

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



Welcome to this November edition of the Radio Report and as always thanks for the enormous response. Some of the letters which came in will be mentioned. Next to that today's news and memories.

First of all we go to Colin, who missed this year's Radio Day, as he couldn't come over from England: 'Many many thanks for the October Report, and sorry I could not make it this year to the Radio Day, I had Weddings booked for this last weekend, and could not make it because of this, which annoyed me really as I would have preferred to be there then working. (Colin is a professional photographer). Do you have any plans for a Radio Day next year, if so would love to know what date, then I know not to book any work in for that weekend. Next year as you know will be Radio Caroline's 40th anniversary, is there any plans for this at all? I now have just printed off 15 pages of your newsletter, and I guess some interesting news, three pots of tea I think to help me get through this little lot.'

Thanks Colin and I hope the tea was nice and not getting cold while reading the report. About the Radio Day I can only tell at the moment that I decided myself to stop after 25 years the presentation of the day and doing all those interviews. Through the years I interviewed more than 150 people and thought it was time to withdraw myself from this job. The Radio Day will be in the future a 'meet and greet party' and will be held next year on October 2nd. More info will follow later.



Jan from England talked last time about the future of land based pirates and did asked the readers for their ideas. One response came from the Emperor Rosko: 'Hi Hans, (to prove I read your petite radio phonic memo)!! Take note that I do a lot of RSL's and in London their is always a pirate

blocking the signal! So, yes, they are about big time!! Kiss Kiss, EMP.' Click here to explore the new store full of Rosko Merchandise: Explore the USA store <http://www.geocities.com/roskomerchandise/>

The youngest public broadcaster in Holland is BNN. Due to a change in the law BNN has to have more than 150.000 paying members from 2005 onwards. As BNN had far too less members a special television campaign was held on October 27th to get enough members to go for a renewing of the licence. After the special evening the counter stood at 153.980. It's not sure as all members will be seen as official members by the Dutch Radio Authority. This is because some big companies have paid the subscription costs for a lot of the new members.

March 1st 2004 a decision will be taken.

The Province of Zuid Holland in the Netherlands has two regional broadcasting societies who provide both radio and television programs. Earlier on it became known that due to the bad financial circumstances some 40 people have to leave RTV West. At the end of October it also became known that the other regional station RTV Rijnmond will lose some 25 up till 40 people in the very near future. Lesser income of advertising is one of the reasons. The station has stopped bringing news programs during the hours from 12 in the night up till 6 in the morning and the news bulletins on the televisions have been brought back with 3 up till 5 minutes each hour they're broadcasts.

From October 28th it was possible to do your vote for your favourite record for the All Time top 1000 which will be transmitted on Radio Veronica from December 26th up till December 31st. The

list of 1000 records will be the most favourites of the last five decades and the station can also be found on Internet at www.radioveronica.nl. Also Dutch Radio 2 is bringing a long list this Christmas period. It will be also the listeners choice within the Top 2000, which will be transmitted 24 hours a day from December 26th up till December 31st. It's the fifth time in a row it will be programmed on Radio 2.

Then it's good to see that someone, who still has bad memories on several things happening in the good old day, takes the time to respond on Peter Moore's reflections in the last issue of the international report. Next to the response, the next person want to kick yours truly as he makes several comments about Father Christmas. As far away as Texas in the USA is coming the next long e-mail from John England. 'Hello Hans, I have just read your monthly radio journal. Well, here we go again. This is where you tell me that Professor Dr Eric Gilder does not look like you because you now have a longer beard that makes you look like Father Christmas. And all that we really want to do in the loony world of happy, happy anoraks is to have love radiating from the circles of our minds. Well, what got me ticked off this time is that little git Malcolm Smith (Peter Moore) who once went to the trouble of ripping off that idiot Radio News Magazine to slam me. (You seem to stick up for the world of rip-offs and screw-us in the name of peace and love while everyone else goes by their cash machine to take whatever they can.) Here is Peter, I mean Simon (why does he bother with the silly name Peter when he is no longer a pirate and kissing up the backside of the British Establishment?), and you say that he says that: "... Peter wants to bring the full truth to the reader of the international report:" Yeh, right, excuse me while I cough and then vomit. Can I use your trash can? It seems to have a silver lining, which can be easily thrown away. Says Malcolm alias Peter ... 'Let me be quite clear about the situation with myself and the DTI in 1990/91.... In Dover we were detained not for radio reasons, but because the ship was so badly damaged and that the ownership was not clear. So the people keeping us there were the Marine Safety Agency. The DTI were not

involved at all. Eventually when the MSA got to know me they had sympathy for my situation and decided to set aside the matter of ownership and eventually to say that the ship was fit to be taken from Dover to another place."

Oh, please, give me and the entire free radio world, a break! This is Malcolm morphing into Alan Weiner! So the DTI, which is a big arm of the British Government was not interested in the ownership of the Ross Revenge? Of course they were! What Malcolm is leaving out is the entire episode involving John Burch and the Barry Maxwell (who spoke to me personally and repeatedly) about the issue of the ownership of the Ross Revenge.

Maxwell knew that I was working with Burch and Chris England to uncover the real ownership of the Ross and it was at this point that Peter Chicago decided to perform his rescue of the Ross. There is a whole book that could be written about this episode but unfortunately Burch had to drive off into the world of busses for the sake of his growing family, Chris England played everyone off against each other while evolving into a Merlin clown for a time, while Peter Moore - I mean Uncle Malcolm, got Howard Rose to lend him his rag to slag me off. Ronan jumped in and excommunicated Burch, so that Burch had to fight his way out of a paper bag and the bottom line is that offshore radio is no more and Barry Maxwell had the last laugh by having his picture taken on the Ross in a British harbour.

Behind all of this are my efforts with Panama and James Murphy, which led of course to my further investigation into the Alan Weiner swindle. While I differ on some points from Paul Rusling, he does say in emails what others will not say in public and that is a rare quality. Paul was obviously there from the early FRA days, and so was I, but a lot of these other people had not yet reached any age where they could understand the political birth of offshore radio.

Malcolm is your typical two-faced, back stabbing political type, but please. Hans, don't start giving me your Father Christmas Loving

Awareness speech. You hack certain writers to bits while at the same time pretending to be the Pope of Pirate Radio. Then you tell me to calm down because this is all just a friendly little hobby where memories get fuzzy. Well, no, this is not a friendly fuzzy hobby. The record companies called the stations "pirates" so that they could defend their unfair monopoly, the UK Governments called the stations "pirates" to defend their good old boy network of money power control. Malcolm wanted and grabbed a ship (just like Weiner), Ray Anderson stole creative material from everyone and then charged the public for his distribution efforts, and even the story of the supposed restoration of PAMS is the biggest laugh of all. Tom Danaher sat with me at Don's funeral and then denounced him in order to further his ego.

No Hans, this is the world of money-grubbing, nasty people who even kill (eg Reg Calvert) in order to boost their own egos and incomes. I am not amused and I don't believe in Father Christmas or Loving Awareness or anoraks!

However, I did love the "pirate stations" and I did believe 100% in the Fight for Free Radio, but I learned late in life that the gits like Malcolm will sell out. Gits like Johnnie Walker who made a speech that night of August 14, 1967 which I thought was fantastic, wonderful, etc., etc., only to find him in love with the Beeb and other licensed stations "because we all have to earn a living!" Yes right. Scum bags all, scum bags all. There is no point in fighting for free radio anymore because the age of mass communications via mass mediums has given way to narrow casting which of course is still controlled by the same powers that be that controlled the mass mediums of the 60s, 70s and 80s.

While you are at it you might want to include Barry Schonfield's booklet "The Rise and Fall of the FRA" on your Soundscapes site, but the sad fact is that Schonfield got it wrong. Pearl got it right, because "pirate radio" was always a political issue and that is the only way that anyone could really fight for free radio. That is why

Malcolm sold out.

Pissed off? Of course I am, but its Father Christmas who guides you to fantasyland instead of the world of angst. You reply that angst will provoke a heart attack and I agree. So I love gardening and get this, I am also one of those big fans of model railways! Merry, merry Hans! Screw Christmas, screw anorak make-believe adhere to the first rule: To thine own self be true! Never give in, never sell out, but someones you gotta admit that once again the good cause lost and the bad guys won again. If you want proof - turn on your government licensed and sanctioned radio that is still programmed by the same old crowd that was present at its birth. John England.'

I promise I will make a nice Christmas dinner John for mother Christmas, all the kids and friends after this Cold Turkey from you. And as written earlier to you and all the other thousands of readers world wide: The International Report is an Open Forum and lucky that Malcolm or Peter Moore had his words to write and you too. John Burch is another of the many readers, so maybe he may join the two of you. May I wish you a happy and free Christmas? By the way John someone very famous in the radio world told me lately: 'Don't worry when someone calls you Santa Claus - it is better to be Father Christmas, who all the children love, than be Father Abraham - who some other people think you look like too.'

Another e-mail came in from Graham Newman: 'Hello Hans Thank you for continuing to send me your report. I always read it top to bottom - sorry that I don't have anything to add to it or snippets of gossip to send you. But the interest is still there, so please never drop me from the list of recipients! All best wishes and thanks for all the good work.'

Of course I know Graham that most of the readers can not or at least can add less to the information we share. Nevertheless it's good to hear you never want of this list. Keep reading it.

Then some news about two people involved in the Laser project in 1984. First Charlie Wolf, who is getting married in about 6 months, to a Jewish girl. Congratulations Charlie and so he is now going back to being Jewish, after being a Mormon for so many years.



Then John Catlett, one of the persons behind the Laser curtains, is in London again now and looking for a new direction. He has just left the Murdoch STAR FM network in India.

An e-mail came in from Mr. Arundel and he wrote: 'Thanks for your latest newsletter and regarding Geoff Baldwin's story about hearing Arrow Classic Rock being played in a corner shop in England ... well here on the Yorkshire Coast shops often have Arrow playing on their radios. They used to have Radio 10 FM on of course but now that Arrow have the 675 frequency they play that too. 675 is one of the strongest medium wave signals here the local music stations here aren't very good so that also helps Arrow get listeners. BTW Radio Jackie the former London land based pirate station is now on the air legally after the original staff got back together and bought a bankrupt local station. They are at <http://www.radiojackie.com>.'

Thanks Chris. Talking again about the Radio Day, which was held on October 25th, it was good to read the review on the site of Radio Caroline, which was read as follows: Caroline presenters enjoyed a great day out in Amsterdam last Saturday, attending the annual Radio Day. It was an early start, but on arrival at the venue, it was an interesting day of video shows and talks. Also fun was the chance for several presenters to catch up with old colleagues from the offshore days. A large amount of beverage was consumed in various bars up and down the street, but this was needed to steady the nerves for the flight home. The plane was struck a couple of times by lightning on take off, which added to the excitement of the day. Several hundred people attended the event, so a steady flow of hand-shaking

took place. We will get some pictures up here on the website as soon as we can do so.

The Radio Caroline Christmas Party date has been confirmed for 2003. It will take place on Sunday, December 14th at the Riga Music Bar in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. It runs from 11am through the afternoon until 4pm. The price for a ticket to the Party is £5.00. Later in the evening, you can hear the music of Albert Lee with his band, Hogen's Hero. A combined ticket for the Party and the band in the evening is £15.00. Please send a SAE and your cheque made out to 'Riga Live Music', to this address: Riga Music Bar, 228 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 7JG.

October 31st brought the next news from Israel: 'According to the Arutz 7 website, the Pirate Radio Bill will not be presented to the Knesset in the near future. Justice Minister Yosef (Tommy) Lapid did not present to the Knesset yesterday the bill that would forbid advertising on unlicensed radio stations. It will be recalled that the Cabinet decided, with support from the Likud and Shinui ministers, to back this legislation early last week, in move that was widely seen as being directed specifically against Arutz-7. Coalition whip Gideon Saar decided, however, that the coalition agreement allows "freedom of choice" for coalition MKs on this issue. Lapid realize that in fact most Likud MKs were planning to vote against the bill, and so he decided not to present it.' With thanks to Mike Brand.

Remember 1975 some GPO and Policemen came aboard the MV Mi Amigo, when it was in national waters after the ship flooded. A man was trying to get the station on the air and his last words were 'don't cut'. Well that was Teun Visser, one of the crew members. After decades he suddenly is back on the scene with a long e-mail he did sent in to me as well as to Martin van der Ven: My name is Teun Visser and work presently as consultant drilling supervisor world wide and own company "Global Well Services B.V". Next Friday (tomorrow) I will travel for a new project to Ho Shi Minh in Vietnam. I remember very good the time I spend on the Caroline. That time my function

was chief engineer. We have in the beginning problems with the generators which was mainly cased by dirty diesel fuel, later we managed this problem to cleanout the main bunkers/tanks, myself has installed a fuel separator which suck from the main tank and supply the clean fuel to the day tank. But sometimes the invoice for the rental engines was not paid in time, so we are not able to get the required spare parts so its sometimes hard to keep the business running, beside this matter the Dutch crew has improved a lot because the ship was complete worn-out during the time it was lying in IJmuiden. Also Peter Chicago has done a lot of modifications to the equipment. I still have the pictures we work together in the mast to improved the Arial.

I spend approx 5-6 years on the Caroline ship Mi-Amigo, after we move the ship from IJmuiden to Scheveningen we start broadcasting as with Atlantis (later Radio Mi-Amigo) after approx 18:00hr radio Caroline. Also the restart Caroline with Tony Allen. Many problems during the November storms with almost no drinking water and food, this means no showers and clean underwear. But after all I still have good memories with the crew and DJ members, Tony Allen, Andy Archer, Johnny Jason, Norman Barrington, Brian Anderson, Bob Noakes, Rob Eden, Charlotte, Mickey the cook, Peter Chicago, Ellen or Samantha, Mike Hagler and of course Ronan. During the closing down of Radio Veronica and Radio Northsea we moved from Scheveningen to the English coast.

I remember the time that the English home office enter the ship on that particular time Radio Mi Amigo was in the air, myself has direct after the Home Office entered the ship switched over to the life studio (Caroline) but someone of the Home Office was following me, but I managed to turn on the master (gates) and try to give the people onshore the impression / message during my discussion with the Home Office officer.

After I left I the Caroline organization I started working as roustabout on one of the oilrigs on the North sea. During one of the

crew changes by helicopter by arrival Schiphol-East someone of the Rijkspolitie was waiting for me for information of the Caroline/Mi-Amigo organization. I forward the man no information at all but the Dutch justice request me to come to court in Amsterdam. The result was I had to pay 750 Dutch guilders. Later I received the message that the Caroline was sunk but my mast was still sticking out the water, no wonder I spend a lot of time with welding and repair the mast. Someone out the old good Caroline days mentioned me about the web sites from Caroline and Mi-Amigo. Do you have any idea where they hanging out?? The DJ's Johnny Jason, Tony Allan, Andy Archer, Charlotte, Peter Chicago (Murphy) and perhaps some members of the crew? If possible please forward me the E-mail addresses so I can contact them, thanks in advance. Looking forward to your response.'

The e-mail is forwarded to a couple of the mentioned people. Others do read the international report and surely Teun will be in contacts with his former ships mates very soon. The same evening already Paul Rusling responded in the mail I did forward him: 'Many thanks for forwarding Teun's email. I certainly remember him - very good all round engineer, I didn't realise he had stayed with the Mi Amigo so long afterwards. I remember him with Jaap de Haan trying to get the old Barth generator going - what a mess that machine was! I will drop him a line. On Saturdays we discussed Mike 'The Hydrophor' Philpott, and nobody seems to know where he is - another very capable engineer.'

Then a response on Paul Rusling's story and how he worked for a local branch of the Free Radio Association at the age of 14, way back in 1966. It's Mary Payne responding: 'Hi Hans, As always, I enjoyed reading your newsletter, particularly the item by Paul Rusling, as Paul's experiences were so similar to mine with Radio London. Once I had found Big L, my loyalty remained with the station till the end. Also like Paul, I wanted to be involved and that was why I launched the Knees Club, which lasted throughout 1966. (I won't write a lot about the club as the story is already on <http://www.radiolondon.co.uk>.)

Both of our experiences illustrate how special those offshore stations were to their listeners. I too had problems with finding the money to pay the postage for sending out copies of Knees Monthly. I recall my mother being terrified that with our address being broadcast regularly via the Radio London, we were going to be inundated with sacks of mail. Fortunately, this never happened. I cherished all the letters with the Harwich postmarks, which came from the deejays and Mitch the Steward. The Knees Club was quite hard work, but loads of fun.'

Thanks Mary, very nice memories. For you the reader: you can always share your memories by sending them to: Hknot@home.nl

An avid RNI listeners in the seventies was Ian and reading some lines about Larry Tremaine Ian has two questions. First of all he asked who the American voice was, which could be heard on RNI in 1971 as he didn't remember any American. Well Ian I think it was Paul Dane from Laser 558, who was also better known as Paul May. In the late eighties Paul removed to the States. More than a year ago there were some living signs and Paul nowadays runs a pub and brews his own beer near New York.

Further correspondence with Ian learned me that it was not Paul May as he was not on the ship during the testtransmissions in 1971. Ian mentioned on which track of the CD the voice could be heard and I thought could mention the name within a minute. It was indeed an American who did test transmission on a loop tape like Karel Prior did in Dutch in 1971. But as he did no other programs than the silly loop tape I can't give a name.

The second question Ian is for our reader and former RNI Program Director Larry Tremaine, who nowadays lives in Beverly Hills (California). On June 12th 1970, the same day that Larry did his very first programme on the MEBO II, another deejay came in for the first time and lasted on board for only a week. His name is Bob Mackie. The question to Larry is if he can tell something more about

Bob. Where he came from and why he left the station so quickly. And above all we would like to know from you why Larry Tremaine could be heard on an European radio station in those days. Larry came back with the following answer: 'Hans the name sounds familiar to me but can't think of who it might be Please contact Robb Eden as he remembers everyone. He must have been hired by someone before me and I must have sacked him (as they say).'



So on we went with the search for the mysterious voice and the person naming himself Bob MacKay on RNI in 1970. Robb Eden was the next one to approach and he answered: 'Hans Sorry, don't know the answer to both your questions. I do remember Bob Mackay but have no idea where he went or where he is now. Perhaps Michael Lindsay would remember him. He was on air during that time, as was Andy Archer, Mark Wesley etc. I seem to remember that the 'American' voice was not actually an American but was someone who worked at a club in Zurich. He may have been Swiss, German or he could have been from Holland. You need to speak to someone who was there at the time. Stevie Merike, Alan West etc. Hope the above helps. With best wishes Robb. ps. everyone says how good your newsletter is.'

Well Robb thanks for the 'answers' and the compliments. Four of the people you've mentioned are on the readers list so I would ask Andy Archer, Mike Wesley, Steve Merikke or Alan West to step in and answer us the question about Bob MacKay. Who was he, where did he come from and why he left RNI so quickly in 1970.

October 31st on Radio 538 edition 2000 of the Top 40 was transmitted. The very first Top 40 went out early January 1965 on Radio Veronica. A lot of former presenters of the program were present including Lex Harding, Eric de Zwart and Jan van Veen. A pity the founder of this 'Institute' Joost de Draaijer couldn't be there as he was outside the Netherlands.

Bad news came in from Paul van Gelder, who started his radio career on Radio 227 in the sixties. During the last 13 years he worked for VARA radio and had a very nice alternative night program. As he worked on a three months contract, which was signed over and over again, financially nothing will be paid by the VARA. The reason is that from the 1st of January there is no space anymore for presented programs on Radio 1 during the night. Only non stop music will be played. A very sad decision and we hope Paul will find a proper job in radio again.



In the edition from October 31st of Dutch biggest newspaper 'De Telegraaf' an article could be read about the plans from the Dutch authorities to dismantle the former REM island. They found the very first female broadcaster, Marianne Bierenbroodspot after almost 40 years and brought her back to the island after so many years. Of course a lot of memories came back in the story. Once thing was totally new: never before Marianne was brought to the REM island by boat. In 1964 always an helicopter was used.

A mysterious 8 mm movie was found recently and sent to the people behind Radio Seagull. It features the MV Cito, or as many of us know the MV Peace, in the harbour of New York. This 30 minute video cd, which can be played in a lot of computers too, brings a few shots of the ship before leaving Holland and then features the ship in the harbour of New York being equipped. You can see that the 8 mm material has laid on the shelf for many and many years but it's so rare that I can advise you to order your own copy. You can send an e-mail to vop@radioseagull.com or a letter with 15 Euro to Radio

Seagull, PO Box 24, 8860 AA Harlingen in the Netherlands. The price is including package and postage.

Time to mention another interesting site concerning the history of Dallas KLIF radio, the station which was owned by Gordon McLendon. It was him who introduced Top 40 Radio to Europe and had some interest in Radio Nord. www.historyofklif.com

November 4th came the next news in from Mike Brand: 'Knesset Member Prof. Arieh Eldar proposed a new law, to which Israel will allocate frequencies given to the Palestinian Authority, which today serve as stations that incite against Israel, to stations such as Arutz 7, which closed down recently. Prof. Eldar said that these Palestinian radio stations preach to kill Jews, and 'destroy the Zionist enemy'. But Arutz 7 for example, that closed after many years, was a mouthpiece to hundreds of thousands of citizens, and deserves to receive a frequency. Eldar continued: 'Israel allocated these frequencies to the Palestinian Authority, according to the Oslo Accords. These stations were supposed to give a message of Peace and coexistence, instead, they incite against Israel. Eldars proposal was accepted in the Knesset by a majority of 19 for and 9 against (out of a 120 seat Knesset !!MB), and was decided to pass the proposal to the Knesset Committee for further discussion.'

A day later an for me unexpected message came in from Israel: 'An important chapter in Arutz-7 history ends today, with the sale of the Eretz HaTzvi ship. Yoel Tzur, Arutz-7's Technical Manager, said today that the ship has been sold for scrap, and that at "4:00 this afternoon it will leave for Izmir in Turkey, where it will be taken apart and sawed down." Tzur said that there had been two other options: "To sell it for use as a ship, but since it's 35 years old - built in Hungary in 1968 - it did not attract too many buyers. The other option was simply to sink it, which we did not want to do. Every day it stands idle in the ocean it costs us money, so we chose to sell it for scrap."

Then Derek came in with 'exiting' news from the BBC: 'I don't know if you are aware, but BBC Radio 2 has recently started the 'long' record spot, where each day they play one LP track in full. Wow how revolutionary. It's taken 36 years for the BBC to play a full rock LP track. At that rate when can we expect the BBC to emulate what we anoraks (sorry!!!) have been listening to for 40 years or more. Seriously, thank you very much for your monthly email, it is excellent. On Saturday 1 November, the 'long track' was Hurricane by Bob Dylan. It was interesting to hear that three sections had been 'bleeped' out to protect we listeners: 'no idea what kind of shit was to go down' - shit was bleeped out. 'son of a bitch, we're gonna pin this triple murder on him, he ain't no gentleman Jim' - son of a bitch was 'bleeped out' 'and to the black folks he was just a crazy nigger, no one doubted that he pulled the trigger' - nigger was bleeped out. It's nice to see that the BBC are still busy censoring - bring back Je t'aime, Wet Dream and God Save the Queen!!!

Regards, Derek May An anorak with an identity crisis!'

Nice one Derek. Also you the reader can share your opinions, news, memories and gossip. Sent them to Hknot@home.nl



Fred Bolland en Ad Roberts
(foto Leen Vingerling)

Congratulations to Jurgen van den Berg, who started his career at local radio OOG in Groningen and also worked for the regional radio station RTV Noord. He has now a job as the morning presenter at RTL FM. During the past years he was a newsreader with the NOS as well as presenter for the public broadcaster VARA.

Sunday November 9th brought the next from Mike Brand: After going down to the coast over the weekend, I can tell you all that the Arutz 7 ship is still at anchor, about a mile or so off the coast of Tel-Aviv. This is contrary to statements made on the Arutz 7 site last Wednesday, that the ship was to sail at 4pm on Wednesday

afternoon to Turkey to be broken up. The ship has moved a bit, and is now anchored about a mile or so between its old anchorage opposite the Tel-Aviv Marina, and the coastal town of Herzelia. It is anchored opposite the beach where the King David ran aground nearly three years ago.'

Good to hear that there's progress with the condition of Fred Bolland, who was involved in some of the radio projects in the late seventies and the eighties. He is in Gent Hospital in Belgium already for several weeks and on November 15th the big news came that he spoke for the first time since 4 weeks. When everything goes as expected he can go home within 3 weeks, but a lot of revalidation has yet to come. I wish him and his wife Gerda all the strength they can get.

Next report will be around December 15th which will be also the last one for 2003. May I wish you all the best and till next time

Hans Knot