

## *Hans Knot's International Radio Report - September 2003*



Dear Friends, September is more than halfway and so it's time for the international radio report again. Thanks for all your e-mails, photos and other material which came in. Some of you will get an answer in this report, others have got it directly by mail.

First of all the news that the oldest consisting former offshore radio ship, the MV Norderney, was used again at the end of August. As the new Veronica wanted a lot of publicity they took contact with the owner and the user of the Norderney. Since a few years the ship is in the harbour of Antwerp in Belgium. Around August 25th a contract was signed in which the new Radio Veronica could use the ship for a temporary period. The plan was to tow the ship partly through canals and partly on the North sea, entering Holland in the harbour of IJmuiden, where still Communicator is still berthed. After some problems with the harbour authorities of IJmuiden the ship could finally leave in the early hours of the 28th. During the tow many offshore radio friends from the past tried to make photos and videos. The tow finally went to Monnickendam, a small fisher harbour at the IJsselmeer.

There technician of the NOB built a complete studio in the pub part of the ship and on August 31st, the opening program came from the ship. The new station can be heard in the Netherlands on FM and has several former offshore deejays including Ferry Maat, Bart van Leeuwen, Kas van Iersel, Luc de Rooy and Johan Visser. The official opening was done by Sky director Ton Lathouwers and Bull Verweij.



As you can see on the following photo, which we got from our friends at RadioVisie and which was taken on the day before the ship left Antwerp, there is a towing vessel anchored behind the Norderney, named the MV Husky. Bells began to rang as a tug with that name was used in August 1970 by Kees Manders and ir. Heerema in their opera to tow the MEBO II to Scheveningen harbour. Could it be that this is the same ship? I can't answer it as there were never photos of the MV Husky in the newspaper. Maybe Larry Tremaine, who's a reader of this report, could answer it.

On August 26th there was the first part of a documentary on BBC Radio 2, *The Radio Revolutionaries*. Former Radio London deejay Pete Drummond presented part one of a two-part look at the Golden Age of Pirate Radio and revealed how the pop pirates made a lasting impression on the British media. Programme one focused on the battle between the two giants of the Golden Age: Caroline and London. Caroline, the rebel, was created by Ronan O'Rahilly out of frustration with the lack of broadcast outlets for pop music. London, the slicker operation, was backed by Texan money, and run by Philip Birch. Pete Drummond rediscovered their stories. I didn't hear it till now (one day it will come) but from several e-mails I got on this subject I can conclude that there are a lot of people dissatisfied with the content of the program. They dived again in the BBC archive to get the same air checks as always and nothing new was added to the story for those who follow offshore radio for decades. Of course nice for those who for the first time heard on this subject.

Cork 103FM's 'The West Cork Today Show' was broadcast live on August 29th from the missile destroyer, USS The Sullivans. The ship was moored near Castletownbere for the 400th year anniversary of O'Sullivan Beara's historic march from Beara, to Co. Leitrim. Presenter John Greene interviewed the ship's captain and one or two

of the 370 strong crew recently returned from active duty.

Some people have a sharp eye and one of them in Albert de Groeve who did write in to tell me I did made a mistake by mentioning in my last report the Flemish deejay Nobert instead of Norbert en that's why you couldn't enter his personal site: [www.norbert.be](http://www.norbert.be)

Norbert worked in the seventies for Radio Atlantis and Radio Mi Amigo. In the late seventies there was also Radio Mi Amigo 272. A station formed by some former Mi Amigo people. They tried together with some new people to bring the station in a new coat and from a new ship, the MV Magdalena, back on the air. One of the new people was Louis Stuster, who used the deejay name Johan Vermeer. On August 30th he was quest on Radio 192 to talk in the program Mi Amigo Club about his short period with the station. Memories from 24 years ago.

It also became known late August that Arrow Classic Rock and Radio 10FM can stay on their now used temporary frequencies till December 1st. Then the Dutch authorities will decide to which organisations the so called rest frequencies will go. Both stations have gone for such a frequency and have to wait till the authorities say 'yes' or 'no' to them. Until that moment a lot of listeners in great Britain still can enjoy the programs on AM.

Each month they're still coming in. The nicknames of the former offshore deejays. Later this year I will come with the complete list of the past 20 months. This time it was Martin van der Ven ([www.offshore-radio.de](http://www.offshore-radio.de)) who sent in some more. First of all the one which was used by one of the German deejays for Radio Nordsea International. Hannibal had the nickname 'Cannibal'. But there were more in Martin's memories: Andy 'Mueslibar' Bradgate (real name Steve Satan) and (Rob) 'The Harrison Monster'. Both could be heard in the late eighties on Radio Caroline.

Like in our last issue we do have some comments from Jan Van Jager

from England about his ideas on the MV Communicator:

Good morning Hans,

To add an addition to the Communicator club/website etc, I've never been able to send them an email or anything like a message.

Personally I think that they should have got things sorted out first and made a wreck into some sort of resemblance of a half working ship, maybe with some electrics for lighting etc. Then that would be an indication to people that something is beginning to happen.

Old saying!....crawl before you can walk and walk before you can run!  
The simple answer to their problems would be:

- 1) Remove the mast and put it into storage.
- 2) Remove what other stuff of value is on board, does not appear to be very much and store it.
- 3) Scrap the vessel, stop wasting time on the wreck', that's going to cost you and the team thousands to rebuild. There are plenty of other more seaworthy ships laying around in various ports. It does seem that there are not many who are willing to put hands in pockets?, I could be wrong but lately there has been very little evidence of it.
- 4) Purchase a sea going vessel, (would be cheaper in the long run) put some ballast in it install your mast that you've saved from the scrap yard, then install a studio or two and a transmitter. Maybe two and don't forget the generators! Hey presto, a real working radio ship! Come on guys wake up smell the coffee! Be realistic! The Communicator is a wreck, you'll be bankrupt before long and from an outsider who like many others don't see any progress, where are the pictures that tell the story? We read that things are progressing and the ship is going into dry-dock? You say the ship has been stripped of valuable equipment! So show us all how far you've

got....only then we will see it's not a dream. My personal opinion is that I think there just playing at being enthusiastic part time pirates! To quote the late Howard Rose aka Chrispian St John, in a booklet "When pirates wave the rules! 'To build an offshore station, you have to be 100% committed. If you play at weekends and during the week, then choose a different job as it will cost you thousands to build a radio station.' And in these days no one is around to plonk cash on the table and say "Do the Job".....as they see no reason for offshore radio as there are stations with better quality via satellite and on fm, Maybe Caroline should have done some saving in the past when (UK) Virgin Radio was sold by Sir Richard Branson and taken the station from him! However it would not have been the same would it? It's exactly the same today, Radio Caroline via satellite, it's simply not Caroline, there's no atmosphere! Yes you can hear it from the internet...but it's still not the same, many would say Caroline belongs on board the Ross Revenge and should be at sea. Here ends the soapbox review! Ok many thanks Hans, your pages make very interesting reading, you know! I wonder just how many people would agree with my opinion about the Communicator, or for that matter Caroline? I think that if I were in a position and had money to throw around I don't think that I'd buy the wreck Communicator, after we all saw the pictures of the insides, the bridge, the engine room and being flooded as well. I think it very unlikely that she will be ever sea worthy again, and as for bringing her to the UK? Well yes ok, but the DTI would be watching very closely what they would do with it as to any signs of her being dressed up for another offshore stint would be frowned upon very seriously, as the UK government is determined to stamp out pirate radio once and for all. Many thanks Hans for letting me put my keyboard to use again with comment! Keep up the most excellent work that you do, it's great to be able to visit a website such as yours.73, Jan.

Okay thanks Jan and for you the reader, if you agree or don't agree with his comments please let your words come in at [Hknot@home.nl](mailto:Hknot@home.nl)

Just after writing this item I had a long phone call with my friend for 33 years, Paul de Haan. Of course the subject radio was one of the topics. He told me that he was, during his holidays in beautiful Kent, in contact with Malcolm Smith (aka Peter Moore) and then also the subject MV Communicator was on the list. Paul told me that Peter Moore had a question from Dave Miller lately in which Dave told him that now he had bought the Communicator he didn't know what to do with. Peter Moore just answered to Dave: 'There are two of the finest moments related to a ship. The first one is when you do buy the ship. The second one is on the other hand the moment you do sell the ship.'

It was Stuart Aitkin who did send me in a recording he made some 37 years ago from Radio 227. His question was if I could identify the two voices. I listened to the mp3 he sent and within minutes I answered him that strange enough the day before both deejays were in contact with me: Paul van Gelder (Harky) and Look Boden. Aitkin was very surprised and asked me to give regards to both Harky and Look and thanking them for the wonderful programs they made in those days.

Then there came in an email from press agency azp with the message that work has been done to start a new radio station from international waters. The ship is rebuilt already and it will not take long before it will come on the air. They also sent in the press report the message that for those interested there's an e-mail address where they can write to. Then you will be put on a message list and as soon as the station will start test transmissions you will be informed on forehand: [Persbureau\\_azp@hotmail.com](mailto:Persbureau_azp@hotmail.com). Well decide for yourself if you believe in them or not.

And then it was our Beachboy Roger Day who reflected to my comments on the number 'Peace' by Peter Goshling. I mentioned that the song was used for the Oxfam Campaign. And there I was wrong. The record Peace was used as a promo for Unicef not Oxfam. It was Oxfam who Meister & Bollier were involved with in Biafra.

Pernod was a company buying airtime and it was John Bennet who wrote about it to me recently: 'Please forgive my intrusion, but my friend, Shaun Brennan, gave me your E-mail address, saying "If anyone knows, it will be Hans!" I've been trying for decades to track down a commercial aired on Caroline North only in the early hours, for some reason. The commercial is: "Pernod, our favourite drink in England, you know"- this was said in a very upper-class voice and accent. I've tried all kind of sites and links, I've even contacted The Pernod Company directly, but they can't remember it! I hope you can help me identify and find ' Pernod' , as I've been looking since 1967!

Here's what I answered: 'Hi John. Sorry to say to you. I recorded Caroline North only in late 1966 and 1967 and mostly during evening and night hours. I do remember the spot and I think mostly it was transmitted late 1965 and 1966, a commercial for Pernod was transmitted. It was in the period also this man (voice over) was used for the promo's on Caroline South for the Continental Program. This was aired for a short period to attract more advertisers in countries like Holland, Belgium and France. And that was I think the same voice. But no, I don't have the commercial in my archive . Sorry. Will mention it in my next international radio report which will be out in September. See if anyone else does remember it. '

So if you do have a program of Caroline North with the commercial for Pernod let me know it so we can make John Bennet happy too.

Peter J Halls wrote in: 'Has any one informed you yet of ZETA FM on 87.7 fm excuse the pun but it is 'based' close to RAF's Mildenhall & Lakenheath, and is mainly aimed at the US Forces. The station is like AFN with adverts. The station has about a seven mile reception area and with the US deejays, the station almost has the sound of Laser 558 ZETA has its own website: [www.zetafm.co.uk](http://www.zetafm.co.uk). I hope this is of interest to you. Bye for now, Peter J.Halls'.

Thanks Peter, well we have a lot of readers to this report who are

also interested in the story of AFN and AFRTS and so I think they will defiantly have a look at their site.

Leen Vingerling is one of the more serious people within the radio world and he wrote about the fact people are still believing in new offshore radio projects and he advices to have a look at the following: The Convention of the law:

[www.un.org/Depts/los/convention\\_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm)

Article109 Unauthorized broadcasting from the high seas

1. All States shall cooperate in the suppression of unauthorized

broadcasting from the high seas.

2. For the purposes of this Convention, unauthorized broadcasting means the transmission of sound radio or television broadcasts from a ship or installation on the high seas intended for reception by the general public contrary to international regulations, but excluding

the transmission of distress calls.

3. Any person engaged in unauthorized broadcasting may be prosecuted

before the court of:

(a) the flag State of the ship;

(b) the State of registry of the installation;

(c) the State of which the person is a national;

(d) any State where the transmissions can be received; or



(e) any State where authorized radio communication is suffering interference.

4. On the high seas, a State having jurisdiction in accordance with paragraph 3 may, in conformity with article 110, arrest any person or ship engaged in unauthorized broadcasting and seize the broadcasting apparatus.

Thanks Leen.

Next Kenny Tosh read the international report from last month as he answered the question I asked then: 'Hello Hans. 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](http://www.citybeat.co.uk). Don't think I can top that! Regards Kenny'

One of the readers in England is Ian who did ask us some questions on the MV Nannell, the ship which was supposed to be an offshore radio ship in the late eighties. He asked who was in charge. Well several people were in charge like those of Radio Monique who



The telescope mast on the MV Nannell  
(Photo Freewave archive)

wanted the station on this ship instead of the MV Ross Revenge. Also some other well known people, like PAR worked behind the scenes in those days. And on the next question if I do have photo's of the ship with mast I can tell you that I do have them as you can see below.

During weekend for DX'ers it was possible to receive the program of

WMR from Finland. But soon it will come from Denmark as the station will be going on air as an official radio station with a licence. Here is the official press report from the station: 'Stig Harvig Nielsen of World Music Radio writes: 'Finally we have today received the license to commence broadcasting on two different short wave frequencies from the authorities here in Denmark - and so low power test-transmissions can be expected soon on 5815 and 15810 kHz. News will follow shortly. The power is 400 Watt and the transmitter site is near Karup in Central Jutland, Denmark. 'WMR is planning to commence regular transmissions within a few months probably late November. We will be on the air 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - with our own very special, unique blend of current chart music, oldies from the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's as well as popular tunes from countries all over the world. The power on short wave will be 10 kW on each frequency. Our programmes will be available not only on short wave but also via the Internet and hopefully also FM, medium wave as well as satellite. At a later stage, when digital receivers become available, we are planning on broadcasting in the DRM mode on a third short wave outlet. Reception reports for our programmes are welcomed and will be acknowledged by a new QSL-card. The address of WMR remains: WMR, PO Box 112, DK-8900 Randers, Denmark.'

Then another question came in from England after I did mention one of my books, in which I did write on pioneers, thumb suckers and swindlers. The question which came in was: What is the greatest and most believable hoax project that you have encountered?

If I've to answer this one it would cost me the complete report. So I want to write some short line about the most laughable project ever and so we have to go back to the early seventies. First here's a photograph of the proposed radio ship MV Hendrik Jan.

Yes, you see it right, the owner of this ship - Bob Peeters from Haarlem - thought he could start a radio station. Like the later ideas of Capital Radio from the King David, he promised to bring a format of religious and idealistic



programs and he had interested Rev. Toornvliet to do the religious part and also Steph Willemsen of the later ill fated Radio Condor project was connected to the S.O.R. as the station would be called in 1969. The ship was about 27 metres long and an technical advisor has stated that a mast no longer than 20 metres could be fit to the ship. At one stage he arrange 6 deserters from Angola (then still part of the Portugal) army to work on the ship. The budget Peeters had was 180.000 guilders and offshore radio watchers laughed on the idea of bringing the Hendrik Jan into international waters. He wanted to place a 3.5 kW transmitter on air. Too less money resulted in leaving alone the Angolan people on the ship without food and water. Christmas time was one of loneliness for the people on the Hendrik Jan and neighbours near the Spaarne, where the ship was anchored, brought fresh bread and chicken so they had a little Christmas. From that point on we never again heard, radio wise, something of Bob Peeters. I promise that one day the full story of all those pioneers and thumb suckers will be published on our on line journal for media culture: [www.soundscape.info](http://www.soundscape.info)

At the end of August in one of the many news groups information was brought in by a former tender king from the Caroline en Monique organisation that Nigel Harris (still with Caroline) had announced on a meeting in Italy that the Radio London project would not go on. This due to the fact that one of the possible main backers had withdrawn from the project. So the news came in to a newsgroup and those groups are functioning as it looks like everyone knows the truth. I thought to seek the journalistic way again and informed Ray Anderson. And I waited for a reply, which came in after just 12 hours: Hi Ray in one of the newsgroups in Holland yesterday a

message came in which was told that some one did an announcement to some Caroline South people and their friends at a meeting in Serborgha. This is the place where people like Tom Anderson nowadays are doing their programs for the Caroline South satellite programs. It was told them that during last weeks it was decided that there's no future for Big L and that your organisation has decided not to go on with the project as one of the main possible sponsors had withdrawn. First I find it most irritating that someone else from another station brings out the message to radio people as surely it's spread around like fire. Secondly I think that it's almost important for you to bring an update on the things which have been happening during the past few weeks, so they know from official sources what is the true. I could publish it in next report.

Here's Ray's answer: 'I am sorry but I was unaware of what was being reported by small-minded people on certain News Groups, as I don't subscribe to them. But firstly, thank you for bringing it to my attention and thank you Hans for asking me directly our position on this rather than listening to the miss information, which seems to circulate by the small minded. I can't help thinking they have taken lessons from the ex-Iraqi Minister of Information! They could teach him some lessons!

Let me confirm that October/November 2003 commits our team to re-launching RADIO LONDON. A tremendous amount of progress has been made since we last spoke and our team are both excited and determined in bringing this great station back on the air. Perhaps, if you get the chance you can let anyone who asks that there is no truth in any of the malicious and damaging rumours. With many thanks Best regards. Ray Anderson'.

So hope the 1008 kHz gives us a signal one of these forthcoming months.

Then a message came in via Martin v.d. Ven from Tasmania where Ben Wetselaar lives:

Look what I found at the radio museum of City Park Radio (7LTN)103.7FM in Launceston Tasmania. Australia. As I walked in this caught my eye, and I nearly flipped, a model of the Mi Amigo. It was build by Gerry Verhoef, who worked at City Park Radio(CPR) as the Belgium presenter. He also built the MEBO 2 and the Norderney, but he left them in Holland. We all are voluntary workers at CPR as it is community/multicultural Radio. I do the Dutch program every two weeks on Tuesday nights. Ben Wetselaar Launceston Tasmania Australia.

Then it was Stuart from England, who wrote in two times on September 2nd: 'Just been listening to a Rosko tape from Caroline South where he refers to Tom Lodge as the 'Tom Cat' . You may already have this, but just in case you don't. But there was more as he did found out the same evening that Rosko called Dave Lee Travis 'The weird beard'. Also he mentioned Rick Dane as 'The great Dane'. Well Stuart I've checked the list and the one for Tom Lodge we didn't mention earlier. Yet three months to go before the final nickname list will be published.

It was the Radio Netherlands Website which brought the following message: "Radio ship "Goddess of Democracy" scrapped in Taiwan 2 September 2003. Taiwan has started to scrap the radio ship Goddess of Democracy which has been in mothballs after it was prevented from beaming messages of freedom and democracy to China in 1990 following the Tiananmen Square massacre. The demolition work, scheduled to take about 70 days, kicked off on Monday following a ceremony at Anping, a harbour in the southern Tainan county, said Wu Meng-wu, the owner of the 1,200-tonne ship. Wu was ordered to scrap the ship in March after he lost a lawsuit filed by the Anping Harbour authorities, who insisted the ship must be removed to make way for harbour expansion and that Wu must pay at least two million Taiwan dollars (about US\$58,650) in harbour-related fees. Wu agreed to begin dismantling his ship by September 10 but he denied he owes the authorities any fees. He

claims that after he bought the ship, the government promised to help him take care of it. Wu purchased the ship for US\$550,000 from the France-based Chinese Shipping Association, a group set up in Paris by exiled Chinese dissident leader Yan Jiaqi, after pressure from Beijing scuttled the group's bid to broadcast to China in April 1990. He later turned the ship into a floating museum displaying photographs and information about the events in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989."

Thanks Media Network team for their sharp eye on this subject. It had almost gone out of mind that this project was there already 13 years ago.

September 5th was the last day on the radio for John Michael on CKTB in Canada. On this talk station he did his very last show. He has worked behind the microphone for more than 40 years. In Europe he worked a small spell on CNBC, the English language part of Veronica. This CNBC was on the air between December 1960 and March 1961. It was the idea of the Verwey brothers - owners of Veronica - to gain more listeners with these programs in Southern parts of Great Britain and the London area. They hired a guy in the City to sell airtime. When doing together with Jelle Boonstra a long interview with Bull Verwey, way back in 1993, we asked him why the project was stopped so quickly. Verwey answered that the advertising guy was the reason. During his working time he was more in cinema's and pubs than making money for the station. John Michael will be missed by his listeners in Canada.

Last month I mentioned that the people behind Radio Caroline Nederland had decided to stop all their activities under that name. They are back on internet as Radio Seagull and will be on air on short wave on Saturday September 20th (9290 kHz). It will be on air between 20 and 24 hrs CET from a 100 kW transmitter, from Riga. The first two hours will be presented by Stevie Gordon, followed by Gary Lee.

A day later Krijn Torringa will be back on air presenting 'Hollands Glorie' every Sunday afternoon between 1 and 4 in the afternoon. Sport and Dutch music will be brought on the regional radio station Radio Oost, where also former Mi Amigo deejay Bert Bennet is working under his own name Bert Wijfjes. Krijn originate from Groningen and started his radio career with Minjon, the youth department of the AVRO. In the sixties he went to Veronica, the offshore station. He became a big hit on radio and television in the seventies and made many Dutch songs a big hit. He emigrated to Curacao and coming back he worked for stations like Radio Monique, Holland FM and Radio 192. Next to his work on Radio Oost he is also stadium speaker for the football club FC Twente and does a lot of voice over work.

Leen Vingerling sent in the next report: Dutch radio entrepreneur Nico Volker will be quitting the radio scene and will concentrate on his restaurant in Lanzarote, one of the Canary Islands. Nico started his radio career at Mi Amigo in 1977, running the road show as Nico van der Stee and presenting programmes on tape as Piet de Prater. In 1984 Nico came up with backers and initiated radio Monique but was put to the sidelines after an argument with Fred Bolland. Later he returned again in charge of radio 558 and 819. At the same time he was involved in the Nannell project.

During the nineties Nico started Holland FM from the former Laser ship the MV Communicator from a harbour in the IJsselmeer. First on cable and since 1994 on AM. Although Holland FM was quickly bought by Hitradio Veronica, Nico was not out of a job. He was the driving force behind big local radio stations in The Hague and Rotterdam (Stadsradio) and he was the instigator of City FM. The list of all his involvements and projects is far too long to mention. Over a period of 25 years Nico has contributed a lot to the radio world. With the almost completed sale of his last two radio stations, an era will come to an end.

Nico will now spent all his time and energy on his restaurant in

Lanzarote and property development in Ecuador. His restaurant is in the same park as Robbie Dale's holiday apartment.

[http://www.sanfranciscopark.com/html/your\\_hosts.html](http://www.sanfranciscopark.com/html/your_hosts.html)

Talpa International, the company owned by John de Mol jr and owner of radio stations in Holland and Denmark, has decided to bid for the last FM frequency which will be auctioned in December in Holland. Together with the organization behind the world wide famous Jazz Festival they want to start a radio station with a jazz format, a format which is not used at all in Holland. They think there is space for such a station. In a few months time we will see if Talpa will get the license.

On September 6th I had to dive in my archive searching for some articles from 1964. When looking in my huge radio archive suddenly my eyes were attracted to the photograph you're seeing. It was from November 24th 1964 that the newspaper cut, which was also found, was published. It stated that for the first time within Great Britain a commercial radio station with the name 'Radio Man' was on the air. 'Next to music the station makes advertising for the holiday business at the Island of Man. People can visit the studio on request.' Somewhere else in my archive I've the booklet Manx Radio released when it can on the air. That's all from those years I had the time to DX and to write to the stations. Still the rare loop antenna is used now and then.



Then far away as Australia came the next e mail from Ian McRae. How many of you did tune in to him in the Sixties. I did and still have some memories on reel to reel tape. He sends out on a regular base his 'Radio Waves' which is filled with lot of fun from the radio industry. You can ask for a free copy by writing to:  
[ian@allaboutradio.net](mailto:ian@allaboutradio.net)





Manuel van der Lugt wrote in and has a question which is in his mind since 1980: Since I have read an article in the (former) Dutch radio magazine 'Free Radio Magazine' in 1980, this has been an unanswerable question for me. I hope that one of the readers of the radio report knows something about the following. The article in the issue of February 1980 describes a visit to the Caroline road show in St. Albans, U.K. of two Dutch anoraks. They also write something about the reception of Radio Caroline in England (back in 1980): 'Then something about the reception of Radio Caroline in England. The reception is a mess, only close to the shore can the station be received very good, but farther inland it becomes bad with static noise and an enormous interference, especially during the evening hours. In London the reception was very bad. The reception in our country (The Netherlands) is many times better, this is due partly because the North Sea itself functions as a kind of antenna.' So does anybody know about the described phenomenon? Does the sea propagate the radio waves better than the air? And if it is true, what about the reception of RNI or Caroline in 1973 and 1974 till August 30 in England, the radio ships were then moored off the Dutch coast.

Surely Paul Rusling or Bob Noakes, Mike Barrington or Peter Chicago could answer these questions as all the four are reading the international radio report too. One thing I know for sure is that one of the guys who did visited the road show in 1979 was Jan Hendrik Kruidenier - who still writes for the Freewave Media Magazine as 'America reporter'. I made a dive into my photo archive and found those two. First Robb Eden together with Jan Hendrik in 1979 and one with Robb Eden on stage during a roadshow.



The people behind Quality Radio, the organisation which opted

successfully for a few frequencies in the Netherlands, got problems with the authorities of Utrecht. In one part of the city, Luneten One, where the antenna mast for one of the frequencies (1584 kHz) is situated, the city government gave permission to break away several trees. If it was a Monday it is not known but not only the trees went down but also the aerial mast. Ruud Poeze told us that the Quality Radio Group had contact with the authorities trying to get the mast rebuilt as soon as possible. Other problems occurred when the people from Nozema told to Quality Radio that a transmitter on another site, the transmitter, will not be on the air from there as technical inspection learned that it's gives far too much interference in the surroundings. So hopefully next month we can bring you more on the plans of Quality Radio and their partners.

The new director for Dutch Public Broadcasting Society will be from December 1st Coen Abbenhuis. Born in 1958 Abbenhuis nowadays is director of AKN, a cooperative organisation to publish the magazines of public broadcasters AVRO, KRO, NCRV and Publishing Company Sanoma.

VRON BV, the company which runs the successful commercial radio station Radio 538, has opted for the frequency which is still available for FM and will be 'given away' in December. Earlier in this report I mentioned that Talpa International had also opted for the frequency. VRON wants to start a classical music station Classic4U which will also be aimed a the younger public. Initiator behind this plan is Lex Harding, director for VRON BV and Radio 538.

On September 11th it was 25 years ago that the MV Aegir from Radio Delmare came in severe problems. Fans of the station still remember the s.o.s. calls from the radio ship, which was run by only youngsters. In memory of this event I like you to go to the site of Theo van Halsema: <http://www.geocities.com/theovanhalsema>

When you find the site just click on the radio ship and you will find the Delmare memories.

Around September 11th also another e-mail came in from Jan VanJager in England: 'Hi Hans, thought I'd send this e-mail in, I have been busy surfing the web hunting down websites dealing with pirate/free radio! I've noticed that, although there are still plenty of websites about free radio, on certain sites there home page may show but many of there links don't work. I've also noticed that there are many sites listed in various directories but when clicking to visit I've found they have either closed or been removed? I'd like to ask all readers the following question! Is anyone still really enthusiastic in free/pirate radio in the 21st century? Is there any future in pirate radio and has the short-wave pirates all but disappeared and are the listeners disappearing as well? I would like to hear the views of readers who read your news page, it would be interesting to see other listeners/operators opinions, as I feel that as far as the short-wave free radio stations go they still make interesting listening. From various reports many pirates are using fm only seems medium wave is a thing of the past? Ok Hans!...would also like to hear your opinion as well, thought I'd come up with a different topic. Here in the northwest of UK (Merseyside) not much happening, the occasional fm station finds space on the fm band however there seems to be more RSL's popping up, Fame Fm is due back on 87.7mhz shortly broadcasting religious programs etc, another RSL seems to be in the planning stage for the Prenton area. Regards Jan.'

Well I think Jan that some people may answering this, including the people at FRS Holland, so Peter maybe you can answer the questions into detail next time?

And Jan added that he's looking for a tune, so maybe one can help him: ' I'm trying to locate a theme tune that I heard on Caroline North many years ago before they closed down and were towed away. If anyone has seen the old black and white science fiction film 'The Night Visitor', they maybe remember the one I'm looking for. The theme tune used in this film is the one that Bob Stewart talked over to close the station one night. Does anyone who has seen this film

know the title of the theme music and who was the artist? The music was an instrumental organ piece. Does anyone have a copy of this piece of organ instrumental that they would be willing to share, swap or sell? Contact: [jan.vanjager@ntlworld.com](mailto:jan.vanjager@ntlworld.com)

Then I told you earlier that the Freewave Media Magazine, which is 25 years of age this year and from which I'm the Final Editor all those years, will bring a few special issues. Well the September issue is just out and for the first time this issue is mainly in English as a token to all those people outside Holland who had a subscription through the years and read in the Dutch language. But also for other readers this special issue is interesting as it features the Fight For Free Radio. All the demonstrations and organisations who worked together or fight with each others during the past decades (from 1965 up till 2000) are featured in a long story. A lot of research has been done to compile the article and I must say that for me it was a hard time to write but a nice new experience. We've added many exclusive photographs and many of them have never been published before in any free radio magazine in the past. If you want a copy of this magazine just sent 3 Euro or 2 Pound very well packed in an envelope and add that you want the special 'Fight for Free Radio issue of Freewave Media Magazine' and sent it to Foundation for Media Communication, PO Box 53121 1007 RC Amsterdam Holland. Also this issue will be for sale on the Radio Day, which will be held on October 25th.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you that the MV Communicator has lost their windows which were welded into the hull some years ago. Six new steel plates have been placed and just after a few days, a company from Rotterdam did the work, the first signs of rust appeared. The official owner of the ship from Birmingham has been out to the ship to see how things are going. From one of the people involved I learned that a lot of cleaning work has been done and that it looks far more better now. Also the generator to put the lights on, is working again. It seems a part of the generator is not anymore on the ship as one of my many radio friends told me the smoke is going

into the ship and causing other problems. Next month more in the continuing story of Laser 2003.

That's the end for this edition of the international report. I hope to bring more in some weeks. Also I hope to see a lot of you on our Radio Day, which will be held in Amsterdam, Koningszaal Artis. Go to [www.soundscapes.info](http://www.soundscapes.info) and press calendar and you'll find more info. If not enough: simply ask me the questions you have on my personal address: [hknot@home.nl](mailto:hknot@home.nl)

Till next time

Greetings

Hans Knot