm believer in freedom. He passionately believed that the Isle of Man should have its own radio station, which is where we will come in with the new station on Long Wave 279.'

From an for me unknown person, with the name Ben Hendriks, came the following message: 'Dear Hans, We don't know each other but nevertheless I do hope you can use your contacts in the offshore radio world to put this reaction on the site of offshore radio guide. Dave Miller is absolutely right in his opinion that we should not put any information on the site which could negatively affect the state of the Communicator. In the first place the Communicator is a ship which means nobody has the right to enter the ship without permission of the captain, or the one in charge. So the owner has every right to report these illegal boardings to the authorities. As far as my information is up to date, there are a few people who have written permission to enter the ship, of which I am one of them. Only a few people have seen the enormous damage that mentally sick people have caused to her. I do assume it were not only non-offshore fans. Even sabotage has been done, causing large financial consequences. After some work she is ready to go home to the U.K and I hope that everybody who reads this realizes that we are not waiting for any extra repairs or costs caused by people who have no idea what effect it will have when everybody is just hopping on and of the ship. Have a nice look at her but don't enter her as everything of any value already has been stolen. Let's all cooperate to keep the Communicator in the condition she is now.' Thanks for your co-operation. Bert Hendriks.

Some of the many e-mails, which came in from England, Scotland, Wales as well as Belgium and Holland were sent to the people behind the Communicator with the question to answer them. No response. So take one thing for sure: they only will give info versus their site. On August 4th there was an update, which will partly be republished here. And then you will see where this Bert Hendriks can be placed.

"Last week was a really positive week for us. A former offshore radio engineer has joined the team and will return to The Communicator for the first time in 19 years later this week. He will start to overhaul the vessel, restore power fully on board and assist Bert Hendriks with the welding of the windows. This is in preparation for the ship being placed in dry dock as soon as space is available for us in IJmuiden, and our tow to the UK. Finally a number of people have asked why there has been little visible evidence that anything is happening with the ship which has caused some negative press. When we purchased The Communicator in March it was stated by an organisation that she would sink if we attempted to remove the water, so we assigned a professional organisation who dealt with the problem. It was also claimed she would never float again, so the old girl is floating. Then we saw a press release in Holland saying that she would never move from Pampus harbour, she was moved to IJmuiden.' That includes the Communicator part in this issue. There are only two things I want to add to it. Next report will have non Communicator news from the people behind the organisation, we will only communicate as readers on several subjects like we do for around 4 years now.

But there was more response. One came from Jan Vanvisser, who lives in the Merseyside in Great Britain: 'Moving on, while looking through my collection of books I spent most of yesterday reading the book by Mike Leonard 'From International Waters', oh! there were happy days. Wishful thinking I wonder if we'll ever see the return of offshore radio in our lifetime. Radio is so boring. In the good old days radio was a happy medium, deejays who knew how to communicate with their listeners, (personality radio) and surely when Radio Caroline was raided in 1989, was that not an act of piracy on the high seas? And is that not a crime in it's self. Shame nothing could be one.....anyone agree? Question for all your readers, has anyone heard any carriers across the medium wave within the past few weeks? I heard at various times during the evenings with medium to strong carriers, also music tests no speech, the frequency the carrier was heard on, 819khz, what sounds like test transmissions!

Also heard on various frequencies 1125khz,1350khz and 1584khz and 1359khz. Finally, this mystery ship supposed to be new offshore station, the MV Marianas. I must admit, I've never heard of it. As we're coming up the August is this the season we call "silly season" where someone claims they know or have info on a new offshore station? Ok Hans....I enjoy visiting your news page. It has some very interesting information and interesting links. Best regards Jan.'

Thanks Jan for your mail, which came in on July 26th.

Then a radio friend for decades came in with the news that his FRS Newsletter was out. What about a plug for the good work of Peter Verbruggen? The latest double-edition of the FRS Newsletter is out now. This new summer edition is cramped with news giving you a comprehensive overview of what happened in the world of (Free and alternative) radio in the past few months. In edition 37/38 the following items are to be read:

- * a comprehensive SW Free Radio feature
- * Dutch Media File: a day-to-day report covering the changes in the Dutch radio landscape since early June
- * Etherflits: the Dutch Telecom Agency's action against the pirates
- * Caroline news
- * The latest on the MV Communicator
- * News from around the World: Laser Radio, The Erkrath Radio Day, Euroadio 2003, Radio Jackie returns? Plus a great number of small items.
- * FRS Special Feature: DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale).

More info, just write to Peter at the following e-mail address:
frs.holland@hccnet.nl

It's nice to see that every month also some responses are coming in from Israel. This time I mention Sagi Levek. He wrote: 'Hello Hans, first of all thanks very much for your monthly wonderful updates. Could you please send me some detailed information regarding the beautiful song 'Peace' performed by Peter. Who is that Peter guy? How did it become a popular song on offshore stations during the seventies? Where can it be found (the song)? Thanks in advance.'

Sagi, one of my friends will sent the song to you. It became famous when RNI picked up the song in 1970 for promotion for the charity organisation Oxfam. It was released on the Green Light label. In one way the song thrilled the listeners and it was picked up and played a lot. In the farewell programs of the stations it was also played in 1974. In April 1991 the song was re-released in Holland but the English song by the German singer never became a hit.



Another name check, this time for Tim from near Frinton on Sea who wrote: 'Greetings Hans! Firstly, sorry for taking so long to email you! I enjoy reading your reports, and although I'm not a big radio listener these days, I will always have fond memories of

Offshore Radio, and continue to support free radio in any way I can. In your July report I believe you mentioned something about Peter Philips - ex Caroline - now working for BBC radio? Well, he does have the voice for it, and his nickname on Radio Caroline was 'World Service'! As for Ray Anderson, he's practically a neighbour, Frinton on Sea is only a mile from my home town. I recently visited Tony Christian's website, and got in touch with him via email. It was nice to hear from him, and he liked my Offshore Radio website. So keep up the good work, and I look forward to your next report! Tim Chase.'

While writing a part of this edition I'm listening to a recording (thanks to Martin) of the special show on the City Beat in Belfast where Ben Healy was a special guest. He came over from Canada to reminisce for three hours on the Kenny Tosh show. During the program not only personal memories from Ben Healy 'is my name' but also from former other deejays from Radio Scotland days, Tony Allen (who started at the age of 16 and has such good sea legs due to drinking a lot of Guinness) and Jimmy Mack. Well done Kenny. Who's next? 'Firstly, just like to say I enjoy your monthly mail outs! You asked me who is next! Well, the last of my summer offshore specials,

ends on a real high note, my guest in studio will be Mike Ahern, Sunday September 28th 9AM - 1PM www.citybeat.co.uk. Don't think I can top that! Regards, Kenny.'

It's August and the time to look back at 1967 and 1974. Above all it's the month that rumours are spread around of radio station which will appear soon (in our dreams). One came in from Patrick in Belgium who thought that...: 'Radio Mi Amigo the Dutch offshore radio station that broadcast from the MV Mi Amigo from September 1st 1974 up till October 20th 1978 and from the MV Magdalena from June 25th up till September 14th 1979, is to return from a new radio ship MV Albatross on 272 metres medium wave from August 15th.' Well Patrick there are always people who think they have to upset the anorak world. Look, the station Mi Amigo did not start on September 1st 1974 but on January 1st of that year. Rubbish and don't believe it. Another one came from England: 'Hi Hans, just a short e-mail, more reports of strange ships. The latest one I heard of this evening 'New offshore ship MV Albertros, said to start broadcasting American hits music sounds very similar to what Laser 558 did. But, somehow it could be wishful thinking on someone's part or someone spreading rumour to get everyone thinking. Who knows, also someone asking if anyone has info of a ship at anchor off the Galloper sand bank. I suppose. Ah well Hans, I think it's silly season again...seems to happen almost every year around back of July and into August, well we'll wait and see if anyone has the guts to put a station on air in the North Sea?' Well I do agree with your last remark that I do hope that someday one has the guts to put a radio station on the air from international waters but for the rest we could start a special edition each year with the Sun 'Offshore Gossip Edition'. Maybe Deidre could have some advices for the blocked persons who have only radio in their minds and nothing else.

August is also the month to remember some demonstration which were held in the past in our fight for freedom in the air. Soon on Soundscapes (www.soundscapes.info) a 20 pages long article will be published which I wrote on the subject 'Fight for Free Radio'. It will bring many things which were not published before including some rare pictures.



Mike Saunders wrote in from England that he has recorded in February 1971 a 90 minutes long segment of a Steve Merike Show on reel to reel tape. Michael has really a problem as he doesn't have a recorder anymore. So he's looking for a reel to reel recorder. If it's not working it's no problem. He just want to listen to his old recordings. So if you have an old one in your shed please contact him at: mikeosaunders@hotmail.com

One of the most popular newsreaders from the last decades is Arend Langenberg. He started his career on the radio ship Norderney in 1972 when working for Radio Veronica. Nowadays he can only be heard on Sky Radio as he signed an exclusive contract for this station. During the past years he could also be heard on Radio 538, but that's also a thing of the past. Last year Arend Langenberg got the Marconi Awards as the best voice in Dutch radio.

During the past weeks there were already some rumours going about the fact that in The Hague, the government town on Holland, certain people were dissatisfied with the fact an English Company will be using the 1008 kHz in the future. On July 29th Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs Laurens-Jan Brinkhorst told the press he wants the public news and information station Radio 1 restored to national coverage on medium wave. This due to the fact the new FM frequencies on Radio 1 gives a bad receptions in main part of the Netherlands Radio 1 lost its medium wave channel of 1008 kHz to the

commercial broadcaster Radlon, which has already conducted test transmissions for a proposed service to the UK. If Radlon fails to start regular transmissions by 1 June 2004, it will forfeit its licence for 1008 kHz, which would revert to the public sector as Radlon was the only commercial applicant. Brinkhorst spoke on the idea getting back the 1008 kHz in the program of Radio Netherlands.

Very surprised I was reading in the early hours of July 29th a press report which had appeared in the Israeli media on a forthcoming radio project. I read as follows: 'A joint Israeli-Palestinian initiative will see the re-establishment of the Abie Nathan's Voice of Peace radio station. Yesterday, Israeli and Palestinian peace activists signed an agreement to begin the new broadcasts on November 4, the anniversary of the assassination of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. The station will use archive material of the original Voice of Peace station; and in order to refrain from breaching Israeli law, it will split its operations: The station's studios will be located in East Jerusalem, while its transmitters will be positioned in the West Bank town of Bitunia, near Ramallah. The Palestinian Authority has already allocated to the station two frequencies, which were originally assigned to the PA by Israel, but the station's range of reception remains unclear. The idea to revive the Voice of Peace came from Mussi Raz, a former MK for Meretz and current deputy director-general of the Jewish-Arab Centre for Peace in Givat Haviva, and Palestinian businessman Hanna Siniora, publisher of the Jerusalem Times weekly. According to Siniora, the station received the broadcast frequencies following a meeting with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, who gave his blessing to the initiative, but commented when he heard its name: "But that's Abe Nathan's station, isn't it?" Siniora said the station's objective was to rebuild trust and narrow the distances between the two peoples. It also aimed at fighting stereotypes presented in the media about the Palestinians and Israel, he added, stressing that the station would not relay political programs, nor would it be funded by any party. Instead, it would mainly broadcast Arabic and Hebrew music as well as entertainment programs for children and youth. Reviving the

station was made possible thanks to a \$600,000 donation from the European Union that was approved recently. From day one, the station will broadcast 24 hours a day, dedicating three hours each day to programs dealing with coexistence and serving as a mouthpiece for associations and organizations involved in promoting such issues. The station's presenters will include Israelis and Palestinians who will broadcast both in Hebrew and Arabic. The original Voice of Peace was a legendary pirate radio station run by Israeli peace activist Abe Nathan. It broadcast from a ship anchored just outside Israeli territorial waters and its slogan became something of a catchphrase in Israel - "From somewhere in the Mediterranean, we are the Voice of Peace." In 1993, after Nathan decided to shut down the original Voice of Peace and scuttle the ship from which it transmitted, he donated the station's archives to the Givat Haviva centre. Nathan is currently in ill health, but his associates have given their consent for the new station to use the archive material.'

So far the press report. I was shocked to read it as some other people are working for months on bringing back the station. The main thing is that this second group has very warm contacts with Abe and that they've officially got permission to restart the Voice of Peace with the old jingles and ideas of Abe. He personally gave them permission. During the past weeks I and other people in offshore world were informed several times on the forth going of the project and promised to wait with publication until we did get a sign. As a follower of Abe since his days in Groningen in the late sixties - my hometown, I was annoyed that the first group came out with the press report, without having the official 'yes' from Nathan.

Here's the comment Mike Brand posted about the two projects: 'You probably are wondering why I have not replied to the postings on the 'new Voice of Peace', so here it goes. I will make a full and clear statement about this next week, as I have promised Henry AlkSlesi (Abe Nathan's right hand man for the past 30 years) not to react to the news conference that was held yesterday, and press releases and

interviews that were given. What I will say is this. This group calling themselves the Voice Of Peace, have no legal right to use the name, and it's jingles. The name Voice of Peace belongs to Abe Nathan. For the past few months, there has been another group working to return the VOP to the airways - with the full backing of Abe Nathan and Henry. As we learned of this second group, a meeting was held last Sunday to see if we could come to some middle ground. The meeting was not a success, as the other group wanted the station to be a political station, where as our plan is to avoid politics all together, and go on the format of the old VOP, with a humanitarian slant. It seems this left wing group wanted to "beat us to the press". But as we had no plans of going to the press before anything was concrete, this idea seems to be very babyish. To summarize : There are two groups. One, wants to start a peace station with cooperation between the Israelis and the Palestinians. I see nothing wrong with this by the way. The other (the group I am involved in) wants to return the VOP in the way Abe would like it - with some improvements of course, we can't stay in the 70 and 80's The name and jingles etc belong to Abe Nathan, and only we have the right to use them. The group I am involved in, has the full backing of Abe, and the people around him. I am sorry it has come to this.' Thank you Mike and let's hope the fight for Peace will not end in real fighting.

On June 30th The Voice of Palestine reported the next on this subject: 'The Information Ministry has denied reports circulated by local and foreign media to the effect that the PNA [Palestine National Authority] granted a licence to a Palestinian-Israeli radio station called The Voice of Peace. A statement issued by the Information Ministry explained that the ministry's Press and Publications Department did not grant a licence to any joint radio station, but rather issued a temporary three-month permit for a Palestinian radio station called The Voice of Peace. Hani al-Masri, head of the Press and Publications Department, said that the ministry has a policy of advocating political and intellectual diversity, but this, however, does not give anyone the power to take the law into their hands and impose a fait accompli policy. He added that any

radio station co-founded by foreigners should receive political approval and then the approval of the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Telecommunications. Al-Masri rebuffed media claims that the US Arab-language Radio Sawa leased a frequency to broadcast in Palestine. He noted that a local radio station, in violation of the law and applicable regulations, leased the frequency it had been assigned by the PNA.

Pieter Jos van der Kampen wrote in to say that there's now a digital e-zine on the subject digital radio in the Netherlands to be found at: www.thecatalyst.nl or at www.digitalradio.nl. Also Pieter Jos mentioned that soon some of the articles will be translated into English and be published on the site of www.Worlddab.com.

August 1st was the day the following e-mail came in: 'Good afternoon. A very brief message to let you know that I have started reading your report. It appears on the ukradio web site. Very enjoyable. When I have more time maybe I will be able to share with you some of my memories, like my father finding a signal on 199 on a huge valve radio set back in the 60s. Like everybody else I live in hope that somebody will be able to breathe life into the radio system. Certainly where I live, in Billericay in Essex, the change of Arrow from 828 to 675 has improved reception significantly. If the plans for 1008 and 279 come to fruition then the future may be better. I thought that DAB in the UK might make a difference but there is nothing sensational there. Thanks again for the report. Alan Porter.' Maybe tune in one day to Prime Time Radio on the DAB system. We do enjoy it and it feels sometimes listening back a little bit to the stations like Radio 355 and Radio 390. And above all let your memories come Alan, they're always welcome.

The same day a press report from Radio 538 brought the news that Niels Hoogland became their new Program Director from that day on. He works on the station since 1995 and since a few years he was Music Director. Dave Minneboo has got this function until now. Next to his work as program director he will be on the air almost on a daily

base. Every weekday from Monday up till Thursday he has the 19 - 21 hrs (Dutch time) slot. On Fridays he can be heard in the program Niels and Froukje. His co presenter is an actress in Holland. On Sundays Niels presents the only R&B program which can be heard on Dutch radio. 'Juize'. Director and owner of the station, Lex Harding is very happy with Niels on the chair of Program Director, not only due to the fact he has experience within the radio industry but also has a qualified knowledge of the music history.



This brings me to another memory which I think, I mentioned earlier in the report. Lex was working first as a deejay on Radio Dolfijn, the Dutch language station from the MV Laissez Faire. When this station

didn't had the success the American owner thought it should have, they changed the format and instead of easy listening and 'slow down' music the Top 40 format was introduced. Lex' own name, Lodewijk den Hengst, was changed in proposal of program director Tony Whithers, better known as Tony Windsor. There are many stories of Tony but this one is a true one. One day Tony wanted to share his bed with Lex who disliked the idea and Tony spoke the famous words to Lex: 'You never be a star within the radio industry'. Well we all know that Lex became and still is a very big one within the Dutch radio industry. Tony has gone from us already two decades ago.

A long e-mail came in from Nobert about his tune, information which is already stored at our Soundscapes site under the segment 'zeezender discography'. People who have listened in to Radio Mi Amigo during the seventies surely remember him from his programs on the station. Good to have you with us Nobert and maybe you could write us about what you did between the late seventies and nowadays. By the way he has his own site on the showbiz in Belgium. Go and have a look: www.norbert.be

August is always the month for rumours. This already started in 1968 and still 35 years later rumours are spread around. With the intensive help of Internet daily some 150 e-mails are coming in. Some people are thrilled about the news their receiving and think (or hope) everything they hear will happen soon. Take this one for instant, which I received on August 5th, the day that 36 years ago Radio 355 left the airwaves for ever: 'The motor vessel Magdelana has apparently been seen in the North sea, no details as to whether or not she had a radio mast on board. The MV Communicator is to be dry docked in about two weeks time, the intention is to bring her over to Essex, after that, who knows? The Hop on World Space now has disc jockeys. Radlon is still seeking one or two more investors for the Project. Investments start from £10,000. (Half of that would do me! Strong carriers observed on 531 KHz medium wave by yours truly on Monday 4th of August at around 3am in the morning. What on earth is going on? The BBC is to broadcast soon a programme made by ex Big L personality, Pete Drummond called 'The Radio Revolutionaries. It chronicles the story of pirate radio and will air on Radio 2, 88-91 FM, DAB and the internet. Radio Veronica is to return as a golden oldies channel with the help of RTL and will be heard all over Holland on 103 MHz FM. That's all for now, Doctor Boogie.' Some it true and some is dreamer's world. So have a good sleep tonight.

Back to the after War period, the time of the Cold War. Do you remember the time that strange voices were mentioning nothing else than numbers in a row? We're decades further and still a lot of DX'ers and other radio listeners are interested in what they really heard in those hectic days. When listening to those broadcast mostly a mechanic female voice was what we heard. And one thing is for sure: It wasn't the weekly countdown of sound. On September 16th a program called 'Secret Service on duty' will be transmitted from 19.15 CET on the Deutschlandfunk.

www.radioseagull.nl is a site where you can listen to programs in the

style of the old Radio Seagull as we know from 1974 and 1975. It was an alternative radio station transmitting from the MV Mi Amigo in the evening and night hours. A lot of artist could be heard we didn't hear on any other radio stations. Some of the deejays were Bob Noakes, Norman B, Brian Anderson, Andy Archer, Dick Palmer, Mike the Poet and many more. The station now on internet comes from Holland and we earlier mentioned that there were plans for the station, which is launched by the people who also have been running Radio Caroline in Harlingen. As a response on an e-mail sent in by one of our readers, the following message was sent out: Hello, thank you very much for your response to the Radio Seagull programs. As you probably know we are a very young station and we are very curious for the number and sort of people who listen to us. We have our residence in a Dutch Sea port up North, called Harlingen. Even though right now a minority of our programs is actually presented, very soon the majority will be. We have a very skilled crew who have all a long term experience with other stations. Our choice of music is mainly "rocky" and we tend to not always pick the obvious tracks. There is too much extremely good music that no other radio station ever plays. We do! We are working on a merchandise range as well as an organisation that tries to recruit listeners who want to do something more than listen. They can support the station with a monthly contribution of at least 5 pound sterling or 7,50 euro. We will send the a three monthly magazine and they will be entitled to the "members-prices" if they want to buy merchandise. If you want to know more you can always contact us at Radio Seagull PO Box 24 8860 AA Harlingen.

Who does remember the Abobinamele Top 2000 as well the Dick Voormekaar show on RNI in the seventies. A well, sometimes overproduced, program by André van Duin and technician Ferry de Groot. Since then the program was transmitted on various radio stations. Lately it was on 3FM the national pop station in the Netherlands. Like in Great Britain the pop station is going for a younger public and so the program 'Dick Voormekaar' will be dropped from programming. However Van Duin and De Groot have promised to

bring back the program. They hope to find a commercial radio station to bring the show in the future. The show was only 30 minutes long and transmitted on 3FM round midday on Saturdays. It had constantly around 300.000 listeners.

Ok, there we go again with the people behind the Communicator. August 16th today and after reading some 500 e-mails after a week from holiday yet no answers on my mails which I sent to the organisation with questions from readers of this bulletin. Non communicating is the word. I feel pity with those who sent in the questions. And I won't take any attempts in the forthcoming period to get the answers we want. Just have a look what's now on their internet site: ' We will be launching The Communicator Club very soon. Membership of the club will provide you with an exclusive newsletter, trips to see the ship once she returns to the UK, and progress reports as we continue work on her. Discounts on merchandise will also become available. Funds from the membership will help to finance the extensive repairs we need to carry out. Trips to see the ship once she returns to the UK? ' Ok guys at the organisation, may we wish you all the success and let's go to another subject in this report.

In one of the many e-mails it was a certain William W who was asking me what I did thought about the many rumours which are going around in the newsgroups on internet these days about new radio stations planning to start from international waters. I answered him that since 1969 I've written some 10.000 pages on the subject radio in magazines and books and that in the early nineties two books came out with the title 'Pioneers, thumb suckers and swindlers' were published. So a lot has been written about rumours about stations which didn't get on the air. Here is what William responded afterwards: 'Hi there Hans. William here. Thank you so much for your resssponse and reply to my e-mail As through the years I have, as the same as you, heard so many rumours of new offshore stations. You have put my mind at rest by your words in the e-mail you sent me. I can now know that any stories regarding new offshore ventures

will be as you stated only 1% happening or true. And any stories spread around the anorak community will be only false unless they come from good sources and reports that are looked into carefully as yours are. I have been interested in radio since I first heard Radio Caroline, Laser 558 in early 1984. Also thank you for e-mailing me your next International report in the future. Many thanks, William.

Of course, while I'm listening to Keith Skues on a recent program I thought if you were listening to a special program on August 14th. I didn't as I was in the train for some 8,5 hours from the trip from Rostock to Groningen. So I only heard that Roger had forgotten on the kitchen table his version of 'We shall overcome' to play on Caroline and that on local radio in Dordrecht Hans Marijs played program air checks and music from 20 years ago when Caroline came back in a dramatic way from the then new ship Ross Revenge. The opening, by Tom Anderson, was so bad that a lot of listeners the station got during the test programming, disappeared again.

On August 17th on Radio 5 Live and interview could be heard with the people who are planning a return of the original Voice of Peace in Israel or off the coast of Israel. And that are not the people earlier mentioned by me in the report. Go and have a listen to the interview on the next address:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/waffler/currentsound.htm>



If you're lover of the sea or do remember a trip you once made to one of the offshore radio stations in the past it's a must to go to the internet site of Ad Roberts. This former deejay of Radio Caroline and Radio Monique has an exciting site with a lot of photos and now also some incredible video footage. Go

and have a look at: <http://www.adroberts.net/video/video.htm>

Interesting to mention this time is also 'The Radio Archives News', the twice-monthly newsletter of the First Generation Radio Archives. In every issue you'll find news of current Archives offers, hints on upcoming projects, and articles spotlighting featured programs and performers. For subscription info go and visit the following address: <http://www.radioarchives.org/Membership.HTML>

Jos van Vliet has worked on the Laissez Faire in the sixties. Also he worked for the offshore radio station Veronica and did a lot of other work. Go and search for his own web log: <http://josvanvliet.web-log.nl>

December 1st 1986 Laser Hot Hits came on the air. A short lived station from international waters. However a lot happened and the people behind Offshore Echos have made some special pages on the station on their internet site: <http://www.offshoreechos.com>

We didn't mention any nickname yet? Ok here's one which came in. It was Jason Wolfe who did mention on RNI Leo van der Goot 'Leo the Lion'. Probably due to the fact Leo his hair was like the lions have.

In 2002 the money paid for advertisement in the Netherlands went up with 15% that year. In total 3,7 billion Euros were paid. Especially advertisement space on radio as well as television grew in that year. TV commercials are making 53% of that amount and there are around 500 different big advertisers who are buying the airtime. Smaller advertisers on television only bring in together 390.000 Euro in total. There was 20% more radio time sold than in 2001. On August 22nd the very first test with DRM was done in the Netherlands on 1296 AM on the Radio10 FM frequency. Between 1 and 3 in the afternoon the new signal, which brings in a brighter signal at AM, was transmitted.

In one of the earlier reports this year I've told you about 'Action Etherflits' whereby the Service Telecom from Dutch Ministry of

Economic Affairs came with the announcement that they had planned for the forthcoming year to get off the air as much as pirate radio stations in the Netherlands. Those stations make illegal use of AM and FM frequencies and were, in the past, only caught when complaints came in of interfering on official frequencies or paying damage to reception of radio and/or television signals in their neighbourhood. The plan of 'Etherflits' was not anymore to wait for complaints but giving the men from Telecom a more active role. After 4 month the Ministry announced that 'Etherflits' is rather successful as 161 of the about 800 land based pirates were raided. A few of them were back on the air within hours after the first raid.

Always nice to see the holiday memories from Paul de Haan. This year he sent me and many others the option to start a new 'old' radio station in a legal way. It came up in his head while walking in Herne Bay: 'The other day I visited Herne Bay and was able to see the Red Sands Fort. Here is a way of getting good old Radio 390 back on air in a legal way. Ship 1 Yamaha key board and 390 giant speakers out to the fort. Also some amplifiers and of course one man who is able to play the keyboard. Have all these 390 speakers on top of the fort and with the wind coming from the right direction there is 24 hours of Masters of the Organ. Have a nice day, Paul de Haan Ramsgate.' Well it's August and so we all may do some reminiscing.



Months ago I told you that once in a couple of months, when giving my blood donation to the Red Cross, I do pass on my way back home a special street. It's the Gorechtkade and why is it special? Well in one of the fire gates there is a shed with some famous words painted on the wall. It has been done in 1966 and still it can be seen.

Well that's all for this time. Hope you've enjoyed this edition. May I

ask you to be patient for the next edition, as I've a very busy month with all kind of other interesting work. Let your stories, memories and news come in as ever at: Hknot@home.nl

Greetings

Hans Knot